



MEDIA RELEASE

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DIRECT CITY SERVICES FOR ALTONA LOOP RESTORED, AS PROMISED

The Andrews Labor Government will fully restore direct city services for passengers on the Altona Loop from August – fulfilling a major Labor Government election commitment.

Member for Altona Jill Hennessy and Member for Williamstown Wade Noonan announced today that 37 daily services that currently stop at Newport will be extended to the city as part of a new metropolitan timetable that will start on 27 August this year.

Nineteen trains to Altona that currently originate at Newport will run from Flinders Street, while 18 services from Laverton will be extended to the city, stopping all stations between Laverton and Flinders Street.

These are the last of the remaining shuttle services introduced by the former Liberal Government, which force passengers to transfer at Newport to get to the city, and to get back home at the end of the day.

The August timetable will also add 10 new peak services to the Werribee line every week, building on the 10 peak services added in 2015. This year's Victorian Budget also funds eight new off-peak services that will start next year.

The Labor Government is also getting on with partially duplicating the Altona Loop as part of the Kororoit Creek Road level crossing removal project.

Duplicating part of the Altona Loop will improve the reliability of services, and reduce the need for trains to bypass the loop during disruptions.

The timetable change will also add 10 new peak services to the Craigieburn and Sunbury lines, and trains on the Hurstbridge line will be extended to provide more peak hour trains to more people in Melbourne's north.

The new train timetables will be available in July from ptv.vic.gov.au.

Quotes attributable to Member for Altona Jill Hennessy

"We promised to give Altona Loop passengers back the direct city services the Liberals took away – today's announcement will fulfil that promise, in full."

"I know Altona residents have been waiting a long time for these services to be restored, and how frustrating this has been for them. This long-awaited change will reduce travel time to the city for local passengers and remove the hassle of changing trains at Newport."

Quotes attributable to Member for Williamstown Wade Noonan

"More services when trains are at their busiest – that's what the new timetable will deliver for local passengers."

"We're adding services, removing level crossings and improving the rail network to get people home safer and sooner – whether they're in the car or on the train."