

Media Release

The Hon Jacinta Allan MP

Leader of the House

Minister for the Coordination of Transport – COVID-19

Minister for Transport Infrastructure

Minister for Suburban Rail Loop



Friday, 23 October 2020

REMOVING CROSSINGS AND BOOSTING PARKING ON THE LILYDALE LINE

The Victorian Government's work to remove two dangerous and congested level crossings at Mooroolbark and Lilydale will ramp up over summer, supporting local jobs as the state begins to recover from the pandemic.

The level crossings at Manchester Road in Mooroolbark and Maroondah Highway in Lilydale clog roads and put lives at risk, with 13 crashes in the past decade and one tragic fatality. More than 53,000 vehicles use these crossings each day and the boom gates can be down for up to a quarter of the two-hour morning peak.

Major construction to remove these death trap level crossings by 2022, build rail bridges and new stations for Mooroolbark and Lilydale will start in December, with buses replacing trains between Ringwood and Lilydale from 11 to 20 December and some local road closures with traffic detours in place.

The nine-day construction blitz will kick off a busy summer at the sites as crews build foundations for the new rail bridges with large machinery, and install new underground cables. A further week-long rail line closure will take place at the end of summer, with details to be confirmed as works progress.

Early works are also now underway to build a new multi-deck car park that will double the number of spaces for commuters at Mooroolbark Station by adding 450 new and upgraded spaces.

The new Mooroolbark multi-deck car park is being delivered through the Victorian Government's *Car Parks for Commuters* Program, which is creating 11,000 new and upgraded car spaces at train stations to unclog neighbouring streets and help more people use public transport.

The multi-deck car park will feature lifts to improve accessibility, CCTV and better lighting for commuters' safety, with community feedback helping to refine the design to suit locals' needs.

The existing Mooroolbark Station commuter car park is now closed, and a temporary car park on the Cardigan Road reserve is open until the new multi-deck car park opens in 2022.

The project is the first part of upgrades along the Belgrave and Lilydale lines, paving the way for more trains more often in the future. A total of eight level crossings are being removed on the Belgrave and Lilydale lines. The Mooroolbark and Lilydale level crossings will be removed in 2022.

For more information about Victoria's major infrastructure projects, visit bigbuild.vic.gov.au.

Quote attributable to Minister for Transport Infrastructure Jacinta Allan

"We're not wasting a minute getting on with our critical works on the Lilydale line – delivering better transport connections for passengers and important local jobs for workers as we begin to recover from the pandemic."

Quote attributable to Member for Monbulk James Merlino

"I know these communities can't wait to be level crossing-free – and with brand new stations and a new multideck carpark, we're transforming the travel experience for our outer eastern suburbs."

Quote attributable to Minister for Public Transport Ben Carroll

"Across the state we're building more than 11,000 new and upgraded commuter parking spaces to make catching the train easier for everyone – and our new carpark at Mooroolbark will double the station's current capacity."

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