



South Geelong to Waurin Ponds Duplication

Vegetation removal, reuse and replacement

The South Geelong to Waurin Ponds Duplication will enable more services and improved reliability for growing communities between South Geelong and Waurin Ponds.

The project includes around 8km of track duplication and signalling upgrades, upgraded stations at South Geelong and Marshall and the removal of the Fyans Street and Surf Coast Highway level crossings.

The South Geelong to Waurin Ponds Duplication will enable five train services per hour during the peaks and three per hour between the peaks for Marshall and Waurin Ponds stations.

To safely deliver the project, some trees and vegetation will need to be removed along the rail corridor. The trees being removed are located within the footprint of new infrastructure, including the new platform at South Geelong Station, rail bridges at Fyans Street and Surf Coast Highway, and where the duplicated track will be built.

Alternatives such as track realignment and design changes were not able to avoid the trees.

The project is committed to avoiding and minimising impacts to vegetation as much as possible, ensuring that any removal is accompanied by a comprehensive replanting strategy.

We committed to planting two trees for every one removed along the rail corridor.

New planting & landscaping

Once the stations are upgraded and duplicated track is in place, trees, shrubs and grasses will be planted in station precincts and along the new shared user path. We are also exploring opportunities for re-vegetation in and around sections of the rail corridor.

We are committed to planting new vegetation, with two trees to be planted for every one removed during construction of the project.

Native trees and plants will make up a large number of these trees to enhance the local area and improve biodiversity along the rail corridor.

We are currently engaging with Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation and City of Greater Geelong on the plant and tree species they would like to see planted across the project area.

Landscape design and species selection forms an important part of the design process.

Local stakeholders and the community will be given the opportunity to provide feedback and input into the landscaping plans for the area and advice from environmental specialists working with our team of landscape architects and other authorities, including V/Line will help inform the final landscape design.

How we remove vegetation

Vegetation removal work will be conducted in stages. The first stage was completed near the Surf Coast Highway level crossing in mid-2022. Further vegetation removal will be required in late 2022.

The project is committed to minimising impacts to vegetation as much as possible, however detailed assessments have identified vegetation, including a number of Melbourne Yellow Gums, that will need to be removed to facilitate delivery of the project.

Vegetation removal will adhere to the project's Environment Management Framework and all relevant planning and environment approvals.

To ensure the safety and management of any wildlife we may encounter during vegetation removal work, we will have a fauna handler, arborist and environmental professionals on site to assist.



What happens with trees that are removed?

As part of our commitment to minimising impacts on the environment, we are exploring opportunities for reusing the trees that need to be removed as part of this project.

These opportunities include:

- seed collection of native trees, including Melbourne Yellow Gums for cultivation at the West Coast Indigenous Nursery
- donating trees to local gardening clubs
- using trees as habitat logs as part of the landscaping plan
- tree burls donated to Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation to be repurposed
- trees donated to local Men's Sheds for wood working and bird or possum nests
- donating excess mulch to community groups, schools and City of Greater Geelong Council.

Vegetation management timeline

1

Rail Projects Victoria's (RPV) environmental team developed a vegetation management approach which was built into both the project contract and statutory approvals. Ecological Impact Assessments conducted were part of this process.

2

Djilang Alliance prepared and sought approval for a Melbourne Yellow Gum Management Plan in accordance with the Environment Management Framework (EMF).

3

Djilang Alliance engaged an arborist to prepare an Arborist Assessment Report in accordance with the Environmental Management Framework (EMF). Measures were implemented to retain trees where possible.

4

Seeds were collected for cultivation at the West Coast Indigenous Nursery.

5

Stakeholders and the community informed about the vegetation removal and feedback sought on reuse opportunities.

6

Vegetation removal to enable major construction to commence.

7

Implementation of landscaping and revegetation plans once the major construction is complete.

Upgrading the Geelong Line

The Victorian and Australian governments are investing more than a billion dollars in projects to deliver better and more frequent services for communities between South Geelong and Waurin Ponds. This includes the South Geelong to Waurin Ponds Duplication, Waurin Ponds stabling and the completed Waurin Ponds Station upgrade.

The South Geelong to Waurin Ponds Duplication project will enable more frequent and reliable services and better stations for passengers on Victoria's busiest regional rail line.

The project is part of the Regional Rail Revival program which is upgrading every regional passenger line in Victoria and creating 3,000 jobs. Rail Projects Victoria is delivering the program on behalf of the Australian and Victorian governments.

Both governments have also invested in Geelong Fast Rail, to deliver faster services between Geelong and Melbourne.

Keep informed

As the project progresses, we will keep passengers and the community informed.

To receive updates about the South Geelong to Waurin Ponds Duplication sign up to our eNews at regionalrailrevival.vic.gov.au/geelong or follow us on Facebook facebook.com/RRRGeelongWarrnambool



More information

regionalrailrevival.vic.gov.au

1800 105 105
(24 hours a day, 7 days a week)

Rail Projects Victoria
PO Box 2392, Melbourne, VIC 3001



Interpreter Service (03) 9209 0147

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