



**REGIONAL
RAIL REVIVAL**

GEELONG



South Geelong to Waurin Ponds Duplication

Surf Coast Highway level crossing removal

We're removing the congested level crossing at Surf Coast Highway to deliver more frequent and reliable trains on the Geelong Line and improve safety and traffic flow.

Removing the level crossing at Surf Coast Highway will also provide opportunities to introduce new shared user path connections and create green open space.

Motorists will no longer need to wait when the boom gates are down for up to 22 per cent of the morning peak and 15 per cent of the evening peak. This will provide travel time savings for around 22,000 vehicles using Surf Coast Highway each day. It will also improve safety and reliability for trains crossing this intersection daily and allow for more services to be introduced in the future.

The flashing lights, train horns and level crossing bells will be eliminated, reducing noise to the surrounding area.

A new rail alignment

We are moving the rail line away from local residents - up to 190 metres south of the current alignment at Surf Coast Highway - to minimise disruption during construction and create new green open space between homes and the new rail line.

Straightening the track in this area will also improve how trains run on this part of the line.

The new rail alignment and elevated bridge design will allow for integration with the future Bellarine Link road extension.

Elevated rail bridge solution

An elevated rail bridge design has been identified as the best solution to remove this level crossing to reduce disruption to the community and road and rail users during construction, minimise flooding risks and create new landscaped open space.

Each level crossing site is unique and the design has to work within existing constraints such as roads, utility services, the topography of the site and the area's ground conditions.

Several designs were assessed during the planning phase, with technical studies, site constraints, construction impacts, community impacts and urban design opportunities all considered in determining the most feasible design solution.

Three level crossings to go between South Geelong and Waurin Ponds

Both the Surf Coast Highway and Fyans Street level crossing will be removed by 2024 as part of the project which will also include upgrades to South Geelong and Marshall stations, track duplication and signalling upgrades.

A bridge will also be built over the railway line at Marshall, removing the level crossing, as part of the Barwon Heads Road Upgrade, improving traffic flow and safety at three key locations between South Geelong and Waurin Ponds.

Why the Surf Coast Highway level crossing needs to go



Boom gates are down for **22%** of the morning and **15%** for the evening peak



Improved traffic flow for approximately **22,000** vehicles each day



Improved safety for road users and train passengers



Congestion is estimated to grow by **31%** by 2027 to **29,000** vehicles per day



Australian Government

BUILDING OUR FUTURE



Why is an elevated rail bridge the most feasible design solution?

Environmental constraints and improved traffic flow and safety

There is an existing floodplain around Surf Coast Highway. An elevated rail bridge reduces the risk of future flood events impacting train services in this area.

The new elevated rail bridge will allow continued access to surrounding roads and properties for vehicles and pedestrians once complete.

Elevating and separating the rail from the road improves safety for both road users and pedestrians with the elevated embankments creating a safety barrier.

Minimising disruption

An elevated rail bridge is quicker to build than other options, reducing disruption to the community and train passengers.

It will reduce construction traffic on residential streets, with minimal soil excavation required compared to an open trench solution.

The new rail bridge will be built away from the existing rail line, allowing the new track to be built while trains continue to operate and minimising the extent of disruption.

Coordination and integration with other projects

A rail bridge design will allow for integration with the future Bellarine Link, creating a dedicated transport corridor.

The realigned rail line will also allow for coordination with Barwon Water's upgrade of utility assets in the area, further reducing impacts to the community.

New shared user path and green open space

The new rail alignment will move the track up to 190 metres away from local residents at Surf Coast Highway.

The current rail track will be removed, creating new green open space between homes and the new rail line.

This will also allow the introduction of a new shared user path, providing a safer travel route for pedestrians and cyclists and a new connection with the Baanip Boulevard shared user path.



Get involved

We want to hear ideas from locals and passengers on how the project designs could reflect and enhance the local area including landscaping and urban design outcomes.

Head to engage.bigbuild.vic.gov.au to have your say and provide feedback.

To receive updates about the South Geelong to Waurin Ponds Duplication sign up to our eNews at regionalrailrevival.vic.gov.au/geelong or follow us on Facebook facebook.com/RRRGeelongWarrnambool

Next steps

The project will go through an extensive planning process to assess the environmental, social and planning considerations of the project. Community engagement is an important part of this process.

If you are a resident living adjacent to the proposed rail bridge, we will be in regular contact with you throughout the project to provide you with updates and opportunities to ask questions and raise concerns. Please feel free to reach out to a member of the project team at any time by contacting 1800 105 105.

Project timeline

2021

Planning, design and procurement

Engagement with the community commences.

2022

Contract award and construction

Engagement with the community continues on the design. Construction commences.

2024

Construction completed

Construction completed subject to planning and environmental approvals.

Surf Coast Highway level crossing removal view south towards Armstrong Creek | Concept image



Upgrading the Geelong Line

The South Geelong to Waurin Ponds Duplication is being delivered as part of the Australian and Victorian governments' investment of more than \$4 billion in Regional Rail Revival, which is upgrading every regional passenger line in the state and creating more than 3,000 jobs.

Both governments have committed a further \$4 billion to deliver faster services between Geelong and Melbourne, as part of Geelong Fast Rail.

More information

regionalrailrevival.vic.gov.au

1800 105 105
(24 hours a day, 7 days a week)

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It should be noted that this information is current at the time of printing, however due to unforeseen circumstances, changes may occur. Please visit regionalrailrevival.vic.gov.au for the latest updates.