



ALIGNMENT OF REGIONAL RAIL LINK – WEST OF WERRIBEE TO DEER PARK

Melbourne's rapid population growth requires a decisive, clear response from the Government that will:

- Create enough homes to meet the demands of our rapidly growing population;
- Ensure that infrastructure and services are ready to support communities as they grow;
- Support the transport needs of communities and businesses;
- Strengthen Melbourne's affordability and liveability;
- Protect our city's highly-valued open space and biodiversity; and
- Give people a wide choice of housing options.

Delivering Melbourne's newest sustainable communities is part of the Government's response to this growth. It integrates land-use and transport planning in Melbourne's growth areas to ensure that the land and infrastructure needed by new communities is available as they grow.

The Regional Rail Link is a major new line running from west of Werribee to Deer Park, and through to Southern Cross Station. It will separate regional and suburban trains across the west – effectively giving regional commuters from Geelong, Ballarat and Bendigo a clearer run into central Melbourne.

The Regional Rail Link will double the capacity of the regional rail commuter network and free up critically needed space for additional suburban services on the Werribee, Sunbury and Craigieburn lines.

The number of people catching a train from Melbourne's west, Geelong, Ballarat and Bendigo has increased significantly over recent years. As more services have been added to match demand, congestion on suburban lines has been increased, which has also affected regional trains. These lines will soon be at capacity, which will mean that extra services from the fast-growing northern and western suburbs or the south-east cannot be added.

Once complete, the Regional Rail Link will create infrastructure to operate more than 20 peak hour trains, serving an extra 9,000 regional and suburban passengers every hour.

The \$4.3 billion project is the biggest single investment in the metropolitan rail project since the city loop was built and the first major new rail line for metropolitan Melbourne in 80 years.

FAST FACTS

- 30 kilometres of new rail line from Bulbans Road, Werribee to Robinsons Road, Deer Park.
- Will separate metropolitan and regional rail services into dedicated tracks for the first time.
- Two new stations initially, with more allowed for as urban growth occurs.
- No new level crossings will be created, as road and rail will be separated along the length of the route.

FEATURES OF THE ROUTE

- The project corridor will generally be 60 metres wide, and wider at locations where bridges, stations, car parking, train stabling and other facilities are required.
- Where it runs through Wyndham Vale, the link will share an existing 75 metre corridor with the proposed Armstrong Road. The design of the project accommodates a four track railway with passing loops together with the proposed Armstrong Road.
- Initially the alignment will incorporate two tracks from west of Werribee to Deer Park that can be used by Geelong and Warrnambool V/Line regional rail services. A further two tracks will be constructed in stages from north of the Werribee River in Tarneit to near Middle Road, Ravenhall. These extra tracks will accommodate “short-starter” regional rail services operating between Wyndham Vale and Southern Cross. South of Wyndham Vale, the corridor will accommodate a pair of regional tracks and a pair of suburban tracks for the future extension of the Werribee suburban rail service.
- Most of the railway will be constructed at or near natural surface level.

WILL THERE BE NEW STATIONS?

The Regional Rail Link will initially include new stations in the growing western suburbs of Wyndham Vale and Tarneit, and leave open the option of creating additional stations along the route in response to future urban development

WHAT STAGE IS THE REGIONAL RAIL LINK PROJECT AT?

Extensive investigations have been undertaken to understand and assess any impacts of the project to the physical, heritage, cultural, social, environmental and economic aspects of the surrounding environment.

The investigations and planning work have identified the preferred location for the alignment of the route between west of Werribee and Deer Park. That preferred route has now been published so that members of the community can comment on it: this consultation period runs from 17 June 2009 to 17 July 2009. Once submissions have been received and reviewed, a final decision about the route will be taken, and the government can take steps towards securing the land as a dedicated public transport reservation

WHEN WILL CONSTRUCTION COMMENCE?

It is expected that major construction will commence in 2010.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR LAND HOLDERS?

The owners and occupiers of land affected by the proposed route of Regional Rail Link are being notified directly by letter. They, and other members of the community, now have the opportunity to make a submission to Government expressing their views on the route before the route is finally determined by the Government. Once the route is finalised, if land is within the proposed reservation area, and the Government proceeds with reserving the land for the rail link, a Public Acquisition Overlay will be put in place over the area, which will enable the Government to acquire the land.

CAN THE GOVERNMENT COMPULSORILY ACQUIRE PROPERTY?

When the Government approves the construction of the project, the land will be compulsorily acquired in accordance with the provisions of the *Land Acquisition and Compensation Act 1986*. The Act provides compensation for those directly affected or whose properties would lose access. For neighbouring properties, the Department of Transport may provide assistance to restore access or negotiate consolidation of adjacent properties, where needed.



Further information about *Delivering Melbourne's newest sustainable communities*, including maps, reports, and details of public information open days and the submissions process is available at www.vic.gov.au/planningmelbourne or by calling **1800 090 789**.