

Trained for the big win

By Casey Neill

Dandenong's Bombardier Transportation Australia took home a major manufacturing award.

The train and tram manufacturer won the Transport Technologies nod at the annual Victorian Manufacturing Hall of Fame Awards, held at the Crown Palladium on Monday 28 May.

"The greatly anticipated Hall of Fame Awards are a highlight for the manufacturing industry every year, and Bombardier is extremely honoured to have received such a prestigious award," managing director Andrew Dudgeon said.

"This recognition reflects our commitment to delivering the mobility solutions that Victoria needs and can be proud of, both today and into the future."

Mr Dudgeon said the awards confirmed the strength of manufacturing in Australia.

"This respected award is a testament to the local manufacturing of our trains and trams which transform mobility across Victoria's rail ecosystem," he said.

Bombardier designs, engineers, manufactures and maintains Melbourne's Flexity E-Class trams and VLocity trains for the regional rail network.

Both projects have generated more than 500 direct jobs and supported more in the local supply-chain.

Last December Bombardier, as part of the Rail Systems Alliance (RSA), won the contract to install a high-capacity rail control solution for the \$11 billion Metro Tunnel Project.



Industry and Employment Minister Ben Carroll presents the Transport Technologies award to Bombardier managing director Andrew Dudgeon.

In April, the Journal revealed that Bombardier signed a \$77 million maintenance contract for the controls.

The 10-year deal includes an option for five extra years.

The Hall of Fame Awards were established in 2001 to recognise individuals and companies that embrace new technologies and manufacturing techniques, are export-focused and excel in business innovation.

Victoria's manufacturing industry contributes \$27.7 billion to the state's economy, with more than 13,000 businesses employing more than 286,000 people.



Matthew Guy, second left, said local content was a priority for a future fleet of high-speed trains.
Picture: CAM LUCADOU-WELLS

Local train jobs pledge

By Cam Lucadou-Wells

Bombardier Transportation and its 400-strong workforce are in line to build a proposed fleet of high-speed regional-network trains, says Opposition leader Matthew Guy.

Visiting the Dandenong factory on 4 October, Mr Guy committed to the fleet being made in Victoria and Australia with a 70 per cent local content benchmark.

He said Bombardier was a "perfect example of a product that has been produced in Australia to Australian conditions".

"We can make the next generation of trains in Dandenong, in Victoria."

As part of a \$19 billion Coalition plan, the double-decker trains would achieve speeds of up to 200km/h on upgraded regional tracks, halving speeds to Melbourne on the Gippsland line by 2022.

It would facilitate the Opposition's decentralisation policy to ease Melbourne's population boom by enticing people into regional cities.

"The South-East growth corridor has got a

population that is bursting," Mr Guy said.

"Casey-Cardinia as a combined region (is) growing by a similar amount as the metropolitan area of Adelaide."

The best way to take the "population pressure" off Casey-Cardinia was to provide a faster service between Melbourne and Warragul, Traralgon and the La Trobe Valley, he said.

"We've got to find ways other than jamming people in the current urban growth boundary. And the best way to do that is to decentralise."

Mr Guy said he was "very confident" the Gippsland line could be upgrading within the \$19 billion costing.

Bombardier managing director Paul Brown said the company had existing technology running in Europe to deliver the high-speed, double-decker fleet.

He welcomed further "long-term orders" to sustain the factory's workforce.

"We'll be confident to get those deliveries (by 2022) depending on what the specifications and requirements are."

VLocity trains now on order until 2021

The first of the new Dandenong-built VLocity carriages passed inspection from Premier Daniel Andrews prior to their roll-out on regional rail services in November.

The 39 VLocity carriages are being built at the Bombardier Transportation factory in Dandenong South.

They include more seats and accessibility improvements, as well as mobile signal boosters to improve phone reception for passengers on the Bendigo, Geelong, Ballarat, Gippsland and Seymour lines.

The company is also commissioned to build larger and modernised nine-car V-Line trains as part of the VLocity Refresh Project.

Works on the new trains are expected to start mid-2019, and finish in 2021.

The project has supported 45 local jobs on top of 500 created to build 87 new trains ordered by the State Government.

Regional passengers are set to see the first of the new VLocity carriages from next month and a refresh of Victoria's regional train fleet paving the way for bigger trains, thanks to the Andrews Labor Government.

Visiting the factory on 15 October, Premier Daniel Andrews said the project created Victorian jobs as well as bigger, better trains for more passengers.

"We said we'd deliver the road and rail projects Victoria needs, and we are.

"Whether it's delivering brand new regional trains or upgrading every regional passenger line, we're getting people where they need to go, sooner."



Premier Daniel Andrews in the new VLocity carriage. 186321
Picture: STEWART CHAMBERS

Daniel Andrews, Public Transport Minister Jacinta Allan and Bombardier's Paul Brown. 186321
Picture: STEWART CHAMBERS

VLocity trains are on track

By Danielle Kutchel

A new batch of VLocity trains has been ordered to meet growing demand for regional rail services - and they'll be built right here in Dandenong.

Bombardier will build the next six VLocity trains, supporting 100 direct jobs and hundreds more throughout the supply chain. The new trains are part of the \$340 million in funding from the Victorian Budget 2019/20 to purchase up to 18 new three-carriage trains.

The new VLocity trains will include the latest technology including accessibility improvements and mobile phone signal boosting technology.

Bombardier is expected to begin building the new trains next year, before they are delivered to the network in 2021.



Bombardier in Dandenong will build the next six VLine VLocity trains.