



Media release

The Hon Terry Mulder MP
Minister for Public Transport
Minister for Roads

Embargoed until 12am Saturday 1 March

Friday 28 February 2014

Free V/Line travel offer for Morwell respite

- Free V/Line travel available from Saturday 1 March 2014 for Morwell residents
- 18 return train services between Morwell and Melbourne each weekday
- Return train travel to Morwell will also be free of charge

Morwell residents seeking respite from the smoky conditions caused by the Hazelwood open-cut fire are being offered free train travel with V/Line, Minister for Public Transport Terry Mulder announced today.

V/Line and Public Transport Victoria have teamed up to offer the complimentary train trips as a goodwill gesture. The free travel will be available from tomorrow, Saturday 1 March 2014.

"Morwell residents will be able to travel free with V/Line to Melbourne or beyond if they would like a break from the smoke," Mr Mulder said.

"V/Line has come up with the idea and the Victorian Coalition Government is helping to cover the costs."

"Morwell residents wishing to take up the free travel offer with V/Line can get a free ticket from the friendly staff at Morwell Station."

"With 18 return train services between Morwell and Melbourne each weekday, there are plenty of options for Morwell people to take a trip to town for lunch, a movie or a spot of shopping."

"Return train travel to Morwell will also be free of charge."

"People can choose when they would like to return, so if they'd like to stay overnight or longer, they can simply nominate their return date so that the V/Line staff can put the return trip on their ticket."

"We encourage people to consider travelling off peak if they can, so that busy morning and afternoon commuter services don't become overcrowded. We ask people to be patient and we hope they'll bear with us if they have to stand for part of the journey," Mr Mulder said.

V/Line Chief Executive Theo Taifalos said V/Line has a very loyal customer base in the Latrobe Valley.

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“This is a chance for us to offer a short break to the Morwell community at this challenging time,” Mr Taifalos said.

“V/Line is very much a part of community life in regional Victoria and we are happy to be able to lend a helping hand.”

Local town buses will also provide free travel to those going to the station. When using Morwell town buses customers are advised there is no need to touch on and off during the free travel period.

For timetable information please visit ptv.vic.gov.au or call 1800 800 007 (6am-midnight).

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