

CONNECTING REGIONAL VICTORIA

LODDON MALLEE

BENDIGO STATION

EST. 1862

The Loddon Mallee 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 Loddon Mallee 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 Loddon Mallee region.



Population: 309,349

(ABS census data 2011)

Projected population in 2031: 381,001

(Victoria in Future 2015)



Train services from Melbourne to Swan Hill and Echuca (via Bendigo)



Coach service: Bendigo, Castlemaine, Echuca, Gisborne, Kyabram, Kyneton, Mildura, Rochester and Swan Hill.



All of these towns have a bus service, excluding Kyabram.



Nearly 200 people attended workshops held in Swan Hill, Mildura, Castlemaine, Echuca and Bendigo

WHAT COMMUNITIES TOLD US

Connectivity/services

- Improve links and connections between rural towns and centres in the region
- Improve frequency and coverage of local bus services

Reliability and capacity

- Reliability of train services to Melbourne
- Additional train carriages to boost capacity
- Improving journey time to Melbourne

Frequency

- More services to connect towns
- Increased train services on the Swan Hill and Echuca lines

Timetabling

- More bus or train services to cater for demand in the counter-peak direction in the morning, and reverse in the evening (i.e. from Castlemaine into Bendigo)
- Greater span of services
- Linking trains and bus timetables

Public transport experience

- Improved stations including toilets, shelter, car parks
- More bus stop shelters
- Better access to buses and between platforms 1 & 2 at Bendigo station
- Better access for people with a disability on buses

GETTING STARTED

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

More train services

- Two additional off-peak return services from Melbourne to Bendigo each day

Station upgrades

- Upgrade Bendigo and Eaglehawk stations to improve facilities, pedestrian movement, traffic flow and accessibility
- Upgrade Woodend station car park with lighting and additional car parks to meet demand
- Improve station car parks at Gisborne and Kyneton

Bus stop and coach improvements

- Real-time information for key Bendigo bus stops
- Upgrade bus stop signage and timetable information in Mildura and Echuca to improve amenities for waiting passengers
- Investigate a shuttle bus option to and from Mildura Airport

Improved reliability, punctuality and frequency

- Planning work to increase capacity on the Bendigo line to improve reliability and facilitate 20 minute frequency during peak and 40 minute frequency during the day and evenings

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:

- Access and amenity improvements at Kerang Station including new footpath, seating, line marking and lighting
- Pedestrian crossing and path works, and new line marking and signage for Castlemaine Station to improve pedestrian safety and access

- Identify short and long term improvement opportunities for Echuca Station precinct and develop master plan for the area
- Develop master plan for Eaglehawk Station precinct to improve bus, walking and car parking access to station

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

- Deliver capacity improvements on the Bendigo line
- Upgrade tracks on the Bendigo line to allow for higher speeds of up to 160 km/h
- Extra passing loops, track and signalling upgrades on the Echuca and Swan Hill lines to allow for higher speeds, more trains and more freight
- Increase track capacity between Kyneton and Bendigo
- Implement recommendations for the Bendigo Metro Rail project
- Investigate extra stations in Central Victoria
- Improve safety at regional level crossings
- Retire classic fleet and procure replacement stock
- Investigate opportunities for local transport in Loddon Mallee to provide additional travel options for residents
- Review and upgrade stations and facilities in Loddon Mallee in line with changing community needs
- Plan for and implement bus service improvements across Loddon Mallee 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.