

Maddox Road and Champion Road, Newport

Understanding the Newport level crossing removals

September 2023

*Traffic at Maddox Road,
Newport level crossing.*





Train going through the Champion Road, Newport level crossing.



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Traffic at Maddox Road,
Newport level crossing.

Understanding the site

We are removing the level crossing at Maddox Road by building a rail bridge over the road.

We'll close the nearby level crossing at Champion Road and build a new link road to keep vehicles moving between Maddox Road and Champion Road, improving safety, and creating more reliable travel times.

The Victorian Government is committed to making the Werribee Line level crossing free. As a key strategic priority it ensures safety and reliability for the network and is critical to the success of future projects.

If we could avoid closing the road we would, but engineering assessments show a closure is the only feasible way to remove this level crossing. We'll close the Champion Road level crossing in 2026, following the opening of the new Maddox Road rail bridge and link road.

This brochure explains the designs that were ruled out and the criteria we used to assess designs.



The Victorian Government is removing 110 level crossings across Melbourne with 72 already gone. In addition to this, 11 level crossings are being closed where nearby level crossing free pathways exist across the rail line, including for the Frankston, Lilydale, Pakenham and Sunbury lines.

Why these level crossings need to go



Up to 48 trains during the morning peak (7am to 9am)



Over 10,000 vehicles travel through these crossings each day



Improved safety for vehicles, pedestrians and bike riders



Werribee Line level crossing free by 2030



Making Melbourne's busiest train lines level crossing free to improve journey times and service reliability across the network

What we considered

Each level crossing has its own set of characteristics to consider when preparing to remove it.

At Champion Road, the site is located close to the Newport Train Stabling Yards.

A number of critical services run underground through this level crossing site, including approximately 10 pipelines, some of which support the Melbourne Airport fuel lines.

Maintaining access to Newport Train Stabling Yards and freight network

The Newport Train Stabling Yards are critical for the operation and servicing of the Werribee Line and the freight operations that keep Melbourne's supply chain moving.

A rail bridge or trench is not possible as it would stop trains getting in and out of the stabling yards. Any modifications would cause massive disruptions across the network. It also limits options for future rail projects that will help support population growth.

At Maddox Road, there is enough distance between the crossing and stabling yards to build a rail bridge and return the rail line to ground level.

Local site constraints



Elevated rail bridge at Maddox Road



Champion Road level crossing closed to traffic



NOT TO SCALE

* Indicative location only, subject to change.

Link road at Akuna Drive connecting Champion Road to Maddox Road*

Avoiding impacts to major oil and gas pipelines

We have to keep the Melbourne Airport fuel line and Mobil refinery open to keep Melbourne moving.

This infrastructure has three metre exclusion zones on either side of the pipelines preventing construction and relocation at Champion Road.

Only 500 metres down the rail line at Maddox Road, there are less critical utilities. This allows us to remove the level crossing by building a rail bridge.

