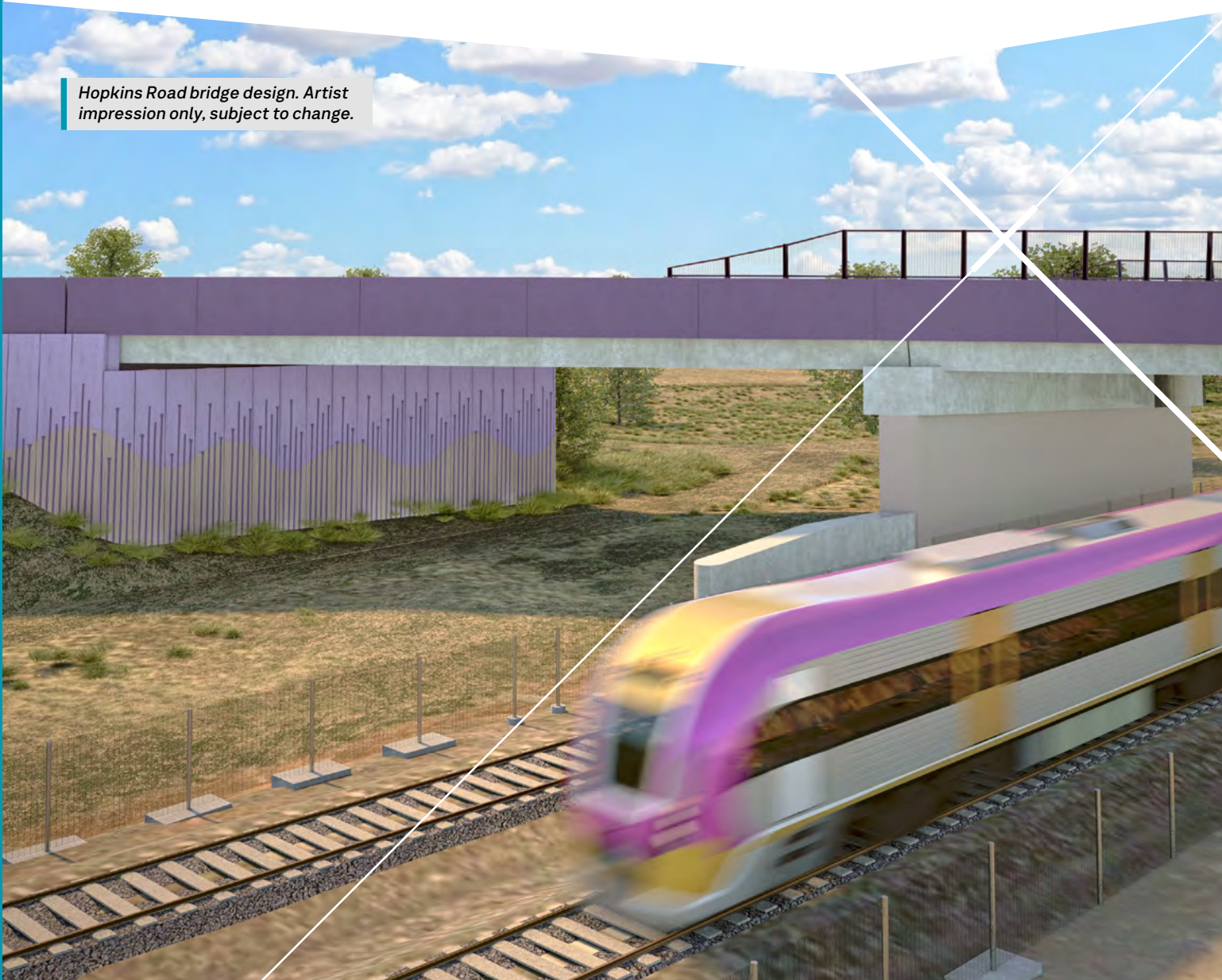


Ferris Road, Melton and Hopkins Road, Truganina

Consultation report

October 2024

Hopkins Road bridge design. Artist impression only, subject to change.





Ferris Road bridge looking north towards new resting space. Artist impression only, subject to change.



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Project Overview

We're removing four dangerous and congested level crossings at Coburns, Exford and Ferris roads in Melton, and Hopkins Road in Truganina, to make Melton boom gate free.

We're also building a new, accessible Melton Station with modern facilities for passengers.

