

Victorian Government commits \$5 billion to Airport Rail Link

July 2018

On Sunday 22 July 2018 Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews announced that a re-elected Labor Government would provide up to \$5 billion towards construction of the Melbourne Airport Rail Link.

The announcement follows a commitment by the Federal Coalition Government on 12 April 2018 to allocate \$5 billion towards the project.

Funding provided by a re-elected Andrews Labor Government will match any funding from the Commonwealth. The private sector is also expected to contribute to the cost of the project.

Preferred route

The Victorian Government selected the Sunshine Route – previously known as the Albion East alignment – as its preferred route.

The Strategic Appraisal carried out by Transport for Victoria found the Sunshine Route delivered the highest relative benefit, 4.3, of the four routes considered. The Appraisal predicted a total project cost of between \$8-13 billion.

The Appraisal found that, compared to other routes, the Sunshine Route provides:

- Superior connections to more areas of Melbourne through its integration with the Metro Tunnel;
- Superior connections to regional Victoria, including fast rail services from Geelong and Ballarat, through an upgraded Sunshine interchange; and
- Earlier deliverability at lower cost.

The Sunshine Route was also recommended in a 2012 Public Transport Victoria Study.

Timeline

The Victorian Government's selection of the Sunshine Route enables progression on the detailed Business Case, which is expected to be completed in 2019/20. The Business Case will be undertaken by Rail Projects Victoria. Stakeholder engagement will now commence to inform the Business Case.

Investigation of economic, social and environmental impacts will commence, along with determination of required statutory approvals to enable delivery of the project.

Construction is expected to begin by the end of 2022.

Further information

More information on the project, including a map of the proposed route, can be accessed [here](#).

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