

## Media Release

Tuesday, 23 October 2018

### PLAN AHEAD FOR BALLARAT LINE CONSTRUCTION BLITZ

Ballarat line passengers are one step closer to better train services, with construction on the Ballarat Line Upgrade ramping up in December.

Coaches will replace trains from Saturday 8 to Sunday 16 December, while more than 300 crew members work around the clock to undertake critical construction.

Director Regional Rail Revival Mark Havryluk said work on the train stabling at Maddingley will continue, with the facility on track to be operational from early 2019, allowing the line's existing stabling at Bacchus Marsh to be removed.

"The new stabling has room to store six VLocity trains and will be a key part of enabling more services to run on the Ballarat line," he said.

"Removing the existing stabling will prepare for major upgrades at Bacchus Marsh Station, including building a new platform and pedestrian overpass for a more accessible station for passengers."

Coaches will replace trains for the entire journey between Wendouree, Ballarat and Southern Cross Station from Saturday 8 to Sunday 16 December as construction teams swing into action. Coaches will also replace trains between Ararat and Ballarat, due to V/Line track improvement works, from Saturday 8 to Sunday 9 December.

Train services between Ararat and Ballarat will resume on Monday 10 December, connecting with coaches at Ballarat.

Maryborough trains will continue to run to and from Ballarat, connecting with coaches to and from Southern Cross.

While trains are not running, new tracks will be laid at key points along the line between Caroline Springs Station and Melton, and earthwork for the Millbrook and Ballan passing loops will continue.

Construction will begin on new platforms at Rockbank Station, where a new accessible overpass will be lifted into place, as part of the station's rebuild.

Mr Havryluk said that while disruption had been minimised as much as possible, some construction could only take place while trains were not running, to keep workers and passengers safe.

"We're grateful to Ballarat line passengers for bearing with us while we've been getting on with this critical project, which will deliver huge benefits and is on track for completion in late 2019," he said.

"Once the project is complete, passengers on the Ballarat line can look forward to much-needed extra services in the morning and afternoon peak periods, plus a train every 40 minutes off-peak."

Passengers are urged to plan ahead while coaches replace trains and allow 45 minutes' extra travel time. Information is available at [vline.com.au](http://vline.com.au) or by calling 1800 800 007.



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