

The Australian and Victorian governments are upgrading the Ballarat line to deliver more frequent and reliable trains for Melbourne's outer western suburbs, Melton, Bacchus Marsh, Ballan and Ballarat.

The Ballarat Line Upgrade will enable much needed extra services in the morning and afternoon peak, plus a train every 40 minutes off-peak for these growing communities.

The number of people choosing to live in Melbourne's outer west continues to rise. Melton is one of Australia's fastest growing municipalities and Ballarat is now Victoria's third-most populated city.

### Site investigations

You may have noticed more activity along the rail line lately with visual inspections, service locating and geotechnical works already well underway. Since February, more than

350 site investigations have been completed and nearly 90 boreholes have been dug to understand ground conditions, and inform design and construction of the project.



↑ Site investigations at Toolern Creek

### Key features

The Ballarat Line Upgrade includes:

- + duplication of around 18 kilometres of track between Deer Park West and Melton
- + additional platforms at Bacchus Marsh and Ballan stations, and a rebuilt station at Rockbank with pedestrian links between platforms
- + a new car park at Rockbank station
- + new stabling facilities at Maddingley and the removal of stabling facilities at Bacchus Marsh
- + a 4.5 kilometre passing loop at Ballan
- + a four kilometre passing loop at Millbrook, which will make it possible to close the existing Bungaree loop and remove five level crossings
- + duplication of three kilometres of track east of Warrenheip Junction.

### Did you know?

The direct rail line from Ballarat to Melbourne opened in 1889. Before then, trains travelled via Geelong to reach Melbourne.

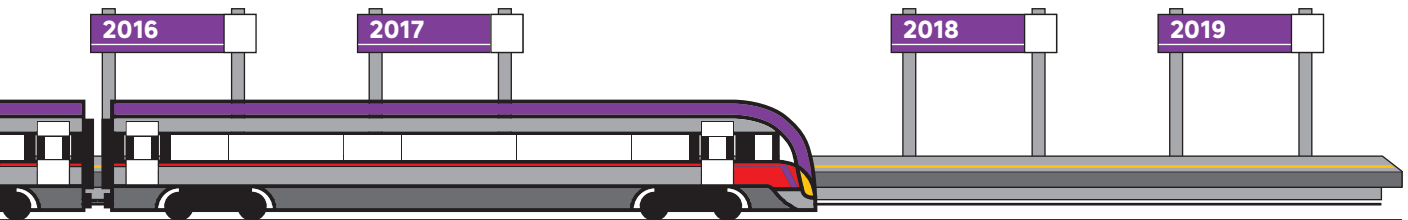
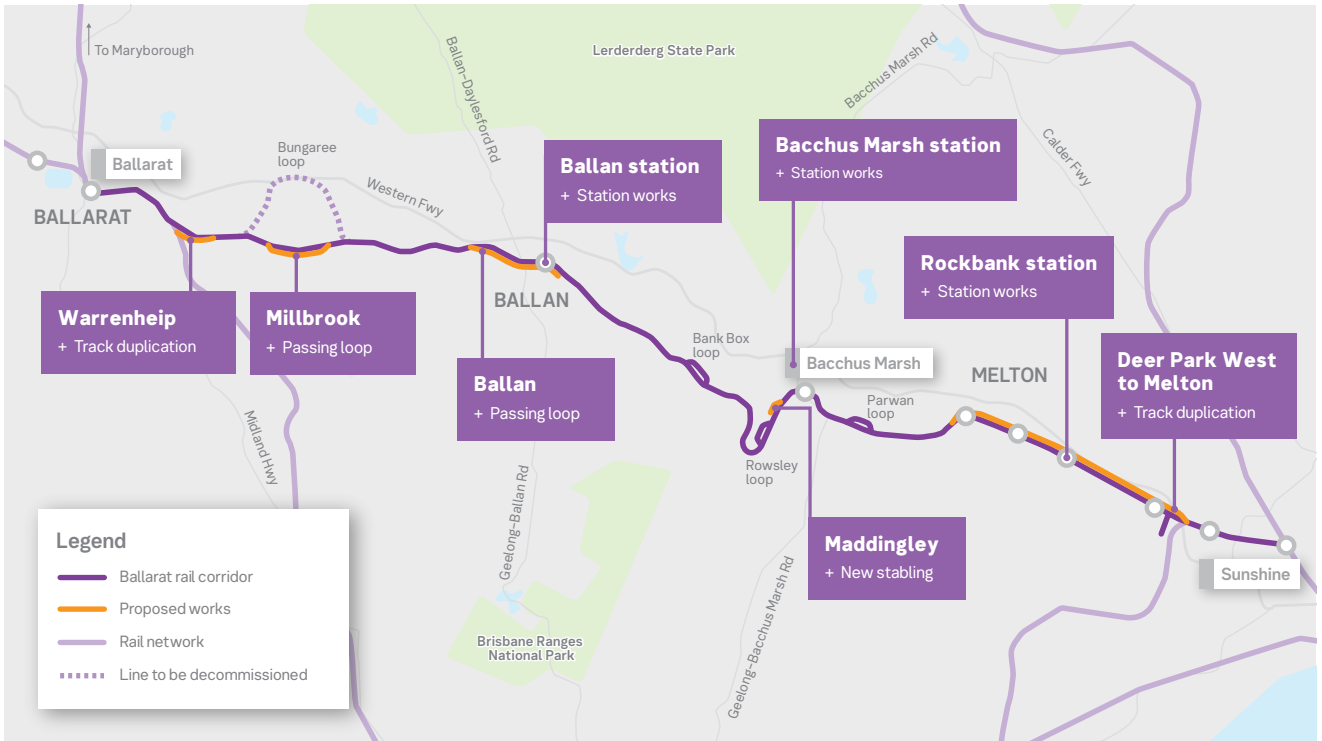


