

6.2.6 Level Crossing Removal Project Pakenham and Pakenham Station Redevelopment

File Reference: Nil.
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Recommendation(s)

That Council:

1. Support the Level Crossing Removal Project Pakenham and Pakenham Station Redevelopment whilst advocating for the project to include:
 - a. Improvements to support and enhance opportunities for existing and future businesses.
 - b. Integration of the train station, bus exchange and car parking with the town centre and surrounding communities including improved pedestrian connections.
 - c. Provision of safe, functional, and maintainable community spaces.
 - d. Improvement of amenity of the area including landscaping throughout the precinct.
 - e. Provision of improved traffic circulation including new pedestrian and bicycle connections that are integrated with existing paths.
 - f. Minimal disruption to local businesses and wider community during construction.

Attachments

1. LXR Pakenham - Community - Update [6.2.6.1 - 2 pages]

Executive Summary

This report seeks to provide an update on the Level Crossing Removal Project for Pakenham and provide direction on the advocacy focus for the project during consultation with the State Government.

The project has been initiated through the Level Crossing Removal Project (LXR) with a project team working on the initial planning stages of the project as indicated in the community update attached to this report. Cardinia Shire Council is a critical stakeholder and LXR have initiated discussions with Council officers seeking local information and initial input for the first phase of the project.

The project incorporates the McGregor Road, Main Street and Racecourse Road level crossings with the likely design an elevated rail solution providing for open space and connection opportunities between the north and south of the town. The Pakenham Station redevelopment is likely to include an elevated station with three platforms including a dedicated V/Line track and platform, integrated bus exchange and parking.

A working control group and governance group has been formed with a single point of contact to provide a consistent voice for Council.

Background

LXRP has announced the commencement of the initial site investigations and planning for this project, with one newsletter as attached being provided for the project with this noting the likelihood of the rail over road design.

Level Crossing Removal Project (LXRP) Pakenham includes the removal of the McGregor Road, Main Street and Racecourse Road the likely design an elevated rail solution. The project also includes the redevelopment of Pakenham Station with the station noted as a superstation which will include better bus connections and car parking, with a third platform and dedicated V/Line track at Pakenham Station to ensure an easier interchange with regional services. The total project area has yet to be defined although it is estimated to extend along the existing rail corridor (including the station precinct) from west of McGregor Road through to east of Racecourse Road.

To coordinate the advocacy and Council input into the design and construction of the whole project a Project Control Group has been established with representatives across the organisation with regular meetings providing an update on the progress of the project and provide a coordinated Council response to LXRP information requests. The group includes planners, urban designers, engineers and infrastructure officers, economic development officers, active and passive open space officers, and a communications representative.

A governance group has also been established to provide regular updates and seek feedback from leadership with meetings on regular basis. These groups will guide advocacy of Council's position and will ensure a consistent approach across the organisation. The project will be managed by the project officer with one point of contact at Council for the LXRP enabling timely responses to the project to ensure the best outcome for the community. The advocacy directions for the project to ensure the best outcome for the community to provide direction for Council advocacy.

The suggested advocacy directions seek to ensure the protection and improvements of local businesses, assets and to deliver a better outcome for the broader community. It is considered that Council should advocate for the project to achieve:

- - Improvements to support and enhance opportunities for existing and future businesses.
- - Integration of the train station, bus exchange and car parking with the town centre and surrounding communities including improved pedestrian connections.
- - Provision of safe, functional and maintainable community spaces.
- - Improvement of amenity of the area including landscaping throughout the precinct.
- - Provision of improved traffic circulation for Pakenham including new pedestrian and bicycle connections that are integrated with existing paths.
- - Minimal disruption to local businesses and wider community during construction.

Policy Implications

The project is consistent with previous Council lobbying for the Level Crossing Removal of the three level crossings within Pakenham which is clearly identified in the Council Plan, the Cardinia Planning Scheme and in the adopted Pakenham Structure Plan 2019 and Pakenham Major Activity Centre Urban Design Framework 2019.

Relevance to Council Plan

Section 1 Our People is relevant which the objective is: *we support a variety of needs and lifestyles through programs and activities that promote and development wellbeing of Cardinia Shire's people.*

Action 1.4. Improved health and wellbeing for all

- 1.4.1. Source funding and deliver a range of initiatives that promote health and wellbeing.

Action 1.5 Variety of Recreation and leisure opportunities

- 1.5.1 Provide active and passive recreation facilities to meet the needs of residents
- 1.5.2 Increase opportunities for residents to participate in a range of sport, recreation and leisure activities.

