

Ruthven Street, Macleod

Community consultation report

June 2026

Looking south east towards the new rail bridge at Ruthven Street, Macleod. Artist's impression – subject to change.





Looking west towards the Ruthven Street level crossing from Chapman Street





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Project overview

We're removing the dangerous and congested Ruthven Street, Macleod level crossing by building a rail bridge over the road.

We're also building a new walking and cycling path along Ellesmere Parade from Ruthven Street to Davies Street. With this brand new connection, locals will be able to enjoy more than two kilometres of walking and cycling paths from Macleod to Rosanna.

A new signalised and raised pedestrian crossing near the rail bridge will provide safer, more direct connections for everyone crossing Ruthven Street.

The signalised crossing will connect the new walking and cycling path along Ellesmere Parade with the existing McNamara Street path.

Removing the level crossing will eliminate almost half an hour of boom gate down time in the morning peak, saving travel time for 12,600 drivers each weekday.

Making Macleod and Rosanna level crossing free next year will improve safety, reduce congestion and create more reliable travel times for drivers, pedestrians and bike riders. These improvements build on the benefits unlocked by the North East Link Project.

To safely build the rail bridge over Ruthven Street, we'll use Macleod Park oval as a construction support area. Once the bridge is complete, we'll upgrade the oval with new drainage and irrigation systems, and lay a new natural turf football and cricket surface and cricket pitch.

We're also upgrading the Macleod College oval to provide additional and improved recreation space during construction and beyond.

The Ruthven Street project follows the level crossing removals at Grange Road, Alphington and Lower Plenty Road, Rosanna, and the Hurstbridge Line Duplication, investing in safer local communities and a better transport network for all Victorians.

Construction will start later this year, with the boom gates gone for good and trains running on the new rail bridge in 2027.



Why this level crossing needs to go



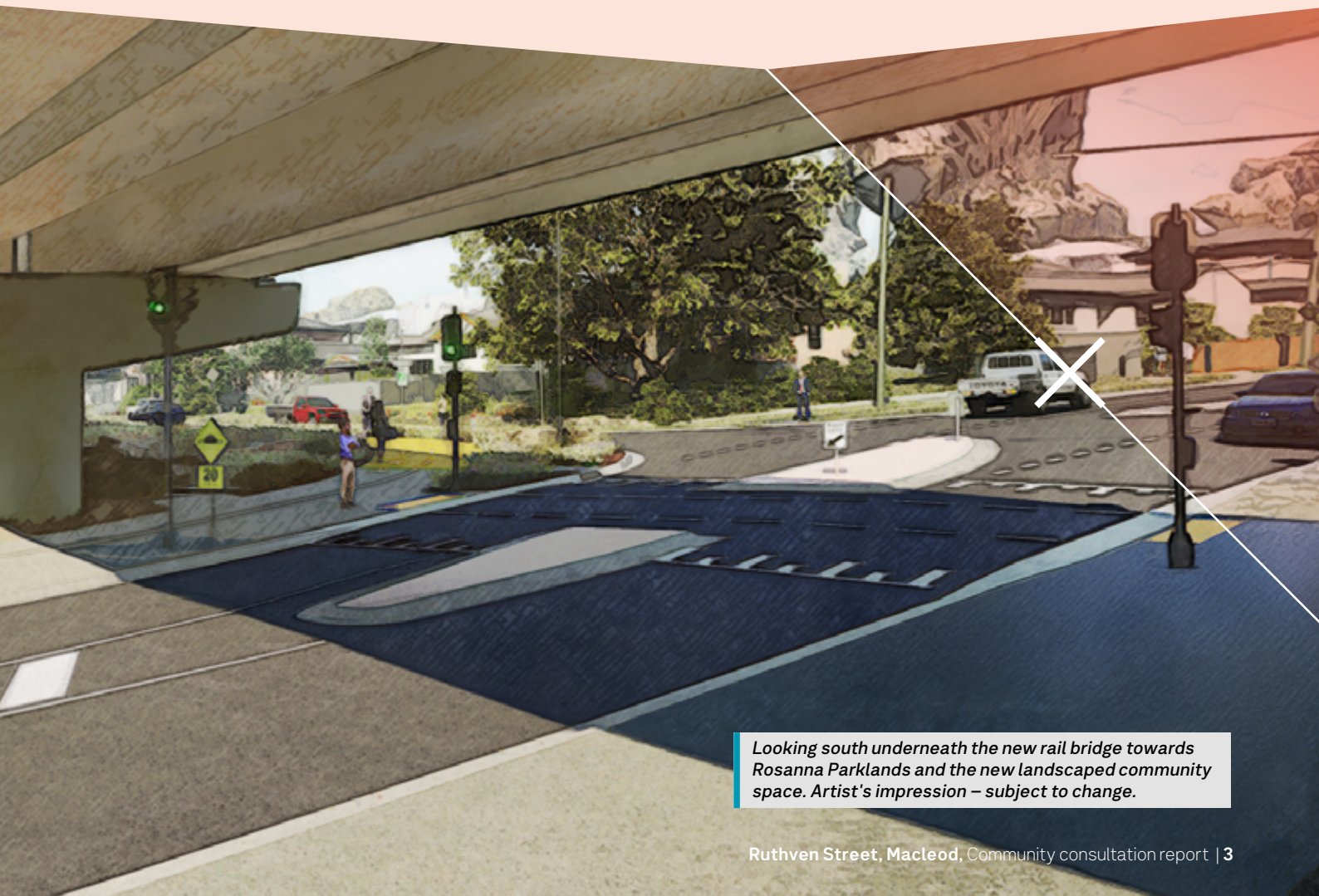
About **12,600 vehicles** travel through this crossing each day



