

Maddox Road and Champion Road, Newport

Community consultation report

March 2025

New pedestrian and cycling bridge at Champion Road, Newport. Artist impression, subject to change.



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Project overview

The Victorian Government is making the Werribee Line level crossing free by 2030. As part of this commitment, we're removing the Maddox Road and Champion Road, Newport level crossings.

Following the opening of the Metro Tunnel later this year, the Werribee Line will be busier, with more train services planned in the future to meet increased passenger demand. This means the boom gates would be down for longer, making it harder to move around the local area.

That's why we're removing the Maddox Road, Newport level crossing by building passenger and freight rail bridges over the road.

We're closing the level crossing at Champion Road and building a new link road to keep drivers moving and create more reliable travel times.

The link road will extend Akuna Drive, connecting Champion Road to Maddox Road directly and will open before the Champion Road level crossing is closed in 2026.

Early works have started to deliver construction equipment, install temporary fencing and relocate utilities. Major construction will begin mid-year, and Newport will be boom gate free in 2026.

Why these level crossings need to go



Up to 48 trains pass through the level crossings during the morning peak



Boom gates are down for around 50 minutes



Over 10,000 vehicles travel through these crossings each day

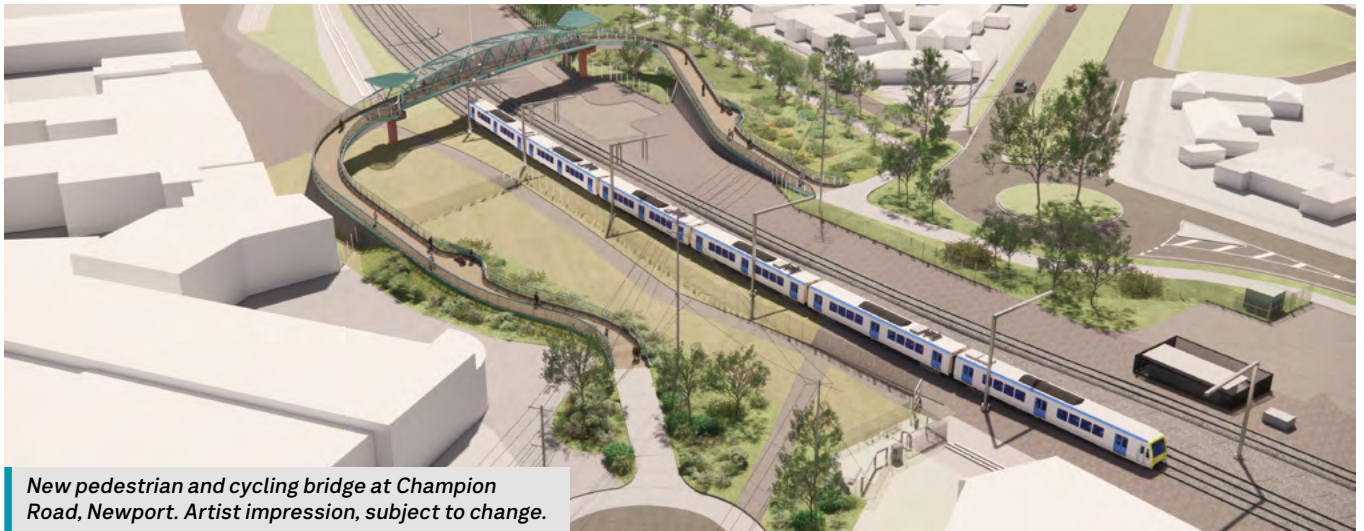


Improved safety for drivers, bike riders and pedestrians.



View of the new Akuna Drive link road. Artist impression, subject to change

Project designs and engagement to date



New pedestrian and cycling bridge at Champion Road, Newport. Artist impression, subject to change.

Community feedback has helped us better understand the needs of the local area. This feedback combined with safety regulations, our technical assessments and engineering requirements have shaped project designs, which were released in November 2024.

We've run three phases of community engagement:

- Phase one: June 2023–July 2023
- Phase two: April 2024–June 2024
- Phase three: November 2024–December 2024

This report focuses on phase three of our engagement: aspects of the design for the new pedestrian and cycling bridge over the rail line at Champion Road.



