WHY IS THIS A PRIORITY?
The Mallee region is a nationally important and internationally respected producer of food and horticultural goods and other products such as mineral sands. Product is exported from the region to domestic and international markets using the region’s road and rail network.

Bridges at Swan Hill and Tooleybuc are on strategic freight routes between NSW and Victoria and cater for oversize and higher mass freight vehicles crossing the Murray River.

Single lane bridges at Swan Hill and Tooleybuc are in poor condition and restrict regional and interstate freight movement.

All Murray River crossings have been independently assessed in the 2018 Murray River Crossings Investment Priority Assessment [prepared by VicRoads and NSW Roads and Maritime Services report]. The crossings rated poorly against a range of measures including Higher Mass Limits (HML) connectivity, road safety performance, condition of the bridge and proximity to nearest alternative crossing.

The Murray River Crossings assessment provided evidence of the current condition of both bridges, with Swan Hill the first priority for investment, followed by the Tooleybuc bridge as the second short term priority.

PROJECT BENEFITS
The project will:

• Deliver effective and efficient regional freight links within the region and to external markets.
• Improve safety, convenience and connectivity.
• Result in higher mass limit bridges at Swan Hill and Tooleybuc.

RECENT ACTIVITY
The 2018 Murray River Crossings Investment Priority Assessment [prepared by VicRoads and NSW Roads and Maritime Services] has identified the Swan Hill and Tooleybuc bridges as the first and second short term priorities for investment. The report’s findings have been endorsed by the Central Murray Regional Transport Forum.

NEXT STEPS

ADVOCACY:

📍 Engage with key decision makers, including the Cross Border Commissioner and respective government departments and agencies.

📖 Encourage regular project updates including presentations from government project managers.

💰 Support funding applications and project delivery.
The Central Murray Regional Transport Forum (CMRTF) was established in 2010 to identify transport needs and challenges of the Sunraysia/Mallee region and advocate for improvement to the region’s transport network. Comprising councillors and senior staff from the shires of Balranald, Buloke, Gannawarra, Murray River and Wentworth, and the rural cities of Swan Hill and Mildura; the CMRTF has developed a Strategy to clarify the region’s transport infrastructure needs and better position the region for the next stages of economic growth and social development.

PRIORITY ACTIONS:

- Construct a Mildura truck bypass
- Provide better access to tourism icons
- Invest in major highways
- Develop tracks and trails
- Increase Echuca and Swan Hill daily train services
- Complete an integrated transport and land use study
- Invest in local transport options
- Define high productivity road networks
- Complete a north west transport study
- Complete the Murray Basin Rail Project
- Improve cross border efficiency
- Complete a horticulture supply chain study
- Upgrade priority transport routes
- Improve the Calder Highway
- Upgrade Murray River crossings

The Central Murray Regional Transport Forum is an initiative of: