

Maddox Road and Champion Road, Newport

Understanding the Newport level crossing removals

Updated November 2024

*Traffic at Maddox Road,
Newport level crossing.*





Train going through the Champion Road, Newport level crossing.

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Traffic at Maddox Road, Newport level crossing.

Understanding the site

We are removing the level crossing at Maddox Road by building a rail bridge over the road.

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, improving safety, and creating more reliable travel times.

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.

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 open the new link road before the Champion Road level crossing is closed in 2026.

This brochure explains the designs that were ruled out and the criteria we used to assess designs.



The Victorian Government is removing 110 level crossings across Melbourne with 84 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.

Why these level crossings need to go



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



Over 10,000 vehicles travel through these crossings each day



Improved safety for vehicles, pedestrians and bike riders



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

What we considered

Each level crossing has its own set of characteristics to consider when preparing to remove it.

At Champion Road, the site is located close to the Newport Train Stabling Yards.

A number of critical services run underground through this level crossing site, including approximately 10 pipelines, some of which support the Melbourne Airport fuel lines.

Maintaining access to Newport Train Stabling Yards and freight network

The Newport Train Stabling Yards are critical for the operation and servicing of the Werribee Line and the freight operations that keep Melbourne's supply chain moving.

A rail bridge or trench is not possible as it would stop trains getting in and out of the stabling yards. Any modifications would cause massive disruptions across the network. It also limits options for future rail projects that will help support population growth.

At Maddox Road, there is enough distance between the crossing and stabling yards to build a rail bridge and return the rail line to ground level.

Avoiding impacts to major oil and gas pipelines

We have to keep the Melbourne Airport fuel line and Mobil refinery open to keep Melbourne moving.

This infrastructure has three metre exclusion zones on either side of the pipelines preventing construction and relocation at Champion Road.

Only 500 metres down the rail line at Maddox Road, there are less critical utilities. This allows us to remove the level crossing by building a rail bridge.

Saving private property

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. This design allows us to deliver safer and less congested roads for the west without taking homes to do it.

Did you know?

On average, around 660 flights land and depart from Melbourne Airport each day. Fuel lines that run through the Champion Road level crossing are crucial to keep these flights moving.

Local site constraints



Elevated rail bridge at Maddox Road



Champion Road level crossing closed to traffic

Entry point to Newport Train Stabling Yards

Legend

- Oil and gas pipelines
- Newport Train Stabling Yards
- Heritage listed buildings

Any solution must ensure access is maintained to the stabling yards and there is space for future rail upgrades

Link road at Akuna Drive connecting Champion Road to Maddox Road*



* Indicative location only, subject to change.

Designs that are not feasible

When assessing designs, we consider a number of factors, including opportunities for open space, network improvements, future transport planning and impacts to local homes and businesses.

The only feasible design for Champion Road is to close the crossing and build a new link road to keep vehicles moving.

Rail solutions

- Prevent trains getting in and out of the stabling yards. Any modifications would cause massive disruptions to the network.

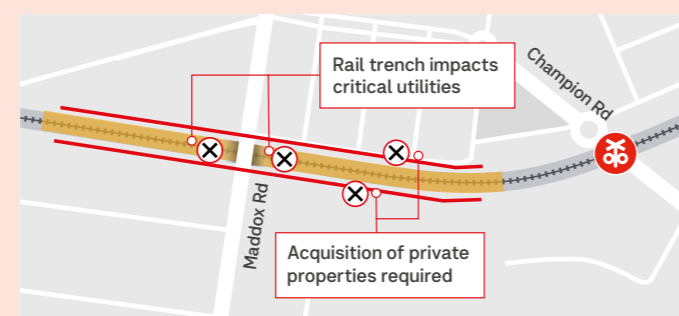
Road solutions

- Cut off access to homes, businesses and heritage listed buildings requiring extensive acquisition.