Project designs

Designs for the new rail bridges and pedestrian and cycling bridge are available to view on our website. Scan the QR code or visit levelcrossings.vic.gov.au/newport



Previous community consultation reports

Scan the QR code or visit levelcrossings.vic.gov.au/newport-reports to see our previous community consultation reports.



Rail bridges over Maddox Road. Artist impression, subject to change

Consultation summary

Between Tuesday 12 November and Sunday 15 December 2024, we asked you to help us shape aspects of the design for the new pedestrian and cycling bridge over the rail line at Champion Road.

We received 115 online submissions.

How we engaged

2



*in-person
community
information
sessions*

1



*community
webinar*

*Community update
delivered to nearly*

7,800



letterboxes

115



*community
surveys
completed*

24

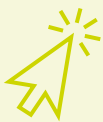


*questions received via
the 'Ask Us' function
on the Engage Victoria
online consultation hub*

109



*contact centre
interactions*



*views on
Engage Victoria*

5,600+

2,300+



*project website
views*

1,450+



*subscribers to
e-updates*

Thank you to everyone who completed the survey. Your feedback has helped us refine our designs.

Pedestrian and cycling bridge resting points

In response to community feedback, the new pedestrian and cycling bridge will be designed to blend into the existing landscape. It will feature natural tones and materials. Native shrubs and grasses will be planted on each side of the bridge, as part of our landscaping in the area.

Wide enough to cater for large electric cargo bicycles, prams and mobility scooters, the bridge will connect Market Street to the north of the rail line and Akuna Drive to the south.

To maximise community safety, the bridge will have lights and mesh screens at the highest points over the rail line. The screens will be see-through to provide clear views.

People using the bridge from Market Street can choose either stairs or the ramp to cross the rail line. On the north side of the rail line, there'll be a viewing platform where locals can see the iconic Newport Power Station in front of the Melbourne City skyline.

Resting points will be located on each side of the bridge with seating and a railing, which will feature images reflecting the local area.

We asked locals to choose the themes for the images featured on the railing at the two resting points on the bridge.

What we've heard

We showed three sets of images depicting themes relevant to the Newport and Williamstown North community. We asked you select up to two sets of images for themes you would like to be considered for the new pedestrian and cycling bridge resting point design.

During our consultation between November and December 2024, we heard that locals value Newport's rich history, green spaces, proximity to the water and community spirit. Based on this feedback we've identified three key themes for the images to be featured on the resting point railings.

Ranked in order of preference with 1 being the most preferred.

1. Unique natural environment that can be seen along the Hobsons Bay Coastal Trail



Hobsons Bay Coastal Trail, Nelson Place, courtesy of Hobsons Bay City Council



Hobsons Bay Coastal Trail, courtesy of Hobsons Bay City Council, photography by Mandy Couzens

