



Australian Government

BUILDING OUR FUTURE

Infrastructure Pipeline

Geelong Fast Rail

State/Territory: Victoria

Proposed AG funding: \$2.0 Billion

Mode	Major freight route	Major Commuter corridor	Commercial precinct
			

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Australian Government has committed \$2 billion towards upgrading the rail line from Sunshine to Geelong. This funding is to be matched by the Victorian Government.

The project is likely to include upgrades to the track, station platforms and signalling to enable faster rail services from the Geelong station to the Melbourne CBD. This will allow for services averaging up to 160 kilometres per hour, potentially reducing travel times from one hour to just over half an hour.

New electrified track pairs from Sunshine to Wyndham Vale will also boost capacity on the rail network, and provide commuters from the growing western suburbs access to higher capacity trains on Melbourne's electrified metropolitan rail network. Regional commuters will then have the opportunity to access fast services on dedicated lines paving the way for fast rail from Geelong.

The project complements the Australian Government's investment in the Melbourne Airport Rail Link which will, among other things, improve track capacity between Sunshine and the CBD.

PROBLEM DESCRIPTION

Geelong is one of the fastest growing regions in Australia, mirroring the population growth of Melbourne, with the population of both cities growing by around 2.7 per cent per annum in the three years to June 2017. Population growth in Greater Geelong is forecast to continue to be strong over the next 20 years (albeit at a slower rate of 1.8 per cent per annum). The significant population growth in the western region, and constraints in the existing infrastructure, are impacting growth opportunities and the economic potential of the region in the near term.

Transport connectivity between Melbourne and Geelong is constrained by existing infrastructure, and rail investment has not kept up with population growth, resulting in car dependency. The current speed, reliability and frequency of passenger rail services, do not meet commuters' expectations. Infrastructure constraints have a range of flow on effects including in relation to hampering regional development, increasing congestion on key regional road routes and limiting regional communities' economic and social opportunities and access to services.

PROJECT BENEFITS

- **Improve travel times and service reliability.**
- **Extend Melbourne's electrified rail network, allowing higher capacity trains to Wyndham Vale**
- **Improve passenger rail services.**
- **Increase connectivity.**
- **Support population growth, ensuring forecast population-driven increases in travel demand are met.**
- **Reduce road congestion by enabling transport mode shift from private vehicles to rail transport.**

MELBOURNE TO GEELONG FAST RAIL

