

Maddox Road and Champion Road, Newport

Consultation report

September 2023

Train going through the Maddox Road, Newport level crossing.





RAILWAY
CROSSING

KEEP
TRACKS
CLEAR

STOP
ON RED
SIGNAL

STOP
ON RED
SIGNAL





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Selecting the best design

We're getting rid of all the level crossings on the Werribee Line and building a brand new Spotswood Station. With no level crossings on the line, journeys will be faster and local roads safer.

We're removing the Maddox Road level crossing by building a rail bridge over the rail line, improving safety, and reducing congestion.

We'll close the nearby level crossing at Champion Road and build a new link road to keep vehicles moving between Maddox Road and Champion Road, cutting travel times especially during peak periods.

If we could avoid closing the road we would, but engineering assessments show a closure is the only feasible way to remove this level crossing. We'll close the Champion Road level crossing in 2026, following the opening of the new Maddox Road rail bridge and link road.

The Victorian Government is committed to making the Werribee Line level crossing free. As a key strategic priority it ensures safety and reliability for the network and is critical to the success of future projects.

The Metro Tunnel is on track to open in 2025, a year ahead of schedule. This will allow more trains to run more often on the Werribee Line. Freight services are also set to increase. This will cause increased safety risks and congestion with boom gates down for 70 percent of peak periods.

Getting rid of these level crossing removals will support the growing population and paves the way for more trains to run more often.

The Victorian Government is removing 110 level crossings across Melbourne with 72 already gone. In addition to this, 11 level crossings are being closed where nearby level crossing free pathways exist across the rail line, including for the Frankston, Lilydale, Pakenham and Sunbury lines.

Technical considerations at Champion Road



Newport Train Stabling Yards

These yards are one of the busiest in Melbourne and vital in keeping the Werribee Line and freight services moving. A bridge or trench is not possible as it would prevent trains getting in and out of the stabling yards. Any modifications would cause massive disruptions to the network.



Underground pipelines

There are numerous critical oil and gas pipelines and other underground utilities located along and across the rail line. Many of these utilities help fuel Melbourne's industry and need to be avoided.



Land acquisition

We aim to avoid the acquisition of homes and businesses where possible. Due to the existing road alignment and roundabout near the crossing, road based designs are not feasible. They would cut off access to homes, businesses and heritage listed buildings, requiring extensive acquisition.



Scan the QR code to find out more about developing the best designs in Newport

Consultation summary

How your feedback is helping shape our plans

Between 19 June and 23 July 2023, we asked you to tell us about how you access the Newport area and what's important to you.

How we asked for your feedback

- area update distributed to over 5400 locals
- Werribee Line community update to 41,000 residents and businesses in the area
- social media geo-targeted advertisements reached over 61,000 people
- email update to over 1200 subscribers
- hard copies at local libraries and MP office
- key stakeholder emails, including emergency services and local schools.

Thank you to everyone who completed the survey. Your feedback informs design development and helps us better understand the needs of the community.

What we heard



How you move through the area

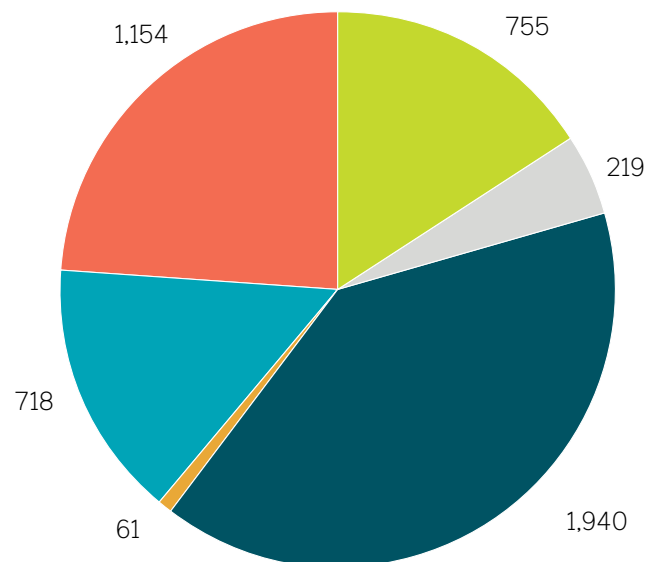
Most people who took the survey told us they lived in Newport and travelled through the area to get to other destinations. A small number of traders also completed the survey, which helps us understand how to support local businesses during construction.

