

# Media Release

**The Hon Melissa Horne MP**  
Minister for Ports and Freight  
Minister for Public Transport



Monday, 25 May 2020

## MASSIVE BENDIGO RAIL PROJECT COMPLETE

Passengers on the Bendigo line can look forward to more comfortable and reliable journeys following the replacement of 48,000 sleepers thanks to the Andrews Labor Government.

The \$16.1 million project to replace timber sleepers with concrete between Sunbury and Bendigo has been completed months ahead of schedule, with crews working through the night to minimise disruptions to passengers.

More than 50 workers were involved in the massive upgrade which started in January, replacing around 12,000 sleepers each month.

The new concrete sleepers were manufactured locally at the Austrak factory in Avalon, helping to support Victorian jobs.

This essential maintenance will ensure more reliable and comfortable journeys for Bendigo, Echuca and Swan Hill passengers.

The works are part of the Labor Government's \$103 million investment in major maintenance across the V/Line network this financial year.

The Labor Government is also investing an additional \$90.5 million to upgrade and replace signalling, sleepers and ballast on regional lines as part of a \$2.7 billion building blitz to kickstart our economy.

The normal timetable resumed over the weekend, however there will continue to be some changes to evening services due to rail milling works on select nights up until Friday, 5 June.

Essential infrastructure projects are continuing during the coronavirus pandemic, with extra safety precautions in place to support crews and ensure public health and safety.

This includes adhering to physical distancing requirements, as well as specific guidelines from the Department of Health and Human Services.

### **Quote attributable to Minister for Public Transport Melissa Horne**

*"We're getting on with upgrading vital regional rail infrastructure right across the state – improving services and creating jobs."*

### **Quote attributable to Member for Bendigo East Jacinta Allan**

*"This massive project will mean Bendigo locals who rely on V/Line services get the service they deserve."*

### **Quote attributable to Member for Bendigo West Maree Edwards**

*"This massive \$16.1 million upgrade has been completed months ahead of schedule, meaning locals will have access to smoother rides sooner."*