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Constructing the new bridge over the Maribyrnong River Valley

Melbourne Airport Rail is a transformational public transport project connecting to Victoria's regional and metropolitan network with trains to run from Melbourne Airport through Sunshine Station and the Metro Tunnel.

Rail Projects Victoria (RPV) is overseeing the delivery of Melbourne Airport Rail and has a team of design, engineering and construction experts working on the development and delivery of the project.

This fact sheet provides information on the new bridge which will allow trains to travel to and from the airport over the Maribyrnong River Valley.



Render of High Capacity Metro Trains travelling on the Maribyrnong River Valley bridge



Australian Government



As part of Melbourne Airport Rail, a second rail bridge will be built over the Maribyrnong River Valley alongside the existing heritage bridge which was built in 1929.

The new rail bridge will be around the same height as the existing bridge, which is approximately 550 metres long and 50 metres high. It will become the second highest bridge in Victoria after the West Gate Bridge.

The rail bridge will be designed to complement the existing heritage rail bridge and minimise impacts to the landscape.

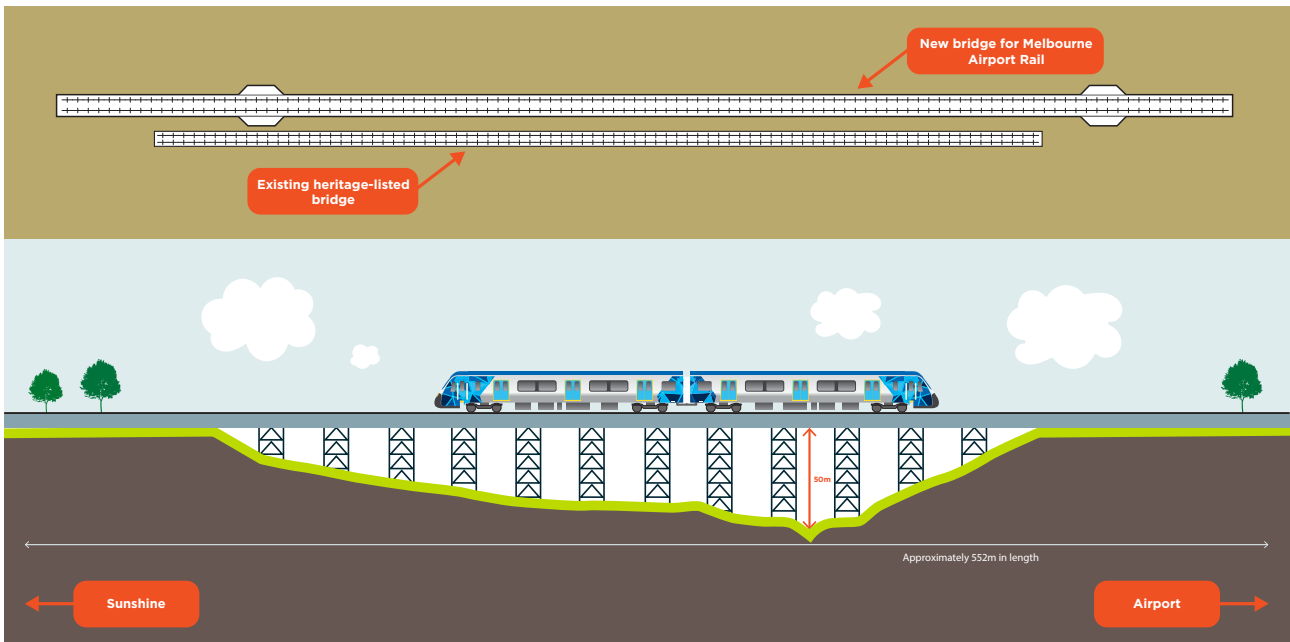
The new rail bridge is an opportunity to celebrate the local area, with Melbourne Airport Rail passengers being able to enjoy the far-reaching views of the Maribyrnong River Valley.

Elevation of the bridge across the Maribyrnong River Valley



Design solution

The new rail bridge will comprise of an elevated twin track rail crossing to the west of the existing heritage rail bridge. The bridge will support Melbourne Airport Rail trains travelling in both directions to and from the airport.



Best solution for the local environment

The existing rail corridor crossing the Maribyrnong River Valley is highly constrained with steep cliffs and existing infrastructure, including the heritage rail bridge and a jet fuel pipeline. The new rail bridge has been designed to minimise potential impacts to existing infrastructure and the environment.

Planning and environmental specialists and design engineers are continuing to refine the design and construction approach to avoid, protect, and manage potential impacts.

Construction will also be managed to minimise disturbance during migration and breeding periods of nationally protected species including the Australian Grayling and Growling Grass Frog which live in and around Maribyrnong River.

Construction of the new rail bridge also provides the opportunity to remove weed species and replant native vegetation, which will be carried out in consultation with key stakeholders.



Construction Planning

Planning and design work for the new bridge is underway. The proposed construction approach for the new bridge will involve multiple stages and include excavation and piling of the bridge foundations, tower cranes to lift in bridge segments and superstructure construction technologies.

During construction there may also be disruption to the Maribyrnong River Trail. Clearly signed diversion routes will be in place to allow people to continue walking and cycling through this area.

Construction on Melbourne Airport Rail will begin in 2022 with a target opening date of 2029, subject to approvals.



Example of tower cranes being used to construct a rail bridge



About Melbourne Airport Rail

Melbourne Airport Rail will connect people from the airport to where they need to go - be that work, home or Victoria's key tourism destinations.


Airport trains will run from a new station at Melbourne Airport every 10 minutes, through the Metro Tunnel to Melbourne's CBD in around 30 minutes.

Construction will begin in 2022 with a target opening date of 2029, subject to approvals.

The project will support up to 8,000 jobs during construction.

More information

 airportrail.vic.gov.au

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It should be noted that this information is current at the time of printing, however due to unforeseen circumstances, changes may occur. Please visit railprojects.vic.gov.au for the latest updates.