



Media Release

Friday 29 March 2019

PLAN AHEAD FOR MONDAY JOURNEYS

Ballarat line passengers are advised to plan ahead for their Monday travel with the construction blitz on the Ballarat Line Upgrade extended for an additional 24 hours.

Coaches have replaced trains since Friday 22 March while more than 200 crew members have worked around the clock to undertake critical construction.

Regional Rail Revival Director Mark Havryluk said the complexity of signalling works required to commission the new Maddingley stabling facility meant an additional day was required to complete the construction blitz.

“We’ve completed most of what we had planned for the construction blitz, however the work required to connect and integrate the new stabling facility to the Ballarat line is incredibly detailed and complex,” he said.

“It’s something we need to get absolutely right to ensure a seamless resumption of services following this construction blitz.

“The new stabling can store six VLocity trains and will be a key part of improving reliability and consistency of services on the Ballarat line.”

“Ballarat line passengers will soon be enjoying the benefits of this work, with the project on track to be completed by the end of the year.”

Coaches will continue to replace trains between Southern Cross Station, Ballarat and Wendouree until the last service on Monday 1 April. Trains will continue to run from Ballarat to Ararat and Maryborough.

The existing temporary timetable will continue to be applicable on Monday 1 April, and trains will resume normal running on Tuesday 2 April.

“We’d like to apologise to passengers for the inconvenience of the added day of service changes,” Mr Havryluk said.

Mr Havryluk said this week’s construction blitz had seen extensive progress made across the Ballarat Line Upgrade.

“Having full access to the rail line has allowed us to get on with track construction and station upgrades on the Ballarat line and brings us closer to achieving huge benefits for passengers,” Mr Havryluk said.

“In the past week alone we’ve laid the track for the 4.5km passing loop at Millbrook, which will give trains room to pass each other and enable more frequent services on the line.



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“We’ve also made huge progress on the station upgrades at Rockbank, Ballan, and the brand new station at Cobblebank.”

Passengers are asked to allow 45 minutes’ extra travel time while coaches replace trains on Monday 1 April and can plan their journey at [vline.com.au](https://www.vline.com.au) or by calling 1800 800 007.

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