2. Newport's industrial heritage – includes the Newport Railway Workshops and Newport Power Station



Newport Railway Workshops, courtesy of Public Record Office Victoria



Newport Railway Workshops, courtesy of Public Record Office Victoria

3. No preference

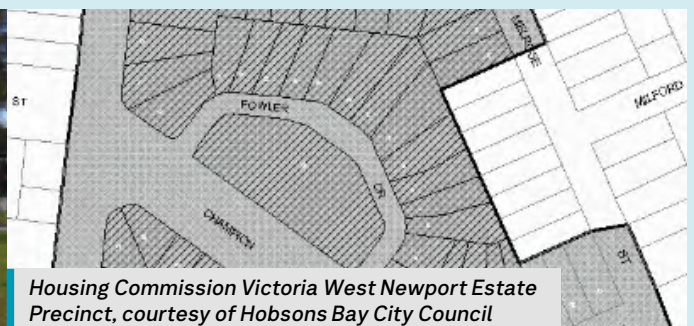


I don't have a preference

4. Newport's residential heritage precinct



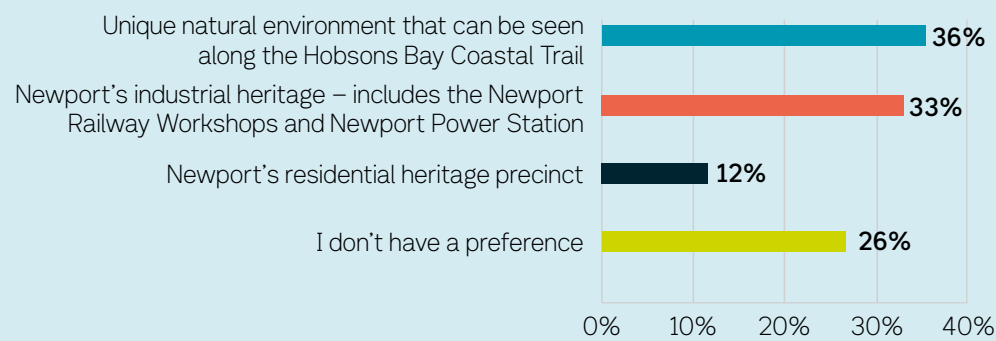
Housing Commission Victoria West Newport Estate Precinct, courtesy of Hobsons Bay City Council



Housing Commission Victoria West Newport Estate Precinct, courtesy of Hobsons Bay City Council

Themes for the resting point railings

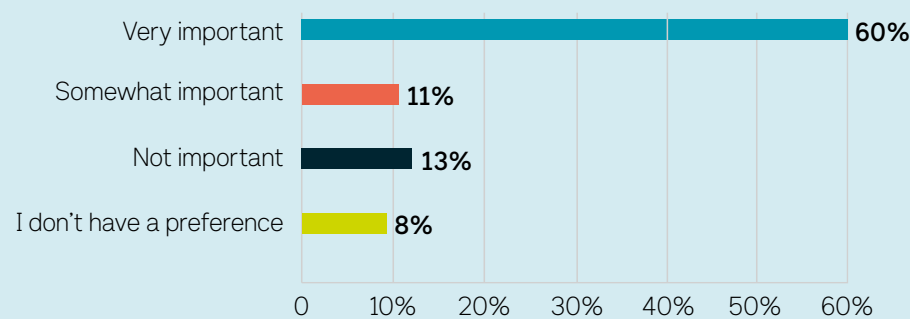
We asked you to select up to two themes to be considered for the resting point railings.



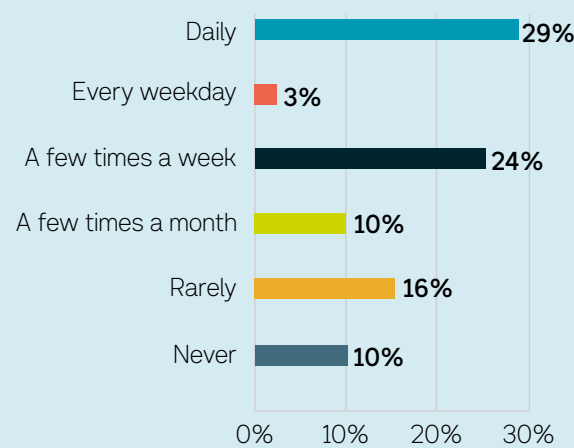
Using the new pedestrian and cycling bridge

We then asked you about your walking and cycling movements through the local area.

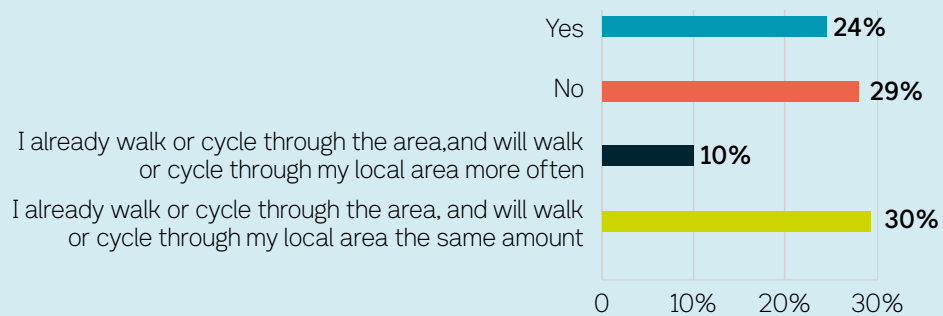
How important is it to you to have safe walking and cycling connections as part of the project?



