

What we heard

Summary Report

March 2021



Australian Government

BUILDING OUR FUTURE



Building Melbourne Airport Rail

A new premium station at Melbourne Airport



The new train station at Melbourne Airport will provide easy access between the train and all airport terminals.

New bridge over the Maribyrnong River



At 383m in length and 55m high, the Maribyrnong River Bridge is the second highest bridge in Victoria after the West Gate Bridge.

Planning is underway for a second rail bridge over the Maribyrnong River, to stand alongside the existing bridge.

Sunshine Station



Sunshine Station will become a key interchange for Melbourne Airport Rail services, connecting to growth areas in Melbourne's north and west, and regional Victoria.

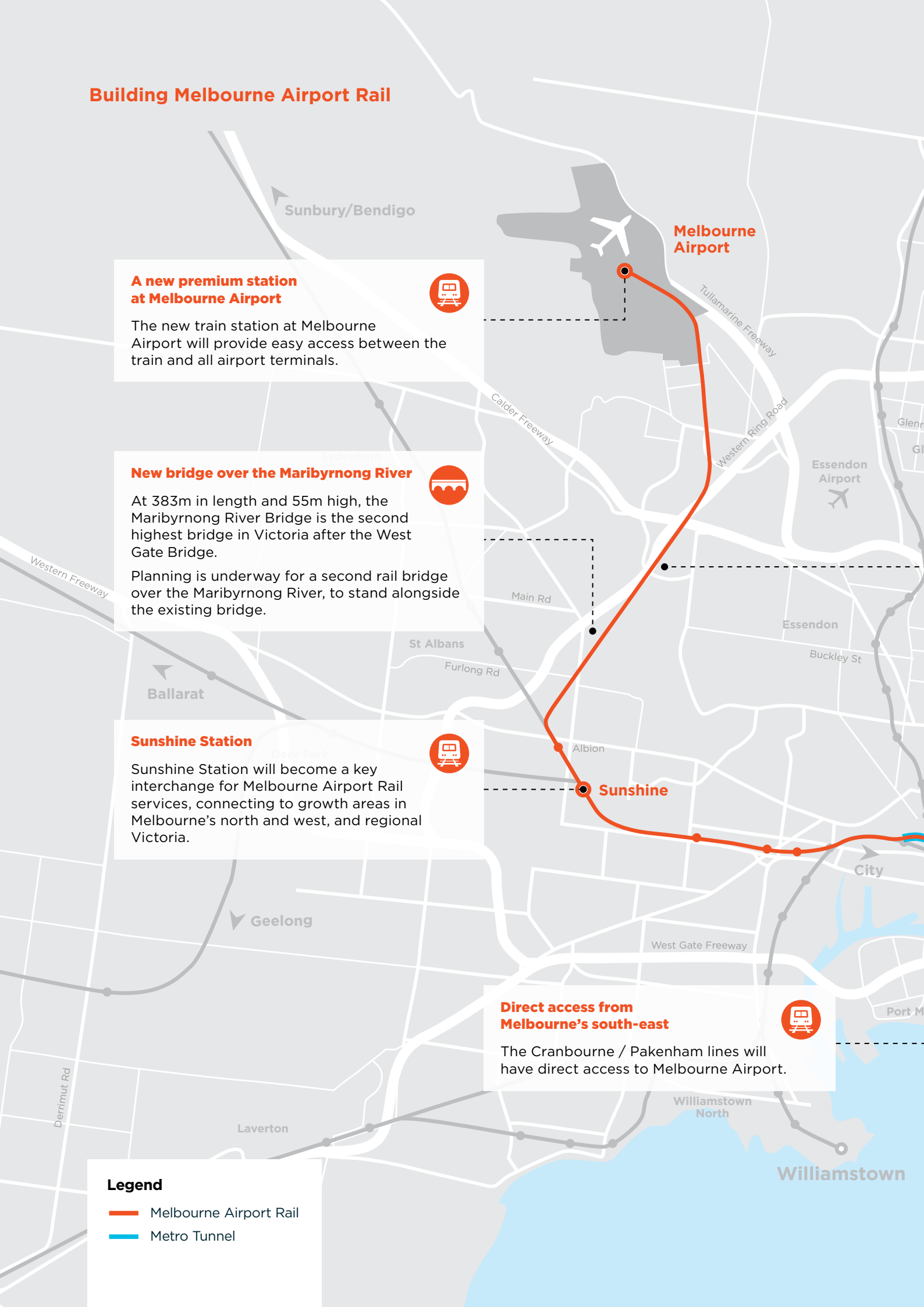
Direct access from Melbourne's south-east



The Cranbourne / Pakenham lines will have direct access to Melbourne Airport.

