

Media Release

The Hon Melissa Horne MP

Acting Minister for Public and Active Transport
Minister for Casino, Gaming and Liquor Regulation
Minister for Local Government
Minister for Ports and Freight
Minister for Roads and Road Safety



Thursday, 4 July 2024

TRAINING RAMPS UP AHEAD OF METRO TUNNEL OPENING

The Allan Labor Government has delivered a new state-of-the-art facility in Melbourne's CBD – to help train and boost the number of rail workers ahead of the Metro Tunnel opening in 2025.

Acting Minister for Public Transport Melissa Horne today opened the new Metro Academy facility which simulates a mini metropolitan rail network – with live tracks and platform simulators available to train almost 100 students each day.

The Academy will train more than 200 future train drivers, station staff and Authorised Officers ahead of the opening of the Metro Tunnel – with the first round of students beginning their training program.

To get rail workers ready for the job, students will be provided classroom, practical and on-the-job training – with the Academy offering a range of platform simulators including passenger information displays and CCTV safety zones, to help customer service and Authorised Officers safely apply their skills.

The Metro Tunnel is the biggest transformation of Melbourne's rail network since the City Loop opened in 1981 – transforming Melbourne's train network and how we move around our city.

The project will create new connections across the city, delivering five new world-class underground stations – connecting major precincts at Parkville, Arden and the Shrine of Remembrance to our rail network for the first time.

Metro train drivers and station staff will need to be trained to operate all the tunnel's new systems and technology, including Victorian-first platform screen doors that will open and close at stations with the train doors.

The new facility supports Metro's existing Metro Academy training facilities in Kensington and Newport, which aim to simulate real life experiences so workers can hit the ground running when fully qualified.

Quotes attributable to Acting Minister for Public and Active Transport Melissa Horne

"This new facility will help train up our public transport workforce, so we are ready to deliver world-class service when the Metro Tunnel opens next year."

Quote attributable to Member for Northern Metropolitan Region Sheena Watt

"The tunnel will be a game-changer for public transport in Melbourne, delivering new connections and opening up capacity to further improve services in the future."

Quote attributable to Metro Trains Acting CEO Pete Ryan

"As our network evolves, we are working hard to ensure we have the people we need for day one of operations, so passengers have a seamless experience."

Quote attributable to Metro Trains Head of Training and Academic Programs Charles Robinson

"To prepare for the opening of the Metro Tunnel, over 200 new rail workers will be put through their paces at our new training facility."

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