

Media Release

The Hon Ben Carroll MP
Acting Premier



Friday, 5 July 2024

THE LILYDALE LINE IS OFFICIALLY LEVEL CROSSING FREE

The Allan Labor Government has removed the last two dangerous and congested boom gates on the Lilydale Line.

It's the first rail line in Melbourne to be level crossing free, and it was achieved a year ahead of schedule.

Acting Premier Ben Carroll and Minister for Transport Infrastructure Danny Pearson today announced the level crossings at Dublin Road in Ringwood East and Coolstore Road in Croydon are gone for good.

Since 2017, nine level crossings have been removed and six new stations have been built along the Lilydale Line, which is the second busiest line on the network and is used by more than 72,000 passengers each weekday.

Getting rid of these crossings means boom gates are no longer down for more than five hours in the morning peak, reducing frustrating delays for the more than 123,000 vehicles every morning.

The new accessible East Ringwood Station will soon open to passengers and features lifts to each platform and parking for 460 vehicles, while the new premium Croydon Station is set to open later this month.

Serious accidents and fatalities had been previously recorded at several of the Lilydale Line level crossing sites, including Union Road in Surrey Hills which was fast-tracked for removal after the deaths of two people.

Level crossings removed from the line include Blackburn Road, Heatherdale Road, Manchester Road, Maroondah Highway, Mont Albert Road, Union Road, Cave Hill Road, Coolstore Road and Dublin Road, Ringwood East.

These projects have delivered almost seven kilometres of new walking and cycling paths as well as new and upgraded open spaces – with more than 260,000 trees, shrubs and grasses planted.

The Cranbourne, Pakenham and Sunbury lines will be Melbourne's next rail lines to be boom gate free next year, followed by the Frankston Line in 2029 and the Werribee Line in 2030.

The Labor Government is removing 110 dangerous and congested level crossings across Melbourne by 2030, with 82 already gone for good – helping Victorians get home safer and sooner.

Quote attributable to Acting Premier Ben Carroll

"Every single level crossing on this line is now gone for good, and it's helping locals get home safer and sooner."

Quote attributable to Minister for Transport Infrastructure Danny Pearson

"Users on the Lilydale Line get to experience the very first level crossing free line in Victoria which will mean we will be able to run more trains more often."

Quote attributable to Member for the North-Eastern Metropolitan Region Shaun Leane

"A level-crossing free Ringwood is a huge win for the community – changing the way locals live, work and travel."

Quote attributable to Member for the North-Eastern Metropolitan Region Sonja Terpstra

"It's great to see trains running on the new rail bridge at Croydon and for motorists to have a safer and more streamlined way to cross the town centre."

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