



Rail Futures Inc.

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RAIL FUTURES WELCOMES \$15 BILLION AIRPORT TRAIN ANNOUNCEMENT

The plan announced today by the AirRail Melbourne consortium is warmly welcomed by advocacy group Rail Futures Institute (RFI). It builds on RFI's ongoing advocacy for a dedicated Airport route from Southern Cross Station via a single stop at Sunshine where a major rail interchange would provide easy connections with the Melbourne Metro corridor and the regional lines that pass through Sunshine.

RFI strongly endorses the blueprint which also paves the way for faster trains to Geelong and Ballarat and frees up capacity on the Regional Rail Link lines for additional services and electrification of outer metropolitan services to Melbourne's west.

The blueprint offers significant benefits to residents and visitors to Victoria, particularly:

- a city to airport travel time of 20 minutes that can be sustained as traffic and population grow;
- a 10-minute train frequency;
- dedicated airport rolling stock, not just suburban trains;
- an easily accessible terminal at Southern Cross station using platforms 1 and 2;
- a Melbourne Airport station that is future-proofed by being underground and allowing for future connections beyond the Airport to the Bendigo and Seymour lines; and
- creation of critical new infrastructure between the CBD and Sunshine, allowing fast train services to Geelong and Ballarat and full metropolitan capacity to Wyndham Vale.

RFI President, John Hearsch said, "A potential partnership between the private sector and State and Commonwealth Governments and which adopts the right solution for this critically important project is thankfully now in sight based on the detail of today's AirRail Melbourne proposal. If adopted, the project will hopefully move quickly into implementation mode."

Enquiries, interviews and further comment:

- Dr Bill Russell (RFI Secretary): 0408 005 558

Rail Futures Inc. is an independent non-partisan group formed to advocate cost effective rail and intermodal solutions for public transport and freight problems based on sound commercial, economic, environmental and social reasoning.

Rail Futures members include experienced rail professionals, engineers and economists.

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