

SEPTEMBER 2021

Powering Melbourne Airport Rail

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.

We need to install new electrical substations between Sunshine North and Melbourne Airport to power train services along the new line.

What is a substation and what will it be used for?

Substations are an integral part of Melbourne's train network to provide trains with a constant source of power that can't be met by connecting to the standard street supply.

A substation is a mostly self-contained, unstaffed building housing electrical equipment that converts the local power supply into the voltage needed to operate trains, signals, and communication equipment across the train network.



Example of a substation currently in use on the metropolitan rail network.

Trains use the most power when accelerating from a standstill and rely on substations to provide the necessary power.

Substations utilise the same power that runs through street overhead or underground power lines.

Electromagnetic emissions from a substation would not be greater than the levels already produced in the area. Electromagnetic emissions or electromagnetic fields (EMF) are a natural by-product of electricity. They occur around all electrical items, including those in our homes, workplaces and naturally through the Earth's magnetic field and thunderstorms.

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.



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Why do you need more substations along the network?

The existing freight rail line from Albion to Jacana does not currently operate electric trains so new substations are needed to power the airport trains.

Across the metropolitan rail network, substations are regularly added to provide more power for additional train services to run.

Where will the substations be located?

The proposed locations of the new substations are based on the principle of providing a safe, functional and efficient electrical supply along the new rail corridor. It is proposed that substations will be required in:

- Sunshine North near Munro Avenue
- Keilor East near Keilor Park Drive and the Western Ring Road (M80)
- Keilor Park near Terror Street and the Western Ring Road (M80)
- Tullamarine near Sharps Road and Airport Drive
- Melbourne Airport near Terminal Drive

Keeping you informed

We will engage with locals and neighbouring properties as planning and design for the substations progress and before construction begins on substations in the local areas.

Proposed locations of new substations.



Have your say

As part of the planning for Melbourne Airport Rail, RPV will seek a range of Victorian and Federal planning, environmental and other government approvals. Your feedback will be considered as part of these approvals, as well as inform the design work and construction planning for Melbourne Airport Rail.


You can have your say by visiting our website airportrail.vic.gov.au to complete the online survey.

You can also visit our virtual information session to learn more about the project.

Stay up to date about future opportunities to get involved by signing up to the Melbourne Airport Rail e-newsletter on the 'Contact Us' page of the website.

More information

 airportrail.vic.gov.au

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

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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.