



Gabrielle Williams MP

Minister for Transport Infrastructure
Minister for Public and Active Transport

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Ref: CMIN-1-25-6732

Ms Helen Gwilliam
Avenel Active Rail and Pedestrian Safety Working Group
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Dear Ms Gwilliam,

Thank you for your email to the Treasurer, Hon Jaclyn Symes MP, regarding the Avenel Railway Carpark. As the matter falls within my portfolio responsibilities, it has been referred to me for response.

I appreciate your continued advocacy for improved safety and accessibility for local residents and visitors in light of the tragic accident that occurred earlier this year.

The Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) continues to work closely with Strathbogie Shire Council, VicTrack, and V/Line to enhance pedestrian safety and connectivity between the Avenel railway station and surrounding areas. While VicTrack is responsible for the management of railway land and DTP oversees the adjoining arterial road, all parties recognise the importance of providing a safe and accessible pedestrian link along Bank Street. DTP has facilitated ongoing discussions between the relevant agencies to identify options for improving footpath continuity and ensuring that any future works align with safety and accessibility standards.

I am advised by DTP that Strathbogie Shire Council has identified the Avenel rail precinct upgrade as a key priority within its 2025–29 Advocacy Strategy. DTP will continue to provide technical advice and explore potential funding pathways in consultation with VicTrack, ARTC, and Council to support improvements that enhance safety and accessibility within the precinct.

Following the April 2025 incident, several safety improvements were implemented at the Avenel pedestrian rail crossing. These included upgraded signage, refreshed line marking, surface treatments such as painting the concrete, and the installation of yellow tactiles to guide pedestrians to wait further from the train path. Vegetation management has also been undertaken to improve sightlines for both pedestrians and train drivers. DTP acknowledges ongoing community concerns that additional measures may be needed and continues to work with VicTrack and V/Line to assess whether further treatments are appropriate.

DTP remains committed to improving pedestrian safety across the transport network and will continue to engage with Council and the community to identify further opportunities for enhancement.

I hope this information is of use. Thank you again for raising this matter.

Sincerely,



Gabrielle Williams MP
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Minister for Public and Active Transport

17/11/2025

cc Hon Jaclyn Symes MP, Treasurer of Victoria