Up to **28 trains** pass through this crossing during the morning peak (7am to 9am)



Boom gates are down for nearly **half an hour** of the morning peak (7am to 9am)



Looking south underneath the new rail bridge towards Rosanna Parklands and the new landscaped community space. Artist's impression – subject to change.

Consultation summary

In March and April, we released the early designs and asked the community to share their thoughts on architectural features, finishes and landscaping to help shape the final designs.

We received more than 400 pieces of feedback via our Engage Victoria survey, station pop-ups, information sessions and our Big Build contact centre.

Thanks to everyone who completed a survey, shared feedback or joined our information sessions.



Participants at information session in April.



17,473

people reached via
social media advertising



5,323

visitors to our Engage Victoria
online consultation hub



Community updates sent to

10,200+

properties



1,600

people reached by
our email update



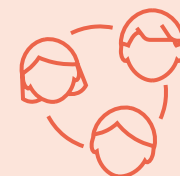
210 early design
surveys completed



27 questions via Engage
Victoria online
consultation hub



35 enquiries via the Big Build
contact centre



65 participants across
8 information sessions

What we heard

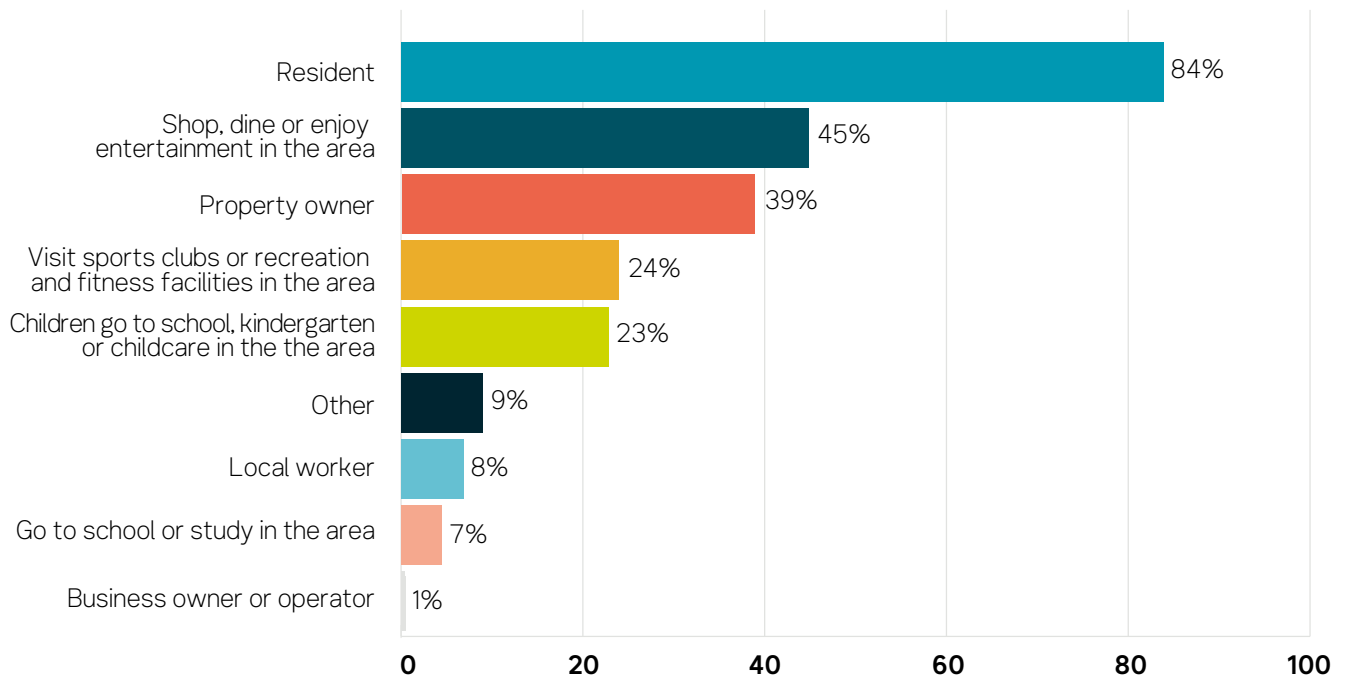
Respondents were asked to tick all options that applied.



