



**Minister for Public Transport  
Minister for the Arts**

Dept. of Infrastructure




DOI078194R

Ref: DOI078194

PO Box 2797  
Melbourne, Victoria 3001  
Telephone: (03) 9655 3300  
Facsimile: (03) 9655 3313  
www.vic.gov.au  
DX 210410

Our Ref:

Mr Don Nardella MLA  
Member for Melton  
3 Alexandra Street  
MELTON VIC 3337

  
Dear Mr ~~Nardella~~

**RAIL UPGRADE AT DIGGERS REST**

Thank you for your letter of 6 August 2008 on behalf of the Diggers Rest Residents Association, regarding several public transport matters.

The Department of Transport (DOT) has investigated the matters you raised with V/Line and advises that large quantities of material have been removed from alongside the rail line and recycled throughout the network. The balance of the rail track is being progressively sorted and stacked within the rail reserve for current and future re-use or for disposal to a metal recycler. Due to the prohibitive costs involved in relocating the replaced rail track to other storage facilities, the most cost effective option is to leave the old rail within the rail reserve until required.

Litter and rubbish removal from the rail reserve is undertaken in conjunction with V/Line's programmed maintenance, standard fire protection and weed/vegetation management activities.

DOT is investigating further enhancements to rail services in the area, one of which includes electrification of services to Sunbury, which would also provide Diggers Rest with train services similar to those currently provided on the Sydenham line. At this stage there are no plans to further increase V/Line services while these investigations are being undertaken.

V/Line is continually monitoring its services and adjusting rolling stock to ensure that capacity demands are being met. The increase in petrol prices and the reduction in fares on V/Line services have led to increased passenger numbers. This in turn is putting pressure on car-parking facilities around the network.

A review of all of V/Line's stations is being undertaken to determine the level and type of works needed in each corridor. This review will assess car parking needs and will include Diggers Rest. In addition, bus services are being enhanced and intending rail passengers are being encouraged to utilise bus services to access railway stations instead of driving.

If you require further information please contact Bronwyn Hughes of DOT on telephone (03) 9655 8964.

Yours sincerely



**Lynne Kosky, MP**  
MINISTER

30 OCT 2008