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MEDIA RELEASE

Western Highway Action Committee

The Western Highway Action Committee has welcomed the Federal Government's decision and the news that works on the Western Highway between Buangor and Ararat will soon recommence.

Federal Minister for the Environment Sussan Ley's decision to reject the application for a heritage protection for the area further demonstrates that Major Road Projects Victoria conducted proper planning and consultation in this important project.

Chair of the Committee, Cr Kevin Erwin said it was great to see that the Western Highway upgrades would be recommencing shortly.

"This important project has undergone numerous check and balances and reviews - it's time for the works to continue to ensure a safer Western Victoria.

"It's fantastic that earthworks, drainage and widening of the existing highway within a 3.85km section have progressed so far. It's now time we get on with the rest.

"This duplication work will not only improve safety, but provide a vital, and much-needed boost to the local economy."

The Federal Government's decision follows a report by the Victorian Ombudsman which made it very clear that VicRoads, MRPV and the Victorian Government have acted lawfully, respectfully and appropriately in relation to this project.

Cr Erwin said, "This vital project will improve safety for communities in Western Victoria, so it's now time to get on and continue duplication of the Western Highway through to Ararat and then Stawell."

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