



GLENROY ROAD, GLENROY

PRECINCT DESIGN CONSULTATION REPORT

JUNE 2020



levelcrossings.vic.gov.au

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RAIL
CROSSING
2
TRACKS

STOP
ON RED
SIGNAL

KEEP
TRACKS
CLEAR

RAILWAY

I was separated from my best family in
France as a Christmas gift. It reminds me
of them and my life in France. Hopefully
one day I will go back to visit them.
I would love to
know if you
have a friend like
me.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Project overview

The Victorian Government is getting rid of the dangerous and congested level crossing at Glenroy Road and building a new Glenroy Station.

The level crossing will be removed by lowering the rail line under Glenroy Road.

About 19,000 vehicles travel through the level crossing on Glenroy Road each day. The boom gates are down for up to 52 minutes of the two-hour morning peak.

Removing this level crossing will improve safety and travel times for pedestrians, cyclists and drivers and keep traffic moving. It will also make it easier for people to visit local shops, cafes and schools in the area.

A new Glenroy Station will help to revitalise the station precinct and provide modern and safe facilities, improving the journey for more than 3500 people who use the station each day.

The project is in the planning phase. Construction will start in 2020 with the project complete in 2022.



Current level crossing at Glenroy Road

Consultation timeline

- ✓ **2019**
 - Community engagement on what's important to the Glenroy Community
- ✓ **Early 2020**
 - Further community engagement on key elements of the design
 - Planning approval consultation
- **Late 2020**
 - Release station designs

**Timeline above subject to change*

Introduction

Community consultation on the Glenroy Level Crossing Removal Project began in October 2019. The community was asked what's important to them in the area around the level crossing and current station, and what they would like to see as a result of the level crossing being removed.

That feedback helped our team understand more about the community and local area and has been invaluable in helping to shape technical aspects of the design.

In May 2020, we released updated designs for the precinct, showing how feedback from 2019 had been incorporated. An online survey asked the community for feedback on these latest designs, and key aspects of the project such as:

- What facilities are most important to see included in the new station precinct
- How these areas should look and function best for the community
- Opportunities for public art and design features in the area.

An interactive map of the area asked the community to comment on themes identified from earlier community consultation:

- Local identity
- Pedestrian and cycling facilities
- Seating
- Landscaping
- Public art.

Almost 300 online surveys were completed, and 115 comments were made on a map of the area.

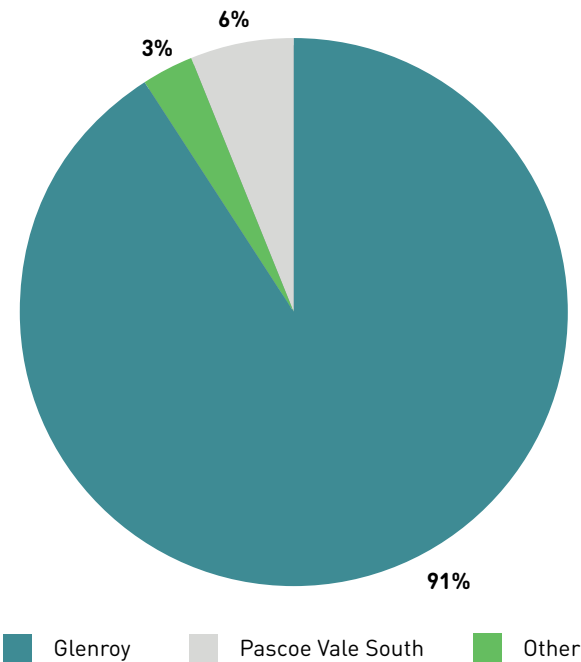
This report details feedback captured in this the latest round of community consultation.

Profile of respondents

The majority of survey respondents live in Glenroy or the neighbouring suburbs, with almost 80% of respondents living in close proximity to the level crossing.

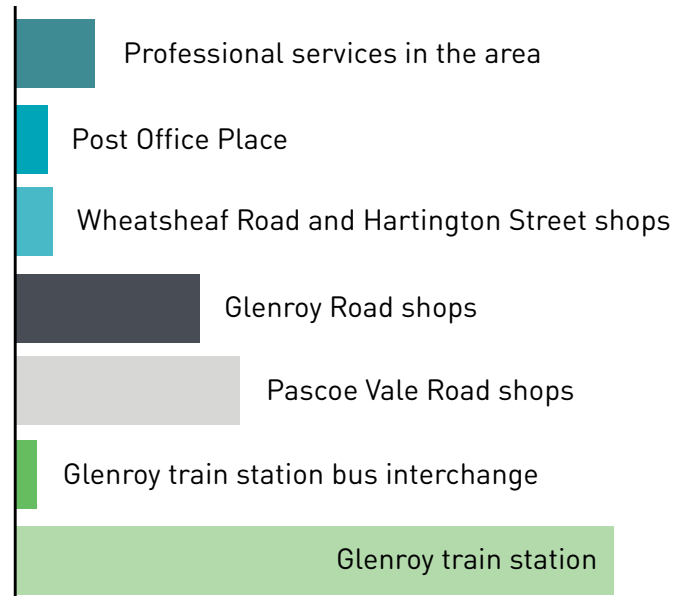
People use a variety of transport modes to move around the area, with Glenroy Station being the most popular local destination for people who completed the survey.