Saving private property

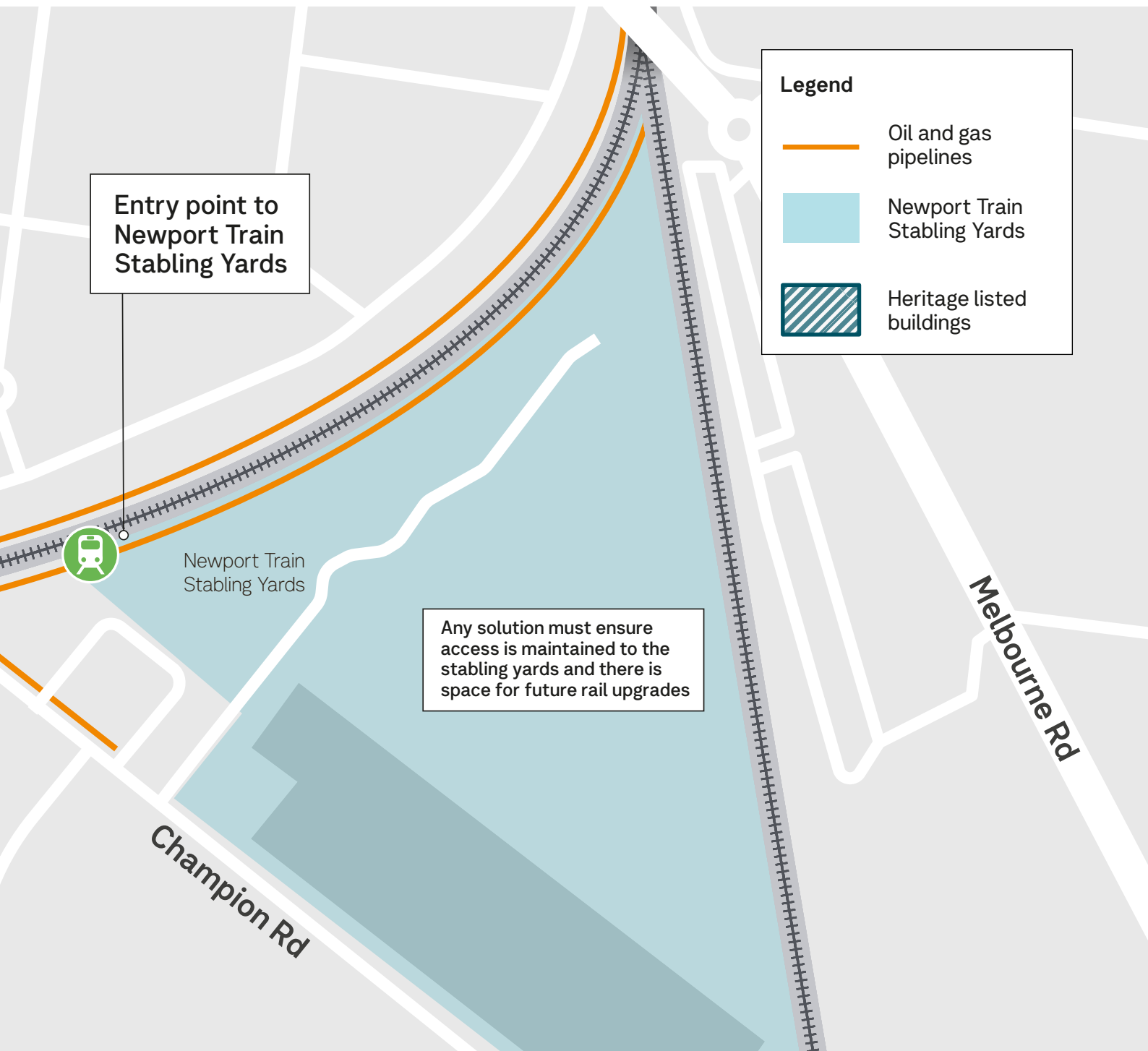
Due to the existing road alignment and roundabout near the crossing, road based designs are not feasible.

They would cut off access to homes, businesses and heritage listed buildings, requiring extensive acquisition. This design allows us to deliver safer and less congested roads for the west without taking homes to do it.



Did you know?

On average, around 660 flights land and depart from Melbourne Airport each day. Fuel lines that run through the Champion Road level crossing are crucial to keep these flights moving.



Designs that are not feasible

When assessing designs, we consider a number of factors, including opportunities for open space, network improvements, future transport planning and impacts to local homes and businesses.

The only feasible design for Champion Road is to close the crossing and build a new link road to keep vehicles moving.

Rail solutions

- Prevent trains getting in and out of the stabling yards. Any modifications would cause massive disruptions to the network.

Road solutions

- Cut off access to homes, businesses and heritage listed buildings requiring extensive acquisition.

Maddox Road, Newport

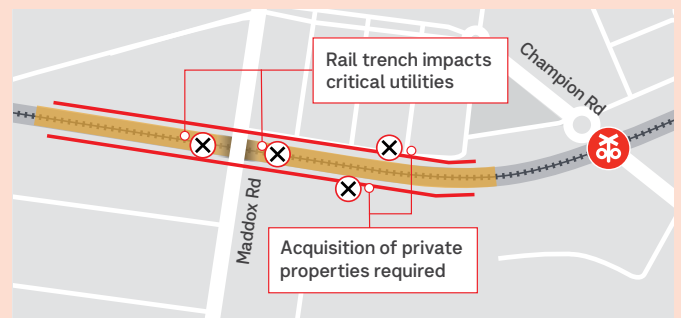
We investigated multiple options to remove the level crossing at Maddox Road.



