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Melbourne Metro rail project: \$40m announced for new authority

- by: **Sophie Aubrey and Matt Johnston**
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Premier Daniel Andrews with Public Transport Victoria chairman Ian Dobbs and Public Transport Minister Jacinta Allan this morning. Picture: Eugene Hyland

Source: News Corp Australia

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A NEW bureaucracy to oversee the \$9-11 billion Melbourne Metro rail project has been created by the Andrews Government.

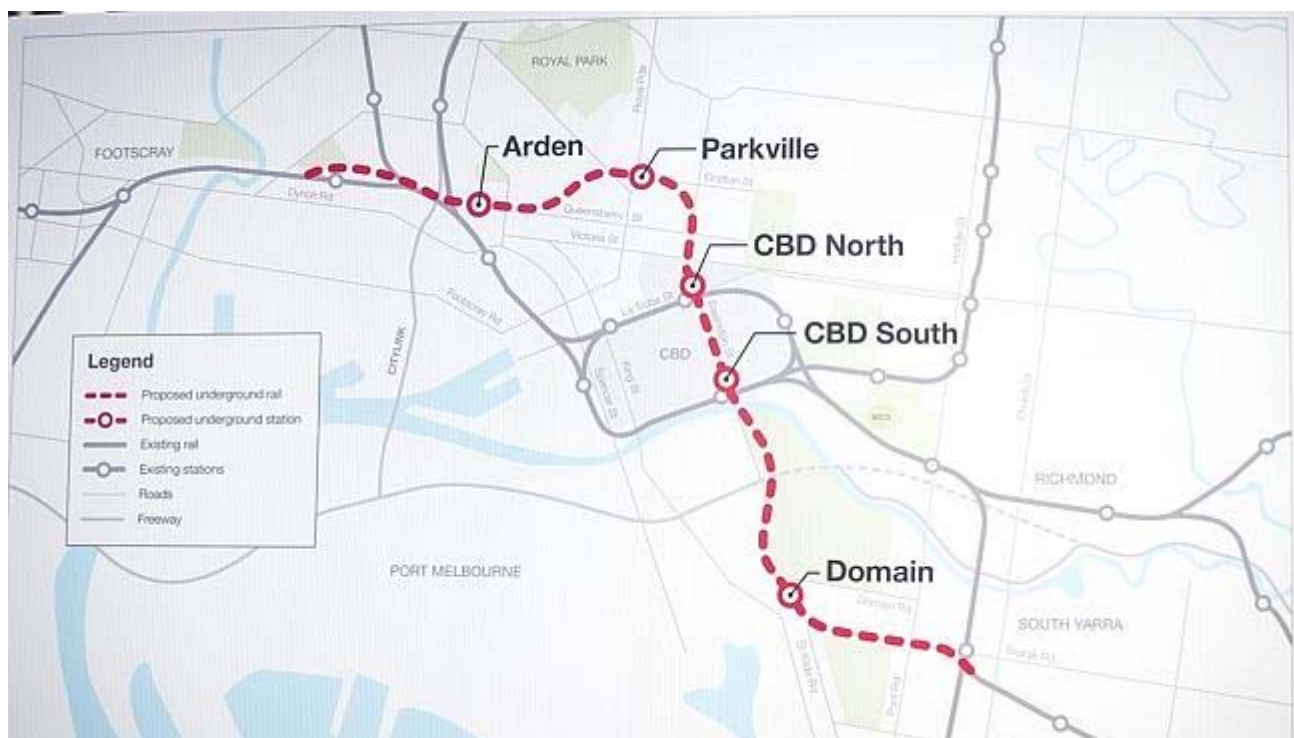
And the government says a business case will be done this year for the 9km tunnel, with expressions of interest called from 2016.

Premier Daniel Andrews announced this morning \$40m for the new Melbourne Metro Rail Authority had been brought forward to start planning the cross-city link immediately.

Will the new tunnel make Melbourne's network as good as New York or Tokyo? Share your views below

Labor has promised \$300m in the May budget for the project, which would provide an alternative to the City Loop between Melbourne's inner west and inner southeast.

It is still unclear how the full project will be paid for.



The new route and station names. Picture: Supplied

Source: News Corp Australia

Premier Daniel Andrews said the \$40m for the new bureaucracy was brought forward to “not waste a day”.

Describing the tunnel as a “second city loop”, Mr Andrews said the project would include five new stations, create 3500 jobs and allow for an extra 25,000 passengers in the system each day.

The new stations will be at Arden, Parkville, CBD North, CBD South and Domain.

Mr Andrews said the tunnel would lift Melbourne's public transport to the levels of New York and Tokyo.

“It's the relief valve that ends the traffic jam in the City Loop so more trains can run on every line,” Mr Andrews said.

The Premier said there would be five new stations, providing “a second city loop, doubling the capacity within our system, (allowing for) 20,000 extra passengers in the morning and the afternoon”.

“A train system with no timetable,” he said.

“That's a London, Hong Kong, New York, Paris-style underground system,” he said.

Transport Minister Jacinta Allan said an updated business case would be completed this year to be released

publicly, allowing expressions of interest to begin in 2016.

Construction is expected to begin in 2018 and finish in 2026.

Mr Andrews said he hoped the federal government and private investors would each fund a third of the total cost, but this was yet to be secured.

PTV chairman Ian Dobbs said he welcomed the early funding for what he believed would be an "iconic" tunnel.

Committee for Melbourne chief executive Kate Roffey also backed the project.

"This is a major step forward in making much needed improvements in increasing the capacity of our rail network," Ms Roffey said.

"Today's announcement signals a commitment to getting on with the business of building a metropolitan rail system that meets the needs of a 21st Century Melbourne."

Rail, Tram and Bus Union secretary Luba Grigorovitch said the new authority "is a welcome sign that the Andrews Labor Government intends to make good on its election pledge to build a world class rail tunnel network in Victoria".

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Logic

31 minutes ago

Finally! Make sure allowance for a connection to the Doncaster line is made, with underground stations in Carlton and Fitzroy and make it a real underground Metro system.