

# CONNECTING REGIONAL VICTORIA

## GRAMPIANS



The Grampians 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 Grampians 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 Grampians region.



**Population: 224,430**

(ABS census data 2011)

**Projected population in 2031: 300,012**

(Victoria in Future 2015)



**The Overland operates Melbourne-Geelong-Ararat-Horsham to Adelaide**



**Coach and town bus service: Ballarat, Horsham, Bacchus Marsh, Maryborough, Ararat, Stawell**



**Nearly 300 people attended workshops in Ballarat, Bacchus Marsh, Maryborough, Ararat and Horsham**

## WHAT COMMUNITIES TOLD US

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### Frequency

- More frequent train services on the Ballarat line
- More train services to Maryborough and Ararat to boost tourism, jobs and economic development

### Reliability

- More frequent services particularly in the counter-peak direction
- Improve reliability on the Ballarat line

### Connectivity/services

- Provide more bus services between rural and regional towns
- More bus services between Maryborough, Bendigo and Ballarat
- Improve connections between bus, coach and train services
- Open up rail lines in the region

### Public transport experience

- Better facilities, including improvements to bus stop shelter and signage

### Timetabling

- Longer operating hours – public transport that starts earlier and finishes later

## GETTING STARTED

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

### More train services

- Two additional off-peak return services from Melbourne to Ballarat each day
- The Ballarat Line Upgrade project will also enable two extra trains to operate during the morning and afternoon peak periods and a train every 40 minutes in the off-peak
- Maryborough train extension every weekday following consultation with the community

### Better bus services

- Regional bus service improvements for Ballarat
- Improve Ballarat and Horsham coach interchanges and bus stops

### Station upgrades

- 200 extra car parks to meet demand at Wendouree station
- Upgrade Ballan station waiting area to improve facilities for waiting passengers
- Build second platforms at Bacchus Marsh and Ballan stations, including car park upgrades and provision of a pedestrian link between platforms

### Improving reliability, punctuality and frequency

The Ballarat Line Upgrade project will deliver major upgrades to the Ballarat rail corridor – adding capacity for passengers and improving the reliability of existing services.

The works include:

- duplicating a 17-kilometre section of single track between Deer Park West and Melton
- duplicating 3-kilometres of track at Warrenheip
- building three passing loops at Bacchus Marsh, Ballan and near Bungaree to accommodate trains passing in opposite directions
- train stabling yard at Melton and Rowsley.

### Rolling stock improvements

- Revamp classic fleet to upgrade air conditioning

## WORKING TOGETHER ON LOCAL PROJECTS

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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:

- Access improvements for Bacchus Marsh Station precinct including shared paths
- Six month trial of a city circle bus in the Ballarat CBD to increase access to local businesses and services

## FUTURE DIRECTIONS

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- Build a train station at Toolern
- Investigate the need for extra stations near Ballarat
- Investigate opportunities for passenger trains to use the interstate line more frequently
- Improve safety at regional level crossings
- Retire classic fleet and procure replacement rolling stock
- Investigate opportunities for local transport in Grampians to provide additional travel options for residents
- Review and upgrade stations and facilities in Grampians in line with changing community needs
- Plan for and implement bus service improvements across Grampians 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](http://transport.vic.gov.au/rndp)

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