

Milton House  
Level 2  
25 Flinders Lane  
Melbourne Victoria 3000

Tel: (61 3) 9650-8800  
Fax: (61 3) 9650-6066  
Web: [www.melbourne.org.au](http://www.melbourne.org.au)  
Email: [cfm@melbourne.org.au](mailto:cfm@melbourne.org.au)

21 March 2016



Level Crossing Removal Authority  
Level 14, 121 Exhibition Street  
Melbourne 3000

Dear Sir/Madam,

It is our pleasure to submit a response to the *Level Crossing Removal Project: Caulfield Dandenong*.

The Committee for Melbourne (Committee) has long held the remit to enhance the future prospects of Melbourne. Founded over 30 years ago, the Committee is an apolitical, not-for-profit member network that unites a cross-section of our city's leaders and organisations to work together to enhance Melbourne's economic, social and environmental future.

Our members represent over 120 organisations drawn from the city's major companies, academic institutions and civic organisations across a broad range of industries. We represent no single interest and seek to challenge conventional thinking and develop innovative policy that continues to enhance the 'World's Most Liveable City.'

Melbourne has approximately 170 level crossings, which makes our city the only city in Australia facing a level crossing problem of this scale.

The Committee has a well established history of looking at ways to improve Melbourne's transport network. As part of these endeavours, the Committee established a Shaping Melbourne Taskforce in 2010 that produced a [three-volume series](#) investigating Melbourne's challenges and opportunities as the city and its population continue to grow. In this report series, we touched upon the need to tackle the city's level crossing issue:

*"Localised responses to network weaknesses are also required. One of the greatest restrictions on the efficiency of the network is the number of level crossings. More trains on the network will result in longer waiting times at level crossings, causing increases in vehicle congestion."*

Next to network inefficiency and vehicle congestion, Melbourne's level crossings also adversely impact our productivity and create barriers that limit urban renewal and disconnect communities.

Therefore, the Committee welcomes the Government's Level Crossing Removal Program proceeding with the removal of the nine level crossings on the Cranbourne Pakenham Line between Caulfield and Dandenong. The project is of particular relevance to Melbourne's longer-term development as it will help optimise the benefits of the much-needed Melbourne Metro Rail Project – including its High Capacity Signalling capabilities – which is projected to become operational in 2026.

### **In conclusion**

Great cities do not happen by chance – they grow and develop through visionary thinking and long-term planning.

In line with this, the Committee for Melbourne has established four key policy platforms that will guide its agenda:

1. Future Economy
2. Infrastructure
3. Urban Optimisation
4. Liveability

Over the next year, the Committee will continue to focus on important issues affecting our four key policy platforms and as our city moves towards eight million people, our transport infrastructure arrangements will become increasingly important if we are to maintain our extraordinary standard of living.

The Committee is encouraged by the Level Crossing Removal Authority's efforts to date and the positive signal that the call for contributions sends to the public. Engaging the community in this important debate is of vital importance. The Committee for Melbourne will continue to contribute to this debate and is eager to work with the Government and our community leaders to safeguard our bright future.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Committee to expand on any of the points touched on in this submission.

Regards,



Martine Letts  
Chief Executive Officer  
Committee for Melbourne