



**Minister for Public Transport
Minister for Roads**

Ref: PTV0050

Mr Michael Wyres
[REDACTED]

PO Box 2797
Melbourne
Victoria 3001
Telephone: (03) 9095 4330
Facsimile: (03) 9095 4483
www.vic.gov.au
DX 210410

Dear Mr Wyres

RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE

Thank you for your email of 8 March 2012 regarding the reliability of rail infrastructure at Newport. I apologise for the delay in responding.

Metro advises that on the morning of 8 March 2012 there was a power surge that affected points and signal equipment at Newport railway station. I regret the delay you experienced as a result of this.

Metro is currently delivering a project to increase the amount of train stabling sidings at Newport. Part of the project involves changing the junction between sidings stabling and the main line. Work on this project can affect the reliability of signalling equipment at Newport. Metro expects to complete the project by mid 2012.

Asset renewal and rail maintenance are essential to improving the reliability and punctuality of our rail system and ensuring its effective and efficient performance. To this end, the Coalition Government has committed \$900 million through a new *Maintaining Our Rail Network Fund* for rail asset renewal and maintenance, including \$100 million in additional funding administered by Public Transport Victoria (PTV), to increase maintenance on tracks, points, ballast and other rail network basics.

To address some of the delays that affect V/Line trains in the metropolitan network, the Coalition Government is proceeding with the Regional Rail Link (RRL) project. RRL is a major new rail line that will provide capacity for enough extra trains to carry thousands more passengers across the rail network in peak periods.

RRL will separate regional trains from metropolitan trains, giving Geelong, Bendigo and Ballarat trains their own dedicated track through the suburban system from Sunshine to Southern Cross. The project will deliver improved reliability for V/Line trains on the Geelong line.

If you require further information, please contact Amanda Crouch of PTV on (03) 9027 4923.

Yours sincerely

Hon Terry Mulder MP
Minister for Public Transport

24/4/2012