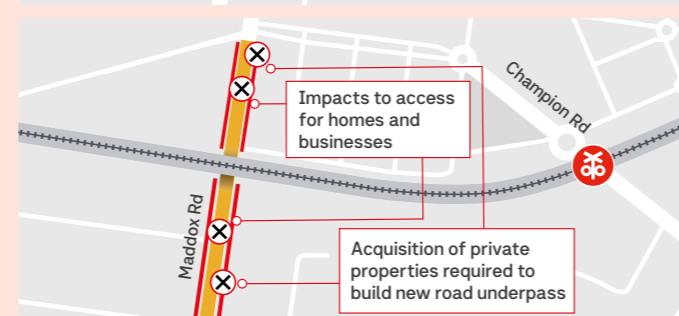
Maddox Road, Newport

We investigated multiple options to remove the level crossing at Maddox Road.

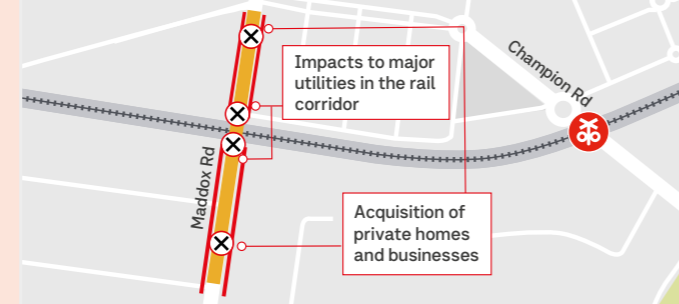
- ✗ Rail under road**
Lowering the rail under the road would:
 - impact critical utilities causing disruptions to fuel supplies
 - require property acquisition of homes.



- ✗ Road under rail**
A road underpass would:
 - impact critical utilities causing disruptions to fuel supplies
 - cut off access for homes and businesses
 - require property acquisition of homes.



- ✗ Road over rail**
A road bridge would:
 - require property acquisition of homes
 - cut off access for homes and businesses
 - impact critical utilities.



✓ Rail over road

Based on assessments, the selected design is to remove the level crossing at Maddox Road by building a rail bridge over the road.

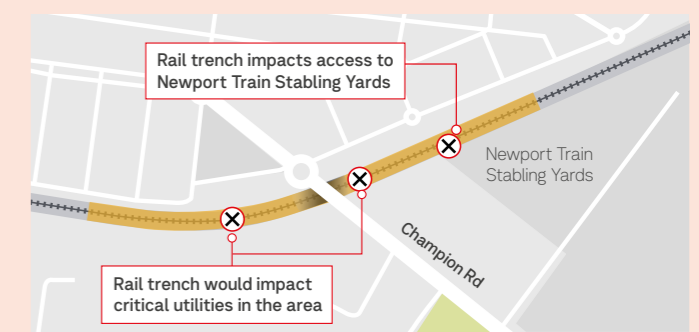
This option:

- enables new walking and cycling connections, improving active transport connections
- avoids impacts to Newport Train Stabling Yards
- minimises impacts to oil and gas pipelines
- minimises possible property acquisition of homes and heritage listed buildings
- enables future rail projects to support population growth.

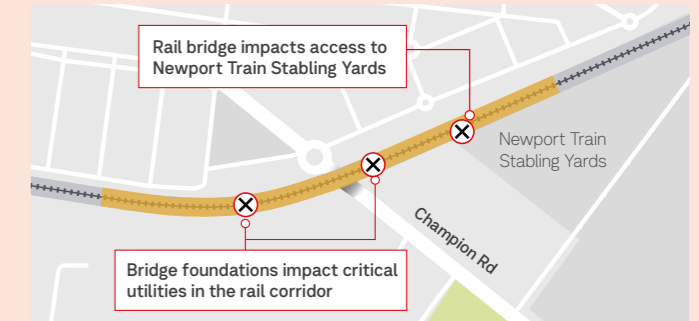
Champion Road, Newport

We investigated multiple options to remove the level crossing at Champion Road.

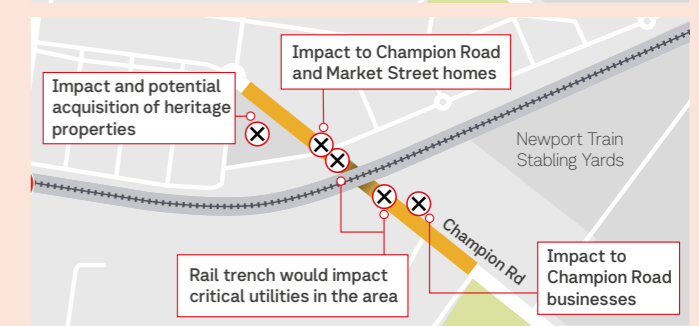
- ✗ Rail under road**
A rail trench would:
 - impact critical utilities causing disruptions to fuel supplies
 - impact access to Newport Train Stabling Yards, disrupting the network
 - prevent future infrastructure development.



