Budget 2020

Major Projects Business Case Fund
Perth to Bunbury Faster Rail Corridor Investigation
Western Australia

**Australian Government Funding:** $4.0 million
Western Australian Government contribution: $4.0 million
Total: $8.0 million

**Project Description**
The existing rail line from Perth to Bunbury first opened in 1894. It currently takes around two and a half hours to complete the 181 kilometre journey at an average speed of 72 kilometres per hour. There are various constraints on the line that prevent passenger trains operating at higher speeds. Passenger trains also share the same track as freight trains further reducing speeds and the number of services due to limited passing opportunities.

The project will investigate options to provide faster passenger rail services from Perth to Bunbury. The project will undertake a strategic study that will determine the suitability of faster rail, identify existing constraints and determine future demand and operational requirements. The strategic study will consider upgrades to the existing corridor as well as the need for a new, dedicated corridor.

The strategic study will develop a range of options to address identified issues and prioritise them based on demonstrated need and desired transport outcomes. The strategic study will also consider population growth, travel patterns, land use planning and access to jobs, services and affordable housing.

**Project Benefits**
Benefits include:
- Improved passenger rail services.
- Improved freight rail services.
- Reduced congestion and improved travel times.
- Planning and design of future public investments.

**Project Timelines**
- This project is expected to start in mid 2021 and be finished mid 2023.