

LOOP LINE UPGRADE COMMUNITY UPDATE

DECEMBER 2021



WELCOME TO OUR FIRST PROJECT UPDATE



Dear Resident,

Transport Heritage NSW are the operators of the NSW Rail Museum and the Picton - Mittagong Loop Line, currently used to operate heritage train experiences between Picton, Thirlmere and Buxton.

The NSW Government recently committed \$14.6 million to restore and reactivate the line from Picton through to Colo Vale. Doing so, will see the return of heritage trains along this 32-kilometre section of track for the first time in 30 years.

Transport Heritage NSW is committed to keeping you, our local residents, updated on the progress of the project. We will be progressively opening up channels to provide regular updates and provide opportunities to hear your thoughts and views, particularly as the project begins to ramp up in the New Year.

In this first update, you can read about the project's overview and timeline, learn about the activity you can expect to see in your local area, how to stay safe at level crossings, and also how you can connect with us to stay informed.

We intend to share updates with you in your mailbox like this over the course of the project, but you can find more information about the history, plans and economic outlook for the project, as well as sign up for email updates, by visiting www.thnsw.com.au/loop-line

From everyone at Transport Heritage NSW, we wish you a safe and happy holiday season.

We hope to see you at the NSW Rail Museum soon.

Andrew Moritz

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



WHAT IS THE LOOP LINE UPGRADE PROJECT?

Heritage trains will return to Colo Vale for the first time in over 30 years as part of a \$14.6 million investment in the Loop Line, an historic rail corridor stretching from Sydney's South West to the Southern Highlands.

The NSW Government funded project will contribute significantly to the local visitor economy and support the continued success of the NSW Rail Museum at Thirlmere.

The project is due to be completed by mid-2023 and will be delivered by Transport Heritage NSW.

PROJECT TIMELINE

- **From now:** works commence on upgrading the existing operational section between Picton and Buxton.
- **From early 2022:** works commence to reactivate the line between Buxton and Colo Vale.
- **By mid-2023:** works complete.

PROJECT GOALS

- Re-activate the rail line between Buxton and Colo Vale, a section that has been out of commission for over 30 years.
- Upgrade the existing track between Picton and Buxton, ensuring the safe, efficient and reliable operation of heritage trains and improving the connection with the main line at Picton.
- Create a unique range of heritage rail experiences which cannot be duplicated elsewhere in Australia.
- Enhance the financial sustainability of the region generating greater visitor numbers for the benefit of local businesses on a regular basis.
- Restore heritage station precincts at Buxton, Hill Top and Colo Vale, including with new or improved station buildings, platforms and community spaces (subject to community consultation).



- Existing section with track upgrades (13.6km)
- Not being reactivated at this time (8.8km)
- Reactivated section with track upgrades (18.7km)
- Existing ARTC train line
- NSW TrainLink station



WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW?

You may have seen some preliminary works already in action. Work has been done to clear overgrown vegetation along the track, assess bridges and overpasses, and upgrade some of the operational track sections. This work is anticipated to continue for the next three months and to have minimal impact on local communities.

◀ Recycled rail from the Country Regional Network was recently installed between Couridjah and Buxton, enabling a smoother ride for our rollingstock and customers.



▲ Non-destructive bridge testing and detailed assessment occurred at Chalker Parade and Ligar St, Hilltop.



▲ Initial works to clear overgrown vegetation fouling the track commenced at Buxton and worked along the track to Colo Vale.

◀ Specialist track maintenance machinery has been out on track between Picton and Buxton conducting early upgrade works.



SPECIAL OFFER FOR LOCAL RESIDENTS

20% OFF NSW RAIL MUSEUM + HERITAGE TRAIN RIDE

As a local resident we'd like to extend a warm welcome to you and your family to visit the NSW Rail Museum, including a heritage train ride.

For a limited time only, enjoy 20% off 'museum + train ride' fares when booking online using the following discount code: **LoopLine2022**

Limited to one person per fare type. Offer available until Sunday 27 February 2022.

The NSW Rail Museum is open every day and during the school holiday is operating heritage train services at regular times. Visit www.nswrailmuseum.com.au for more detail and to book tickets.



STOP, LOOK, PROCEED

As we progress the Loop Line Upgrade Project, please ensure you pay attention when approaching level crossings. A proper look could save a life.



KEEP UP-TO-DATE

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www.thnsw.com.au/loop-line

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