

Fast Rail Business Case – Melbourne to Traralgon

State/Territory: Victoria

Proposed AG funding: \$8.0 million

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project will develop a business case to determine the infrastructure and operational requirements to provide fast rail services from Melbourne to Traralgon. The business case will undertake an options analysis to determine the optimal rail solution, determine requirements for integration with the existing rail network, and provide patronage assessment, economic appraisal, and funding and financial analysis.

Improving transport connections between our capital cities and their regional centres has the potential to support the economic and population growth of the regions. In particular, fast passenger rail links can strengthen economic ties and connect people en masse to housing, jobs, lifestyle amenity and services. The business case is expected to be jointly funded on a 50:50 basis with the Victorian Government, and/or the private sector.

PROBLEM DESCRIPTION

Traralgon is located in the Gippsland region. The proximity of the corridor to south east Melbourne reinforces strong connections that provide access to jobs, markets, customers and tourists.

Gippsland's economy is predominantly based around natural resources and commodities. These natural resources together with energy generation industry, agriculture, forestry and tourism account for around \$17 billion in Gross Regional Product per year– a major contribution to the Victorian economy.

Melbourne's south east is one of Australia's fastest growing and most dynamic regions. Stretching from the City of Monash to Fort Nepean and to the edge of Gippsland, South East Melbourne already has a population nearly the size of Adelaide, with 1.2 million people calling the region home, and is expected to grow to 1.5 million people (up by 23.5 per cent) by 2031.

The Melbourne to Traralgon (South East Victoria) rail line is 157.6 kilometres. Passenger rail on this corridor is operated by V-Line and takes just over two hours to travel from Melbourne to Traralgon.

PROJECT BENEFITS

- **Improve travel times and service reliability.**
- **Improve passenger rail services.**
- **Increase connectivity.**
- **Ensure forecast population-driven increases in travel demand are met.**