



Treasurer of Victoria



1 Treasury Place
GPO Box 4379
Melbourne Victoria 3001
Telephone: +61 3 9651 5201
Facsimile: +61 3 9651 0759
DX210759

Cr Bob Turner
Mayor
City of Melton
PO Box 21
MELTON VIC 3337

Dear Cr Turner

MELBOURNE AIRPORT RAIL LINK – FULL BUSINESS CASE DEVELOPMENT

Thank you for your letter dated 8 August 2018 advising me of the work being done by the City of Melton and the Ballarat Rail Action Committee on infrastructure investments that could increase the number of rail services along the Ballarat rail corridor.

I note your suggestion to incorporate the electrification of the rail network from Sunshine to Melton with the Melbourne Airport Rail Link (MARL) project. I am informed that Transport for Victoria (TfV) is currently investigating options for extending the electrified network. I have referred the documents you provided to TfV and to members of the MARL Working Group for their information.

The Government's investment in the Ballarat Line Upgrade and the Regional Rail Revival is an indication of the priority the Andrews Labor Government gives to public transport in this important growth area. These investments will provide additional rail passenger services to and from Ballarat and address several of the proposed investments detailed in the *Strategy for Managing Explosive Passenger Growth on the Melton Bacchus Marsh Railway* report.

The Government recently announced our commitment to progressing the Suburban Rail Loop project. It will be one of the largest Public Transport transformation projects in Australia, connecting every rail line from Frankston to Werribee including the Melbourne Airport. This builds on the MARL which will reduce road congestion and increase the capacity of the rail network. The Government will continue to seek Commonwealth Government support for transport infrastructure and will work with them to finalise the MARL business case to ensure the project provides the most benefits to the State. Thank you for taking the time to write to me.

Please contact Dean Tighe Executive Director, Infrastructure Policy and Assurance on 9651 5162 should you have any further questions.

Yours sincerely

TIM PALLAS MP
Treasurer

04 SEP 2018