We heard there was confusion about the design, with some locals thinking we were closing both Maddox and Champion roads, without building a new connection.

We'll keep Maddox Road open after we remove the boom gates and build a new link road between Champion Road and Maddox Road to keep vehicles moving. This will mean safer and more reliable journey times.

Modes of transport

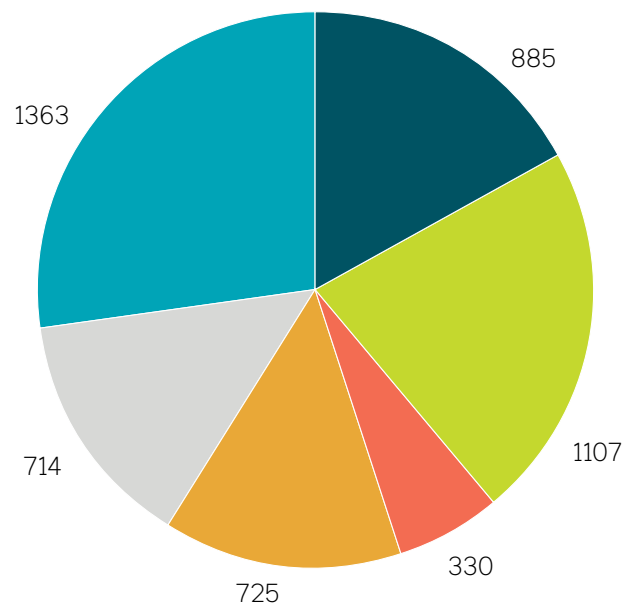
The top three modes of transport for respondents of the survey were car, walking and cycling.



Your favourite destinations

To help us understand how you use the area, we asked which destinations you travel to most.

Your top three destinations were the Williamstown shops, and businesses on Champion Road and Challis Street.





Traffic waiting at the Maddox Road level crossing

Why these level crossings need to go



Up to 48 trains during the morning peak (7am to 9am)



Over 17,000 vehicles each day



Improved safety for vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists



Werribee Line level crossing free by 2030

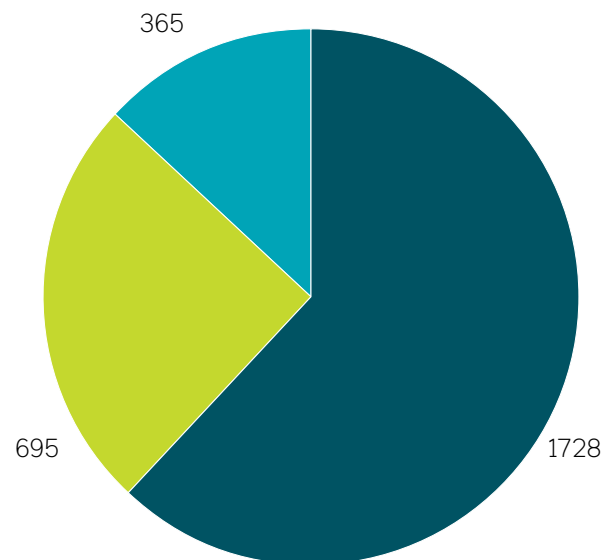


Making Melbourne's busiest train lines level crossing free to improve journey times and service reliability across the network

Using the Werribee Line

We asked you how often travel on the Werribee line and which train station you use most.

Most of you said that you are using Newport Station.



Did you know?

Newport Station is one of the busiest on the network, with more than **721,000** touch ons a year.

