

FRANKSTON LINE

Assessment criteria

The Level Crossing Removal Authority is removing 11 level crossings on the Frankston line, three crossings are well underway and will be complete by the end of 2016. At the same time we are planning for the removal of a further eight level crossings at various locations between Cheltenham and Frankston.

Removing level crossings are complex projects with many environmental, community and technical considerations to be understood and balanced as potential designs are considered.

All possible design options to remove the crossing are identified and then reviewed against the following criteria:

COMMUNITY INPUT AND FEEDBACK

An important factor when removing a level crossing is understanding what the community wants to see and what is important to you. Throughout the project we'll ask you for your input and feedback about designs so everyone has an opportunity to be involved.

IMPROVING TRAFFIC NETWORK EFFICIENCY

We investigate what impact each design option may have on the existing roads, walking and cycling paths. The selected design should aim to improve traffic movement in the area. We will liaise with VicRoads, Public Transport Victoria (PTV) and local councils to ensure their feedback is also included.

BETTER CONNECTIVITY AND LIVEABLE COMMUNITIES

Level crossing removal designs should integrate with the existing community and create attractive, safe and well maintained spaces that work better for people who live and work nearby. We will liaise with local councils and state agencies, such as the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) and the Office of the Victorian Government Architect (OVGA), to ensure their feedback is also included.

Removing 50 dangerous and congested level crossings will transform the way people live, work and travel across metropolitan Melbourne and improve safety for drivers and pedestrians.

CONTACT US

-  levelcrossings.vic.gov.au
-  contact@levelcrossings.vic.gov.au
-  1800 762 667
-  Level Crossing Removal Authority
GPO Box 4509
Melbourne VIC 3001

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SAFER COMMUNITIES

The removal of level crossings should enhance the surrounding environment and safety. We seek to:

- Maximise visibility and passive surveillance of the area
- Promote activity in public places
- Increase safe movement, connections and access
- Create spaces which are visually pleasing and well used.

PROPERTY ACQUISITION

We'll always aim to confine the works to the existing rail and road corridors, however, some options may require property acquisition. If this is the case, we will speak with affected parties early in our planning.

IMPACT TO RETAIL AND ACTIVITY CENTRE

Removing the level crossing should benefit surrounding areas. We aim to integrate the removal of the crossings with the local area, creating safe and welcoming spaces for the community that will stimulate economic growth.

DESIGN STANDARD COMPLIANCE

There are a number of principles and design requirements which the project must adhere to. These include national and state level standards from VicRoads, Public Transport Victoria (PTV), Metro Trains Melbourne (MTM) and local council.

FUTURE PROOFING

Future proofing means considering possible future developments around the area after the project is completed, and allowing for any such works to easily integrate with our design. For example, allowing for the future removal of other nearby level crossings. We will also talk to local councils and other government agencies about their future plans.

LOOK AND FEEL

Visual impacts of the design is a key consideration when reviewing any option. Urban Design Principles developed in consultation with the Office of the Victorian Government Architect and landscaping treatments will be used by the project to minimise the visual impact of any design option, while integrating with the existing character of the area.

DISRUPTION DURING CONSTRUCTION

Some solutions require greater disruption than others to the rail line, roads, walking and cycling paths and shops. Proposed designs should aim to minimise the short term impacts during the construction period.

CONSTRUCTION CONSIDERATIONS

While a number of factors help the project select the best design, existing ground conditions, environmental and local features are a key consideration which can influence what designs are feasible.

INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

When removing a level crossing, there can be opportunities to use adjacent land for future retail and residential developments.

For more information on the project, please contact the Frankston Project Team on 1800 762 667 or email contact@levelcrossings.vic.gov.au

CYCLING AND WALKING

The removal of level crossings along the Frankston line provides the opportunity to create and extend walking and cycling paths for commuters, recreational cyclists and pedestrians. The project design should allow opportunities for such paths and access across the rail corridor.

CULTURAL HERITAGE (INDIGENOUS AND EUROPEAN)

The impact of the design and construction on cultural heritage is an important consideration in our assessments. Surveys which have been undertaken have identified European heritage sites at Charman and Balcombe Roads, and Indigenous heritage sensitive areas around Seaford.

FLORA AND FAUNA

Removing level crossings will involve impacts to trees and vegetation. We recognise that it is important to the community that any design minimises impacts to the environmental character of the area. Our site surveys have found no threatened species in the area and a number of plant classes that must be protected.

PROJECT COST

We need to ensure that any option selected is cost-effective and provides value for money, while still being beneficial and practical to the community.