More than 80% of survey respondents live in Macleod and Rosanna

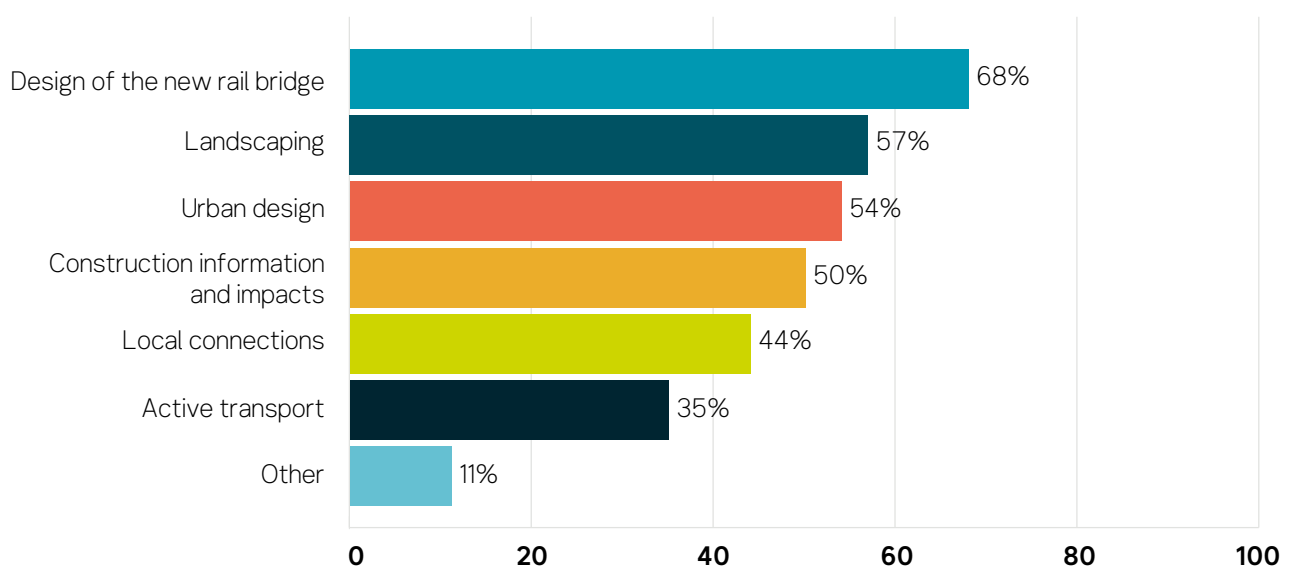
About you

What is your connection to the Ruthven Street level crossing removal project?



Respondents who selected Other said they use Macleod Station or travel regularly on the Hurstbridge Line, use Rosanna Parklands, visit family in the area or travel through Macleod.

What parts of the project are you most interested in?

