



PAKENHAM

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK REPORT

February 2021



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PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Victorian Government is removing 17 level crossings, as part of a \$15 billion investment to upgrade the Pakenham line that will improve safety, reduce congestion and allow more trains to run more often.

We will remove the dangerous and congested level crossings at McGregor Road, Main Street and Racecourse Road in Pakenham and build a new Pakenham Station.

We will also build a new station at Pakenham East and extend the metropolitan railway track by 2km. Currently, Pakenham is a major bottleneck where V/Line and Metro trains merge onto shared tracks, and V/Line trains are often delayed behind Metro trains turning around at the end of the line. Pakenham East will include separate turnback tracks for Metro trains, and

dedicated V/Line tracks – avoiding this congestion and improving service reliability.

The new Pakenham East Station and tracks will future-proof the Pakenham and Gippsland lines, allowing more services to be added in the future.

The three level crossings will be removed by raising the rail line over the roads which will improve safety and reduce congestion as well as introducing new community spaces for locals to enjoy.

Together with the removal of the level crossing at Cardinia Road, which is now complete, this will mean no more boom gates in Pakenham.

As we continue to develop our plans, we want to hear what's important to the Pakenham community and what locals would like to see delivered as part of the project. See the back page for details.

Construction will begin in mid-2021 with the boom gates gone in 2023/24 and the new stations complete in 2024.

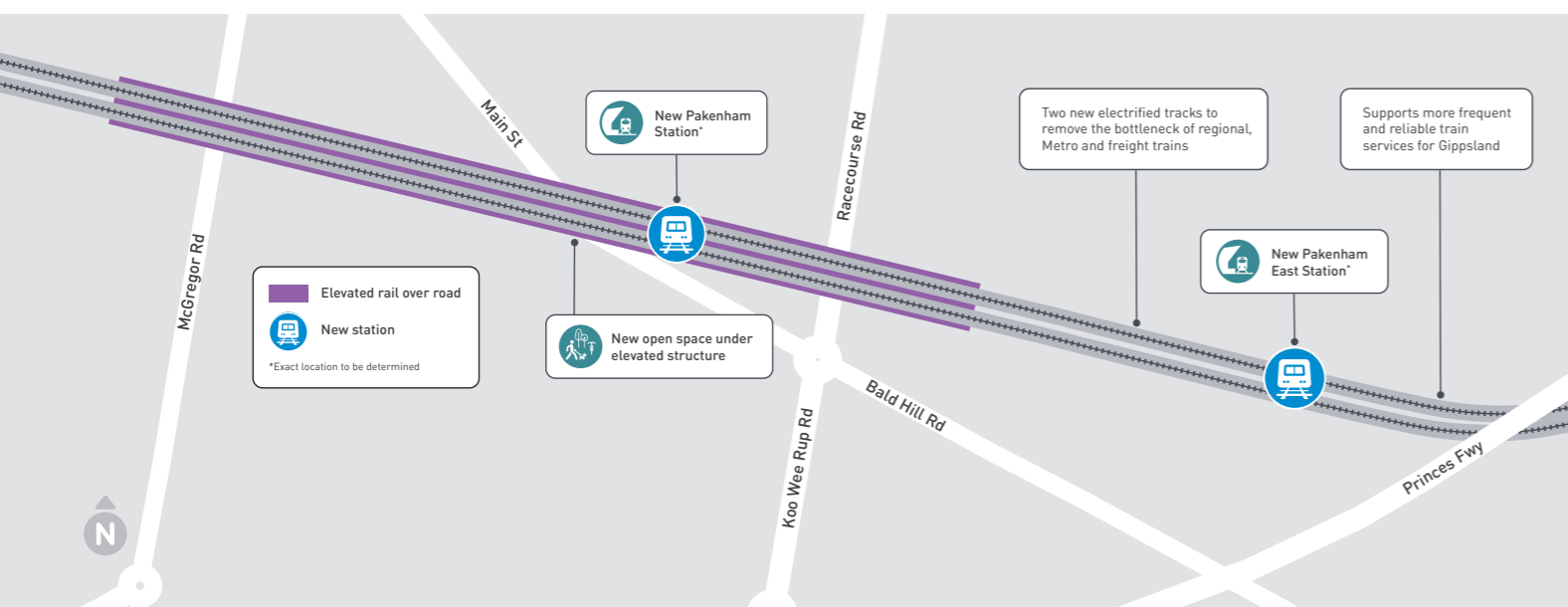
Elevated railway in Noble Park on the Pakenham line

INTRODUCTION

In December 2020, the Level Crossing Removal Project asked the Pakenham community what was important to them in the local area and what they wanted to see delivered as part of the Pakenham Level Crossing Removal Project.