We're removing the level crossings at Ferris and Hopkins roads by building road bridges over the rail line to improve traffic flow and create more reliable journeys.

The level crossings at Coburns and Exford roads will be removed by building rail bridges over the roads to help pave the way for future improvements to the line and increased train capacity across the corridor.

Removing these level crossings will make communities safer, more connected and reduce congestion in one of the fastest growing communities in Australia.

Construction starts later this year with all four boom gates gone and the new Melton Station open in 2026, two years ahead of schedule.

Why these level crossings need to go



73,000 vehicles travel through the Melton crossings each day



Boom gates down for up to 28 minutes of morning peak (7am–9am)



Around 16 trains travel through the crossing at the morning peak

Introduction

Melton and Truganina locals shared their ideas and thoughts on what they'd like to see as part of the final design.

We held two rounds of consultation in 2023 and 2024 providing opportunities for the local community to share their ideas and feedback by completing an online survey on the Engage Victoria platform.

In late 2023, we asked the community what they value about the local area, how they move around and what they'd like to see delivered as part of the project. We heard the most important aspects to consider when moving around Melton and Truganina are efficient traffic flow, safety for all road users, and better connections.

In mid 2024, we sought further feedback on design elements including overall look and feel, landscaping and finishes on the road bridges at Ferris and Hopkins roads.

Opportunities for the community to provide feedback were promoted in the community update which was distributed to over 30,000 homes and businesses in Melton and Truganina.

Consultation was promoted via Facebook, station pop-ups, information sessions and email updates.



Project benefits

- Melton will be crossing free in 2026
- Eases congestion and unclogs local roads
- Paves the way for future improvements to the line and increased train capacity

Consultation summary

Earlier this year we asked the Melton and Truganina communities to share their ideas and feedback on aspects of the concept designs we released for the new road bridges at Ferris and Hopkins roads.

Consultation was open for four weeks from 23 May to 23 June 2024. We received over 550 pieces of feedback on the Engage Victoria online consultation hub and via our information sessions.

We asked the community about their connections to the level crossings, what urban design elements they'd like to see and their preferences on landscaping.

We heard that locals wanted to see the project deliver:

- a natural look and feel that reflects the local area
- improved pedestrian and cycling connections and safer local connections
- a mix of native trees, shrubs, flowering plants and grasses at Ferris and Hopkins roads.

We held two information sessions where community members could hear more about the project, ask questions to our project team and give their feedback.

This feedback along with technical investigations has helped shape the final designs, including the choice of colour, materials and landscaping preferences.