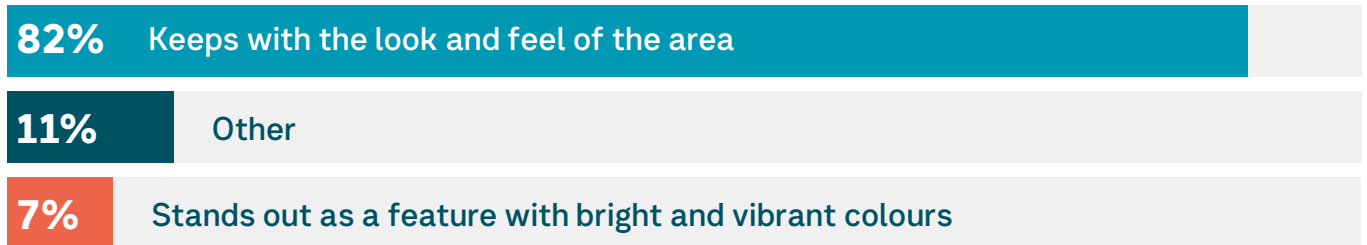


Respondents who selected Other shared they were most interested in traffic flow and management during and following construction, retaining trees, minimising impacts on Rosanna Parklands, the impacts on rail services and the project timeline.

Project design

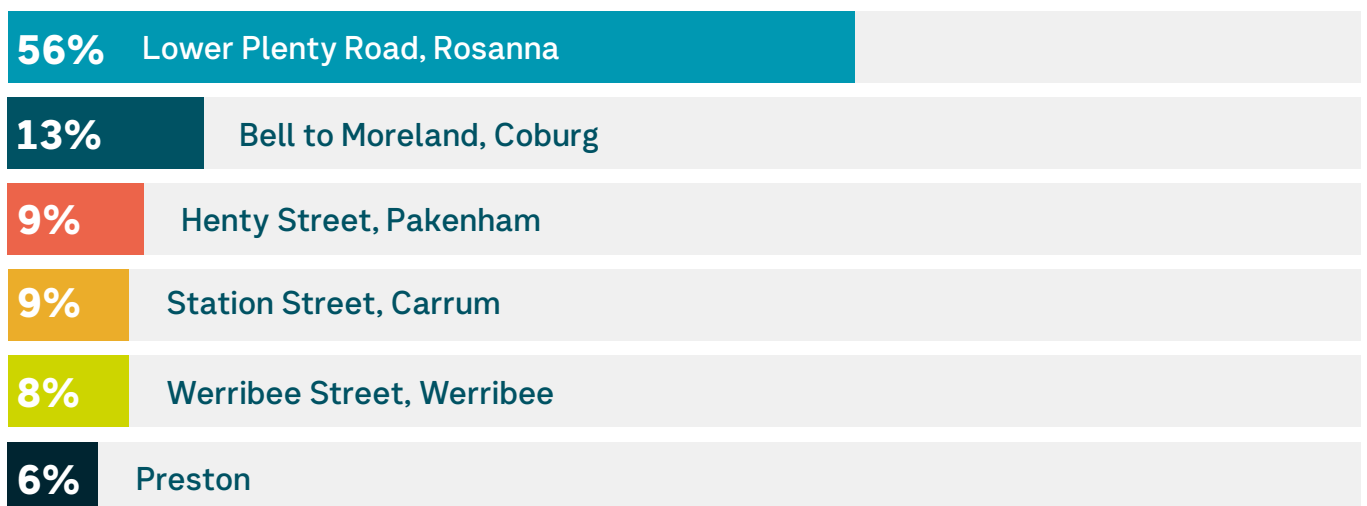
We asked people to share their thoughts about the look and feel of the new rail bridge and surrounding area.

