



The Cao Lanh Bridge

Australia and Vietnam Working Together

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The Mekong Delta is Vietnam's rice bowl. It is the third largest industrial centre in Vietnam and one of the most productive agricultural and aquaculture areas in the world.

But the Delta's transport network needs a major upgrade to sustain economic growth.

Australia and Vietnam are working together to improve transport infrastructure to reduce poverty and build new economic opportunities for the 18 million people living in the Mekong Delta.

Australia will invest AUD160 million in the Central Mekong Delta Connectivity Project over six years to support the design and construction of a new bridge across one of two branches of the Mekong River at Cao Lanh in Dong Thap Province.

The Cao Lanh Bridge represents the largest single Australian aid activity in mainland Southeast Asia and will help link people and markets in the Mekong Delta to the rest of Southeast Asia and beyond.

The bridge will directly benefit five million people and is expected to deliver improved transport facilities to 170,000 daily road users within five years of completion. It will:

- bring new economic opportunities to areas that are isolated from major population centres
- improve access to basic social and health services
- stimulate local agricultural industries
- facilitate private sector investment

The project builds on Australia's support to poverty reduction and economic development in the Mekong Delta over the last 20 years.



Opening ceremony of the Australian funded My Thuan Bridge in the Mekong Delta. Since its opening in 2000, the bridge has carried more than 5 million vehicles a year.

The Central Mekong Delta Connectivity Project

The Cao Lanh Bridge is part of the Central Mekong Delta Connectivity Project which comprises two high cable-stay bridges with a combined length of 5000 metres as well as 25 kilometres of connecting roads. The bridges will replace slow and inefficient ferry services at the Cao Lanh crossing over the Tien River and a parallel crossing over the Hau River at Vam Cong.



The bridges and connecting roads are expected to open to the public in 2017

Addressing Climate Change and Social Impacts

Australia's contribution to the project will also incorporate design innovations to protect infrastructure from the impacts of climate change in the Mekong Delta, including more frequent severe weather events, violent seasonal flooding and sea level rise. The project will comply with international best-practice in dealing with environmental and population resettlement issues.

Partners

Alongside Australia, the Republic of Korea, the Asian Development Bank and the Government of Vietnam are major financing partners for the project.