

Patronage growth

Melbourne is booming and as a result more and more people are riding our trains, trams and buses.

- In 2007 alone, 86.7 million passenger trips were recorded on Melbourne's buses, 156.4 million on Melbourne's trams and 189.4 million on trains
- Buses are becoming increasingly popular as more services and extended operating hours are added to local bus routes. Freeway bus routes have seen a 16.6% increase in patronage growth, during peak times, since 2005
- Melbourne trains are carrying more people today than at any other time in their history. The 189.4 million passenger trips recorded in 2007 outstrips the last recorded high of 182.6 million in 1949/50, when the average trip was over a much shorter distance
- Patronage on Melbourne's train network is now at levels that were not anticipated until 2016

Public Transport patronage growth is being driven by three key factors.

- Accelerated population growth. Melbourne's population is growing by nearly 1500 people each week – more than any other Australian capital city
- A successful central city. On an average business day Melbourne's CBD now caters for an estimated 730,000 visitors
- Petrol prices. As petrol prices rise more people consider public transport

Some parts of Melbourne are growing faster than others.

- The suburbs within Melton, Wyndham, Hume, Whittlesea and Casey-Cardinia shires are growing particularly quickly
- As these suburbs change, with greater residential growth and commercial development opportunities, public transport links are experiencing sharp increases in patronage
- While rail patronage has grown by 23% across the network in the past two financial years the Pakenham and Cranbourne lines have grown by 26%, Werribee by 27% and Sydenham by 31%

