

A Concept Plan for Canberra to Eden Railway was written in June 2018 by engineer Edwin Michell. He wrote it for Cooma and Monaro Progress Association. It was straightforward engineering to plan a connection from Canberra Airport to the existing disused railway alongside Hume ACT; and to plan improvements to the existing disused line from Hume to Bombala. From the Monaro near Bombala, to Eden, Michell investigated three routes for the railway to descend to the coast. The chosen route, by far the most favourable, followed the valleys of Wog Wog Creek and the Towamba River, passing the township of Towamba. This route is close to the route found by surveyor Scrivener in 1905. Michell engineered the alignment by balancing various factors: economic, political, social, and environmental. The design speeds resulting were 160 kilometres per hour for tilting passenger trains and, for freight trains on the same line: 115 kilometres per hour maximum, slowing to 40 kilometres per hour for fully laden trains on the steeper uphill gradients.

By August 2018, with the aid of a grant from the Snowy Monaro Regional Council to the Association, Michell had preliminarily estimated the construction cost of the railway as 2.54 billion dollars allowing for a moderate level of risks, and 2.95 billion dollars allowing for a high level of risks. The proposed period of construction was five years from 2022 to 2026.

The New South Wales Government announced on 22 August 2018 a commitment of one million dollars towards a feasibility study into a freight and passenger rail line between Canberra and the Port of Eden. The announcement was delivered at Cooma railway station by the Premier, supported by the Deputy Premier and the Transport Minister.

The Government's country railway agent closed competitive tenders on the promised feasibility study on 27 February 2019. On 14 May 2019, representatives of the Cooma and Monaro Progress Association met visitors at their request on the basis that they represented the winning tenderer for the feasibility study.

Effects of the improved and new faster railway between Canberra and Eden will be:

- 1 **to take sea freight between the inland and one of the finest harbours in Australia, relieving congestion in and approaching other ports**
 - 2 **to promote more tourism and business at the coast, in Canberra, and in areas between**
 - 3 **to attract population to the Monaro by reducing commute times to Canberra**
 - 4 **to lessen the reliance on road transport**
 - 5 **to more economically transport freight with less stress on the environment.**
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