

# Media Release

The Hon Jacinta Allan MP  
Minister for Transport Infrastructure



**DELIVERING  
FOR ALL VICTORIANS**

Tuesday, 12 March 2019

## CHELTENHAM AND MENTONE LEVEL CROSSING REMOVALS ARE GO

The Andrews Labor Government's removal of three dangerous and congested level crossings in Cheltenham and Mentone will build two new stations and create new community spaces for residents and visitors to enjoy.

Minister for Transport Infrastructure Jacinta Allan today unveiled the final designs for level crossing removals at Park Road and Charman Road in Cheltenham, and Balcombe Road in Mentone, which hold up 38,000 vehicles every day.

With early works underway, major construction to lower the rail line into trenches and build two new stations will start by mid-2019 and will take around 18 months. In mid-2020 a two-month construction blitz will excavate the trenches, build the new rail line and remove all three crossings at once – minimising disruption for commuters.

The heritage-listed stations at Cheltenham and Mentone will be incorporated into the design of the new stations, and a third track will be built at Cheltenham station to allow for more trains more often on the Frankston line.

The project will include more than three kilometres of walking and cycling paths connecting the stations, better lighting and accessibility, landscaping, new open space, parking, and potential residential and retail development.

The five heritage-listed trees in the Mentone station gardens will be protected in their current location during construction and a major landscaping program will create a new 'garden bridge' across the rail trench near Balcombe Road, expanding the much-loved station garden.

The contract for the work has been awarded to the Lendlease, Acciona Coleman Rail, WSP and Metro Trains Melbourne alliance that has already removed the Seaford Road level crossing and is removing three crossings in Carrum.

This \$536 million package of works are part of a massive \$3 billion investment on the Frankston line which includes the removal of 18 level crossings, with five already removed, and building 11 new stations.

Minor works will begin in April, as major works are underway next year the line will close for up to two months.

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

*"We're getting rid of these death traps – making Cheltenham and Mentone safer, and delivering brand new stations and more open space."*

*"Cheltenham and Mentone are going to have a busy year and I thank residents in advance for their patience during construction, which will deliver more trains, more often."*

### Quote attributable to Member for Mordialloc Tim Richardson

*"Getting rid of these level crossings has been talked about forever – we are getting on with the job and preserving the historic Mentone Station as well."*

### Quote attributable to Member for South Metropolitan Nina Taylor

*"The end result will be great for the 6,000 students who use Mentone Station every day and make getting to school safer for the 14,000 students in the area."*

**Media contact:** Hayley Bester 0424 753 775 | [transportmedia@minstaff.vic.gov.au](mailto:transportmedia@minstaff.vic.gov.au)

**Quote attributable to Member for Southern Metropolitan Philip Dalidakis**

*“These level crossings are dangerous and unsafe – that’s why they need to go. On top of providing brand new stations we’re delivering more open space for our community to enjoy.”*