

CONNECTING REGIONAL VICTORIA

BARWON SOUTH WEST



The Barwon South West region will benefit from more frequent and reliable public transport services and better facilities to get people where they need to go quickly, reliably and safely.

The Regional Network Development Plan will guide investment in regional public transport infrastructure and services over the next 20 years to boost capacity and efficiency across the network, and support population growth.

The plan aims to deliver 20 minute peak services and 40 minute off peak services for commuter lines, and five services five days a week for long distance regional lines.

The Victorian Government talked to people across Barwon South West and considered local transport plans to ensure the plan reflects the community's needs.

Planning and delivery will start straight away so we can get on with improving regional public transport.

Here's a summary of the projects planned now and into the future to better connect the Barwon South West region.



Population: 387,100

(ABS census data 2011)

Projected population in 2031: 467,670

(Victoria in Future 2015)



Train service between Melbourne and Warrnambool (via Geelong). 10 minute peak and 20 minute interpeak average frequency between Melbourne and South Geelong.



Coach service: Geelong, Warrnambool, Colac and Portland.



Town bus service: Greater Geelong, Torquay, Colac, Warrnambool, Hamilton, and Portland.



Nearly 300 people attended workshops in Portland, Geelong, Warrnambool, Hamilton, Colac and Torquay.



WHAT COMMUNITIES TOLD US

Frequency

- Increased frequency of train services to Warrnambool
- More frequent train services on weekends
- More frequent town bus services timetabling
- Improving train timetables
- Extending bus operating hours

Services/connectivity

- Improved local bus routes, particularly where there have been changes, so the elderly can access medical appointments, shops and other services
- More inter-city bus services
- Coverage between the coastal towns (Anglesea etc.) to transport and shopping hubs such as Warrnambool
- Greater and more frequent connections between regional cities and towns
- Additional services should be provided on a seasonal basis (to support tourism) and for special events
- Better connections between buses

Communications

- Better information about timetables, ticketing and communications about changes and disruptions

Public transport experience

- Areas for improvement on train included toilet facilities, food and drink quality, outdated carriages, mobile coverage, and storage and security of luggage
- Station security concerns, parking, general maintenance and toilet facilities
- Shortage of adequate bus shelters

GETTING STARTED

The following are initiatives funded in the 2016-17 State Budget:

More train services

- Additional off-peak return services from Melbourne to Geelong each day
- A train every 40 minutes to Warrnambool from 7 am to 7 pm on weekends
- A third return service to/from Melbourne to Warrnambool every Sunday
- A fourth return service Geelong to Warrnambool on weekdays

Better bus services

- Regional bus service improvements for the Bellarine Peninsula
- Upgrade bus and coach interchanges in Geelong, Hamilton, Warrnambool and Portland

Station upgrades

- Additional seating on platform 2/3 at Geelong station
- 50 extra car parks and extended platform shelters at Marshall station
- Additional shelter and lighting at North Shore station
- Car park improvements at Lara station

Improving reliability, punctuality and frequency

- Plan for duplication from South Geelong to Warrnambool
- Planning work to determine public transport solutions for the Armstrong Creek growth corridor to improve access and connections to new residential areas

Rolling stock improvements

- Revamp classic fleet to upgrade air conditioning

WORKING TOGETHER ON LOCAL PROJECTS

The Victorian Government is partnering with local communities to deliver regional transport

improvements through the *Transport Investing in Regions* initiative. The following projects will begin soon or are already underway:

- Better footpath connections for bus stops across Geelong to make public transport more accessible
- A new shared footpath for North Geelong Station between Separation Street and the station
- Kerb ramp and footpath improvements at Torquay's main bus interchange to improve safety and accessibility
- A sealed pedestrian link in Point Lonsdale between local bus stop and signalised crossing on Bellarine Highway
- Extension of the Warrnambool ConnectU service which delivers local transport to people with limited mobility options

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

- Extra passing loops, track and signalling upgrades on the Warrnambool line to allow for more passenger services and more freight
- Duplication of the rail track from South Geelong to Warrnambool
- Build a second platform at South Geelong, Marshall and Warrnambool stations
- Upgrade Warrnambool station and car park
- Improve safety at regional level crossings
- Retire classic fleet and procure replacement stock
- Investigate opportunities for local transport in Barwon South West to provide more travel options for residents
- Review and upgrade stations and facilities in Barwon South West in line with changing community needs
- Plan for and implement bus service improvements across Barwon South West as demand for services change

More information

Further information about the project can be found on the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources website at transport.vic.gov.au/rndp

Authorised by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne.