



PAKENHAM ROADS UPGRADE – STAGE 1

APRIL 2023

We're upgrading Racecourse Road, McGregor Road and the Princes Freeway in Pakenham, relieving bottlenecks, improving traffic flow and making your journeys safer and more reliable.

Works on the upgrade are now well underway. In the last couple of months, we've:

- installed safety barriers along the Princes Freeway and Healesville-Koo Wee Rup Road to create a safe working environment for our crews
- trucked in recycled dirt, rock and clay to build the new ramps at McGregor Road and bridge embankments at Healesville-Koo Wee Rup Road
- completed works to stabilise the soil around McGregor and Healesville-Koo Wee Rup roads in preparation for construction
- begun earthworks along the Princes Freeway to create the space to build the extra inbound lane between McGregor and Healesville-Koo Wee Rup roads



- finished setting up our site compound on the corner of McGregor Road and the Princes Freeway.

Image above: We've been completing earthworks around the clock on the Pakenham Roads Upgrade since late February.



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UPCOMING WORKS

Over the coming months, our works will include:

- completing earthworks on the Healesville-Koo Wee Rup Road bridge embankment
- installing safety barriers on the Princes Freeway to begin building the central pier for the new Healesville-Koo Wee Rup Road bridge
- earthworks along the Princes Freeway to get the area ready to build the new extra inbound lane
- installing drainage pipes on Healesville-Koo Wee Rup Road north of the freeway

- stripping topsoil and placing crushed rock along Healesville-Koo Wee Rup Road north of the freeway to prepare for the construction of the additional lanes
- upgrading drainage pipes at Healesville-Koo Wee Rup Road south of the freeway

Image above: We sourced recycled dirt, rocks and clay from another Victoria's Big Build project site to build the new bridge embankment and freeway ramps.

Your Pakenham one stop shop

We're working closely with other projects in the area, including the Pakenham Level Crossing Removal Project and the Healesville-Koo Wee Rup Road Upgrade, to coordinate project works.

Visit bigbuild.vic.gov.au/pakenham to find out more about how we're improving Pakenham. You can also visit bigbuild.vic.gov.au/pakenhamdisruptions to stay up to date on all the latest traffic disruptions in the area.

Bridge building continues

Since late February we've been trucking in dirt, rock and clay to build up the supports for the new bridge over the Princes Freeway on either side of Healesville-Koo Wee Rup Road. Once we've finished, we'll leave the soil to settle for three months before further works take place in that area.

Allowing the soil to settle helps the ground naturally compact, providing a more stable foundation for the bridge. While the soil is settling, we'll begin the next step of construction, building a pier in the freeway median to support the centre of the bridge.

To protect our work crews and allow them to safely set up barriers around the location for the new pier, we'll close the Princes Freeway between the freeway ramps at Healesville-Koo Wee Rup Road from **Sunday 30 April to Sunday 14 May, between 7pm to 5am each night**. Detours will be in place via the Healesville-Koo Wee Rup Road freeway ramps.

Once the barriers are in place, crews will start preparing the area for piling works, where large pillars called piles will be installed deep in the ground to provide a stable foundation for the pier.

Stage 2 & 3 community consultation is now complete

Over the last month, we've sought community feedback on the designs for Stages 2 and 3 of the Pakenham Roads Upgrade.

Between 6 March and 2 April, almost 10,000 people visited the Engage Victoria website. More than 260 people had their say on the project designs while over 150 people visited us at our community popups. Thank you to everyone who provided feedback.