8,000+

visitors to the Melton page on Engage Victoria



534

design feedback survey submissions



People engaged with our social media content over

19,700

times

Community Update sent to

35,000

properties



36



participants joined two information sessions

1,770



subscribers to e-updates

45

questions asked via Engage Victoria online consultation hub

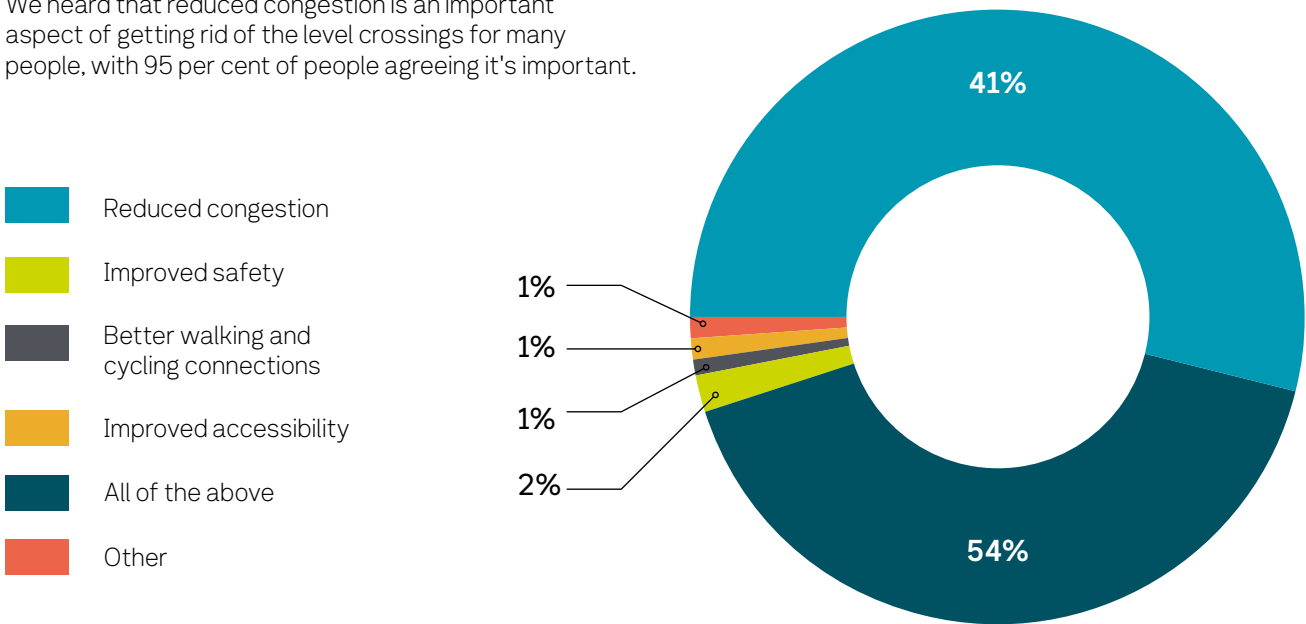


What we've heard

About you

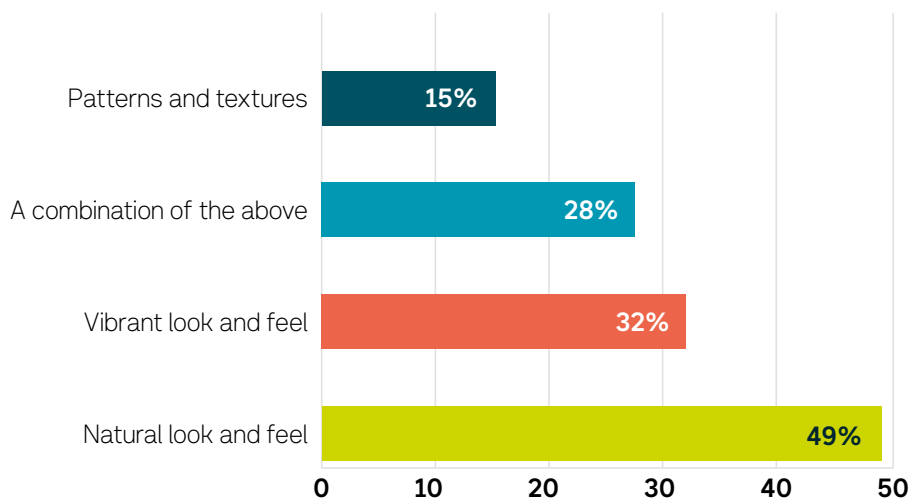
What is the most important element for you about getting rid of these level crossings?

We heard that reduced congestion is an important aspect of getting rid of the level crossings for many people, with 95 per cent of people agreeing it's important.








Which of these design elements appealed to you the most?

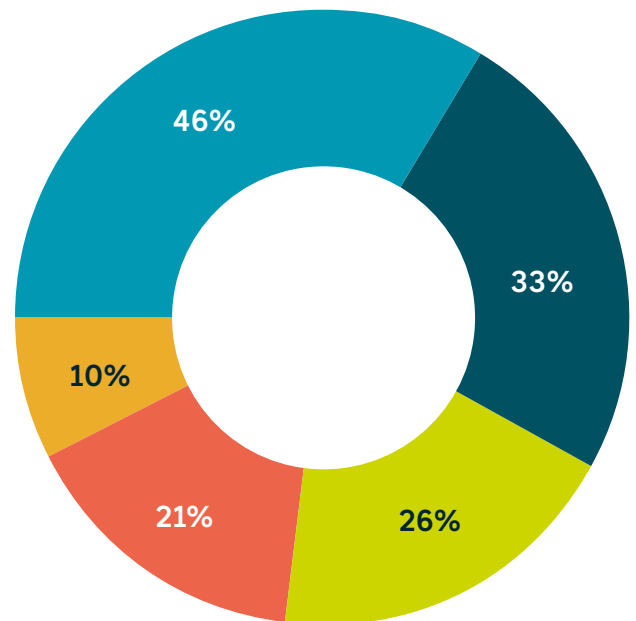
We heard you would like the road bridges to reflect the natural look and feel of the local area while enhancing the vibrant character of the area.



Which landscaping elements appeal the most to you?

