

Media Release

Andrew Broad

Member for Mallee

Monday 9 October 2017

BROAD BACKS BASIN RAIL PLAN

Federal Member for Mallee Andrew Broad says he's pleased to see the current works being carried out on the Murray Basin Rail Line under the Murray Basin Rail Plan. Mr Broad recently spent time checking out the rail line on a trip through the electorate, he says the plan to switch from broad to standard gauges is in full swing.

"Right across the line from Cope Cope to Red Cliffs work is happening to switch the rail line from broad gauge to standard gauge," he said.

"Standard gauge is a narrower track and used right throughout Australia which is going to keep us on the map as competitive freight operators."

In 2014 Mr Broad took a trip on the Mildura line to see for himself the state of the line.

"It was not in a good way and absolutely nowhere near the standard required for passenger rail," he said.

Since then the Federal Government has contributed \$240 million of the \$440 million project to see the Murray Basin Rail Line upgraded and standardised under the Murray Basin Rail Plan; not only for freight trains but possibly passenger rail down the line.

"The investment into the line will greatly improve freight movement of produce in and out of the Mallee, and ensure we keep on contributing our \$5.3 billion to the Australian economy."

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“These major upgrades are also vital if we want to see passenger rail along this line again.”

Construction under the Murray Basin Rail Plan is expected to be completed in 2018.

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