

# Media Release

**The Hon Jacinta Allan MP**

Deputy Premier

Minister for Transport Infrastructure

Minister for Suburban Rail Loop

Minister for Commonwealth Games Delivery



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## RAIL'S HISTORIC RETURN TO GROWING BENDIGO COMMUNITIES

The Andrews Labor Government has reconnected residents in the growing northern regions with trains once again traveling to and from the towns of Huntly and Raywood following the opening of two brand-new stations.

The first train arrived at Huntly Station on Saturday morning after a 68-year absence, while trains returned to Raywood on Sunday morning for the first time in more than 40 years.

The booming towns are now better connected to the rail network, including Goornong Station which opened in December 2021 after almost 43 years without train services.

Community celebrations will be held in the coming weeks to mark the opening of the new stations – delivered ahead of schedule as part of the Labor Government's \$49.6 million investment in Bendigo Metro 3.

As part of a revised timetable, 18 services a week will now stop at Huntly Station on the Echuca Line and 28 services a week will stop at Raywood Station on the Swan Hill Line.

Finishing touches completed at Huntly and Raywood in the past month include installing platform handrails and fencing, line-marking, landscaping, and site clean-up works.

Work to improve rail services in the region is continuing as part of the Bendigo and Echuca Line Upgrade, with more than 12,000 sleepers replaced in June to improve the tracks between Goornong and Rochester.

Trenching and pipe installation to enable improvements to train detection technology at 10 level crossings between Bendigo and Eaglehawk stations also took place while trains were not running due to Sunbury Line Upgrade works.

Timetables for the new stations are now available at [vline.com.au](http://vline.com.au), [ptv.vic.gov.au](http://ptv.vic.gov.au) and the PTV journey planner app.

### Quotes attributable to Minister for Transport Infrastructure and Member for Bendigo East Jacinta Allan

*"This is a historic day – decades after trains last departed Huntly and Raywood, we're proud to bring services back to these growing communities."*

*"Thanks to our huge investment in Victoria's rail network, kids growing up in Huntly and Raywood will be able to hop on a train at their local station and get to Bendigo, Melbourne and, via Melbourne Airport Rail, the rest of the world."*