You told us you value the existing landscaping and would like to see a combination of native trees, shrubs, flowering plants and grasses landscaping near the new road bridges.

-  Combination of native trees, shrubs, flowering plants and grasses
-  Boulevard trees look and feel
-  Native canopy trees and low-lying shrubs
-  Native bush and flowering plants
-  No preference



Comments from survey respondents



Overall design

"I'm looking forward to seeing the Ferris Road level crossing gone. It would be great to see a natural and earthy tone to the new road bridge"



Landscaping

"We want to see the Hopkins Road landscaping include local character, with nice green coverage and a wide range of plants, trees and flowers."



Safety

"I support getting rid of the level crossings in Melton, I believe it'll support greater safety and reliability for train services and passengers. It also makes train travel (a more sustainable option than car travel) an even quicker and safer option."

Key themes from your feedback

What we heard

How we're delivering



Safety

You want to know how the designs improve safety in the local area.

Removing these level crossings will reduce congestion with a free-flowing rail corridor, stopping the interaction between cars, pedestrians and trains. We're installing a new signalised intersection north of the level crossing at Ferris Road to help keep businesses moving safely and support future movement in the area.

We're also installing better lighting at Ferris and Hopkins roads to improve safety and visibility.



Building for the future

You want designs to support the future growth of the area.

Single lane road bridge designs were selected based on extensive technical assessments and will keep the community moving.

We're future proofing the design to support this by allowing room for additional train tracks, extra road lanes and pedestrian connections. We're also relocating underground services to help minimise future disruptions. This paves the way for future rail and road upgrades when required with minimal disruptions to the community.



Better connections

We heard that you want more ways to get around and better walking and cycling connections.

We're building new walking and cycling paths along the road bridges at Ferris and Hopkins roads, linking to existing paths, creating safer connections and more ways to get around.

At Ferris Road the shared use path runs along the east side of the road bridge from Hollingsworth Drive to the end of the road bridge.

At Hopkins Road, the shared use path is on the west side of the road bridge from Meskos Road to Grand Boulevard.



Urban design

We heard that you want a natural look and feel on the new infrastructure that reflects the local area and whilst enhancing the vibrant character.

At Hopkins Road, the design and colour on the road bridge screens was selected to reflect the wildflowers commonly found with Plains Grassland.

At Ferris Road, the design celebrates the natural look and feel of the surrounding environment.

The patterns on the Ferris Road bridge and symbols throughout a new community gathering space illustrate trees and water.



Minimising disruptions

We heard that you'd like to hear more about how changes to the roads will change how you access different areas.

We're building the new road bridges alongside the existing roads to minimise disruption and help keep you moving during construction.



Landscaping

We heard locals want a combination of native trees, shrubs, flowering plants and grasses landscaping near the new road bridges.

We're planting more than 190,000 shrubs, trees and grasses alongside the new road bridges.

Based on your feedback, we've selected more than 30 different species to be planted across the area. This includes native varieties able to endure the local conditions, such as warm weather, strong winds and harsh sun, while enhancing Melton and Truganina's ecological value.

Next steps

Thank you to everyone who took the time to share your ideas about the Ferris Road and Hopkins Road level crossing removals.

We're preparing the area for construction starting later this year with the new Melton Station open and all four level crossings gone in 2026.



Keeping in touch

To sign up to email updates visit levelcrossings.vic.gov.au/subscribe and under **Geelong – Ballarat – Melton Line**, select the level crossings that apply to you.

For more information visit levelcrossings.vic.gov.au/melton

Call **1800 105 105** anytime or email contact@levelcrossings.vic.gov.au

Send us a private message on our Level Crossing Removal Project Facebook page.

To sign up for SMS updates text **FERRIS** to **0439 979 482** for Ferris Road level crossing removal updates or text **HOPKINS** to **0438 702 491** for Hopkins Road.

Project timeline



2023

- Project fast tracked
- Level crossing removal solutions confirmed
- Community consultation



2024

- Concept designs released
- More community consultation
- Final designs released
- Construction begins



2025

- Construction



2026

- New Melton Station open
- All four sets of boom gates gone

* Timeline subject to change.








Hopkins Road bridge, aerial view. Artist impression only, subject to change.

levelcrossings.vic.gov.au

contact@levelcrossings.vic.gov.au



For languages other than English, please call 9209 0147.

1800 105 105 (call anytime)     

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