What's important to you

What you would most like to see improved

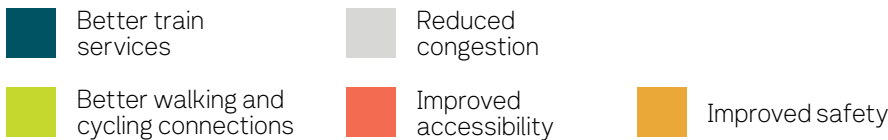
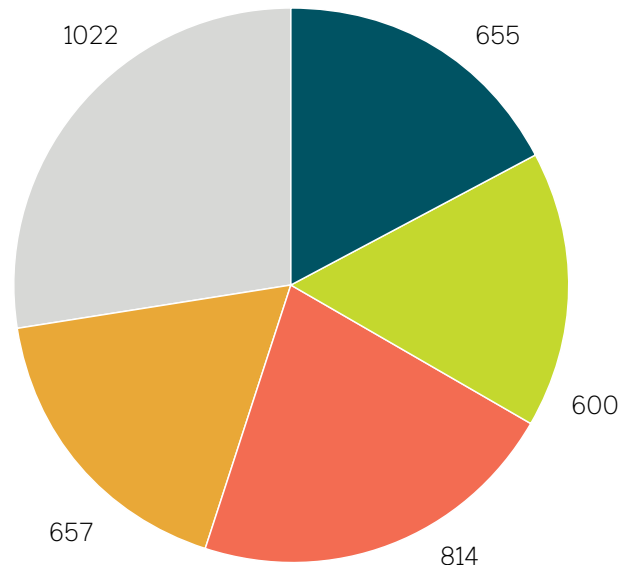
The top three areas you wanted to see improved were reduced congestion, improved accessibility and better safety.

Getting rid of two level crossings will improve safety and reduce congestion. We'll build a new link road to keep vehicles moving between Champion and Maddox Road. All new walking and cycling infrastructure will be accessible for everyone in the community.

Road access changes

We heard local connections are important. We also heard some locals think we're closing both Maddox and Champion roads, without building a new connection.

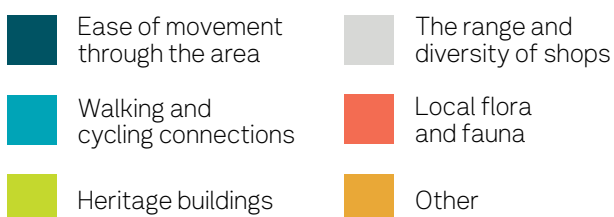
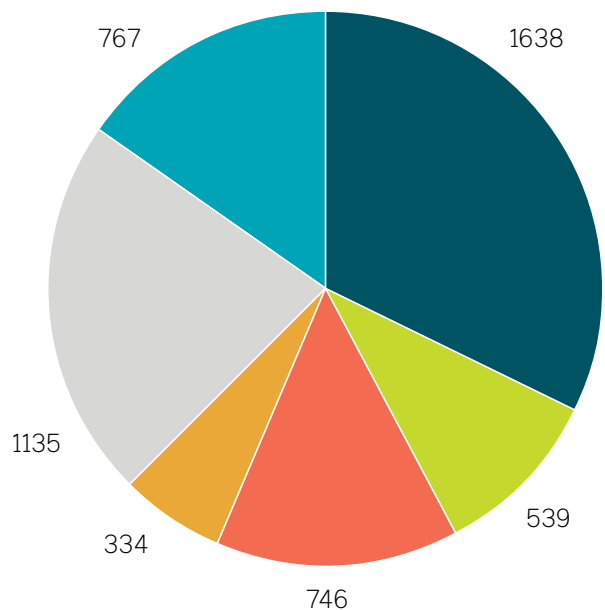
We'll build a new connection from Champion Road to Maddox Road to keep vehicles moving. We'll ensure any improvements to the local road network keep Maddox Road operating safely and efficiently, now and in the future.



What you most value about your local area

We asked you what you most valued about the Newport area. You told us that ease of movement and the range of shops were most important, with the ability to walk or cycle also in your top three.

With no boom gate delays, journeys will be safer and more reliable. We'll build new walking and cycling paths, creating more ways to get to where you want to go.