Legend

- Melbourne Airport Rail
- Metro Tunnel



Project overview

Melbourne Airport Rail is a transformational public transport project giving Victorians the choice to travel to and from Melbourne Airport for the first time.

Melbourne Airport Rail will run on dedicated, new tracks from a new premium station at Melbourne Airport through to Sunshine Station, where it will then travel through the Metro Tunnel into the heart of the CBD before continuing on to the Cranbourne and Pakenham lines.

For all passengers, Melbourne Airport Rail will provide:

- access to the entire public transport network including trains on the Geelong, Ballarat, Bendigo and Gippsland lines with a single interchange
- direct access to Melbourne Airport from 30 stations without the need to change trains, for passengers travelling from the CBD and the booming south-eastern suburbs
- a new premium station at Melbourne Airport with 10-minute services
- seamless travel to the heart of Melbourne's CBD in around 30 minutes
- direct access to key sites including Melbourne University, the Parkville medical precinct and the St Kilda Road business precinct.

The Australian and Victorian governments have committed \$5 billion each to deliver Melbourne Airport Rail.

Construction will begin in 2022 with a target completion date for Melbourne Airport Rail of 2029, subject to relevant Victorian and Federal planning, environment and other government approvals.

Rail Projects Victoria (RPV), a project team within the Major Transport Infrastructure Authority (MTIA), is overseeing the planning, development and community consultation which will inform the delivery of Melbourne Airport Rail.

Twin tracks next to the Albion-Jacana line

As part of Melbourne Airport Rail, new twin tracks will be built next to the existing Albion-Jacana rail tracks between Albion and Airport West.



Direct city access

Melbourne Airport Rail will provide a direct connection into the heart of the CBD through the Metro Tunnel in under 30 minutes, and access to key sites including Melbourne University, the Parkville medical precinct and the St Kilda Road business precinct.

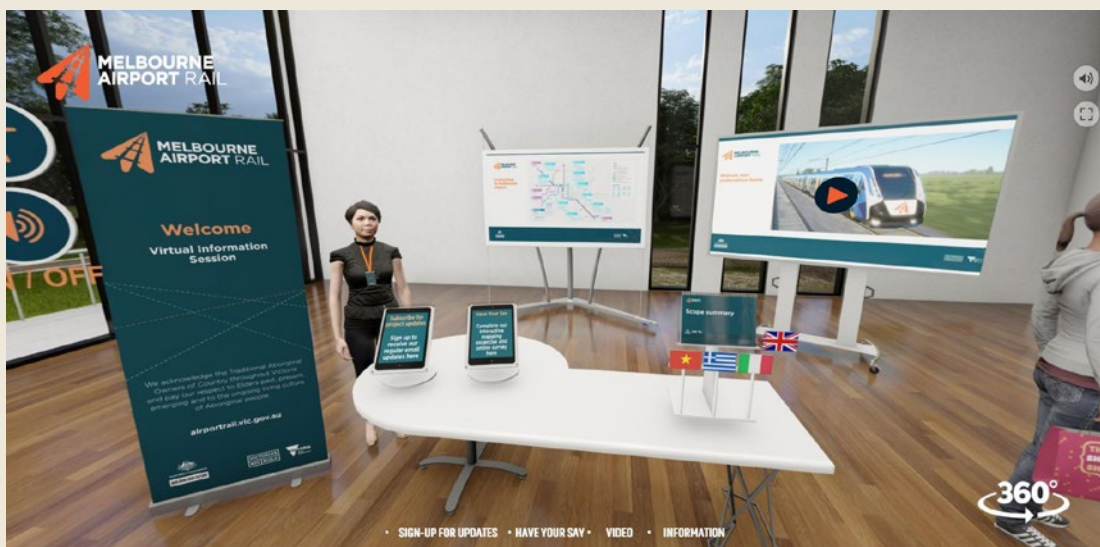


Community feedback

From December 2020 to March 2021, RPV asked local communities what is important to them and what they think are opportunities for improvements as part of the Melbourne Airport Rail project. This could include station facilities, walking and cycling connections, open space, and other key features near the rail alignment.

This report details the key themes raised in feedback from the community, local businesses and stakeholders during the early planning phase. These themes will help identify important issues for the project to consider as the design continues to develop.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our initial phase of engagement. Thousands of suggestions and comments were received, helping us plan this transformational project for Victoria.



How we engaged

Engagement on this initial phase was open from 9 December 2020 to 1 March 2021, with community members heading to our virtual information session and submitting feedback via our online survey or by contributing to our interactive map.

To ensure we reached as many people as possible, Melbourne Airport Rail promoted the online engagement in a range of ways.



Letterbox drops



E-newsletters



Social media posts



Online ads



Newspaper ads

The project team also sought feedback and promoted the online engagement in responses to email and telephone enquiries, through interactions with businesses, and in meetings with local government and community groups.

