



Hon Jacinta Allan MP

Minister for Transport Infrastructure  
Minister for the Suburban Rail Loop

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Surrey Hills Progress Association Inc  
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12 / 07 / 2021

Dear Surrey Hills Progress Association

Thank you for your letter of 29 April 2021 regarding the Union Road and Mont Albert Road level crossing removals.

I understand you have also written to the Level Crossing Removal Project (LXRP) on 2 June 2021 regarding local heritage. I have been provided with a copy of this letter and the response provided to you by LXRP.

The Government has been delighted with the feedback from the community from the extensive consultation. The overwhelming priority of the community has been to remove these dangerous and congested level crossings as soon as possible. The feedback from the community has helped informed the designs of the project, including the designs of the new station which have been recently released.

I'm advised that many of the outcomes you have sought are being delivered as part of the project. As shown in the updated designs, the project includes new paths to provide convenient access to the station, and a rejuvenated open space in Lorne Parade Reserve with significant new planting. In total more than 50,000 new trees and plants will be installed as part of the project's landscaping plans.

The design also provides better access for people with disabilities, with ramps into the station entrances and lifts to the platforms, in full compliance with current disability access standards. The station car park will also be upgraded with an improved layout, better lighting, and CCTV.

Nearby residents will benefit from improved access to a premium train station, less noise from trains, safer journeys, and more reliable journey times.

Substantial decking over the trench to provide new open space is not within the scope of the project. As the recently released design images show, the project will achieve all its objectives and significantly improve the safety and local amenity in the area without the costly and technically challenging addition of substantial decking.

Of the 20 rail trench projects delivered by the Victorian Government, only one has included decking over the trench to provide new open space. In that case, the local council made an early and significant offer of additional funding. The locations you have suggested for decking are within the City of Whitehorse and they have advised that they will not provide an offer for additional funding for decking.

The project will continue to work closely and collaboratively with the community, including local councils, throughout the development of the designs. The designs are also guided by the Urban Design Framework, developed in consultation with the Office of the Victorian Government Architect and are reviewed by an Urban Design Advisory Panel.

I understand the project team has been in regular contact with the Surrey Hills Progress Association and that the President of the Association is a member of the Community Reference Group. I encourage you to continue to engage with the project team and provide feedback on the negotiable elements of the design.

If you require further information, please contact the LXP via email at [contact@levelcrossings.vic.gov.au](mailto:contact@levelcrossings.vic.gov.au) or by phone on 1800 105 105.

Thank you again for taking the time to write to me.

Yours sincerely



**Hon Jacinta Allan MP**  
Member for Bendigo East  
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