

Albion flyover

June 2021

As part of Melbourne Airport Rail, a section of elevated rail less than two kilometres in distance will be constructed within the rail corridor between Sunshine and Albion.



Design solution

This design will see twin rail tracks rising before Anderson Road, Sunshine and continuing through to the start of the Albion-Jacana freight corridor, elevating the rail line over existing rail tracks, Ballarat Road and St Albans Road before returning to ground level.

The Albion flyover will be around 18 metres in height at its highest point over Ballarat Road (26 metres high including overhead wiring structures) and located around 31 metres away from the John Darling flour mills.

The preferred solution at Albion is the result of detailed investigations, design and planning by engineers, transport modellers, urban designers and other experts with extensive experience of the rail network and other infrastructure projects in Australia and around the world.

Building the flyover is the best outcome for this section of the rail network to minimise impacts to existing infrastructure, reduce disruption to road and rail users during construction, provide more reliable travel times for Melbourne Airport Rail services and enable further network investments in the future. It also provides an opportunity to improve the area surrounding Albion Station, which will benefit from a new public forecourt area, extra bike cages and some minor modifications to car parking, as well as landscaping and shared-path connections.

Complex rail environment

The rail corridor between Albion and Sunshine is a highly complex and constrained active rail environment. It contains up to five tracks at any one point, accommodating regional and metropolitan passenger services as well as ARTC-operated freight services.

There is also a critical jet fuel pipeline along the rail corridor from Sunshine Station through to Albion Junction and up the Albion-Jacana freight corridor, as well as major roadways to consider at Anderson Road, Ballarat Road and St Albans Road.

Other assessed options that included tunnelling or more ground-level works were inferior to the flyover option because of the challenging ground conditions in this area and the impact on network operations. They would either cost hundreds of millions of dollars more to build, add around six months to the construction program or cause significantly more disruption to road users and train passengers.

Airport services will not stop at Albion, however this design will not preclude future opportunities to revitalise the area and upgrade existing infrastructure including Albion Station and Ballarat Road. The designs will continue to be refined in consultation with key stakeholders and industry, and finalised closer to contract award, subject to all relevant approvals.



Australian Government



The Albion elevated rail solution will:

- ✓ provide more reliable travel times for airport services
- ✓ minimise disruption during construction with less road and rail shutdowns required
- ✓ be delivered faster and with less land impacts compared to other options
- ✓ enhance the area around Albion Station
- ✓ provide a gateway to Sunshine, with a potential architectural feature near Ballarat Road
- ✓ best support the broader operational requirements of Melbourne Airport Rail, a transformational project for Victoria.

Other options, including tunnelling or ground-level works, were not preferred due to:

- ✗ challenging ground conditions, which increase the complexity of construction under these options
- ✗ more rail closures, meaning more disruption for rail passengers
- ✗ more likely to trigger major rebuilds of Ballarat and St Albans roads, meaning more disruption for drivers
- ✗ extending the timeline of works by around six months
- ✗ costing significantly more, in the range of hundreds of millions of dollars
- ✗ greater impacts on properties surrounding the rail corridor and reduce opportunities for improvements around Albion station.



Concept image only, subject to planning approvals and stakeholder engagement.

More information

 airportrail.vic.gov.au

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