What is most important to you in terms of design?



Respondents who selected Other shared they would like to see disruptions to road and rail minimised, increased landscaping, improved accessibility, a design that is visually appealing and considers nearby community facilities including Rosanna Parklands and the Macleod Park oval.

Which elevated rail project image appeals most to you?



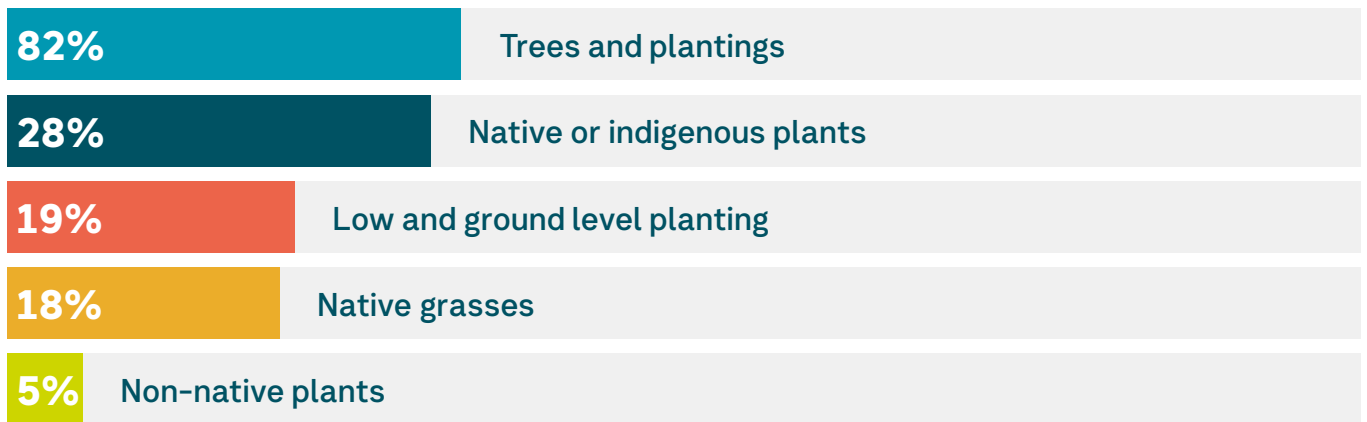
Landscaping

You told us that one of your favourite things about Macleod is the leafy, green feel throughout the suburb.

