

PRESTON – AUGUST

STAGES OF CONSTRUCTION



Artist's impression of the new Bell Station, subject to change

We are removing the level crossings at Oakover Road, Bell Street, Cramer Street and Murray Road in Preston.

The rail line will be raised over the roads on the Mernda line, delivering new open space underneath the two-kilometre rail bridge. The project will also deliver new stations at Preston and Bell.

These level crossings will be removed by the end of 2022 and the open space ready for locals to enjoy in 2023.

With a project of this scale, temporary construction impacts and disruptions are planned for and should be expected.

The Mernda line has unique constraints as it cannot close for longer than 12 consecutive days due to a requirement for trains to regularly access the Epping maintenance yard. With this in mind, the project team has developed five stages of construction to minimise disruption to the rail line.



Temporary station facilities at Preston Station

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Authorised and published by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne



Stage one: site establishment and early works

Late 2020 – Mid 2021

Key activities in stage one:

- Site establishment
- Relocation of underground services
- Signalling upgrades on Mernda line
- Installation of temporary overhead signalling so trains can continue to run while construction continues
- Commissioning of the temporary station facilities at Bell and Preston stations
- Demolition of existing station buildings



Station demolition at Preston

Stage two: major construction

Mid 2021 – mid 2022

Key activities in stage two:

- Hardstand construction for foundation works and bridge installation
- Building the city-bound rail bridge, and sections of the Mernda-bound rail bridge
- Building the retaining walls in the north and south of the project
- Construction on the new Bell and Preston stations begins

We will build about 50 per cent of the new Bell Station and 25 per cent of the new Preston Station during this stage.



Pier construction south of Preston Station

Stage three: single line running

Mid-2022

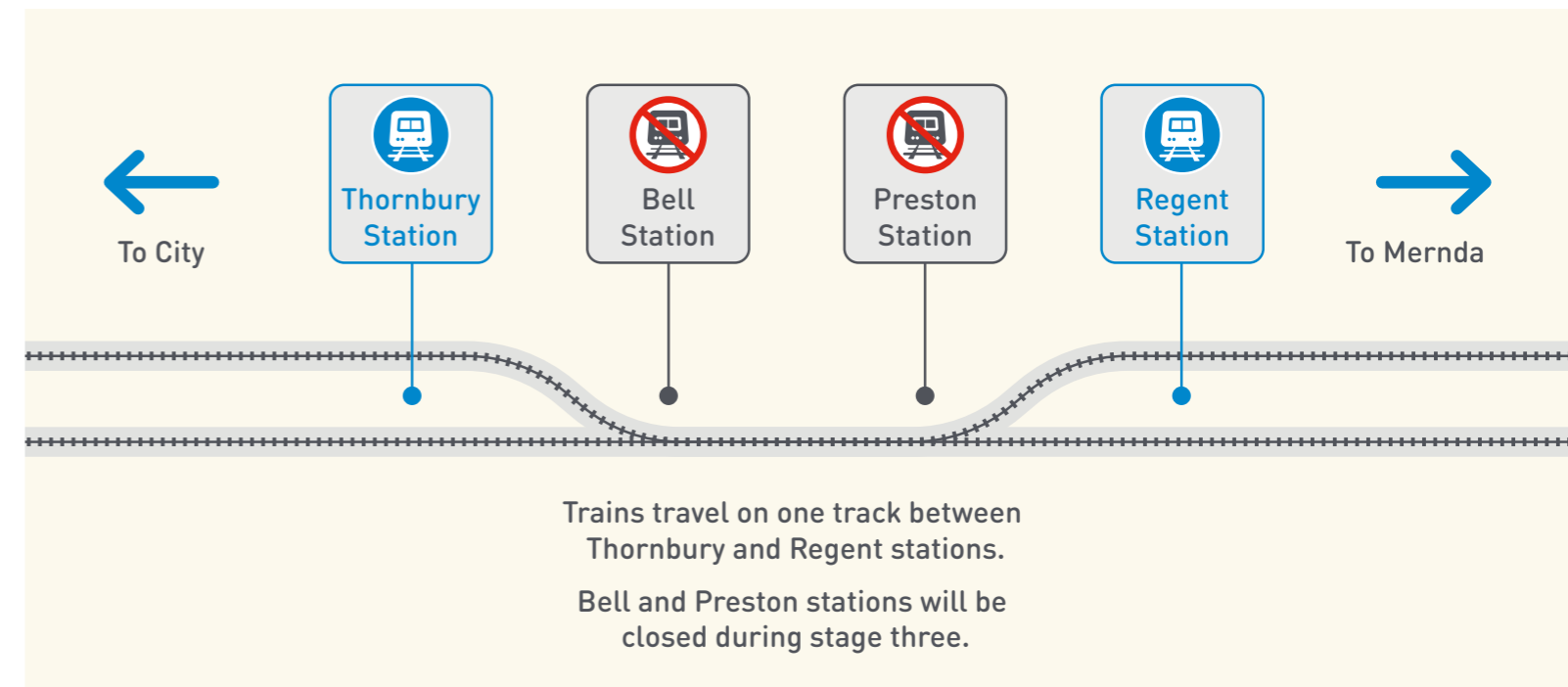
In 2022, we will close Bell and Preston stations for three months to create a safe environment for the project workforce and community while we complete the rail bridge and build sections of the new modern stations.

