



The Hon Michael McCormack MP

Deputy Prime Minister
Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional
Development
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

MEDIA RELEASE

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**WARRNAMBOOL AND GEELONG LINE UPGRADES
OUT TO MARKET**

The first step in the process to award a contract for major works on the Warrnambool and Geelong line upgrades is under way, with a call for Expressions of Interest from contractors.

Deputy Prime Minister, Nationals' Leader and Federal Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development Michael McCormack and Minister for Public Transport Jacinta Allan today announced Expressions of Interest were being sought for a multi-million-dollar contract to design and build important aspects of the projects.

Mr McCormack said the contract would include a major upgrade to Waurin Ponds Station, as well as upgrades along the Warrnambool line to enable extra services and pave the way for VLocity trains to run on the line.

"We're strongly encouraging business, including those in the Geelong and south west regions, to register their interest in carrying out the work," he said.

"The design and construction work for the upgrades will provide a great opportunity for local contractors and suppliers to get involved, bringing wider benefits for Geelong and south west Victoria."

Ms Allan said the Warrnambool Line Upgrade would allow for a fifth daily return service between Warrnambool and Melbourne, and help pave the way for VLocity trains on the line.

"A new crossing loop on the line will make it easier for trains to pass each other, helping services recover more quickly from unexpected delays, and signalling upgrades will help boost reliability," she said.

"Upgrades to level crossings along the line will make crossings safer for motorists and train passengers. Work on these is being undertaken by V/Line and is already under way."

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The Geelong Line Upgrade will include a second platform and additional track at Waurin Ponds Station will mean trains can pass each other at this point on the line and allow more Geelong services to be extended to Waurin Ponds.

A new pedestrian link at the station will create a user-friendly, safe and accessible connection for station users.

Planning and site investigations for the Warrnambool Line Upgrade are already underway. Construction is scheduled to begin by late 2019, with a target completion date of late 2020.

Construction on the Geelong Line Upgrade is scheduled to begin by 2020, with a target completion date of 2021.

Rail Projects Victoria (RPV) is overseeing the projects and has already begun a pre-qualification process to identify companies qualified to tender for the design and construction of the upgrades.

More information about the project is available at regionalrailrevival.vic.gov.au.

Ends.

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