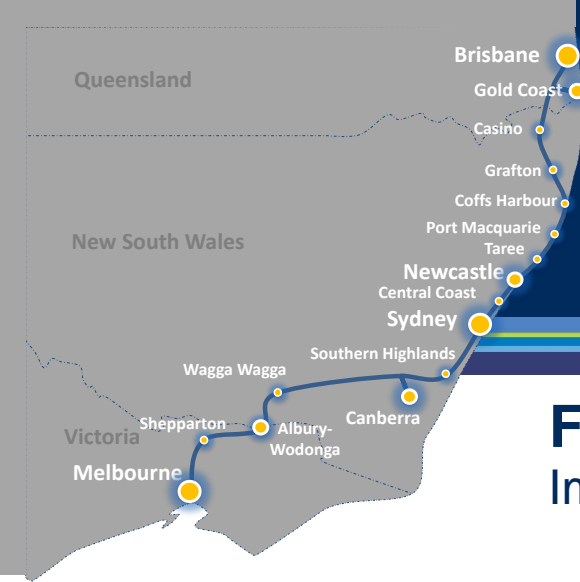


High Speed Rail



Fact sheet

Implementing high speed rail in Australia

The Australian Government has announced its commitment to construct high speed rail on the east coast of Australia—linking Sydney and Melbourne by 2035 as the first stage. A future high speed rail line will connect Sydney and Brisbane.

The high speed rail system

High speed rail will be built on a dedicated track, travelling at up to 350 kilometres per hour. Non-stop services between Sydney and Melbourne will take two hours and 44 minutes. During peak periods, up to five non-stop and five regional services will depart every hour in each direction.

Stations between Sydney and Melbourne are also proposed for the Southern Highlands, Canberra, Wagga Wagga, Albury Wodonga and Shepparton.

Funding

The Government will initially allocate \$52 million to begin detailed planning work for high speed rail. This funding will enable:

- finalisation of the high speed rail alignment and station locations in consultation with the governments of Victoria, New South Wales and the ACT;
- development of a detailed business case for high speed rail, prepared in consultation with Infrastructure Australia; and
- market testing to refine capital cost estimates and identify opportunities for private sector involvement.

The next steps

Introduce legislation to protect the high speed rail corridor

Legislation will be introduced to the Australian Parliament to protect the entire high speed rail corridor between Brisbane and Melbourne.

Action must be taken now to ensure that other developments are not allowed where the high speed rail line would be built. Unless the corridor is protected from development, there is a risk that high speed rail would suffer from a compromised route, higher costs or potentially become unviable.

Establish a High Speed Rail Authority to manage the project

Within six months a dedicated High Speed Rail Authority will be established to manage the high speed rail project. A CEO will be appointed to run the authority under the direction of an independent board.

Key dates

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| 2019 | Sydney enabling works start |
| 2022 | Main construction starts |
| 2030 | High speed rail connects Sydney and Canberra |
| 2035 | Sydney to Melbourne high speed rail operations begin |