

# MELBOURNE METRO RAIL NEWSLETTER

## SHAPING MELBOURNE'S RAIL FUTURE

Welcome to the first edition of Melbourne Metro Rail News.

This newsletter will keep you up-to-date on progress of the Melbourne Metro Rail Project. Regular features will include project updates and information about upcoming events and milestones as the project develops.

### ISSUE 01 JUNE 2015



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### What is the Melbourne Metro Rail Project?

The Melbourne Metro Rail Project will start transforming Melbourne's rail network into an international-style metro system with 'turn up and go' train services.

As Australia's fastest growing city, Melbourne's public transport system needs to grow with it to maintain the liveability and prosperity of our city.

Extending from South Kensington in the west to South Yarra in the south-east, the city's newest rail line will involve construction of two nine-kilometre rail tunnels and five new underground stations at Arden, Parkville, CBD North, CBD South and Domain.

Melbourne Metro is a project for all Victorians. Passengers across all metropolitan and regional rail lines will be able to access the new underground stations via seamless interchanges with the existing City Loop, connecting more people than ever before to employment, education, health and recreation precincts.

Importantly, Melbourne Metro is the key to the future expansion of Victoria's rail network.



## CEO'S NOTE

The Melbourne Metro Rail Authority has been established to oversee the delivery of the Melbourne Metro Rail Project, similar to the successful model established for the Regional Rail Link.

We have already been very busy with important planning and investigations work underway to develop the project design and update the business case. You can read more about the recent funding announcement, the Swanston Street alignment through the CBD and our site investigations work in this edition.

If there's something you would like to know more about, let us know and we'll do our best to report on it in future editions. I encourage you to sign up to receive updates by registering at [mmrailproject.vic.gov.au](http://mmrailproject.vic.gov.au).

Evan Tattersall  
Chief Executive Officer  
Melbourne Metro Rail Authority

## WHAT WILL METRO DO?

With Melbourne's population set to double by the year 2050, Melbourne Metro will:

- Unlock the centre of the train system, increasing the capacity, reliability and frequency of services on Melbourne's busiest train lines servicing the north, west and south eastern suburbs
- Allow for 20,000 more passengers to use the metro rail network in the peak hour
- Improve access to public transport by building five new inner city stations
- Employ more than 3,500 people during peak construction
- Improve tram / train connectivity at Parkville and Domain.

## PROJECT TIMELINE

### 2015 - 2016

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- Site investigations
- Complete project Reference Design development
- Community consultation
- Planning and environmental approvals
- Update business case

### 2017

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- Finalise planning and environment approvals
- Procurement for major construction contract
- Early works before major construction

### 2018

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- Award major construction contract
- Start major construction works



## LATEST NEWS

### \$1.5 BILLION TO GET STARTED ON MELBOURNE METRO

The Victorian Government has announced \$1.5 billion in funding for planning, design and significant early works ahead of major construction of the Melbourne Metro Rail Project in 2018.

Premier Daniel Andrews and Minister for Public Transport, Jacinta Allan, made the announcement on 28 April at one of the project's geotechnical testing sites in Queen Victoria Gardens.

Over the coming months around 140 boreholes will be drilled between South Kensington and South Yarra and will be complemented by site surveying, underground service identification and other preparatory works.

This funding will allow the Melbourne Metro Rail Authority to complete the reference design, undertake the statutory planning process and progress this important public transport project.

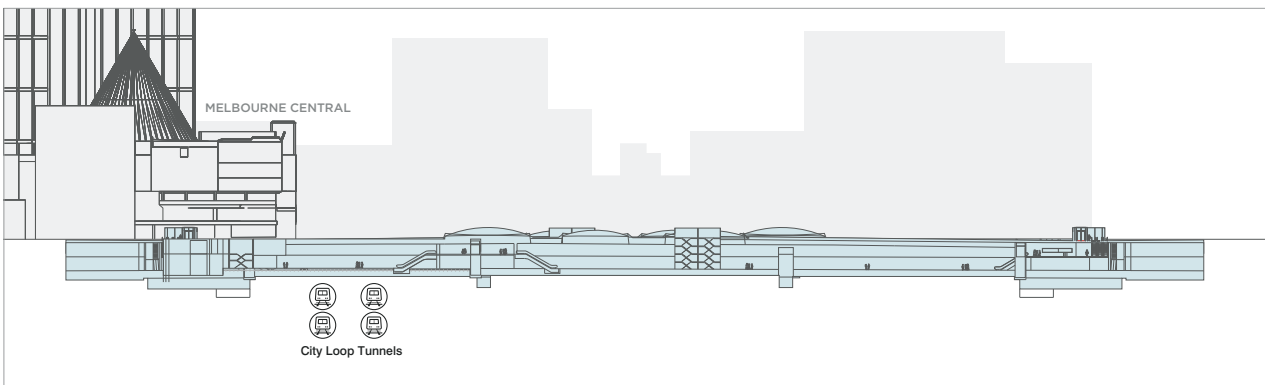
### SWANSTON STREET ALIGNMENT PREFERRED

After significant work to consider different alignments, Swanston Street has been selected as the preferred route for the Melbourne Metro Rail tunnels. The new tunnels will run above the current City Loop and CityLink tunnels, as part of delivering an efficient, accessible and cost effective new rail line.

Swanston Street is the preferred alignment as it services key city destinations, enables direct interchanges with Melbourne Central and Flinders Street stations and offers the best ground conditions for tunnelling.

This alignment provides relief to the heavily congested Swanston Street tram network and allows people travelling from Melbourne's growing north, west and south east to better access the city, via the Sunbury and Cranbourne / Pakenham lines.

