



# Murray Basin Rail Project

The Murray Basin Rail Project will deliver a \$440 million upgrade to improve Victoria's rail freight network and provide better rail freight services and greater choices for less cost.

The project involves standardising and upgrading over 1,000 kilometres of rail track which services the Murray Basin region in Victoria's north-west.

The works will provide better rail access between the Murray Basin and Victoria's major ports in Portland, Geelong and Melbourne. It will also improve the performance of the rail network and increase the amount of rail freight able to be moved.

## Scope

The Murray Basin Rail Project involves:

- upgrading 1,055 kilometres of rail track
- converting the track from broad gauge to standard gauge
- increasing the allowable train axle loading from 19 tonnes to 21 tonnes, except for the Ouyen to Murrayville line which will remain at 19 tonnes.

## Funding

The \$440 million Murray Basin Rail Project is jointly funded by the Victorian and Australian governments.

## Benefits

The project will drive economic growth, create jobs and provide a major boost to the transport industry, agricultural sector and regional communities. It will improve rail freight services and reduce the costs of freight.

By standardising and improving the rail network, the freight industry in the Murray Basin region will be able to deliver exports to Victoria's ports in a more efficient and cost-competitive way. Freight trains will be able to carry heavier volumes, allowing 500,000 more tonnes of grain to be moved each year.

Following the upgrade, it is forecast to capture approximately 20,000 journeys currently undertaken by trucks. This will provide producers with an attractive alternative to road freight, improvements to local amenity, and a reduction in the cost of road maintenance for the government.

The project will also ensure the ongoing integrity of the rail track and improve safety on the lines.

## Next steps

The first stage of the project was completed in 2016, with the installation of 175,000 sleepers and 3,400 metres of new rail on the Mildura and Hopetoun lines.

Preparation works will begin in July 2017 on the standardisation of the Mildura rail line and Ouyen to Murrayville, along with the work to reopen the rail line from Maryborough to Ararat. These lines are expected to reopen in January 2018.

## Contact us

For more information about the Murray Basin Rail Project.

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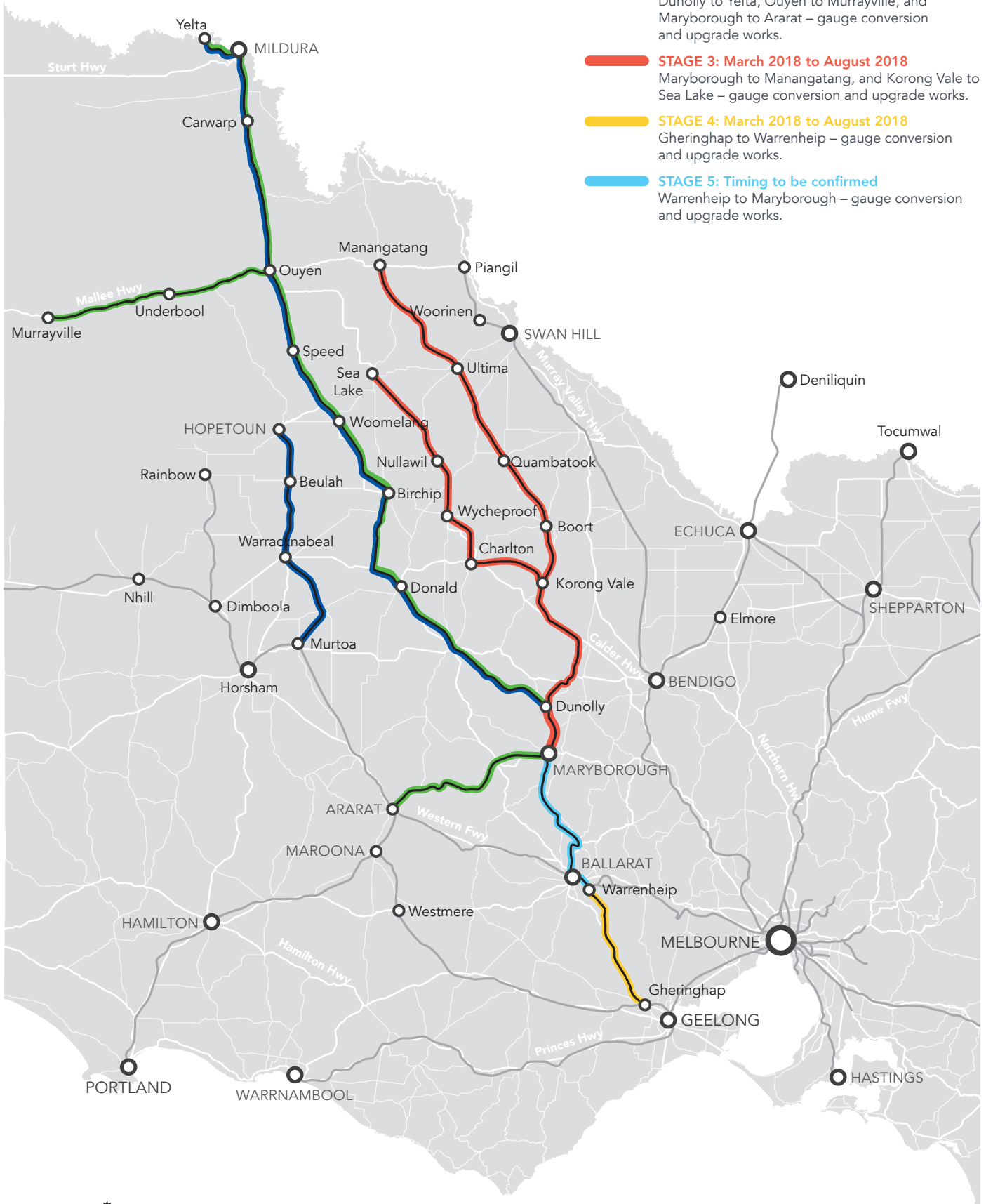
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- STAGE 1: Completed June 2016**  
Mildura and Hopetoun rail lines – enabling and repair works.
- STAGE 2: July 2017 to January 2018**  
Dunolly to Yelta, Ouyen to Murrayville, and Maryborough to Ararat – gauge conversion and upgrade works.
- STAGE 3: March 2018 to August 2018**  
Maryborough to Manangatang, and Korong Vale to Sea Lake – gauge conversion and upgrade works.
- STAGE 4: March 2018 to August 2018**  
Gheringhap to Warrenheip – gauge conversion and upgrade works.
- STAGE 5: Timing to be confirmed**  
Warrenheip to Maryborough – gauge conversion and upgrade works.



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