

Media Release

Regional Rail Link: Escalating Renewal

Federal Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Anthony Albanese, yesterday joined with Victorian Public Transport Minister Martin Pakula and Member for Footscray Marsha Thomson to announce works packages that will deliver major improvements for Footscray train station.

Footscray Station currently handles more than 11,000 passengers boarding trains each day. This will increase significantly as the Regional Rail Link transforms Footscray Station into one of Melbourne's busiest and most modern train stations.

The Regional Rail Link works packages announced yesterday deliver two new tracks, two new station platforms and — to cater for increased train services and passengers interchange between rail lines — an extended footbridge and new escalators connecting to all platforms. The works packages also deliver a lift to cater for the new platforms and upgrades to station amenities.

The Hon. Marsha Thomson MP, who actively engaged in community consultation for the Regional Rail Link, yesterday pointed out that inclusion of the escalators reflected the community's views on what we need at Footscray Station. The Brumby Government and the Regional Rail Link team has listened and there will now be escalators from the main entrance on Irving Street to the footbridge, as well as escalators from the footbridge to all platforms.

City of Maribyrnong Mayor Sel Sanli is impressed by the outcome for the community.

"Only a few years ago we had a rickety wooden footbridge at the station," noted Cr Sanli, "Now we have a modern architectural footbridge and soon we will be getting state-of-the-art escalators, reflecting our status as a major central activities centre."

LeadWest CEO Anton Mayer sees how the investment in upgrading Footscray Station stimulates both escalates the renewal of Footscray and supports the sustainable development of Melbourne's west more broadly.

"The Regional Rail Link is an extremely important project that supports the rapid population growth and associated development of Melbourne's west. It stimulates renewal in the urban inner west with Footscray as a Central Activities District and it also provides a more environmentally sustainable transport option for people establishing homes in the growth areas of Wyndham," Mr Mayer said.

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About LeadWest

LeadWest Ltd was formed by the metropolitan western region councils. Its board members are representatives from the councils, businesses and educational institutions of Melbourne's West. LeadWest was formed to foster and undertake actions that support the sustainable growth and development of the region. It builds on the existing social, economic and environmental capacity of the region, to ensure a sustainable future for communities and businesses of the West.