Alternative alignments considered included routes along Spring, Exhibition, Russell, Elizabeth and William streets. These alternatives had various drawbacks, including less optimal interchange opportunities, increased rail disruptions during construction and more complex geotechnical issues, leading to higher construction costs.



*\*Indicative layout only.*



## A CLEAR VISION FOR EXPANDING **MELBOURNE'S UNDERGROUND RAIL NETWORK**

THIS YEAR MARKS THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COMPLETION OF THE CITY LOOP, ONE OF THE MOST AMBITIOUS INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS OF ITS TIME, WITH THE OPENING OF FLAGSTAFF STATION ON 27 MAY 1985.

Planning for the Melbourne Underground Rail Loop, commonly known as the City Loop, started with extensive exploratory drilling for geotechnical investigations commencing as early as 1962. The first shovel of soil was lifted from the ground on 22 June 1971.

During construction, La Trobe Street and its tram tracks were re-routed and the project used the latest tunnelling technologies and sophisticated machinery to work around the clock.

Since then, a range of technological and other advancements have paved the way for modern projects like Melbourne Metro. Significant increases in passenger numbers over the last decade together with a rapidly growing population means Melbourne is ready to begin the next phase of its underground rail journey – transforming the network into an international-style metro system.

Central to fulfilling this vision will be the construction of two nine kilometre rail tunnels, allowing the creation of independent, end-to-end metropolitan train lines that will boost network capacity. New signalling technologies will also be part of establishing higher-frequency services, designed to increase capacity and enhance reliability.



Melbourne Metro is one of a number of international metro upgrade projects currently under construction, including the following from the USA, UK and Germany.

### NEW YORK'S SECOND AVENUE SUBWAY

The Second Avenue Subway will be New York City's first major expansion of the subway system in over 50 years. When fully completed, the line will stretch 8.5 miles (13.7 km) along the length of Manhattan's East Side, from 125th Street in Harlem to Hanover Square in Lower Manhattan. The Second Avenue Subway will improve travel for both city and suburban commuters, and provide better access to mass transit for residents of the far East Side of Manhattan.

### LONDON'S CROSSRAIL PROJECT

Crossrail is London's first complete new underground line in more than 30 years. Today, 42km of Crossrail tunnels are being constructed beneath the busy streets of London by huge tunnel boring machines. Crossrail will transform public transport in London, and bring an extra 1.5 million people to within 45 minutes of central London. When Crossrail opens in 2018, it will increase London's rail-based transport network capacity and improve journey times across the city.

### BERLIN'S U-BAHN U5 PROJECT

The missing link of metro lines U5 and U55 between stations Alexanderplatz and Brandenburger Tor (Brandenburg Gate). The project comprises the new construction of three stations and a connecting double-tracked tunnel line running approximately 1.6km in length. The new train line provides a link between the main station and the urban rail ring. With over a century of operation, Berlin's U-Bahn serves over 170 underground stations which dot the cityscape across 10 lines with a track length of over 150km.



## GEOTECHNICAL INVESTIGATIONS UNDERWAY

GEOTECHNICAL INVESTIGATIONS COMMENCED IN QUEEN VICTORIA GARDENS NEAR ST KILDA ROAD IN APRIL 2015 AND WILL PROGRESS TO OTHER SITES ALONG THE ALIGNMENT BETWEEN SOUTH KENSINGTON AND SOUTH YARRA, INCLUDING MELBOURNE CBD, SOUTH KENSINGTON, NORTH MELBOURNE, PARKVILLE, DOMAIN AND SOUTH YARRA.

To carefully plan how the Melbourne Metro tunnels and new stations will be built, we need to develop a greater understanding of the geological conditions beneath our city. The work that has started will add to information gathered from previous investigations and studies and fill in gaps in information from areas that haven't been looked at in detail before.

*Geotechnical investigations will involve establishment of temporary construction sites for about one week at specific locations.*

We will notify nearby local residents and businesses in advance of any works that are planned for their area and work to keep disruption to a minimum. Please visit our website [mmrailproject.vic.gov.au](http://mmrailproject.vic.gov.au) to find out the latest information about the location of site investigations.



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## WHAT'S INVOLVED IN GEOTECHNICAL INVESTIGATIONS?

In most cases, geotechnical investigations will involve using a drilling rig to make a number of boreholes at each location. Each borehole will measure approximately 100 millimetres in diameter and be up to 50 metres deep.

The work will produce a small amount of noise, similar to a medium-sized truck engine. Some night and weekend work may be needed to minimise disruption to transport services.

In some locations a groundwater monitoring well will be installed to allow sample collection and measurement of groundwater levels. These wells will be monitored for several months.

All sites will be reinstated to their previous or similar condition at the completion of works.

## KEEPING TRACK OF PROGRESS

THE MELBOURNE METRO RAIL PROJECT IS CURRENTLY  
IN THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT PHASE.



We are committed to providing up-to-date information about the planning and development of the Melbourne Metro Rail Project to keep local communities and businesses along the alignment informed about progress and milestones.

Over the coming months, we will be undertaking a series of site investigations and specialist environmental studies. These will involve a range of activities, including site inspections, surveys, monitoring, service identification and geotechnical investigations.


This information, along with other inputs from the environmental investigations and community and stakeholder engagement, will help shape the detailed alignment, depth and design and construction methodology of Melbourne's new underground metro system.

# KEEPING YOU INFORMED



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*As part of our commitment to keeping communities informed, we will publish regular newsletters and send bulletins at important stages to local residents, businesses and traders along the project alignment.*

We will be undertaking a detailed consultation program later this year to understand views and consider issues as part of our planning work. Stay tuned for future opportunities to have your say as part of the project's development.

To find out more about the Melbourne Metro Rail Project and to register for updates:

Visit: [mmrailproject.vic.gov.au](http://mmrailproject.vic.gov.au)

Call: 1800 551 927

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