

To

From

Dear

STOP THE GEELONG FAST RAIL PROJECT AND BUILD TRUE HIGH SPEED RAIL

I am writing to express my dismay that the Australian and Victorian Governments are squandering **\$4b** to build a 3rd railway track between Werribee and Laverton and calling this “Geelong Fast Rail”¹. This project has been spruiked as cutting a 65 minute trip between Melbourne and Geelong to 50 minutes, a saving of 15 minutes. This is five minutes *slower* than the 45 minute express Regional Fast Rail trips introduced in 2006, but soon replaced by semi-express services due to the impacts at other stations on this mixed service line. I expect a similar outcome here.

I note advice from a “prominent stakeholder” that once complete the new project will only manage one counterpeak service in each of the peak hours. No doubt this is due to track congestion in the peak direction.

At 10.7km length, this single track project is costing \$374m/km when regular dual track construction costs \$15m/km. This must be the biggest white elephant in rail history! Geelong and the people of Victoria deserve MUCH better than this.

I wish to draw your attention to the MegaRail Australia² Geelong – Dandenong **High Speed Rail** proposal, refer Figure 1. This \$16b project will introduce 350kph trains to Australia and reduce the travel time between Geelong and Melbourne to **17 minutes**. For \$5.8b, similar money to the Geelong Fast Rail Project, the Melbourne to Werribee section of the MegaRail Project could be built comprising twin bored tunnels between Melbourne and Werribee with new platforms at Southern Cross Station, a new high speed rail station in the Werribee East Employment Precinct and stabling at Werribee Farm. This would provide a 9 minute trip between Werribee and Melbourne and drive massive mode shift from the existing rail service and Princes Freeway. Geelong passengers would have a transfer opportunity as well as faster V/Line services due to spare track capacity on the existing Werribee Line.

¹ <https://bigbuild.vic.gov.au/projects/geelong-fast-rail>

² <http://www.megarail.com.au/>

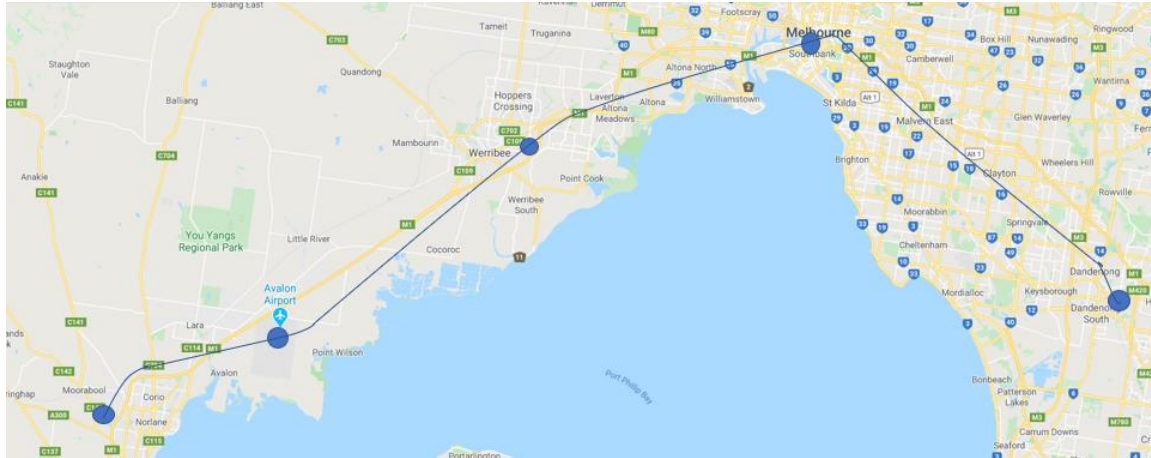


Figure 1: Geelong – Dandenong High Speed Rail Lovely Banks Alignment

A future project to extend from Werribee to Lovely Banks in Geelong would cost a further \$5.2b and finally to Dandenong another \$5.2b.

I call on the Australian and Victorian Governments to stop the Geelong Fast Rail Project and undertake a transparent assessment of Melbourne – Werribee High Speed Rail before committing to any project delivery.

Yours Sincerely