



Melbourne Metro Rail Authority
Level 13, 121 Exhibition Street,
Melbourne VIC 3000
T 1800 551 927
metrotunnel.vic.gov.au

Ref: DOC/17/201709

Ms Laura-Jo Mellan
Manager City Design, Strategy & Environment
Melton City Council
Civic Centre
232 High Street
MELTON VIC 3337

Dear Ms Mellan,

**BALLARAT LINE UPGRADE
REQUEST FOR LETTER OF SUPPORT FROM MELTON CITY COUNCIL**

Melbourne Metro Rail Authority (**MMRA**) has been identified as the authority responsible for developing and delivering the \$518 million Ballarat Line Upgrade project (**Project**).

The Project will address operational and capacity constraints on the Ballarat line through the delivery of a number of improvement projects between Deer Park West and Ballarat. The Project will:

- increase service punctuality;
- increase the number of services on the Ballarat line; and
- increase consistency and reliability in service provision.

The majority of the improvement works will take place within the current operational rail corridor, including through Melton. The improvement works specifically applicable to the City of Melton include:

- duplication of approximately 17km of rail line on the northern side of the existing line, including a creek crossing at Toolern Creek;
- upgrading of five level crossings to include twin tracks;
- rebuilding of platforms at Rockbank station to extend them by 180m and to provide a pedestrian link between platforms, as well as a new sealed car park;
- future proofing the track to allow for the construction of Toolern Station and construction of the necessary structure for the pedestrian link; and
- duplication of 1.9km rail line west of Melton station.

MMRA is in the process of obtaining primary planning and environmental approvals from relevant Commonwealth, Victorian and Local Government authorities. Central to these primary approvals is a Ministerial planning scheme amendment (**PSA**) which will utilise an Incorporated Document that exempts the normal requirements of the planning scheme and the need for separate planning permits to be sought from applicable Councils.

With regard to the PSA, the Minister for Planning intends on seeking an exemption pursuant to section 20(4) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* (Vic) (**Act**) from the requirements of section 17, 18 and 19 of the Act and the regulations relating to Ministerial amendments. The exemption is being sought (amongst others) on the basis that the Project is of genuine State and/or regional significance.



Throughout the design phase of the Project and in preparation of the PSA documentation, MMRA has engaged with community and agency stakeholders, as well as the relevant local councils. From its discussions with the local councils (including Melton City Council), MMRA understands that they are generally supportive of the proposed PSA providing that their issues are identified and addressed in the PSA documentation.

To assist the Minister in finalising the proposed PSA documentation and in seeking the exemption, MMRA respectfully requests that Melton City Council submits to it a letter in support of the proposed PSA which includes any comments and/or any specific concerns it has about the Project.

Please do not hesitate to contact Marisa Feher (0418 470 517) should you wish to discuss the contents of this letter further.

Yours sincerely,



Mark Havryluk
Project Director – Ballarat Line Upgrade

19 / 04 / 2017