Where do you live?



Major destinations in the area

% of people who selected a destination as most popular




What you told us about yourselves


78% of people are local residents


52% of people are land or property owners


6% of people owned a local business or work in the area

How you move around the local area

 **54%** of people drive through the area

 **52%** of people catch the train

 **38%** of people walk or cycle around the area

 **12%** of people use local buses


Interactive map feedback themes

 **Pedestrian and bike** - 37 comments

 **Landscaping** - 32 comments

 **Local identity** - 25 comments

 **Public art** - 11 comments

 **Seating** - 10 comments

Urban Design Principles

We asked the community to rank in order of importance the series of principles which guide and evaluate aspects of each level crossing removal project.

Feedback from 2019 helped us to understand what is important to the community in the area and what they wanted to see as a result of removing the level crossing and building a new Glenroy station.

This previous feedback, along with how the community rates these Urban Design Principles, will help us to identify what the community values as we further develop the design.

The standout design principles the community ranked as the most important were:



Safety – Apply design principles that promote and improve safety, such as passive surveillance and activated spaces



Connectivity – Improve connections and ease of movement for all transport users in and around the Glenroy Station precinct

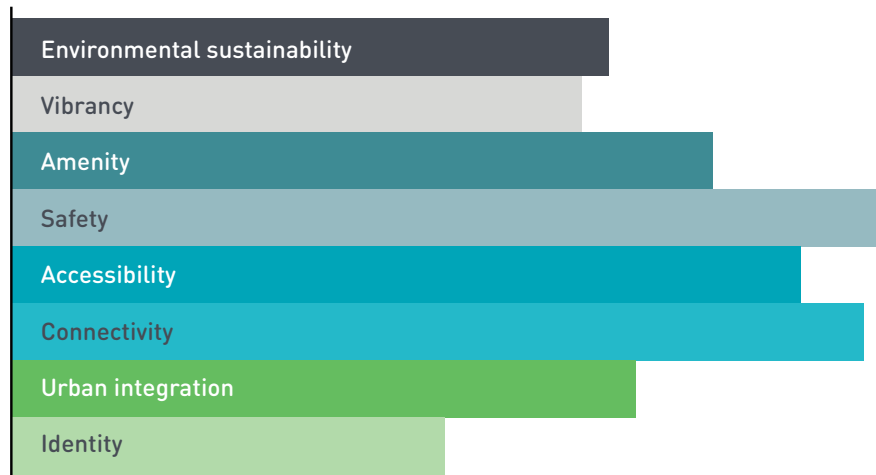


Accessibility – Promote active transport through design, and encourage walking, cycling and public transport within and beyond the station precinct

These principles mirror the common themes we heard in other parts of the community feedback and will help us to design a solution that addresses these principles and works best for Glenroy and the community.

How important are these design principles to you?

Ranked in order of importance



Entrance to the current Glenroy Station



Station precinct design

The majority of people had two clear preferences for what they wanted included in the design of the new Glenroy station precinct:

- Forty per cent of people ranked 'improved connections to the local shopping precincts' as the most important aspect to include.
- Thirty-nine per cent of people ranked 'more greenery and landscaping' as the most important inclusion.

Improved connections to the local shopping precincts

The importance of improving connections in the precinct was further highlighted when people were asked their most common destinations in the area.

Apart from Glenroy Station itself, the shops along Glenroy Road and Pascoe Vale Road where the two most common destinations in the area.

When asked how people would mainly use the new station precinct, a clear majority of 63 per cent, responded they would use the station mainly to access opposite sides of the train line.

Thirty-four per cent of people commented that the design needs to consider a number of factors relating to accessibility:

- Improved, easier access to the station and across the train line
- Safety in the area, particularly at night
- Improved facilities for cyclists in the area.

"There needs to be sufficient lighting and open space, so safety is addressed."