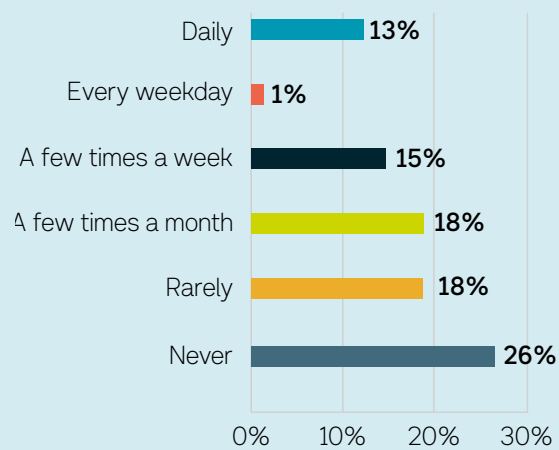
How often do you currently walk or cycle through the local area?



Will having safer, more accessible paths encourage you to walk or cycle through your local area?



How often do you anticipate that you'd use the new walking and cycling connections?



What else you told us

We also asked you what else you would like to tell us that may be relevant to the new pedestrian and cycling bridge over Champion Road. Here are the most frequently mentioned key themes from this feedback.

	Feedback	How we're delivering
Recreational elements	You told us you would like to see recreational features as part of the project design.	We are exploring opportunities to deliver recreational elements as part of the project via a community survey in early 2025. We'll report back to the community in the coming months.
Graffiti mitigation measures	You told us that graffiti of the bridge will be a concern.	As part of the bridge design, we will include graffiti deterrent measures. The bridge will have tensile mesh fencing on the ramps and there will be signage at select points on the bridge encouraging locals to report suspicious behaviours, graffiti and crime. The bridge will also have lights and mesh screens at the highest points over the rail line, providing passive surveillance.
Consider the impacts of residents living nearby	You told us about the importance of minimising impacts on residents living near the bridge and want us to minimise noise, privacy and amenity impacts for these residents.	The bridge will be designed to blend into the existing landscape and feature natural tones and materials. We'll work closely with nearby residents to understand what we can do to mitigate impacts to them.
Safety	You told us about the importance of safety measures and lighting on the pedestrian and cycling bridge, especially for those who choose to use the bridge at night or when there is low visibility.	Safety is our number one priority when we develop designs. To maximise community safety, the bridge will have lights and mesh screens at the highest points over the rail line. The screens will be see-through to provide clear views.
Vegetation and landscaping	You told us that you value greenery in the local area.	We'll plant native shrubs and grasses on each side of the bridge.

Project timeline



Late 2022

- Project announced



2023

- Vision and value engagement
- Early site investigations and planning



Early 2024

- Planning consultation and community surveys
- Stakeholder Liaison Group meetings begin
- Continue site investigations and planning



Late 2024

- Design release
- Early works begin



2025

- Updated designs release
- Major works begin
- Final designs release



2026

- New link road opens
- Champion Road level crossing closed
- Maddox Road level crossing removed
- Newport level crossing free

* Timeline subject to change.

Thank you and next steps

We appreciate the time you took to complete a survey and share your thoughts and ideas.

Your feedback, along with ongoing detailed design work, will be incorporated into the final designs, set to be released in the coming months.



Keeping in touch

Read more about the project at levelcrossings.vic.gov.au/newport

Call us on **1800 105 105** (anytime) or email us at contact@levelcrossings.vic.gov.au

Text **NEWPORT** to **0429 839 892** for SMS updates

Subscribe to receive email updates by visiting levelcrossings.vic.gov.au/subscribe and under Werribee-Williamstown Line, select **'Newport level crossings'**






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contact@levelcrossings.vic.gov.au



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1800 105 105 (call anytime)     

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accessible format. If you need assistance due to a hearing
or speech impairment, visit [relayservice.gov.au](https://www.relayservice.gov.au)

