



Media release

The Hon Dr Denis Napthine MP

Premier
Minister for Regional Cities
Minister for Racing

The Hon David Hodgett MP

Minister for Ports
Minister for Major Projects
Minister for Manufacturing

Wednesday 28 August 2013

Multi-million dollar boost for Port of Geelong

Bigger ships could soon be a regular sight at the Port of Geelong following a major investment that will secure the port's future as an important Victorian trade facility.

Premier Denis Napthine and Minister for Ports David Hodgett were in Geelong today to announce a multi-million dollar investment to improve channel access.

Dr Napthine said the investment was great news for both the region and the Victorian economy as improvements to the channel would allow the Port of Geelong to handle greater trade volumes.

"With trade and employment at the Port expected to double by 2030, it is absolutely critical that the Victorian Coalition Government invest now to provide for this growth," Dr Napthine said.

"This is why we will shortly open an expressions of interest process to remove or relocate up to 130,000 cubic metres of clay and mud from the City Bend area at the corner of the Hopetoun and Corio channels.

"The project will allow larger ships carrying more cargo to access the terminals at the Port of Geelong.

"This investment will greatly benefit Victorian exporters and importers, particularly our regional producers who rely on the Port of Geelong to export grain, wheat and petroleum products.

"This is another example of the Government taking action now so that one of Geelong's most valuable assets will continue to thrive and grow," Dr Napthine said.

The Victorian Regional Channels Authority has also worked closely with port users on completing a port development strategy.

The strategy will be released shortly and outlines a range of opportunities to accommodate anticipated growth at the port including channel access improvements now and in the future to ensure bigger ships will be able to access the port.

As part of the Channel Access project, geotechnical work along the channel will also be undertaken to support the Port Development Strategy.

Mr Hodgett said the channel improvements will help secure future trade, not only for Geelong but for all of Victoria.

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“With planning for the expansion of the Port of Hastings well underway, and the expansion of the Port of Melbourne also progressing, we are taking the necessary steps to provide certainty for industry and ensure Victoria remains the freight and logistics capital of Australia,” Mr Hodgett said.

“The Port of Geelong is an integral part of the state’s freight network and an important strategic asset that when utilised at capacity will be critical for the state’s bulk trade.”

Victorian Regional Channels Authority CEO Captain Peter McGovern said planning for the future of the port is essential as forecasts show no sign of trade slowing.

“There is no doubt trade is continuing to grow, and as it grows, ships will get bigger and we need to make sure they can get in and out of the port,” Captain McGovern said.

“Recently we had a ship 260 metres long enter the port, that’s longer than the Rialto Towers are tall. This is a sign of things to come, and we need to be ready.”

Member for South Barwon Andrew Katos said the announcement was a vote of confidence in the Geelong region.

“Today’s announcement is a boost for jobs in Geelong and will help cater for the continued growth of our local port,” Mr Katos said.

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(Premier)
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