This report summarises the key themes raised in the feedback from the community, local businesses and stakeholders during the early planning phase of the project.

This feedback will help identify key issues that are important to the community for the project to consider as the design is developed.



Play area under the elevated rail on the Pakenham line.

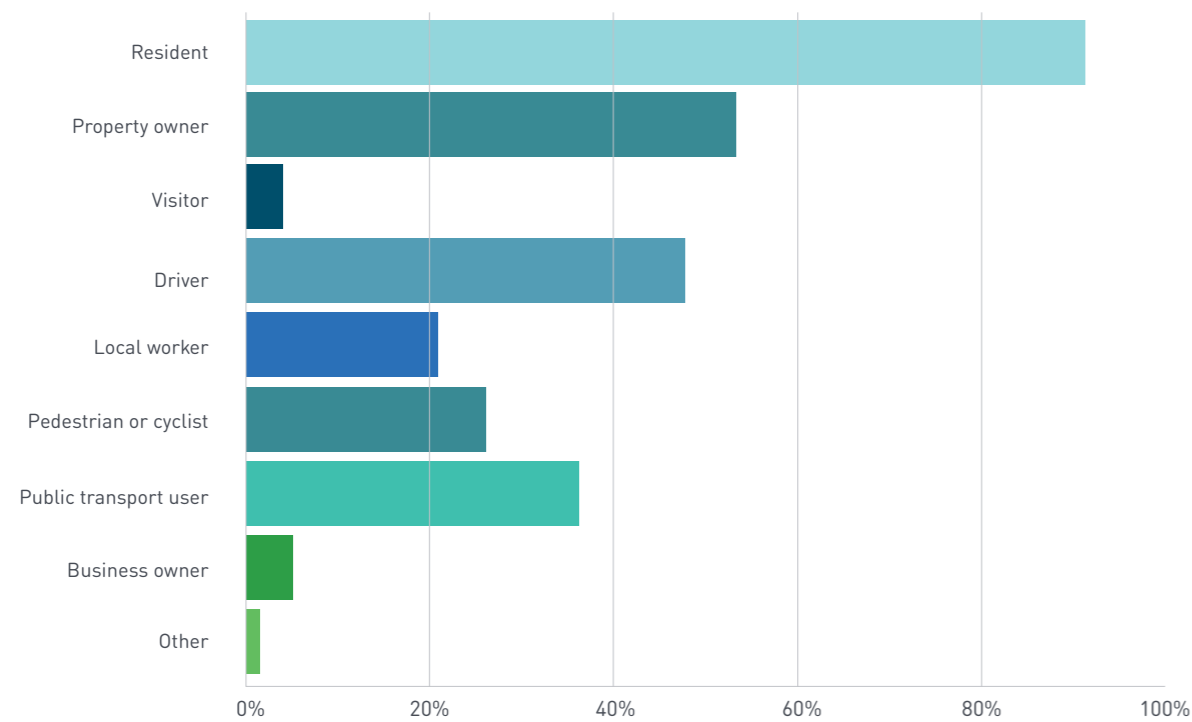
ONLINE ENGAGEMENT

Between 2 December and 16 December 2020, 107 people completed the online survey providing information about what they value in the local area. People were also asked how the area could be improved once the level crossing was removed.

