



What we heard

Community Feedback

November 2019

We've been talking to the local community about our plans to upgrade the Gippsland Line.

Earlier this year we asked the community to provide feedback on the Gippsland Line Upgrade.

The half-a-billion-dollar Gippsland Line Upgrade will enable more frequent and reliable services for passengers and create more than 400 jobs.

The community provided feedback on the following aspects of the project:

- second platforms and amenity works at Bunyip, Longwarry, Morwell and Traralgon stations
- track duplication between Bunyip and Longwarry
- the extension of the Morwell crossing loop
- level crossing detection upgrades
- signalling upgrades
- drainage structure upgrades at Morwell River.

The Gippsland Line Upgrade is part of the \$1.75 billion Regional Rail Revival program which is upgrading every regional passenger rail line in Victoria.

Regional Rail Revival is a joint initiative of the Australian and Victorian governments.

Project progress

The project has already delivered benefits for passengers on the Gippsland line, with upgrades to level crossings between Sale and Bairnsdale allowing VLocity trains to run to Bairnsdale for the first time.

How we engaged

63

conversations at drop-in information sessions



416

detailed survey responses received



900+

subscribers received e-newsletter update



370

interactions at station pop-ups



4,100+

visits to the Gippsland Line Upgrade home page during the consultation period



860

letters sent to notify residents of planning documents



Construction on a new rail bridge over the Avon River in Stratford is ramping up, with major construction to commence by the end of 2019.

We've also shortlisted contractors to deliver track, signalling and station upgrades between Pakenham and Traralgon, with construction set to begin next year.



What we heard

We engaged with the Gippsland community at local information sessions and station pop-ups, and through letterbox drops, providing information about station upgrades, planning and environmental matters, and potential construction impacts. Below is a summary of what we heard.

Car parking



What we heard

The community is concerned about parking around stations and in the townships of Morwell and Traralgon. The community want more car parks and impacts to existing car parks minimised.

Our response

We are committed to ensuring car parking at these stations is not permanently impacted as a result of the Gippsland Line Upgrade. We will build car parks near Morwell and Traralgon stations to offset those impacted by new infrastructure. We will also deliver new accessible car parking spaces at Bunyip and Longwarry stations.

We will coordinate with Regional Development Victoria and VicTrack on the delivery of more than 800 new car parking spaces in Moe, Morwell and Traralgon.

Community assets



What we heard

The community is interested in the future of the goods crane at Bunyip Station and retaining any historical material unearthed during construction.

Some respondents raised concerns about the future of the existing station building at Traralgon Station, which houses the Traralgon Arts Society.

Our response

We will continue to work with the community, V/Line, local councils, interest groups and our construction contractor to ensure impacts to heritage infrastructure and buildings are minimised, and opportunities to celebrate Gippsland's rail history are identified.



Environment



What we heard

Minimising vegetation removal and ensuring revegetation will be undertaken using local native plants is important to the community.

The community also highlighted the importance of the protected Southern Brown Bandicoot population and its habitat in the rail corridor between Bunyip and Longwarry.

Our response

We'll manage construction in line with the relevant environmental and planning laws and guidelines, to ensure we minimise any effects on flora and fauna.

We'll work with our construction contractor and the community on plans for revegetation and landscaping. Work undertaken between Bunyip to Longwarry will be managed under the project's Southern Brown Bandicoot Conservation Management Plan.

Safety and accessibility



What we heard

Improved safety and accessibility are key priorities for the community. This includes keeping pedestrian routes in and around all station precincts clear, safe and accessible during works, especially for children and those with mobility aids.

Our response

Safety is our first priority, and we will work closely with our construction contractor and other key stakeholders to ensure the safety of workers and the community during the upgrade.

Our works will deliver improved safety and accessibility at Bunyip, Longwarry, Morwell and Traralgon stations. The new platforms at these stations will include lighting, signage and CCTV.

The project's Traffic Management Plan will ensure pedestrian routes remain safe during construction.

Construction impacts



What we heard

Rail service disruptions should be minimised during construction.

The community wants appropriate road detours put in place to reduce congestion around station precincts during construction.

Other concerns include general construction impacts such as air pollution, dust, vibration and noise impacts.

Our response

We are committed to minimising disruptions to train services as much as possible during construction and will work closely with V/Line to ensure passengers are made aware well in advance of any service changes.

The project's Traffic Management Plan will ensure the safety of pedestrians and motorists is managed appropriately during construction.

We'll use a range of measures to manage potential impacts during construction, such as using water sprays for dust suppression.

Station amenities



What we heard

Improved amenities at all stations are a priority for the community. Suggestions included improved bathroom facilities, cycling infrastructure, shelter, lighting, seating and rubbish bins.

Our response

We will deliver canopy shelters, seating, lighting and rubbish bins on the new platforms at Bunyip, Longwarry, Morwell and Traralgon. We will also build new bicycle storage at these stations.



Other feedback

Some of the feedback received was outside the scope of the Gippsland Line Upgrade.

Suggestions included requests for improvements on the metropolitan rail network, increased rail service frequency and better connections between buses, coaches and rail services.

The current major investment in the metropolitan network will have a flow on effect to Gippsland. The Metro Tunnel Project will benefit Gippsland passengers by freeing up space on the metropolitan network for V/Line services plus the future superstation at Pakenham will include a dedicated V/Line platform to reduce congestion between regional and metropolitan trains.

Future timetable changes to deliver new services enabled by the Gippsland Line Upgrade will also consider ways to improve transport connections in the region.



To receive updates on the Gippsland Line Upgrade subscribe to the eNews at regionalrailrevival.vic.gov.au/gippsland

Thank you

We'd like to thank everyone who provided feedback on the Gippsland Line Upgrade. Your feedback will be considered in the planning and design and we look forward to consulting with the community throughout the rest of the project.

What's next

2020

Procurement and construction

Drainage upgrades between Traralgon and Bairnsdale will be completed by V/Line in mid-2020.

The contract will be awarded for the upgrades between Pakenham and Traralgon mid-2020 and construction will commence by the end of the year.

2021

Construction

The new Avon River Bridge will be complete early 2021.

Construction on the upgrades between Pakenham and Traralgon continues.

2022

Project completion*

The target completion date for the project is late 2022.

*subject to planning and environmental approvals

More information

To find out more about Regional Rail Revival:

regionalrailrevival.vic.gov.au

[facebook.com/RegionalRailRevival](https://www.facebook.com/RegionalRailRevival)

1800 105 105 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week)

Rail Projects Victoria

PO Box 4509, Melbourne, VIC 3001



Interpreter Service (03) 9209 0147

It should be noted that this information is current at the time of printing, however due to unforeseen circumstances, changes may occur. Please visit railprojects.vic.gov.au for the latest updates.