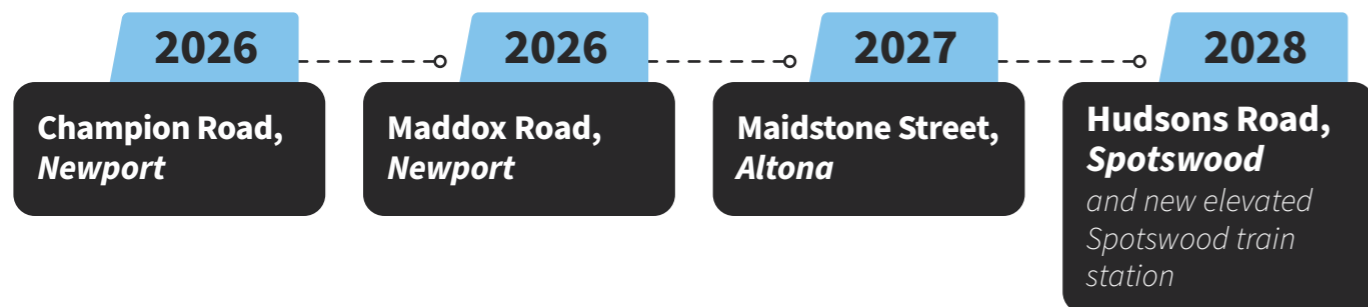


Timeline for level crossing removals

(Approx.)



We want more rail services and train stations for Hobsons Bay!

Council is also advocating to the Victorian Government to prioritise more rail services and train stations that meet the growing needs of our community.

Council has long advocated for the reinstatement of the Paisley station in Altona North.

Have your say about the closure of Champion Road by LXR

Write to:

The Hon. Danny Pearson MP, Minister for Transport Infrastructure
email: danny.pearson@parliament.vic.gov.au

The Hon. Sonya Kilkenny MP, Minister for Planning
email: sonya.kilkenny@parliament.vic.gov.au

The Hon. Jacinta Allan MP, Premier
email: jacinta.allan@parliament.vic.gov.au

Contact:

Level Crossing Removal Projects
phone: 1800 105 105
email: contact@levelcrossings.vic.gov.au

Pause the project and consider alternative options to the proposed closure of Champion Road in Newport!

The Victorian Government is planning to permanently close Champion Road in Newport when the level crossing is removed in 2026.



Background

The Victorian Government's Level Crossing Removal Project (LXR) has announced it will remove the level crossings at Maddox Road and Champion Road in Newport by 2026.

Works are due to start in 2025.

When the level crossings are removed, the LXR will permanently close Champion Road, removing car access at this point.

The LXR believes it is not possible to keep the road open at the Champion Road level crossing because there are gas and oil pipelines, and other essential services, buried near the level crossing and close to the Newport stabling yards.

If Champion Road was to close, traffic will be redirected and funnelled on to Maddox Road, which is already congested, as well as nearby Akuna Drive, which is being extended by the LXR.

Council opposes the proposed closure of Champion Road

Council welcomes the removal of level crossings in our community, however we are disappointed there has been limited consultation with Council or the community on the possible options to remove the level crossing before the decision to close Champion Road was announced by the Victorian State Government in October 2022.


Council has written to the Premier, Minister for Transport Infrastructure and the Treasurer seeking a delay to the project while alternative options are considered.




Closing Champion Road will disconnect the community and impact local businesses and the daily lives of Hobsons Bay residents as you travel around the community for work, education, shopping and medical needs.



Contact us

customerservice@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au
1300 179 944
NRS phone 133 677 and quote 1300 179 944
115 Civic Parade, Altona

 HOBSONS BAY LANGUAGE LINE
9932 1212

 hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au
 facebook.com/HobsonsBayCityCouncil
 instagram.com/hobsonsbaycc



Closing Champion Road = More congestion and local traffic

An independent traffic assessment commissioned by Council has found that when considering growth projections out to 2036, the closure of Champion Road could result in about an extra 4000 vehicles directed to Maddox Road each day.

The population in the Newport area is expected to grow by 25 per cent by 2036.

Based on the growing needs of our community, the traffic assessment carried out recommends Champion Road remains open.

Impacts to the community in the project area

Council is concerned about the extensive area of our community included in the LXP's project area boundary map.

At the May Council meeting, Council resolved to oppose any use of Quarry Reserve as a staging area or compound for the LXP works. Quarry Reserve is home to a local equestrian centre.

At the same meeting, Council resolved to oppose any loss of car parking on Ross Road due to the level crossing works. Ross Road is currently used as an overflow carpark for the Australian Islamic Centre in Newport. If this carpark is used by the LXP, visitors to the centre will have to park elsewhere in the community.

Council put forward a number of options to avoid closing Champion Road

Council has been working with members of our Level Crossing Community Interest Group and local community groups to develop alternative options to closing Champion Road.

Council has met with Mobil and Viva Energy, who advised that the gas and oil pipelines and other essential services in the vicinity of the level crossing can be relocated as long as it is safe and meets planning and legal requirements. Pipelines do not have to go underground and could go over the road like those on Douglas Parade in Newport.

The critical aviation gas line to Melbourne Airport, which runs across the Champion Road crossing, could be relocated based on discussions with pipeline operators.

Council recently received a presentation from LXP outlining the technical difficulties and expressing concerns regarding the viability of the options due to a range of factors including cost and proposed project timelines.

Council has a different view and would like to continue to explore options that are alternatives to closing Champion Road

Potential Option Road over rail

(Visual impression)



The proposed option includes a road bridge over the Champion Road level crossing.

- New roundabout installed (north-side)
- Possible changes to parking (south-side)

Benefits

- No property acquisition
- Can incorporate a separated pedestrian and cycling path
- Minimal impact on pipelines and utility services

Potential Option Rail over road

(Visual impression)



The proposed option includes a rail bridge over the Champion Road level crossing.

- Champion Road upgraded to include traffic island or roundabout (north-side)
- Possible changes to access and parking (south-side)

Benefits

- No property acquisition
- Can incorporate a separated pedestrian and cycling path
- Minimal impact on pipelines and utility services

A third option was also developed, through an extension of Challis Street under the rail overpass and looping around to the top end of Champion Road.

We communicated our work to LXP, and we recently received a presentation in response, with greater detail provided on the options work undertaken by LXP.

While we appreciate the recent engagement with LXP and understand our proposed options have the potential to involve greater cost and require more time, Council is still seeking this project to be paused so the merits of the proposed options can be further explored and the community can be given time to better understand the alternatives.

For more information on the potential options to closing Champion Road, scan QR code

