

By-election: Roy Reekie on rail



ROY REEKIE is running as an independent in the by-election for South West Coast. Here he writes about improving the rail service:

[quote]

I what's been a confusing by-election so far, we have our first certainty. The South West will get its extra daily train service.

Last Wednesday, Opposition Leader Matthew Guy stood at Warrnambool station, flanked by a bank of dark suits, to announce that 'a Coalition government' would introduce a fourth daily service from Warrnambool; that is, *IF* the Coalition is elected back into government in 2018 or some election beyond. That's not much of a guarantee. There are too many ifs and too much waiting.

I can go one better.

If I'm elected as your independent member for South West Coast on 31 October, I guarantee that we will have an additional daily train service out of Warrnambool by this time next year.

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I will also work with the community and the government to reform our train service to improve comfort, reliability, frequency and guaranteed, no excuses inclusion of people with mobility issues. I will make the train service safer and more convenient for older people and young families. I will work on the government and the opposition to achieve a long term infrastructure investment plan for track upgrades and duplications so that our future rail services are faster, more comfortable and modern. This is what's required; not just a promise of an additional train here and there.

How will I do this? On Wednesday next week , I will announce my comprehensive rail policy at Warrnambool station just prior to the lunchtime train. Then, you need to vote on October 31 to make South West Coast marginal. If I'm elected, I'll take it from there and deliver what we need.

I welcome the Coalition's commitment to an extra train service. I don't think it goes far enough or will happen soon enough, but I welcome it. And I say this to Mr Guy and Mr Walsh: if I'm elected, I expect your full support on the floor of the Parliament on this issue.

Roy Reekie

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