Rail under road

Lowering the rail under the road would:

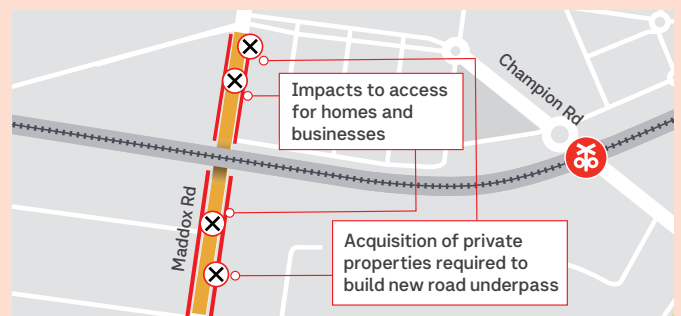
- impact critical utilities causing disruptions to fuel supplies
- require property acquisition of homes.



Road under rail

A road underpass would:

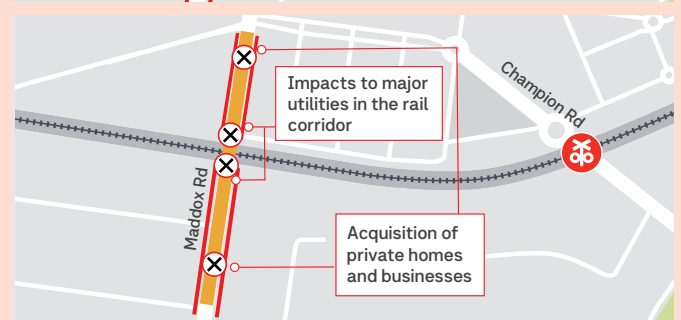
- impact critical utilities causing disruptions to fuel supplies
- cut off access for homes and businesses
- require property acquisition of homes.



Road over rail

A road bridge would:

- require property acquisition of homes
- cut off access for homes and businesses
- impact critical utilities.



Rail over road

Based on assessments, the selected design is to remove the level crossing at Maddox Road by building a rail bridge over the road.

This option:

- enables new walking and cycling connections, improving active transport connections
- creates opportunities for community open space
- avoids impacts to Newport Train Stabling Yards
- minimises impacts to oil and gas pipelines
- minimises possible property acquisition of homes and heritage listed buildings
- enables future rail projects to support population growth.

Champion Road, Newport

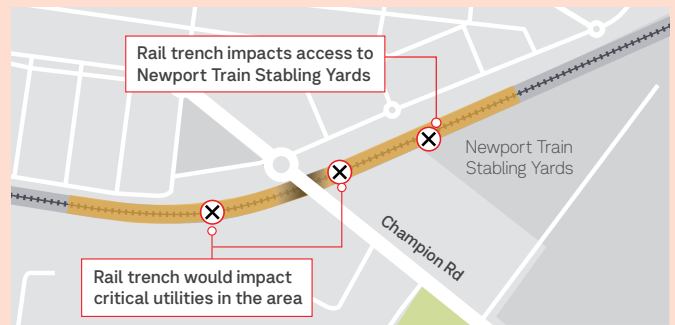
We investigated multiple options to remove the level crossing at Champion Road.



Rail under road

A rail trench would:

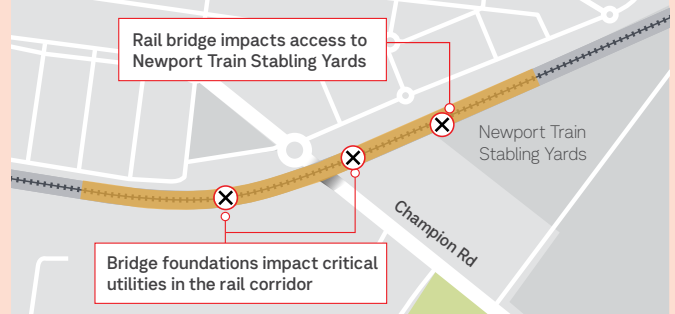
- impact critical utilities causing disruptions to fuel supplies
- impact access to Newport Train Stabling Yards, disrupting the network
- prevent future infrastructure development.