Interactive map comment

People suggested that traffic in the streets surrounding the station, including Dowd Place and Hartington Street often pose a danger to pedestrians and commuters accessing the station. Eighteen people commented on the need for pathways to separate pedestrians from traffic in these areas.

"Pedestrian and bike access from Dowd Pl to Hartington St would help connect the two halves of Glenroy."

Interactive map comment



People wanted to see improved, ground level access across the train line, without the need for underpasses.

Greenery and landscaping

More than half of all respondents said landscaping was an important aspect of the precinct design.

When given visual examples of other train station precincts, 58 per cent of people preferred the look and feel of a design which featured landscaping with a mixture of plants and grasses.

“Please add more garden and landscaping areas for the station and around it.”

Survey respondent

People commented that the area surrounding the station, and not just the station precinct, was lacking in green spaces and vegetation and suggested landscaping should be incorporated into the design and not hinder the movement of people trying to access the station.

A mix/selection of native vegetation and plants was the most popular among people who gave suggestions for which species should be included in the design.

“Choose natives endemic to the area so as to encourage biodiversity.”

Survey respondent

Seating

While public seating and providing a place to ‘sit and relax’ was not ranked highly by people, some responses suggested the reason for this may be that the existing layout of the station precinct felt unwelcoming. Some respondents said they choose not to visit the area unnecessarily. Almost 20 per cent of comments on the map of the area highlighted safety concerns in the area surrounding the station.

Some responses suggested incorporating seating into the landscaping design or public art installations would help soften the look and improve the overall feeling of the area.

The need for increased undercover and sheltered seating in the station and on the platforms was also raised, with people suggesting the existing station lacks these features.

How important are the following design aspects to you?



“We need better seating and shelter at the new station being built.”

Interactive map comment



Visual examples of other station precincts with landscaping, such as Gardiner Station, proved most popular amongst respondents.



Current level crossing at Glenroy Road

Design finishes and public artwork

When asked about how they would like certain surfaces and fixtures to look, fifty-six per cent of people wanted architecturally designed finishes to be included in the Project, while 38 per cent of people preferred community or public artwork. Only six per cent of respondents said they would prefer simple concrete finishes.

“Use different textures and patterns of materials such as screens, cladding materials not just slabs of concrete. Soften the appearance, giving it a modern transformation.”

Survey respondent

There was strong support for public art in the area from people who commented on the map and completed the survey.

“It would be great to include public art in the design. There is currently a lack of it in the Glenroy district.”

Survey respondent

Responses to the question ‘How do you think public art could be incorporated in the design?’ found 30 per cent of people wanted any artwork to reflect the indigenous and cultural aspects of Glenroy. Thirteen per cent of respondents wanted artwork to come from local sources, such as local artists, school groups or community members.

“Showcase multiculturalism and promote Glenroy as a community hub.”

Survey respondent

“Look to feature indigenous or multicultural art that fits within the community feel of Glenroy.”

Survey respondent

The majority of people wanted art works to be incorporated into the precinct design and in keeping with any landscaping. Using existing surfaces such as walls for murals was preferred by many people over freestanding features such as sculptures.

“I think the public artwork needs to be designed so it is not obstructive to the commuter flow.”

Survey respondent

Maintenance and potential vandalism were highlighted as important factors to consider with any public art installation. People said they worried that art installations may be a target for graffiti. The community preferred the use of materials and design features which would help prevent anti-social behaviour.



Conclusion

Thank you to all the people that took the time to complete the online design feedback survey or leave a comment on the interactive map of the area for the Glenroy Level Crossing Removal Project.

We heard the community is not only looking forward to the level crossing being gone but is also excited about a new vibrant station precinct and what it will do to help improve the local area.

The community told us it wants a station precinct that is easy to access and well connected to other local destinations, to improve the travelling experience for commuters and make it easier for people to move around the precinct. We heard the community wants this area to be welcoming, safe and vibrant, and celebrate the multicultural character and indigenous heritage of Glenroy.

While some aspects of the Glenroy Level Crossing Removal Project are bound by technical constraints, the feedback we received will allow us to tailor the look and feel of the area to fit best for Glenroy. The area around the station is limited in space but still allows us to make inclusions to the design, such as greenery and landscaping, to improve the amenity of the area.

We'll be back out the community later this year to show you how your feedback has helped shape the station precinct design.

Project timeline

- ✓ 2018
 - Site investigation
- ✓ 2019
 - Community engagement on what's important to the Glenroy community
 - Design development on the rail under road solution
- Early 2020
 - Further community engagement on key elements of the design
- Late 2020
 - Finalise design
 - Release station designs
 - Works proposed to start
- 2022
 - Level crossing removed

**Timeline above subject to change*

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