

\$60 MILLION FOR BRIDGE UPGRADES

FUNDING AVAILABLE

\$60 million is being provided, allocated as \$15 million each year over four years.

DETAILS OF WORKS

This funding will allow for the repair of existing bridges and building new bridges, to replace ageing bridges.

Approximately 300 deteriorating wooden bridges and stream crossings will be replaced as part of the package.

REASONS FOR UPGRADING AND NEW WORKS

The funding is primarily intended to address:

- Provide safe access for fire fighters' rapid response
- Provide access to key water catchments, such as the Thomson and Upper Yarra catchments
- Provide safer access for public users, as well as tourism and timber industry users
- Manage risks associated with deteriorating bridge assets on the public land estate

SUPPORT FOR VICTORIA'S FIREFIGHTING EFFORTS

Firefighters currently access up to 7.1 million hectares of national parks and forests during bushfire suppression and preparedness activities. The funding will help more rapid and safer access to public land, both in an emergency and at other times of the year, including some of Victoria's most remote areas.

IDENTIFICATION OF REPAIRS AND NEW BRIDGES

The bridges and crossing structures within this initiative have been selected based on priorities based on fire and special access requirements.

The Road Management Plan, due to be released by the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) this year, will be used to further guide priorities for this program.

The focus will be on structures which require the most urgent works and those providing primary traffic movement.

The program will also address accessibility to catchments via key bridges and crossing structures.

The program will include consideration of areas of cultural and biodiversity significance, as outlined in the Road Management Plan, which has been developed in consultation and planning with key stakeholders.

BRIDGE STANDARDS

Any new or upgraded bridge will comply with the Australian bridge standard AS5100.

PUBLIC USE OF BRIDGES

Firefighters, land managers and the public will have access to the new bridges.

The upgrades will also provide safer access for recreational users, tourist operators and the timber industry to public land.