



# LEVEL CROSSING REMOVAL PROJECT

Fitzgerald Road looking north. Artist's impression. Subject to change.

# LEVEL CROSSING REMOVAL UPDATE

FITZGERALD ROAD  
ARDEER

ISSUE #2 – FEBRUARY 2021

## All set for a busy start to 2021

We are getting rid of the dangerous and congested level crossing at Fitzgerald Road by building a road bridge. The project has been fast tracked for completion by 2023.

Over the coming weeks, we'll continue with site establishment and relocating utility services. This will pave the way for major construction from mid 2021, when we'll start building the road bridge over the rail line.

The boom gates in Ardeer can be down for around 45 per cent of the morning peak, when up to 37 trains go through the crossing. There has been one serious collision since 2005, and 18 near-misses since 2012.

The new overpass will provide reduced travel times, better local connections and easier access to services.

An alliance of Fulton Hogan, Metro Trains Melbourne and the Level Crossing Removal Project has been awarded the \$234 million contract to remove the level crossings at Fitzgerald Road and Robinsons Road in Deer Park.

### Why the Fitzgerald Road level crossing needs to go



Improved safety for pedestrians and road users



A more reliable road network



Stimulates economic growth by creating hundreds of jobs



Better connections and travel times



Opportunities for future transport upgrades



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# ABOUT US

The Level Crossing Removal Project was established by the Victorian Government to oversee one of the largest rail infrastructure projects in the state's history.

We are part of the Major Transport Infrastructure Authority and our projects fall under Victoria's Big Build.

Central to the project is the elimination of 75 level crossings across metropolitan Melbourne by 2025, in addition to other rail network upgrades such as new train stations, track duplication and train stabling yards.

## Early works

Site establishment is the first phase of construction, ensuring a safe and efficient work environment for our team and the local community.

Recently, you may have noticed workers moving around the local area to:

- set up a temporary site compound, including offices and storage areas, at 274 Forrest Street, Ardeer
- put in place temporary traffic changes
- start early works, such as relocating utility services
- begin tree and vegetation removal in the rail corridor and at 274 Forrest Street.

Works will continue to increase around Fitzgerald Road from this month, including some out of hours work and disruptions to late night and weekend train services.

We'll notify nearby residents and businesses ahead of any planned works. For those who travel through the area, you can view the latest updates at [levelcrossings.vic.gov.au/disruptions](https://levelcrossings.vic.gov.au/disruptions)

## Why the road overpass is the best solution for Fitzgerald Road



Avoids impacting on the Western Ring Road, and the need for major reinforcement works on the Tilburn Road Bridge



Up to 12 months faster to build, with significantly less disruption to drivers and passengers on the Geelong and Ballarat lines



Allows for future upgrades to the Geelong and Ballarat lines



Requires fewer underground services to be relocated



Impacts less on nearby properties during construction



*New shared use paths on Forrest Street, looking west. Artist's impression. Subject to change.*

## What you told us

In mid 2020, the community of Ardeer and Sunshine West provided us with feedback on the designs for the new overpass.

Below are some of the most frequently shared comments and how we have responded.



### Minimise environmental impacts

The construction footprint has been reduced and modified to protect environmentally sensitive areas, including nationally significant grasslands north of Forrest Street.



### Improve walking and cycling connections

The new 800-metre shared use path will provide a safe and well-lit route across the rail line, with links to the existing walking and cycling network, including the Western Ring Road Trail.



### Plan for future rail upgrades

The design of the new overpass has been future-proofed to allow for extra tracks and the proposed electrification of the line.



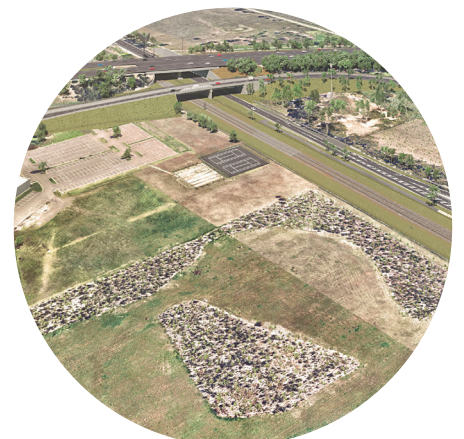
### Plant more native trees and shrubs

More than 200 trees and 150,000 shrubs and grasses will be planted as part of the project, with a focus on species indigenous to the area.



### Protect open space

The area between the new road and Kororoit Creek will be retained as green space, with improved access from the new shared use path, while Nancy Street Reserve will not be impacted by the design.



*Artist's impression. Subject to change.*

# Upcoming disruptions

## Road

- In **February 2021** the left turn lane from Forrest Street to Fitzgerald Road will be closed. Vehicles can detour via the westbound lane on Forrest Street to turn left onto Fitzgerald Road.
- Traffic management will be in place on Forrest Street and Fitzgerald Road to direct you through the area.

## Pedestrian

- From **mid February** pedestrian detours will be in place at times along Forrest Street and Fitzgerald Road.
- Traffic management will be in place to assist pedestrians and cyclists to safely move through the area.

## Rail

- Buses will replace trains on sections of the Geelong and Ballarat lines from **Saturday 27 February** to first service **Monday 1 March**.







## Stay connected to the project

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## Project timeline

-  **Late 2020**
  - Contract awarded
-  **Early-mid 2021**
  - Early works begin
  - Design finalised
  - Construction begins on new overpass
-  **2022**
  - Major construction completed
  - Remove level crossing
  - Landscaping works get underway
-  **2023**
  - Project completed

*\* Please note that the timeline above is subject to change.*

*The new shared use path links up to the existing Western Ring Road Trail. Artist's impression. Subject to change.*



## CONTACT US

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