

## **FASTER RAIL PROSPECTUS – PROPOSAL FACT SHEET**

### **CONSOLIDATED LAND AND RAIL AUSTRALIA (CLARA) – MELBOURNE TO GREATER SHEPPARTON**

Consolidated Land and Rail Australia (CLARA), a private consortium, will explore improvements to the rail connections between Melbourne to Greater Shepparton through the development of a business case. The CLARA proposal provides an innovative and revolutionary model for building a High Speed Rail link between Melbourne and Greater Shepparton that does not involve direct costs to government or tax payers.

The Melbourne to Greater Shepparton business case will investigate the development of two new sustainable SMART cities with connections to High Speed Rail along a new dedicated corridor.

CLARA define their cities as “new cities where data is open, energy is renewable, water is valued, homes are affordable and people can live within 10 minutes of all they need; cities where world class healthcare meets high tech education; where new and existing businesses will converge to create more vibrant regional economies; cities built to unlock all human potential; cities made possible by High Speed Rail that can place citizens in our capitals in less time than a morning commute.”

The opportunity created by the development of these two SMART cities would fund the infrastructure, including the faster rail line, needed to support them through land value uplift.

CLARA has indicated that travel times over the full length of the line could be reduced from approximately 3 hours to 32 minutes.

#### **Benefits**

-  Improve travel time reliability (from 3 hours to 32 minutes) and increase capacity.
-  Increase comfort and amenity at stations and on trains.
-  Maximise safety for the travelling public on all modes.
-  Minimise the impact of transport on the environment.
-  Improve connectivity to the surrounding region through integrating public transport services with the improved rail services.
-  Unlock housing supply and job growth between Melbourne and Shepparton and the proposed new SMART cities.

#### **Estimated business case cost**

The Australian Government has committed \$20 million in funding to develop faster rail business cases. The CLARA proposal is one of three successful proposals that will receive a funding contribution from the Australian Government.

The Australian Government funding contribution to the CLARA proposal is up to \$8,000,000. However, it should be noted that financial support for the development of a business case does not indicate Australian Government support for delivery of a project.

#### **Timeframes**

Business cases are expected to be delivered to the Australian Government by mid-2019. The business case will need to demonstrate faster rail travel times through new, or upgrades to the existing rail infrastructure.

Completed business cases will be considered in the context of the Government’s wider infrastructure priorities and future Budgets and any future funding commitments will take into account state and private sector financial support.