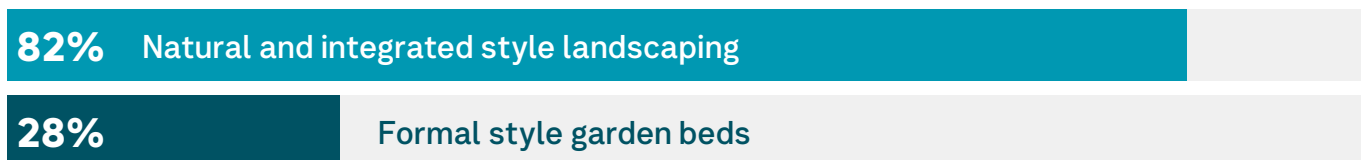


81% of respondents said additional landscaping in the precinct is very important to them

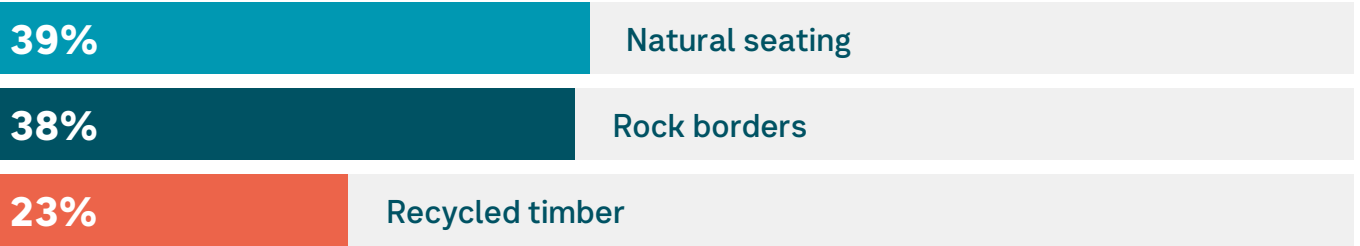
How would you like to see this space landscaped?



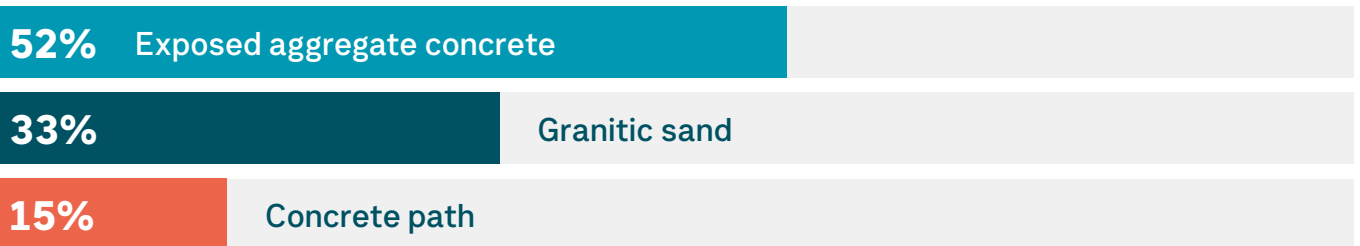
Would you like to see landscaping be more formal or natural and integrated into the surrounding environment?



What landscaping features would you like to see in the area?



What ground surface do you prefer?



What's important to you

From our conversations, information sessions, and survey responses, we heard the top things you want to see are:



Natural colours and features

You told us it is important that the new rail bridge design fits the look and feel of the area, with a natural colour scheme.

The final design reflects this with green painted piers, natural copper coloured screening with patterned cutouts for texture and landscaped retaining walls at the southern end to help it blend into the surroundings.



New landscaping with native plantings

We heard you want more landscaping, with native or indigenous plantings that blend naturally into the local environment.

This feedback is reflected in the designs with new landscaping along the new walking and cycling path on Ellesmere Parade and near the rail bridge.

We'll plant over 25,500 trees, shrubs, flowering plants and grasses, including two new trees for every tree we remove.



Safer pathways and connections

You told us that it's important to improve connectivity for drivers, pedestrians and bike riders.

We received feedback about safe vehicle movements onto Ruthven Street once the boom gates are gone. Traffic loops will be installed which will activate the new traffic lights near the rail bridge, giving drivers the opportunity to turn out of Ellesmere Parade and McNamara Street safely.

A new signalised and raised crossing on Ruthven Street will provide a safer connection for bike riders and pedestrians, linking with the new Ellesmere Parade path and the existing McNamara Street walking and cycling path.