To keep trains running and to allow our works to continue safely, the Mernda line will operate on a single track over the newly completed city-bound rail bridge between Thornbury and Regent stations.

Trains will not stop at Bell and Preston stations during this stage. Shuttle buses will transport passengers from Bell and Preston stations to nearby Thornbury and Regent stations.

During this time the Mernda and Hurstbridge lines will run on an altered timetable.

We will finish 95 per cent of the new Bell and Preston stations during this stage.



Preston Precinct Plan



Stage four: final works

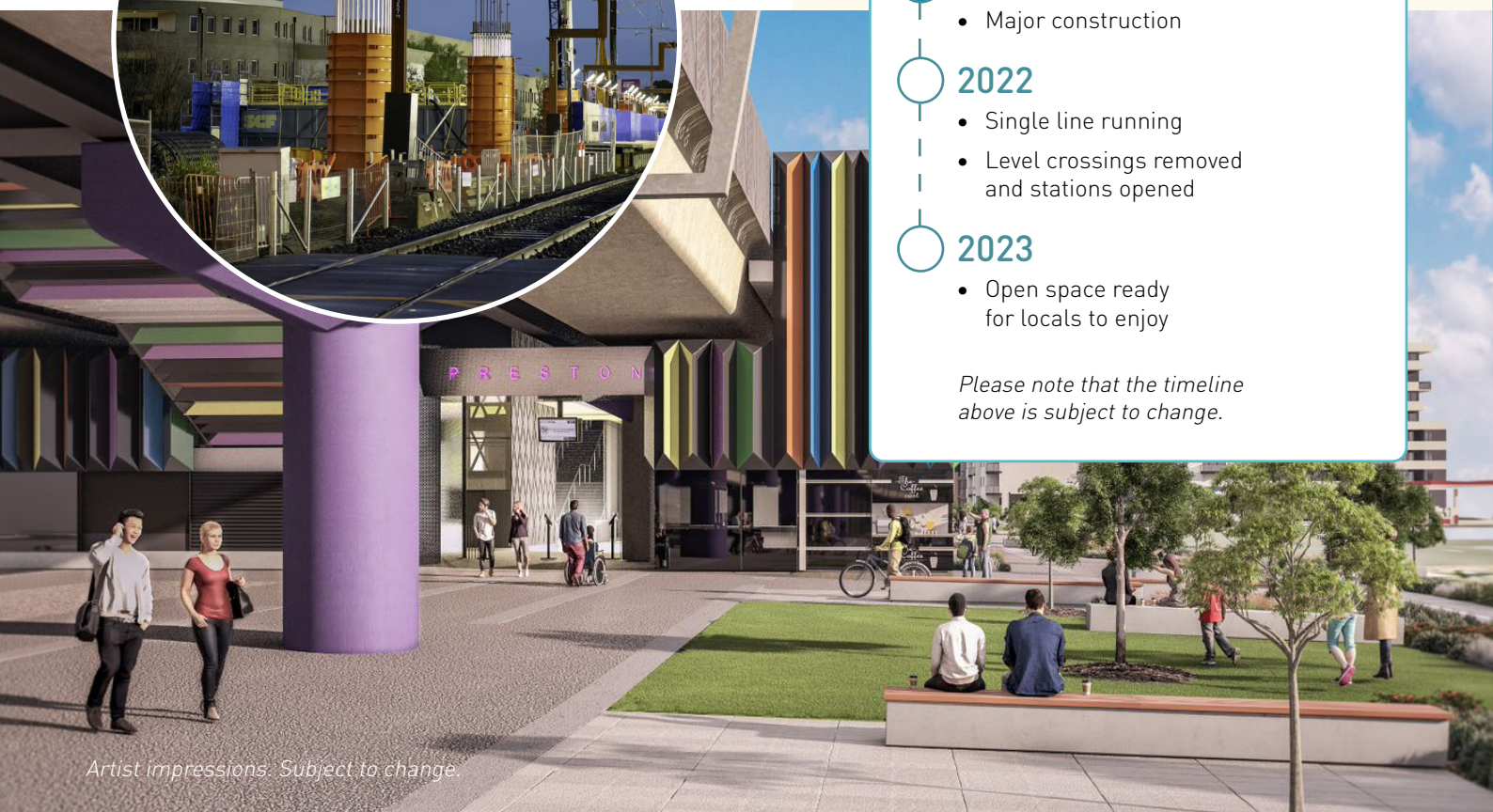
Late 2022

The rail bridges will be complete and the level crossings removed during stage four. The new Bell and Preston stations will be open.

Stage five: open space and landscaping

Late 2022 – 2023

Once the rail bridge and stations are built, we will begin working on the open spaces and planting Australian trees, shrubs and grasses, with the open spaces ready for the community to enjoy in 2023.



Artist impressions. Subject to change.

Project timeline

- ✓ **2017-2018**
 - Site investigations
 - Victorian Government commitment to remove additional crossings on the Mernda line
- ✓ **2019**
 - Confirm design
 - Further engineering investigations
 - Community engagement on what's important to the Preston community
- ✓ **2020**
 - Concept designs
 - Preston Open Space Advisory Panel
 - Further community engagement on defined, negotiable elements of the design
 - Design finalised
 - Early work begins
- ✓ **2021**
 - Major construction
- **2022**
 - Single line running
 - Level crossings removed and stations opened
- **2023**
 - Open space ready for locals to enjoy

Please note that the timeline above is subject to change.

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