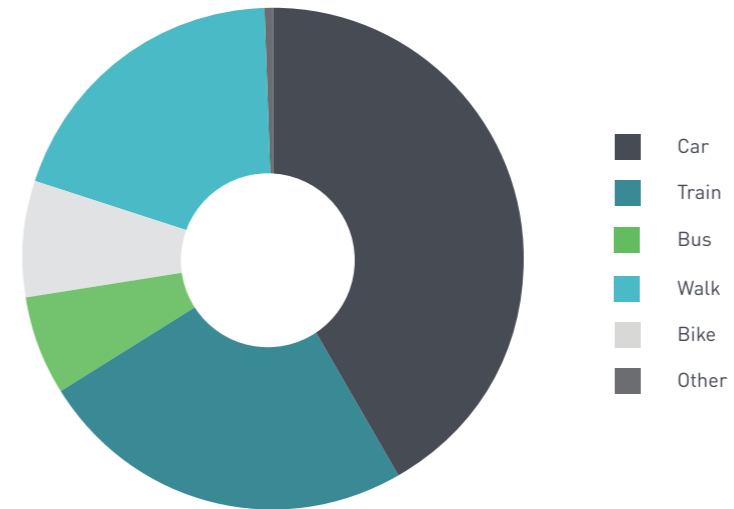
Profile of respondents

The vast majority of people who completed the survey were residents of Pakenham, with the car being the primary mode of transport to move around the area. Over half the respondents use a form of public transport.

What best describes you?



What modes of transport do you use regularly?



Note: respondents were able to select multiple options per question.

Open space under elevated rail on Pakenham line.



WHAT WE HEARD

From our conversations and surveys, we heard that efficient traffic flow, improved safety, and better connections between shops, park and public transport were the top three priorities for Pakenham.

Top ranking features of the Pakenham Level Crossing Removal Project:

Rank	Feature
1	Efficient traffic flow
2	Improved safety
3	Better connections between shops, parks, and public transport
4	Walking and cycling paths
5	A vibrant station precinct
6	Community facilities
7	Retaining or creating open space
8	Environmental sustainability

Level crossing at McGregor Road, Pakenham.



Level crossing at Main Street, Pakenham.

Efficient traffic flow

The vast majority of people told us they are likely to drive when moving around the local area. Improving traffic flow was highlighted with more than 59 per cent of people rating it the most important fact to be addressed by the project.

Two issues were repeatedly highlighted when people were asked about specific traffic problems in the area:

- Traffic being held up at each of the level crossings being removed, particularly at McGregor Road which

was often unsafe with vehicles and pedestrians trying to beat the lights.

- Unsafe turning at several locations in Pakenham, including on McGregor Road, Rogers Street, Henty Road, Main Street and Railway Avenue.

Improved safety

Apart from traffic related concerns, safety in the area around the level crossing was the second most important issue for people.

Among the more specific responses, the safety of the area at night was a common response, with people highlighting the need for more lighting, and better visibility around the area.

People also wanted the project to incorporate measures to deter antisocial behavior in the area.

Many respondents said the current traffic conditions contributed to people feeling unsafe in the area, with responses often citing dangerous behavior from both drivers and pedestrians trying to avoid the level crossing.



Pakenham Station

Better connections

People who responded to the survey told us that they would like to see better connections between shops, parks and public transport facilities in and around Pakenham.

Connections such as upgraded walking tracks through nearby parkland, safe ways to cross busy roads including pedestrian crossings or traffic islands, and easy access between the stations, car parks and shopping precinct were all highlighted in the survey responses.

We heard that opening up the areas either side the railway will help unify the township, and that attractive landscaping and open spaces beneath the rail bridge will further enhance community safety and result in better connections in and around Pakenham.



Bourke Park, Pakenham.

Walking and cycling paths

Two-thirds of people responded that they like to walk or cycle around the area, and many mentioned the lack of cycling facilities around the station, as well as dedicated bike lanes on the roads.

A major issue that showed up consistently in the survey results was the lack of safe pedestrian crossings over busy roads in Pakenham, meaning the roads are a dangerous mix of heavy foot and vehicle traffic particularly at Main Street.

Finally, people indicated that walking and cycling paths with clear separation would allow for better connections in and around the Pakenham Station precinct and nearby parks.



The Drake Tavern on Main Street, Pakenham.



Pedestrian and level crossings, Main Street, Pakenham.



Pakenham Station

NEXT STEPS

Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete the online survey and leave feedback on the Pakenham Road Level Crossing Removal Project.

You told us that the community is excited to see the level crossing removed and is looking forward to the new train stations.

We heard removing the level crossings will go a long way to helping improve connectivity and the amenity of the centre of Pakenham.

The feedback we received will play an important role in helping us understand what is valued by the community in the local area. Community feedback, along with technical

investigations, will help deliver a project that benefits the community.

In 2021, we'll come back out to the community with more information on the project. The community will have the opportunity to see how feedback has been incorporated, with further opportunities to provide feedback on elements of the design.



Pakenham Station.

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