Australian Government

**BUILDING OUR FUTURE**



# Overview and timeline



2016	Early-mid 2017	Mid-late 2017	Early 2018	2019
<p>Project funding and project announcement</p> <p>MMRA appointed to deliver the project</p>	<p>Site investigations and planning</p> <p>Community engagement</p> <p>Concept design development</p>	<p>Preferred contractor identified</p> <p>Planning and environmental approvals</p> <p>Station design consultation</p> <p>Site preparation works between Deer Park West and Melton</p> <p>Procurement of delivery contractor</p>	<p>Start works on passing loops and track duplication</p> <p>Start works at Rockbank, Bacchus Marsh and Ballan stations</p>	<p>Major track and station works continue</p> <p>Target completion by late 2019</p>

## Latest news



↑ Staff at station design consultation meeting

### Engaging with the community

As part of the Ballarat Line Upgrade, we're rebuilding Rockbank station and building additional platforms at Bacchus Marsh and Ballan stations.

The community told us that as part of the designs they would like to see accessible platforms, improved lighting and CCTV, more car parks and modern designs that complement the existing heritage area.

We have spoken to more than 550 commuters about proposed station layouts and received more than 150 public submissions about the changes.

The feedback we received will continue to be considered as we progress the station designs.

### New stabling at Maddingley and changes to the Ballan passing loop

Some important design changes have been made since the Ballarat Line Upgrade was announced in 2016.

The project now includes new stabling facilities for V/Line trains in Maddingley instead of Melton and Rowsley. A stabling yard in Maddingley will allow the facility to be built in the existing rail corridor, minimising impacts on the surrounding community.

The Ballan passing loop has also been moved around 1.2 kilometres closer to Melbourne. This design change will improve service benefits and allow the new platform at Ballan station to better align with the existing platform.

#### What is stabling?

Stabling yards are used to store, sort, load and unload trains. Six tracks will be built in the stabling yard at Maddingley.

### Preferred contractor selected

Following a competitive evaluation process, a consortium comprising Lendlease, Coleman Rail and SMEC has been selected as the preferred bidder to build the Ballarat Line Upgrade.

These companies have extensive knowledge and experience delivering rail and infrastructure projects in a range of environments, including along the Ballarat rail corridor.

The consortium is now developing its final proposal for submission with the contract due to be finalised later this year.

The project is being delivered by the Melbourne Metro Rail Authority (MMRA). MMRA includes some of Australia's most experienced rail experts and is also delivering the Metro Tunnel Project, Victoria's biggest public transport project ever.



↑ Existing station platform at Ballan station

# Managing the environment

We are working with the Victorian Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) and the Federal Government on project planning approvals.

Environmental studies, including studies of local flora and fauna, noise and air quality, have been undertaken to assess the potential environmental impacts of the Ballarat Line Upgrade. Although works will be largely along the line, environmental management will be an integral part of the project's design and construction.

You can read more about our planning approvals at [ballaratlineupgrade.vic.gov.au](http://ballaratlineupgrade.vic.gov.au).

### Did you know?

Three train stations along the Ballarat rail corridor, Bacchus Marsh, Ballan and Melton, are recognised to have important heritage values and our works will recognise and protect them.



↑ Bacchus Marsh station

## How to stay involved

The Ballarat Line Upgrade will deliver benefits for those living and travelling along the Ballarat Line for years to come. With a project of this scale, there will be impacts during construction that need to be considered and communicated to affected communities.

To keep communities informed, we will publish regular Community Updates via email and mail at key stages of the project to update local residents and businesses along the project alignment.

### Staying informed

- + Subscribe to our eNews at: [ballaratlineupgrade.vic.gov.au](http://ballaratlineupgrade.vic.gov.au)
- + Read our Community Update when it is delivered to your home or business
- + Follow us on Facebook: [@BallaratLineUpgrade](https://www.facebook.com/BallaratLineUpgrade)

## Contact Us

For more information about the Ballarat Line Upgrade:

- [ballaratlineupgrade.vic.gov.au](http://ballaratlineupgrade.vic.gov.au)
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- 1800 551 927 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week)
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