Engagement statistics

We received thousands of surveys and comments from communities along the Melbourne Airport Rail corridor, as well as from wider Melbourne and around Victoria.



1,045
surveys completed

214

pins on the interactive map



1,802
virtual information session visitors



3,000+
comments received

Project timeline

2018

- Sunshine route announced for Melbourne Airport Rail
- Expert technical and commercial advisors appointed
- Technical studies for Melbourne Airport Rail commenced
- 100 local and global companies signed up to Melbourne Airport Rail's Registration of Interest

2019

- Site investigations commenced
- Heads of Agreement signed between Victorian and Australian governments
- Community and stakeholder engagement commenced

2020

- Site investigations continue
- Community and stakeholder engagement
- Business case and design development
- Community engagement on what's important

2021

- Community and stakeholder engagement continuing
- Site investigations continuing
- Community engagement on key elements of scope
- Business case and design development
- Statutory planning approval processes, market engagement and procurement

2022

- Construction commencement*

2025

- The opening of Metro Tunnel

2029

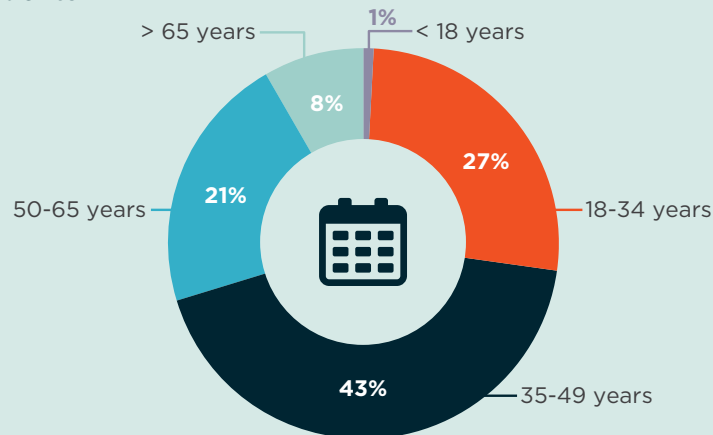
- Target completion date

*Subject to relevant Victorian and Federal planning, environmental and government approvals.

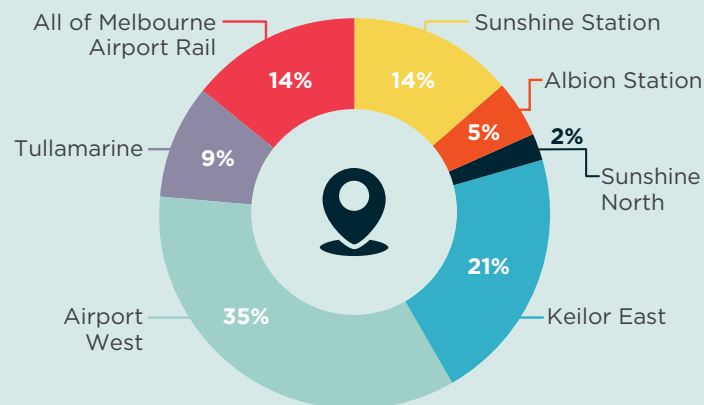
What we heard

Profile of respondents

Age range of respondents



Areas of importance to most people



What you love most about your areas



Project benefits

The feedback received has shown that the overwhelming majority of the community believe Melbourne Airport Rail will benefit all Victorians.

Over two thirds of respondents believe that Melbourne Airport Rail will benefit their local community, and over 90 per cent of people agreed or strongly agreed that the project will benefit the broader Victorian community.

The potential benefits rated highest were:

1

Easier and more convenient travel options to and from the airport.

2

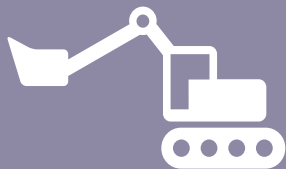
Less congestion compared to travelling on roads.

3

A faster way to get to the airport.

"This is a fantastic opportunity that will give travellers and commuters much needed options, especially for those further out from Melbourne."
Survey respondent

Key themes:



Construction impacts



Local amenity



Environment



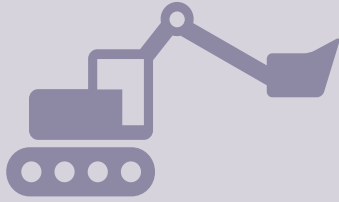
Safety



Heritage



Public transport connections



Construction impacts

While the majority of respondents acknowledged the benefits of Melbourne Airport Rail being built, there is some concern about the potential impacts of construction for local communities.

The main construction concerns were:

- noise, particularly at night
- disruptions to local roads and public transport
- impacts to property.

