



**The Hon Michael McCormack MP**

Deputy Prime Minister  
Minister for Infrastructure and Transport  
Leader of The Nationals  
Federal Member for Riverina



**The Hon Jacinta Allan MP**

VIC Minister for Public Transport and Major  
Projects  
State Member for Bendigo East

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**MEDIA RELEASE**

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**UPDATE ON THE VICTORIAN REGIONAL RAIL REVIVAL**

The Australian and Victorian Government have today provided an update on the construction timeframes for the \$1.75 billion Regional Rail Revival which will upgrade every regional rail line across Victoria.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure and Transport Michael McCormack and Victorian Minister for Public Transport Jacinta Allan today announced work has progressed on the unprecedented four-year program to upgrade every regional rail line in Victoria.

Mr McCormack said this was another great step forward for regional passengers.

“We heard from communities they wanted more certainty on timing of works on every line and we are pleased to provide an update today on the program schedule. We look forward to seeing the program benefits, which will deliver huge public transport improvements for Victorian passengers, and deliver more than 1,000 jobs during construction,” Mr McCormack said.

The program includes \$80 million to duplicate track and other upgrades around Waurin Ponds Station complementing a future duplication from South Geelong to Waurin Ponds. These works are part of the \$160 million Geelong Line Upgrade, \$30 million of which will also support the corridor preservation for a future link to Armstrong Creek.

Separately, the business case for the full duplication of the South Geelong to Waurin Ponds corridor has been submitted to Infrastructure Australia for assessment following the completion of the \$4 million South Geelong to Waurin Ponds Planning Project.

Ms Allan said this duplication would remove notorious bottlenecks in this section of track to enable trains to run more often and boost reliability.

“While the business case for the full project is under assessment, we’re getting on with work needed to start duplication at Waurin Ponds Station, to give passengers on regional Victoria’s busiest line the train services they deserve,” Ms Allan said.

Regional Rail Revival will transform public transport for regional Victorians and the benefits will begin to flow as early as later this year, with projects to be progressively completed by 2022.

Ms Allan said consultation with local communities will commence in the coming weeks, so locals can have their say.

“Rail Projects Victoria will start consulting with communities over the coming weeks on the projects they are overseeing, so locals can have their say including on potential job opportunities on the projects,” Ms Allan said.

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The Hon Michael McCormack MP  
Parliament House Canberra | (02) 6277 7520  
Suite 2, 11-15 Fitzmaurice Street  
Wagga Wagga NSW 2650  
minister.mccormack@infrastructure.gov.au

The Hon Jacinta Allan MP  
(03) 8392 6100  
Level 20, 1 Spring Street  
Melbourne VIC 3000  
jacinta.allan@parliament.vic.gov.au

Target completion dates for each of the projects being delivered by Rail Projects Victoria have been outlined, subject to planning and environmental approvals:

- Ballarat Line Upgrade well underway, and will be completed by the end of 2019.
- Warrnambool Line Upgrade by late 2020
- Geelong Line Upgrade by late 2021
- Gippsland Line Upgrade by late 2022, with the Avon River bridge replaced in early 2021
- Bendigo Echuca Line Upgrade by early 2021

Mr McCormack said the North East Line Steering Committee met on Monday and provided in-principle endorsement of the broad scope of works, which will now undergo an independent peer review by Monash University.

“Ahead of the works commencing on the major upgrades, track resurfacing (‘tamping’) works taking place this month are also progressing well, with more than 50 kilometres out of a total 84 kilometres of track to be tamped now complete,” Mr McCormack said.

“The \$1 million of works, funded by ARTC, is targeting priority areas based on V/Line and ARTC track information. Production rates are ahead of schedule and already providing improved V/Line passenger train performance.”

Ms Allan said the planning and preparation for the major upgrade works is undergoing a thorough process to ensure it delivers Class 2 track performance, providing more comfortable, punctual and reliable services.

“The steering committee is working hard to ensure these works are completed as quick as possible to get the track up to the standard North East Line passengers deserve.”

Ms Allan said great progress has already been made on the \$1.7 billion Regional Rail Revival, which will improve the reliability of the regional public transport network, deliver extra train services, enhance the passenger experience and support local economies.

“We’re not wasting any time and we’re getting on with delivering better train services for regional Victorians, with work underway on every single line across the state,” Ms Allan said.

Private sector businesses are invited to register their interest to deliver packages of work within the Regional Rail Revival at [regionalrailrevival.vic.gov.au](http://regionalrailrevival.vic.gov.au)

**ENDS**

**Media contacts:**

Mr McCormack: Colin Bettles 0447 718 781 | Dom Hopkinson 0409 421 209

Ms Allan: Hayley Bester 0424 753 775