

New VLocity trains for the North East line

April 2020

North East Victoria passengers and visitors will soon benefit from more comfortable, modern trains thanks to a new regional train design.

Building on the successful VLocity design, the updated model will be the first VLocity train to run on standard gauge tracks on Victoria's regional network.

The long-haul design, which includes feedback from local passenger representatives, will provide a range of improvements including comfortable seats, and extra luggage and bike storage.

The new VLocitys are part of the Victorian Government's investment in new trains to meet increased demand across the regional network.

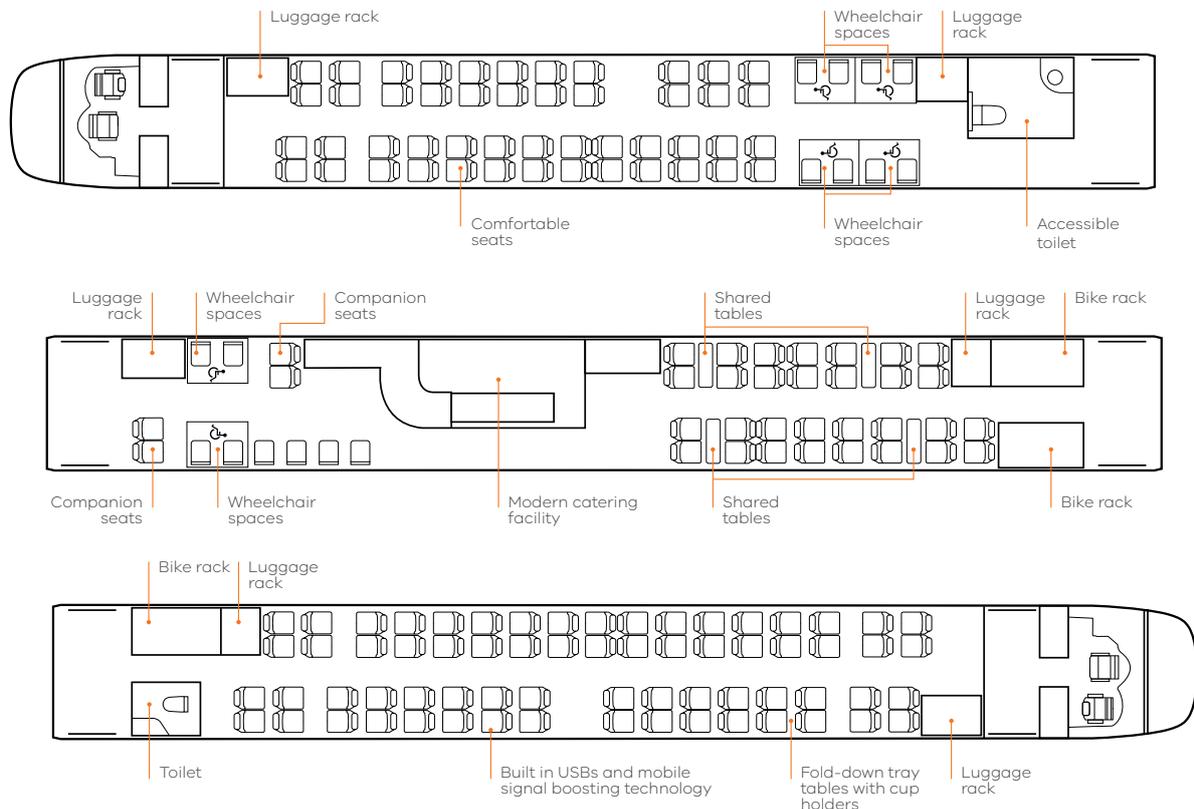
KEY FEATURES

Each three-car VLocity set will include:

- comfortable seats for the long-haul journey
- built in USB chargers and mobile boosting technology so people can stay connected
- six luggage racks and overhead luggage racks to support the needs of recreational travellers
- three bike racks capable of holding up to nine bikes to support cycle tourism
- a modern catering facility
- four shared tables so groups of family or friends can dine and chat together
- accessibility improvements to make it easier for people of all abilities to travel
- six wheelchair spaces with companion seats close by
- fold-down tray tables with cup holders.

Three-carriage VLocity trains can run coupled together for a total of six carriages.

INDICATIVE TRAIN DESIGN



A TRAIN DESIGNED BY PASSENGERS

The Department of Transport, V/Line and train manufacturer Bombardier met with key community representatives from North East Victoria in September 2019 to help design the first new VLocity trains for the North East line.

Participants provided the train design team with important feedback on their needs for long-haul journeys, including accessibility features and how best to allocate space for seats, bikes and luggage.

Who we talked to

We invited a range of passenger representatives to a workshop in Wangaratta and held a special session for North East line train conductors. We also conducted phone interviews with people who were unable to attend and received several written submissions.

What we heard

- Passengers need comfortable seats on long journeys
- The trains should include forward and backward facing seats and facing seats with a table in the middle to accommodate individuals, couples and people travelling in groups
- Fold-down tray tables should include a cup holder
- More bike storage spaces are needed to support the rise in bicycle tourism
- More luggage space is needed and it needs to be kept secure
- USB charging points should be considered – we don't want to run out of phone battery mid-journey
- Amenities such as luggage storage and water coolers should be located at the same spots in each carriage so they're easy to find
- There should be plenty of handholds to steady people as they walk through the train
- Blinds or tinted windows should be considered to protect passengers from bright sun
- More rubbish bin space is needed and, if possible, recycling bins
- A minimum of six wheelchair spaces should be provided in each train

- Accessible areas need to accommodate a range of disabilities including people with walking frames and scooters
- There needs to be space for assistance animals to sit under seats
- People with disabilities need easy access to the catering facility
- Companion seats should be located near wheelchair spaces for family members and other companions
- We want to be able to easily book a seat, wheelchair and bike spaces online
- some passengers need to have access to a 240V power point for medical equipment
- Improvements to passenger announcements and information displays.

How feedback was used

The Department of Transport recorded and analysed every piece of feedback received and used this to develop a design brief for the train manufacturer Bombardier.

Bombardier developed a proposed interior layout for the train.

The proposed train design was refined following review by V/Line, Department of Transport, the Public Transport Access Committee and the V/Line Accessibility Reference Group.

NEXT STEPS

The standard gauge bogie design, which will enable the trains to run on the standard gauge North East line for the first time, is now complete.

Bombardier will manufacture the trains at their facility in Dandenong, supporting 500 local jobs.

The new trains will start taking passengers following the completion of the \$235 million North East Upgrade that is being delivered as part of the Regional Rail Revival, and a rigorous testing process.