"It's stressful if not managed properly."
Survey respondent

While the project is still in the early planning and design phase, there will be a range of mitigation measures put in place during construction to minimise these potential impacts as much as possible.



Local amenity

There was a very strong sense of local pride in the responses, with many locals raving about their communities and highlighting what is unique to their area.

Suggestions for local amenity included:

- well-designed stations and structures
- integration of the project with the local area
- additions of new community spaces and parks.

Melbourne Airport Rail is committed to exploring opportunities for improvement in the look and feel of the areas we will be working in.

"Melbourne Airport Rail is an opportunity to better connect the west to the rest of Melbourne and vice versa, but it's also an opportunity to really transform the area and how we get around."
Survey respondent



Environment

There was an overwhelming number of responses about the importance of protecting our environment and highlighting local examples of loved parks and green spaces in the community.

The main comments about the environment were:

- preserving local flora and fauna for biodiversity
- retaining as much vegetation as possible
- safe and appropriate soil management practices.

Before, during and after Melbourne Airport Rail is completed, every effort will be made to protect the existing environment and replace any vegetation that may need to be removed as part of the project.

"Melbourne's west has severely low vegetation density... What little vegetation we have must be preserved, or ideally amplified."
Survey respondent





Heritage

The community is passionate about the protection and celebration of history in the local area, with the preservation of Aboriginal culture and the John Darling silos mentioned the most.

Some of the key feedback about preserving heritage included:

- respecting the traditional owners of the land and ensuring Aboriginal Cultural heritage is preserved and celebrated
- integration of local historical landmarks into the project
- highlighting the industrial history of the west.

There are many opportunities to preserve and integrate heritage elements into Melbourne Airport Rail, ensuring that future generations will be able to remember and respect the history of the local landscape.

"Having appropriate recognition [of Aboriginal culture] during and after the project is important."
Survey respondent



Public transport connections

Community feedback has highlighted the importance of public transport connections both for local communities, but also for wider Melbourne and regional Victoria.

Some of the feedback reflected the importance of:

- Sunshine Station as a transport hub and interchange
- ensuring Melbourne Airport Rail is integrated seamlessly into the wider rail network
- using the project as an opportunity for wider improvements to the network including consideration for additional stations.

Melbourne Airport Rail is working closely with transport stakeholders to ensure the best possible outcome for public transport users across the network.

"The construction of Melbourne Airport Rail will create more opportunities for businesses and also better travel opportunities for the locals who have been relying on cars."

Survey respondent



Safety

Ensuring the safety of the community in all aspects of Melbourne Airport Rail is of the utmost importance for all involved.

Community feedback highlighted specific concerns which included:

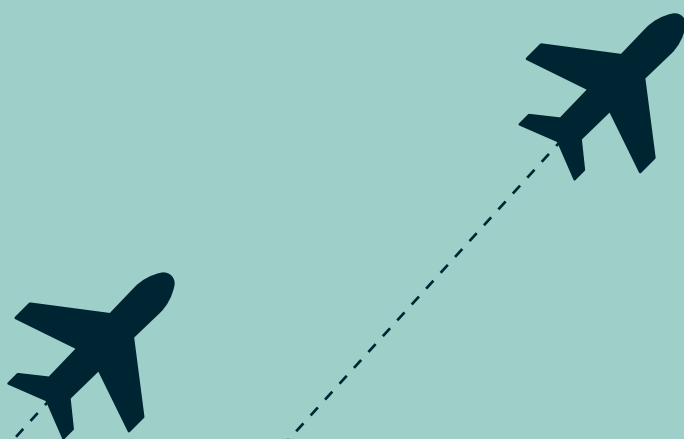
- security measures at stations and shared use paths
- adequate mitigations to control dust and air quality during construction

- secure fencing along the rail corridor during construction and once Melbourne Airport Rail is up and running.

The safety of the community, commuters and project team members is the highest priority for Melbourne Airport Rail.

"Community safety and wellbeing is paramount."
Survey respondent





Next steps

Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete the online survey and have their say about Melbourne Airport Rail.

This feedback will play an important role in helping us understand what is valued by the community, and what improvement opportunities could be considered as part of the project.

Community feedback, along with technical investigations, will help deliver a project that benefits communities and commuters across Melbourne and Victoria.


In mid-2021, we will be asking the community for their views on certain elements of scope being delivered as part of Melbourne Airport Rail.

Stay updated by subscribing to our newsletter at **airportrail.vic.gov.au**

More information

To find out more about Melbourne Airport Rail:

 airportrail.vic.gov.au

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It should be noted that this information is current at the time of printing, however due to unforeseen circumstances, changes may occur. Please visit **railprojects.vic.gov.au** for the latest updates.