

## **Barton Deakin Brief: Federal Investment into Fast Rail in Victoria**

**22 March 2019**

Today, the Prime Minister Scott Morrison along with the Treasurer Josh Frydenberg, the Minister for Cities, Urban Infrastructure and Population Alan Tudge and Federal Member for Corangamite Sarah Henderson announced the Coalition Government's plan to invest \$2 billion into the construction of a fast rail network between Melbourne and Geelong. The announcement is the first high-speed rail commitment from the Coalition Government and is part of a 20-year fast rail plan.

### **Overview**

Approximately 54,000 vehicles use the West Gate Bridge and Princess Freeway every day and the Federal Government has committed to reducing congestion between Geelong and Melbourne through a Faster Rail Network. The fast rail between Geelong and Melbourne is projected to cut transport time from 60 minutes to 32 minutes, with an average speed of 160km/h.

The Federal Government's \$2 billion investment into fast rail will directly contribute to the construction and improvement of current and new railway tracks and signalling. This comes as the second major investment into rail infrastructure in Victoria after the Federal Government's \$5 billion investment into the construction of the Melbourne [Airport Rail Link](#).

Modelling from the Department of Infrastructure has estimated a total cost of \$4 billion, with the remaining \$2 billion of funding to be provided by the State Government. The investment also includes \$40 million allocated to five business cases that will provide detailed assessment of the fast rail network and will determine construction and funding priorities for future projects. Rolling stock will also be up to the Victorian Government to fund.

Other fast rail projects being considered by the Government include:

- Brisbane to the Gold Coast
- Melbourne to Albury-Wodonga
- Melbourne to Traralgon
- Sydney to Wollongong
- Sydney to Parkes

The Coalition's commitment to the Faster Rail Network has prompted the creation of a National Fast Rail Agency, which will work with governments, communities and the private sector to determine priorities and funding solutions.

For the Prime Minister's media release, click [here](#).

For more information on Australia's Faster Rail Network, click [here](#).

For Barton Deakin's NSW fast rail network brief, click [here](#).

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