We'll lower Ruthven and Chapman streets at the level crossing to provide a 4.8 metre clearance under the rail bridge.

These road works will happen next year when we're removing the level crossing.

We're working with Banyule City Council and the Department of Transport and Planning on these traffic changes.



New community space

You also told us you want new community spaces where people can gather and relax.

Near the new rail bridge and connecting to Rosanna Parklands we'll create a new landscaped space with natural log seating, native landscaping, rock borders and pathways under the bridge connecting to Ellesmere Parade and Ruthven Street.

Conversations with the community

We asked if you had any other feedback for the project. These are the top themes from information sessions and online feedback.

We heard you want

How we're delivering



Safe traffic movements and connections along Chapman and Ruthven streets

- The final design for the new rail bridge includes a new signalised and raised pedestrian crossing on Ruthven Street.
- Traffic loops will be installed which will activate the new traffic lights near the rail bridge, giving drivers the opportunity to turn out of Ellesmere Parade and McNamara Street safely.



Minimise disruptions and construction impacts

- To build the new rail bridge, there will be times buses will replace trains at times on the Hurstbridge Line and Ruthven Street will close at the level crossing.
- We're developing a construction plan to minimise disruptions and travel impacts as much as possible.
- There will be short term closures of the Hurstbridge Line in the lead up to construction and we'll aim to do these in off-peak times.
- To build the rail bridge in early 2027, buses will replace trains for about one month. After this trains will return and run on the new rail bridge.
- In the lead up to and during construction, we'll work closely with residents and businesses to understand any measures which may need to be taken to minimise the impact of our works.
- We're working with the North East Link Project to coordinate our works and disruptions where possible.



Ongoing maintenance of the area after works

- For the landscaping and community space, the project will partner with qualified landscapers to undertake a detailed program of monitoring and maintenance.
- Regular assessments of the planting will continue to determine its health and viability. The project will monitor the area for two years to ensure that all vegetation is maintained.
- The project will also monitor the rail bridge and surrounding area for two years to ensure new infrastructure is maintained.
- After that, maintenance will be transferred to the appropriate authority such as Banyule City Council or Metro Trains.

What we heard from you:

"Low key natural seating. Keep the parklands as bush-like and natural as possible where animals, birds and nature are prioritised"

"Surface for cycling paths need to be safe for cycling in all weather (i.e. not loose rock, gravel or sand)"

"Minimise concrete so that soil can absorb as much water as possible. Plant new trees and grasses and groundcovers which are native to this area"

"Prefer natural colours/style that is functional and safe for families and children to navigate to walk/ride to school and to go bike riding through on weekends"

"Keep it as natural as possible while being practical with seating"

Thank you and next steps

Thank you to everyone who shared their thoughts and feedback on the early designs or joined an information session about the Ruthven Street, Macleod level crossing removal project.

Your feedback, along with technical and engineering requirements helped shape final designs.

Keeping in touch

The best way to stay up to date with the project is to:



Visit levelcrossings.vic.gov.au/ruthven-street



Subscribe to email updates at levelcrossings.vic.gov.au/subscribe and under Hurstbridge Line select Ruthven Street, Macleod



Subscribe to SMS updates by texting **RUTHVEN** to **0428 581 917**



Call us on **1800 105 105**



Email levelcrossings@bigbuild.vic.gov.au



For languages other than English call **9209 0147**



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Project timeline



2022

- Project announced



2024

- Site investigations



2025

- Site investigations
- Community consultation



2026

- Concept designs released and further community consultation
- Final designs released
- Site establishment and early works
- Construction starts



2027

- Construction
- Trains running on the rail bridge
- Level crossing removed
- New walking and cycling path open
- Landscaping and tree planting
- Project complete

** Timeline subject to change.*

Ruthven Street level crossing








levelcrossings.vic.gov.au

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1800 105 105 (call anytime)     

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