Rail over road

A rail bridge would:

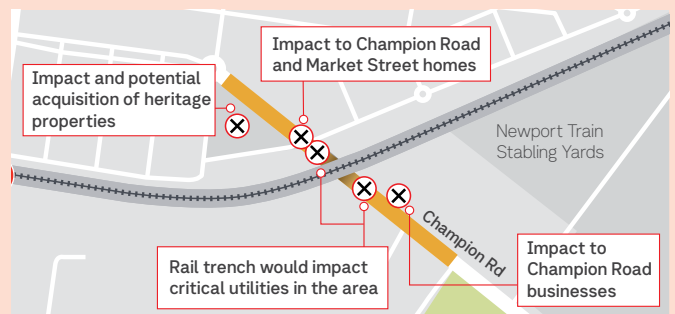
- impact access to the Newport Stabling Yards
- impact critical utilities with foundations inside exclusion zones
- prevent future infrastructure development.



Road under rail

A road underpass would:

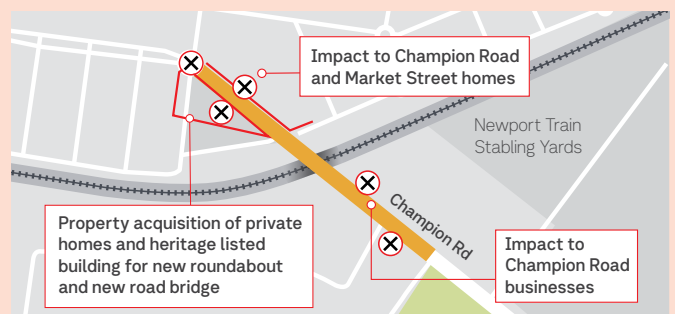
- impact critical utilities causing disruptions to fuel supplies
- significantly impact access to homes and businesses
- require property acquisition of homes.



Road over rail

A road bridge would:

- require property acquisition of homes and heritage listed buildings
- impact critical utilities inside exclusion zones where we're unable to build
- change local business access.



Hybrid solution

A hybrid solution is a level crossing removal design that uses elements of multiple engineering solutions. For example, the road is lowered slightly to allow for a shorter rail bridge. Due to requirements to maintain access to the stabling yards and avoid critical utilities, this solution was not progressed.



Closing the level crossing and building a new link road

Based on key constraints in the area, the only feasible design is to close the Champion Road level crossing and build a new connection to Maddox Road for safer and less congested access across the rail line.

This option:

- allows for a new road connection to Maddox Road, which will be level crossing free
- enables new walking and cycling connections, and improvements to the local road network
- avoids impacts to Newport Train Stabling Yards
- minimises impacts to oil and gas pipelines
- minimises possible property acquisition of homes and heritage listed buildings
- enables future rail projects to support population growth
- ensures the safety and reliability of the rail network and facilitates benefits of future transport projects such as the Metro Tunnel Project.

Project benefits

New link road connection

We know local connections between Williamstown and Newport are important.

We're investigating a new link road connection at Akuna Drive to keep locals moving between Champion Road and Maddox Road.

We'll work closely with the Department of Transport and Planning to ensure any improvements to the local roads keep the network operating safely and efficiently, now and in the future.

As part of the project we'll upgrade Maddox Road, making it safer for the local community by:

- removing the boom gates to eliminate conflict between cars, trains and other users
- improving peak travel times with no boom gate down time
- adding new road safety signage.



We'll share more information about traffic changes as the project progresses.

Better walking and cycling connections

We'll build new walking and cycling connections at Maddox Road and Champion Road, connecting to local paths. This will create more accessible active transport options to get to local shops, schools and nearby activities.



For example the new walking and cycling path under Toorak Road

New link road investigation area



New open space

Building a rail bridge at Maddox Road will provide opportunities for new community open space. As the design progresses, we'll have more information about how to be involved in creating a vibrant new space for the community.



For example the new open space and playground near Moreland Station, Coburg

Next steps

We're still in the planning stages with site investigations ongoing until the end of the year.

We'll come back to the community with more information and concept designs early next year.

This will include opportunities to help shape key elements of the design, like walking and cycling connections, landscaping and open space.

Read our community consultation report on our website for more information about what we heard in our recent vision and values survey.

Project timeline



Late 2022

- Project announced



2023

- Visions and Values community 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 released
- Early works begin



2025

- Major works begin



2026

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



2030

- Werribee Line level crossing free






Timeline subject to change.

levelcrossings.vic.gov.au

contact@levelcrossings.vic.gov.au



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1800 105 105 (call anytime)     

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