



# NORTH EAST RAIL LINE UPGRADE

## PROJECT UPDATE AUTUMN 2019

WE'RE ON TRACK TO IMPROVE SERVICE RELIABILITY AND RIDE QUALITY FOR PASSENGERS ON THE NORTH EAST RAIL LINE

### WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING?

We know improving passenger rail services is important to the communities of North East Victoria and we're working hard to do just that.

With the project scope confirmed, following independent review, we've been getting on with the task of improving the track condition and targeting the causes of service delays.

Early works undertaken by our maintenance teams have commenced and include:

- 500 metres of priority mudhole removal, targeting areas with temporary speed restrictions (TSRs), to support timely passenger services.
- Level crossing works at Faithfull St, Benalla and Gravel Pit Road, Wangaratta South, smoothing out the crossing for both trains and motorists.

We have also shared our plans with members of the community and stakeholders through a series of engagement events including council and community group meetings, station pop-ups and at local farmer's markets and shows. We'll be continuing this dialogue over the coming months.

### WHAT'S NEXT?

The existing rail bridge near Faithfull Creek, Euroa is being re-transomed. Transoms are the supports that the steel rails are attached to and need replacing once they reach the end of their useful life. A 20-day track tamping program using large track machines will also be completed in April. Tamping compacts the ballast around the track to help provide a smoother journey for passengers. You can watch a video of the tamper in action on our website, [artc.com.au/projects/northeast](http://artc.com.au/projects/northeast).

As part of the early works, we will also be installing two new sets of crossovers in the 100 km section of track between Seymour and Benalla in September this year. Because crossovers allow trains to switch from one track to the other, this enables work crews to access the track to undertake works with minimal interruptions to train services.

Attention has now also turned to appointing the major works contractor. With the Expression of Interest released on 22 March 2019, we anticipate this will happen towards the end of the year. Main works will commence shortly after with project completion scheduled for 2021.



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## PROJECT TIMELINE

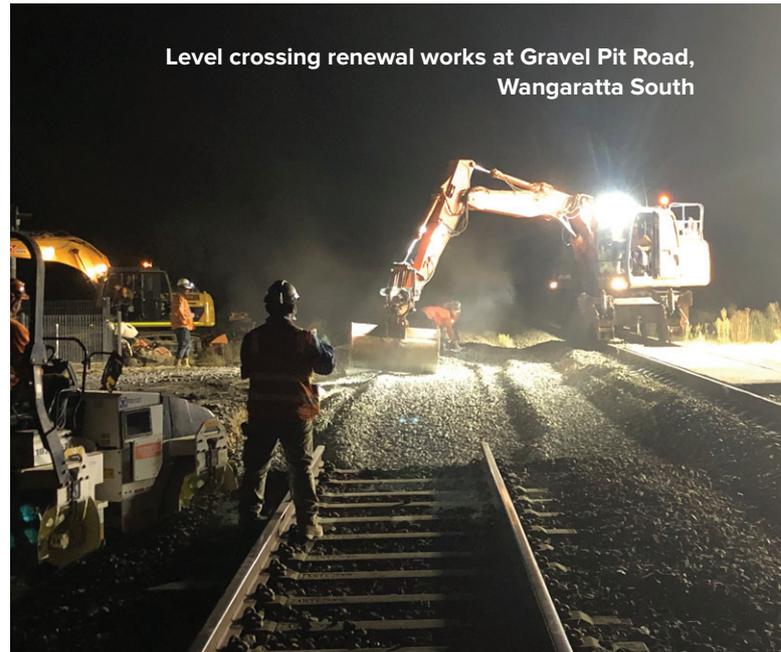


## TRACK FACTS

Project improvement works will upgrade the North East rail line between Melbourne and Albury/Wodonga to a Victorian Class 2 standard, in line with other regional rail lines in Victoria.

To improve service reliability, reduce delays and deliver a smoother ride for passengers, here's just some of what we're doing:

- Removing over **500** existing mud holes. Mud holes form as a part of normal track wear and tear and can result in temporary speed restrictions. Fewer mud holes means more reliable trains.
- Adding **200,000** tonnes of new ballast along the entire rail line, that's enough to fill 50 Olympic swimming pools! Ballast is the crushed rock around the track. Adding all that new ballast will improve track stability and drainage, helping prevent mud holes from reforming.
- Installing **2** new sets of crossovers between Seymour and Benalla, significantly improving track access and operational flexibility.
- Upgrading over **120** bridges, including replacing **64** older timber top bridges with new concrete and ballast top bridges resulting in a smoother ride.
- Improving the track at over **110** level crossings, including **6** pedestrian crossings. This too will improve ride quality.
- Relocating overhead signal wires to underground to reduce the risk of signal failures due to trees falling on wires or line wire theft.
- As at April, we had also had over **1,200** conversations so far with community members at events and pop-ups throughout North East Victoria – with more to come. Be sure to sign up for our eNews to hear where we'll be next.



Level crossing renewal works at Gravel Pit Road, Wangaratta South

## INLAND RAIL

ARTC is also delivering enhancements at 24 sites along 305km of the North East rail corridor as part of the Inland Rail Programme to support the running of taller trains along the existing rail line.

For more information on the Tottenham to Albury project: visit [inlandrail.com.au/T2A](http://inlandrail.com.au/T2A),

**P:** 1800 732 761 **E:** [inlandrailvic@artc.com.au](mailto:inlandrailvic@artc.com.au)

## WANT TO KNOW MORE?

We're committed to working closely with the community and other stakeholders as the North East Line Upgrade project progresses. We'll keep you informed through community events and pop-ups and welcome your feedback.

For more information visit our website, where you can also register to receive updates, or contact the project team via:

[artc.com.au/projects/northeast](http://artc.com.au/projects/northeast)  
[northeastline@artc.com.au](mailto:northeastline@artc.com.au)  
1300 550 402

The logo for ARTC (Australian Rail Track Corporation) features the letters 'ARTC' in a bold, sans-serif font. A horizontal line is positioned above the 'T' and another below the 'A'.

Current as at March 2019