Section 2 Our Community the objective is: *We will foster a strong sense of connection between Cardinia Shire's diverse community.*

Action 2.2 Engage Communities

- 2.2.1 Provide a range of opportunities that encourage community participation in Council policy and strategy development.

Section 3 Our environment is relevant of which the objective is: *we will continue to plan and manage the natural and built form environment for present and future generations.*

Action 3.1 Provision and maintenance of assets on a life-cycle basis

- 3.1.2 Develop new and maintain existing parks, gardens and reserves in a sustainable way

Action 3.2 Transport linkages connecting towns

- 3.2.3 Development transport networks that incorporate effective public transport
- 3.2.4 Priorities multi-use pathways, where practical, to create networks that connect destinations
- 3.2.5 Advocate for and facilitate improved public transport option and major arterial roads to help link employment, educational, recreational and retail activities between the Shire's rural and growth areas.

Action 3.4 Natural and built environments supporting the improved health and wellbeing of our communities

- 3.4.1 Plan and develop built environments that support improved health and wellbeing of our communities through implementation of the Healthy by Design guidelines

Section 4 Our Economy is relevant of which the objective is: *we will create and support local employment and business opportunities for our community and the wider region.*

Action 4.1 Increased business diversity in Cardinia Shire

- 4.1.1 Plan for and support local employment opportunities
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Action 4.3 Diverse and resilient business community

- 4.3.3 Advocate for the delivery of small and large scale projects that enhance and drive economic activity

Section 5 Our governance is relevant, of which the objective is: *we will consult with the community, as appropriate, in an open and accountable way to help in determining the key direction of Council.*

Climate Emergency Consideration

Nil.

Consultation/Communication

The project is being managed and delivered by the LXRП and State Government. In February, a newsletter update online was provided noting that the project planning had commenced.

The project is in its initial planning and design stages. The community will be able to directly input into the design through the LXRП community consultation although Council's advocacy position needs to be established to ensure the best outcome for the community throughout the project.

Financial and Resource Implications

The project will require input from departments throughout Council although given the importance of the project as an economic driver and improvements that can be achieved for Pakenham this is considered a project that these resources should be allocated to.

At this stage the input required has been considered by managers and coordinators with the officers associated with the project group being able to provide expert advice in a timely manner whilst providing community advocacy.

There will be points of the project where additional resources will be required.

Conclusion

The Level Crossing Removal Project and Pakenham Station redevelopment is a project that Council has advocated for a number of years. The project offers a number of opportunities for Pakenham and the project can provide a number of benefits for the community subject to careful advocacy.

The Project Officer, supported by the Project Control Group and Governance will liaise with the LXRП to advocate for the best outcome for the Pakenham and wider community subject to clear direction on the advocacy focus to be resolved by Council.



The level crossing at Main Street, Pakenham



LEVEL CROSSING REMOVAL PROJECT

LEVEL CROSSING REMOVAL UPDATE

MCGREGOR ROAD,
MAIN STREET AND
RACECOURSE ROAD,
PAKENHAM

ISSUE #1 – FEBRUARY 2020

We're removing three level crossings and building a new superstation

The Victorian Government is removing the dangerous and congested level crossings at McGregor Road, Main Street and Racecourse Road in Pakenham, as well as building a new Pakenham Station.

The new station will include better bus connections and more car parking, with a third platform and dedicated V/Line track to ensure an easier interchange with regional services.

17 level crossings removed in total

Nine level crossings have already been removed on the Pakenham line. While the level crossing removals at McGregor Road, Main Street and Racecourse Road are in the early planning stages, the level crossing at Cardinia Road has been fast-tracked and will be gone for good by 2021.

Victoria's Big Build

The Victorian Government is investing over \$15 billion on projects to allow more trains to run on the Pakenham line more often.

Metro Tunnel Project

When it opens in 2025, the Metro Tunnel will allow more trains to run on the Pakenham line as well as slashing travel times.

High Capacity Metro Trains

The first of these new trains will start running on the Cranbourne and Pakenham lines later this year, creating space for 121,000 more passengers a week in peak times.

Why we're removing these level crossings



63,000 vehicles use these crossings each day



Boom gates are down for up to 30 per cent of the morning peak



170 Metro and V/line passenger train services pass through the level crossings daily



90,000 passengers use the Cranbourne/Pakenham line per day



SIGN UP FOR PROJECT UPDATES
levelcrossings.vic.gov.au

Authorised and published by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne



Early investigations

While we are still in the planning stages for these sites, our early investigations suggest the most likely design to remove these three level crossings would be to raise the rail line over the road.

