

Mildura Passenger Train Restoration Bill 2022

A Bill for an Act to reinstate the passenger train network between Mildura and Melbourne. This train will provide low cost, consistent, sustainable and accessible transport to a neglected regional population in the Mallee region as well as regional towns along the way.

This Bill was created to address the strong and consistent demand from the Mildura community for improved infrastructure. It does this by connecting Mildura and surrounding areas to the rest of Victoria, allowing for local residents to have greater access to medical facilities, education, leisure, and employment. In doing so, this Bill attempts to close the gap between the Mallee region and the rest of Victoria in terms of the lack of infrastructure in the region. Furthermore, this passenger train will provide a network for a constant stream of tourists to travel to the Mallee region, supporting and improving the local economy.

A Bill for an Act relating to Mildura Passenger Train Restoration to be enacted by the YMCA Victoria Youth Parliament;

PART I—Preliminary

Clause 1 Purpose

The main purposes of this Act are—

- (a) To reduce inequalities of access between the state of Victoria and north-western rural Victorian communities of diverse backgrounds through improving the public transport system;
- (b) To provide accessibility to the Mallee region for tourists to support its local economy;
- (c) To acknowledge the Mallee community’s consistent demand for change regarding access to travel;
- (d) To provide an environmentally sustainable source of travel that will have minimal impact on our planet.

Clause 2 Commencement

This Bill shall commence upon receiving assent from the Youth Governor of Victoria.

Clause 3 Definitions

In this Bill—

- (a) **VLocity** means V/Line’s fastest passenger train;
- (b) **Infrastructure** means the physical structures and facilities required for the proper function of the passenger railway;
- (c) **Public places of education** means public educational institutions in Victoria including primary schools, high schools, Technical and Further Educations (TAFE), and universities;
- (d) **Regional public transport system** means public transport and the public transport-related components of the transport system, including any passenger services, situated outside of metropolitan Melbourne.

PART II—Establishment

Clause 4 Restoration and Maintenance of Railway Tracks

- 4.1 The railway infrastructure running from Mildura Station to Maryborough Station shall be restored by Public Transport Victoria (PTV) to a level capable of carrying passenger trains at full capacity.
- 4.2 During the restoration process, the land shall be surveyed to ensure its capability to hold a VLocity train at maximum load capacity.
- 4.3 Passenger terminals shall be established or restored in the following locations to a level capable of harbouring trains and passengers;
 - (a) Dunolly;
 - (b) Donald;
 - (c) Birchip;
 - (d) Woomelang;
 - (e) Speed;
 - (f) Ouyen;
 - (g) Carwarp;

- (h) Mildura;
- 4.4 Regular maintenance on the railway infrastructure and the trains shall be scheduled and upheld by PTV, who shall ensure that;
 - (a) All trains running on the Mildura line shall be capable of making the journey safely at maximum load capacity;
 - (b) All infrastructure on the Mildura line is maintained at a level capable of safely holding passengers and trains.

Clause 5 Train Service Accessibility Requirements

- 5.1 PTV shall ensure that all written messages and verbal announcements are communicated to passengers in the following languages;
 - (a) English;
 - (b) Farsi, including the Hazaragi dialect;
 - (c) Turkish.
- 5.2 PTV shall provide a 60% discount on train tickets for low socio-economic passengers who;
 - (a) Have an annual income below \$40,000 AUD;
 - (b) Can provide evidence of their income in one of the following forms;
 - (i) Bank statement;
 - (ii) Income statement.
- 5.3 PTV shall provide extra accessories for passengers, including;
 - (a) Food, at a 50% discount against the recommended retail price;
 - (b) A children's entertainment area with toys for children;
 - (c) Televisions installed in each carriage, programmed to show TV channels determined appropriate by PTV.

Clause 6 Train Service Safety, Frequency, and Consistency

- 6.1 The train shall not run if a qualified professional identifies any of the following events;
 - (a) Train mechanical problems;
 - (b) Dangerous weather;
 - (c) Obstructions on the railway tracks.
- 6.2 The train shall travel the route from Melbourne to Mildura a minimum of four times each way per week.
- 6.3 The train schedule shall be determined by V/Line and shall be subject to annual reviews.
- 6.4 If the train is unable to run, V/Line shall arrange free, alternate transport for all passengers.

Clause 7 Pricing of Tickets

- 7.1 Ticket prices shall be capped at \$70 AUD for the entirety of the journey.
- 7.2 The ticket price for passengers that board or depart at other stations in the journey shall be proportional to the percentage of the journey that they travel.
- 7.3 The price of the train ticket shall be subject to review by PTV once every six months.

Clause 8 Development and Distribution of Victorian Transport Survey

- 8.1 An annual survey shall be conducted by the Minister for Regional Public Transport to collect data on the community's opinions on public transport in their area.
- 8.2 The survey shall be optional and free.
- 8.3 Survey data shall be collated as a resource used for;
 - (a) Analysis and application of statistical information on the topic of public transport;
 - (b) Informing future legislation regarding public transport.
- 8.4 The survey shall include questions on the following topics;
 - (a) Respondents' personal and contact details and postcode;
 - (b) How respondents were informed about the survey;
 - (c) What aspects of public transport in their area respondents would like maintained, varied or abolished;
 - (d) Details on the respondents' regular usages of transport, including frequency, types of public transport used, types of private transport used, and typical length of commute.
- 8.5 The survey shall come in two forms;
 - (a) Online survey via PTV official Government website;
 - (b) Free hardcopy paper forms.
- 8.6 Hardcopy surveys shall be publicly accessible at the following locations;
 - (a) All Government agencies;
 - (b) All public transportation service locations;
 - (c) Post offices;
 - (d) Workplaces;
 - (e) Public places of education.
- 8.7 Survey collection boxes shall be accessible at the following locations;
 - (a) All government agencies;
 - (b) All public transportation service locations;
 - (c) Post offices.
- 8.8 The survey shall be promoted;
 - (a) In the following formats;
 - (i) Posters;
 - (ii) Adverts;
 - (iii) Flyers.
 - (b) In the following places;
 - (i) Billboards;
 - (ii) Workplaces;
 - (iii) Post offices;
 - (iv) Public service facilities such as branches of Medicare, Centrelink, NDIS, and public hospitals;
 - (v) Public transport stations and stops.

Clause 9 Establishment of a Board for Regional Public Transportation

- 9.1 The Regional Public Transportation Board (RPTB) shall be established.
- 9.2 Individuals eligible to undertake a position on the RPTB shall;
 - (a) Be a member of the local community;

- (b) Demonstrate a competent understanding of the current Regional Public Transport system.
- 9.3 The purposes of the RPTB shall be;
 - (a) To act as an advocate dedicated to the betterment of regional transport services;
 - (b) Ensure community feedback about regional public transport is communicated to the Victorian government;
 - (c) Ensure transport equity for regional Victorians.
- 9.4 Responsibilities for the RPTB shall include;
 - (a) Ensuring equity in public transport in and around regional Victoria;
 - (b) Bolstering public transport services in and around regional Victoria.
- 9.5 The RPTB shall regularly conduct periods of consultation with regional communities and stakeholders.
- 9.6 Upon the appointment of the RPTB, there shall be an informative campaign held in regional Victoria to ensure there is community awareness of the Board.