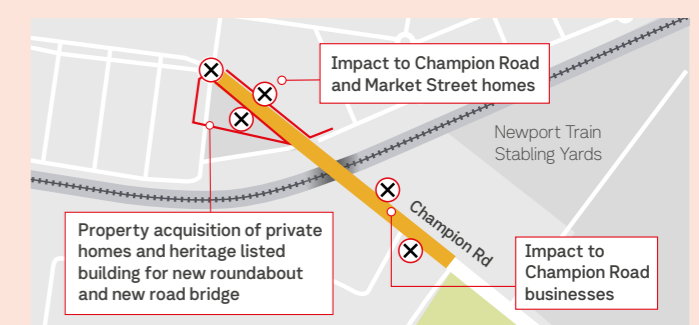
- ✗ Rail over road**
A rail bridge would:
 - impact access to the Newport Stabling Yards
 - impact critical utilities with foundations inside exclusion zones
 - prevent future infrastructure development.



- ✗ Road under rail**
A road underpass would:
 - impact critical utilities causing disruptions to fuel supplies
 - significantly impact access to homes and businesses
 - require property acquisition of homes.



- ✗ Road over rail**
A road bridge would:
 - require property acquisition of homes and heritage listed buildings
 - impact critical utilities inside exclusion zones where we're unable to build
 - change local business access.



- ✗ Hybrid solution**
A hybrid solution is a level crossing removal design that uses elements of multiple engineering solutions. For example, the road is lowered slightly to allow for a shorter rail bridge. Due to requirements to maintain access to the stabling yards and avoid critical utilities, this solution was not progressed.

✓ Closing the level crossing and building a new link road

Based on key constraints in the area, the only feasible design is to close the Champion Road level crossing and build a new connection to Maddox Road for safer and less congested access across the rail line.

This option:

- allows for a new road connection to Maddox Road, which will be level crossing free
- enables new walking and cycling connections, and improvements to the local road network
- avoids impacts to Newport Train Stabling Yards
- minimises impacts to oil and gas pipelines
- minimises possible property acquisition of homes and heritage listed buildings
- enables future rail projects to support population growth
- ensures the safety and reliability of the rail network and facilitates benefits of future transport projects such as the Metro Tunnel Project.

Project benefits

Connecting Champion Road to Maddox Road

To keep you moving, we're extending Akuna Drive to link Champion Road to Maddox Road. This new road will provide a safe connection for drivers travelling through Newport and Williamstown.

As part of the project, there will be changes to local car parking on Akuna Drive, Champion Road, Launceston Street and Maddox Road. These changes are needed to create safe, free-flowing traffic and build new pedestrian and cycling connections.



The new road will open before Champion Road is closed in 2026.

Better local connections

We're building new paths, including a pedestrian and cycling bridge over the rail line at Champion Road and a shared path along Railway Parade to Market Street.

These new paths will provide safer options for active transport, offering an alternative way for the community to connect with local businesses and nearby parks.



For example the new walking and cycling path under Toorak Road

Newport to be level crossing free in 2026

As we have developed the designs, a key focus has been on creating safer journeys for drivers, cyclists and pedestrians, while also improving travel times now and for the future.

Read our community consultation report on our website for more information about what we heard in our recent survey.

Project timeline

- ✓ **Late 2022**
 - Project announced
- ✓ **2023**
 - Visions and Values community engagement
 - Early site investigations and planning
- ✓ **Early 2024**
 - Planning consultation and community surveys
 - Stakeholder Liaison Group meetings begin
 - Continue site investigations and planning
- **Late 2024**
 - Design released
 - Early works begin
- **2025**
 - Major works begin
- **2026**
 - New link road opens
 - Champion Road level crossing closed
 - Maddox Road level crossing removed
 - Newport level crossing free

Timeline subject to change.








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