

# Media Release

**Gabrielle Williams MP**

Minister for Government Services

Minister for Consumer Affairs

Minister for Public and Active Transport



Friday, 21 June 2024

## FULLY RESERVED SEATING TO CONTINUE ON ALBURY LINE

The Allan Labor Government is extending reservation-only seating on Albury Line trains for the long term – giving passengers confidence in planning their journeys.

Minister for Public and Active Transport Gabrielle Williams today announced the extension, following a well-received trial of reservation-only seating that began in September 2023. The trial was put in place to manage increased demand on the Albury Line since the introduction of the popular regional fare cap in March 2023.

During May, V/Line sought feedback about the reserved seating trial from more than 500 passengers that travelled on the Albury Line, with 82 per cent supporting fully reserved seating.

The Labor Government is continuing to respond to increased demand on the Albury Line, with a weekend return coach service between Albury and Seymour added earlier this year, to connect with trains between Seymour and Southern Cross.

An additional special train service to Melbourne on Saturday and from Melbourne on Sunday also commenced last year to give passengers more options.

Thanks to the Labor Government's fare cap, Albury Line passengers are now saving up to almost \$30 for a one-way full-fare trip, helping ease cost-of-living pressures.

Passengers are encouraged to plan their journeys and book tickets through the V/Line website, at stations, retail agents or the PTV call centre on 1800 800 007.

### Quotes attributable to Minister for Public and Active Transport Gabrielle Williams

*"We've listened to passengers and we're continuing to give them more certainty about getting a seat on Albury Line trains, by extending reservation-only seating long term."*

*"Reservation-only seating is one of a number of measures we've introduced to respond to increased popularity of Albury Line V/Line services, thanks to the introduction of the regional fare cap."*

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

*"Extending reservation-only seating on the Albury Line will give passengers peace of mind, and allow them to plan their journeys ahead of time."*