A rail over road design may create opportunities for local connections in some sections under the rail line, provide increased open space and minimise disruption to road and train users during construction.

Next steps

We're continuing to carry out technical, environmental and engineering investigations to help inform the design for removing these level crossings.

To help us better understand the area's conditions, you might see more workers around the project area during the next few months as we undertake investigation works.

These works will involve hole-boring equipment attached to small trucks, high pressure water spray and a small excavator. There may be some daytime noise from the equipment.

We will let local residents know about these works ahead of time and ensure that access to private properties is maintained at all times.

Site investigations, design development and community consultation will continue this year with a view to complete the project by 2025.

We'll be coming out to talk to the community soon and we'll be seeking your feedback on the project.

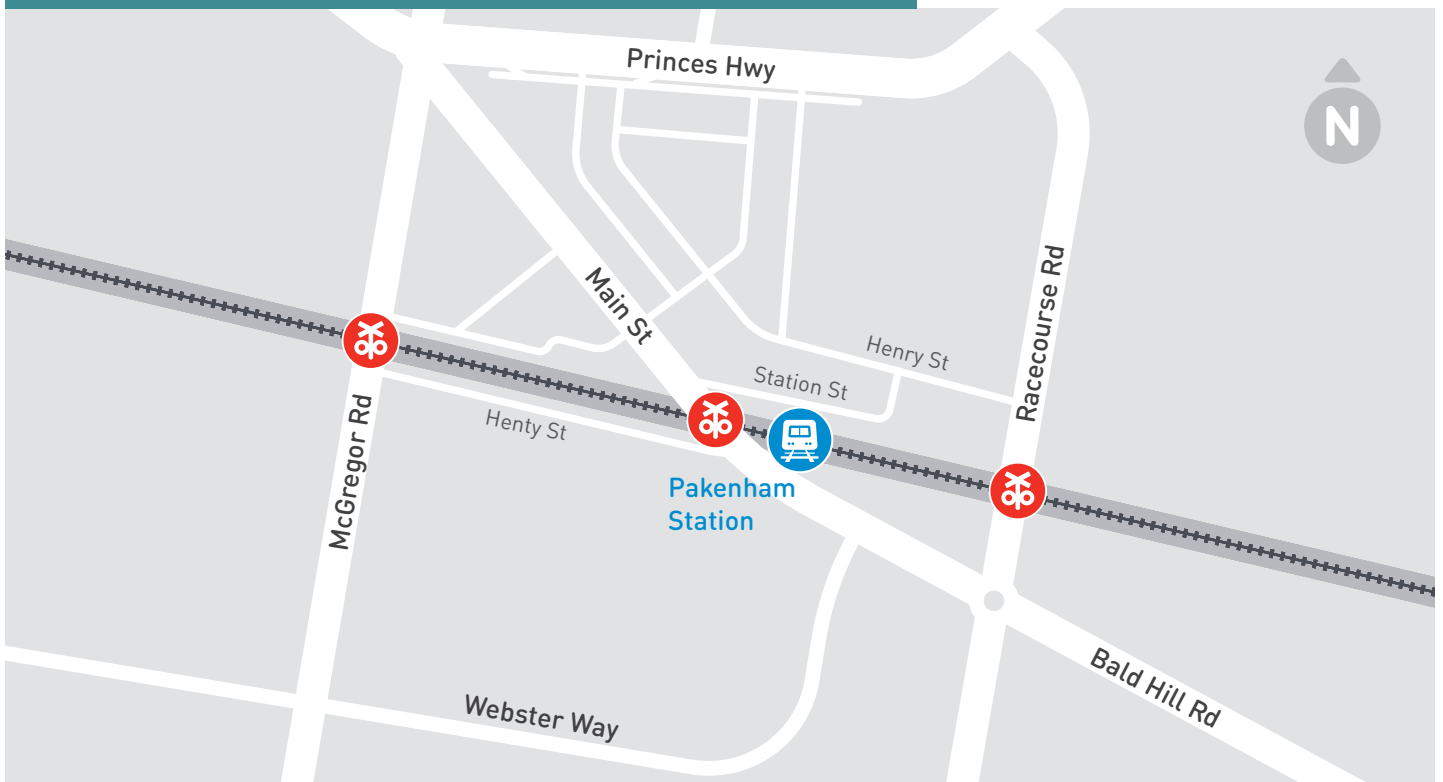


An example of the type of works you may see in the area

Stay updated

For regular information about the progress of this project, sign up for email updates at levelcrossings.vic.gov.au

Pakenham level crossings and station



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