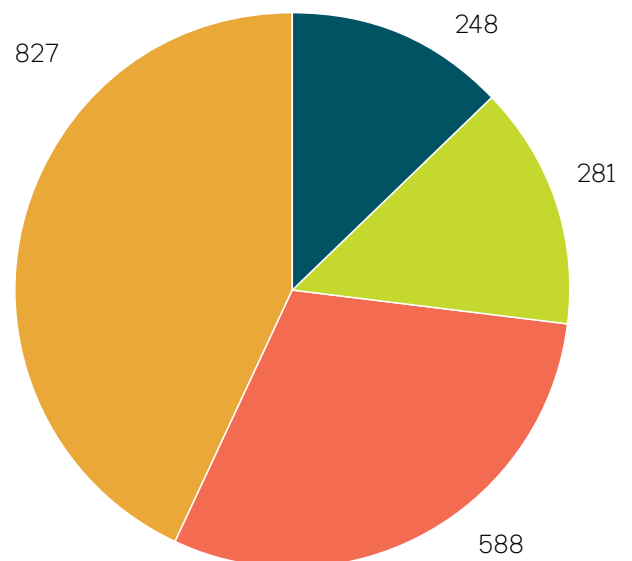
Traffic waiting at the Maddox Road level crossing

Walking and cycling connections

You also told us that you wanted to see improved walking and cycling connections, with 73% saying it was somewhat or very important.

We'll deliver new walking and cycling connections in the area.

- | | |
|---|--|
| ■ Not important | ■ Very important |
| ■ Somewhat important | ■ I don't walk or cycle in the area |



Next steps

We're still in the planning stages with site investigations ongoing until the end of the year.

We'll come back to the community with more information and concept designs early next year. This will include opportunities to help shape key elements of the design, like walking and cycling connections, landscaping and open space.

How we engage with the community



Visions and values

We start by talking to the community about how you move around the area and how you would like to use the space in the future.



Updated designs

We'll show you updated designs shaped by your feedback.



Concept designs

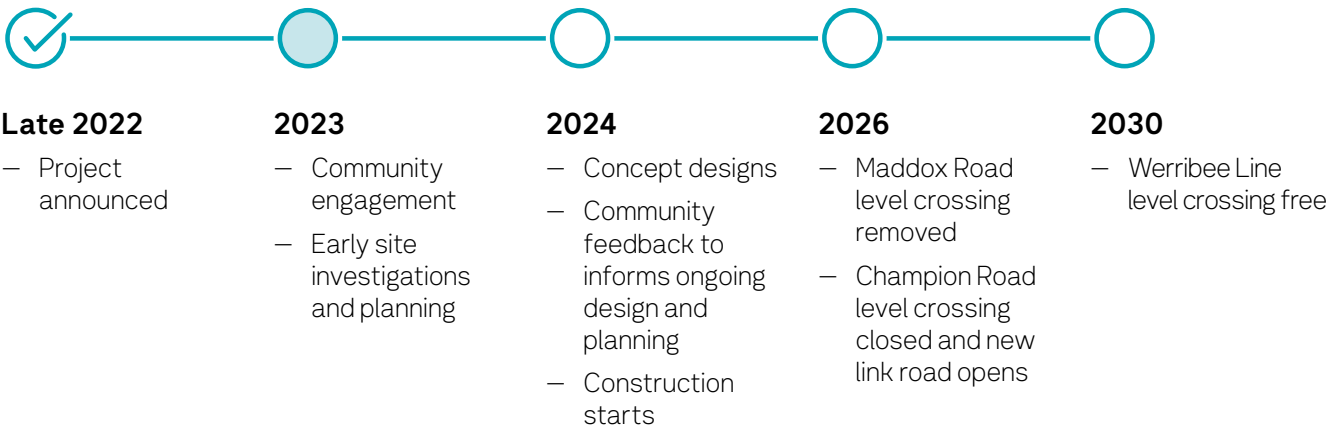
We'll release the initial design and ask for your feedback. You'll have the opportunity to help refine the designs.



Construction

We work with the community and local traders to help manage any disruption caused by our works.

Project timeline



* Timeline subject to change.



Stay informed

Scan the QR code to sign up for email updates and to be notified about upcoming online and in person community information sessions.

Visit our website and read more about the Newport level crossing removal project.








levelcrossings.vic.gov.au

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For languages other than English, please call 9209 0147.

1800 105 105 (call anytime)     

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