

Media release

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Historic Maldon Railway Station to be restored to former glory

The Minister for Public Transport, Terry Mulder today announced \$697,000 in reconstruction works to be carried out by an experienced heritage restoration contractor and Castlemaine-based Vic. Restorations Building to rebuild the historic Maldon Railway Station.

“The Victorian Goldfields Railway is a major tourism link between Castlemaine and Maldon. It faithfully recreates a typical 1880s Victorian railway branch line and brings large tourism numbers into the townships of Castlemaine and Maldon,” Mr Mulder said.

“The State Government strongly supports the ongoing operation of the Victorian Goldfields Railway,” Mr Mulder said.

Work at the station is expected to start by the end of January and be completed by the end of June.

VicTrack’s General Manager, Capital Projects, Mr Ian Davidson said the project, will restore the site which was gutted by fire in late 2009.

“Victoria has a rich rail history. The Maldon Station is historically important to the state,” said Mr Davidson.

“The Maldon Station and Victorian Goldfields Railway trains are significant examples of the role that railways played in the development of the state.

“This project, which is being managed by VicTrack, will restore the historic Maldon Station to its former glory,” said Mr Davidson.

The Maldon station requires substantial repairs to most of the station building, including its roof, ceilings, kitchen and station master’s office.

“The Maldon station reconstruction works will include structural works, installation of new slate roofing, and repairs to windows and doors, interior works, plumbing and electrical works,” Mr Davidson said.

Mr Davidson said VicTrack had worked closely with key government and heritage partners to secure the site following the fire and assess the fire damage, then work to prepare accurate heritage plans and finalise a public tender and costs for the rebuild.

Mr Paul McDonald, President of the Victorian Goldfields Railway, welcomed the announcement of the appointment of a local contractor to restore the much-loved heritage station.

“While we have managed to keep the trains running since the fire, we gladly welcome news that works will start shortly to restore the Maldon Station building,” Mr McDonald said.

“Works to restore the much-loved heritage station will be welcomed by volunteers and tourist railway passengers alike.

"Maldon residents will also be thrilled at the announcement as they will have "their" station back the way it was before the fire; such is the interest of the local community.

“We are grateful for the assistance of the Mount Alexander Shire Council, Heritage Victoria, the State Government’s insurer and VicTrack to get the Maldon Station and our railway history back on track,” Mr McDonald said.

The 1888 heritage-listed station building is a significant part of the Victoria-era railway heritage built during the great railway building program during the 1880s to service a prominent mining centre.

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For more information contact

Jason Murray, VicTrack senior communication adviser, mobile: 0409 014 369

Paul McDonald, President, Victorian Goldfields Railway, mobile: 0419 116 954