

# Media Release

**The Hon Jacinta Allan MP**  
Leader of the House  
Minister for Transport Infrastructure  
Minister for Suburban Rail Loop



Wednesday, 10 November 2021

## GETTING ON WITH THE SHEPPARTON LINE UPGRADE

Train passengers are encouraged to plan ahead this summer, as major works get underway on the Shepparton Line Upgrade.

The works will see stage 2 and 3 of the upgrade gain major ground, with construction to begin on extending platforms at Nagambie and Murchison East stations. Crews will install the pre-cast concrete platform panels and coping stones that will form the longer platforms, enabling VLocity trains to run on the line for the first time.

Construction will also commence on a new stabling facility north of Shepparton Station to house the trains, while underground trenching, boring and pipe installation works will continue north of Seymour to facilitate upgrades to 59 level crossings between Donnybrook and Shepparton. The upgrades to the level crossings will ensure their compatibility with VLocity trains, and boost safety for all passengers and road users.

Coaches will replace Shepparton Line trains for the entire journey between Melbourne and Shepparton from Wednesday 1 December until Sunday 12 December, to allow all these works to take place. Trains will still run between Southern Cross and Seymour.

Works to extend the crossing loop at Murchison East will also continue during December. The Murchison-Violet Town Road will close at the level crossing from Wednesday 1 December to Friday 10 December to enable construction of new track over Murchison-Violet Town Road, and to widen the level crossing to cater for the additional line. Crews will also install boom gates, widen the turning lane and rebuild the road.

The Andrews Labor Government has invested \$436 million for the Shepparton Line Upgrade, with the works being delivered by Rail Projects Victoria in stages to minimise disruption to services. Stage 1 of the upgrade is already complete, having delivered 10 extra weekly services along the line.

The Australian and Victorian governments have funded \$400 million for Stage 3 of the Shepparton Line Upgrade, which will allow trains to travel up to 130km/h and enable nine return services to and from Melbourne every weekday.

Stage 2 of the upgrade is targeted for completion late next year, while Stage 3 is scheduled for completion in 2023.

Further information about the Shepparton Line Upgrade can be found online at: [bigbuild.vic.gov.au](http://bigbuild.vic.gov.au).

### Quotes attributable to Minister for Transport Infrastructure Jacinta Allan

*"We promised to get on with the Shepparton Line Upgrade to deliver more comfortable and reliable services – and that's exactly what we're doing."*

*"These works will enable VLocity trains to run on the line for the first time and give passengers more choice when they travel on our regional train network."*

### Quote attributable to Member for Northern Victoria Jaclyn Symes

*"The Shepparton Line is a vitally important part of our regional train network – and these works will give passengers the modern and reliable trains they've been calling for, with more services, more often."*

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