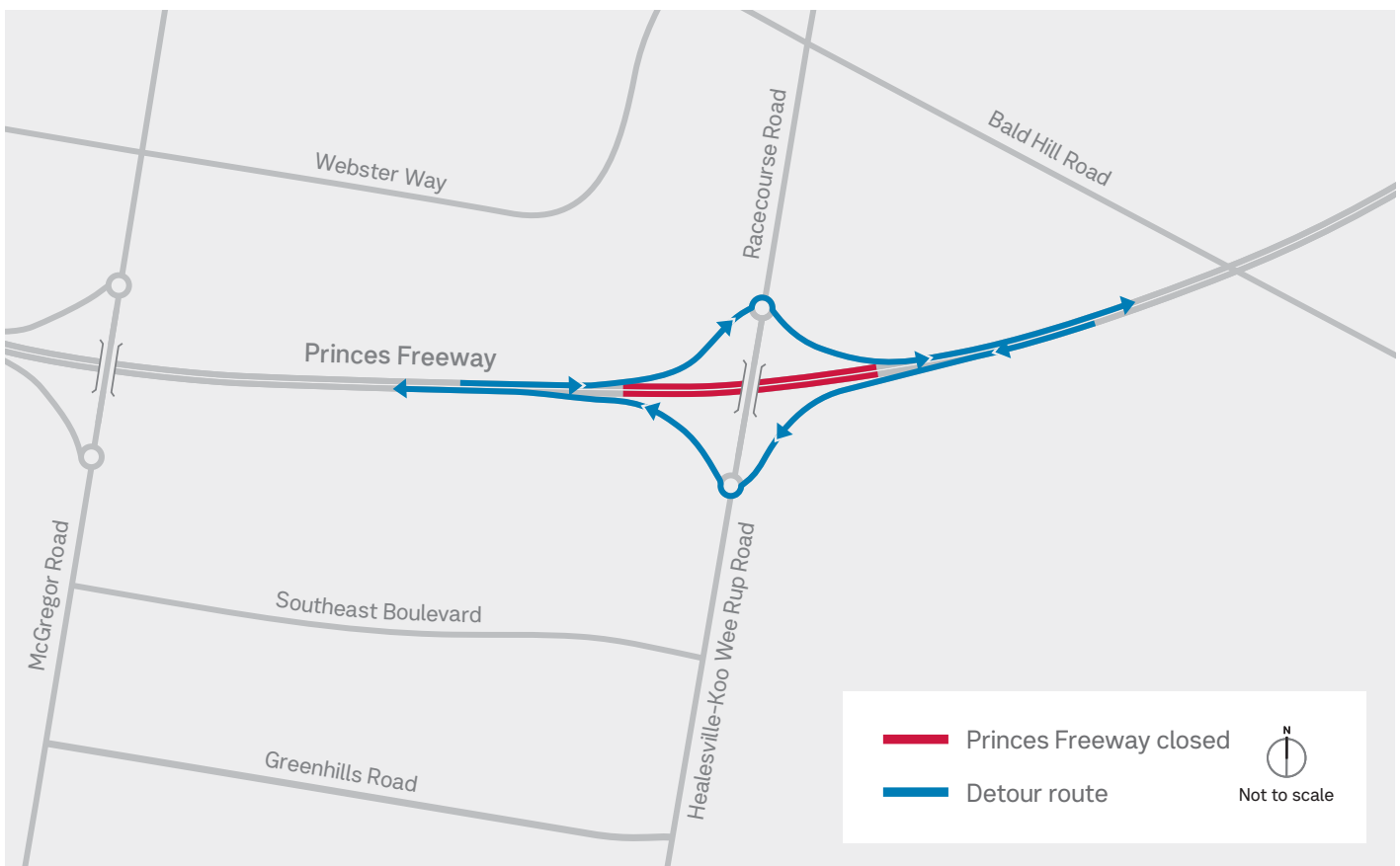
- 83% of respondents were supportive of the upgrades
- 89% had concerns while travelling through the area, mostly with **traffic flow and congestion**
- only 12% of walking and cycling path users said the current paths are good or very good, with no one rating them as excellent.

There were calls for the project to plant more trees and shrubs, install directional signage on walking and cycling paths, as well as signs celebrating local history, plants and wildlife.

We also heard feedback about how we should manage building the project:

- coordinating with other transport projects in Pakenham to make sure our works don't overlap
- finishing the upgrade as fast as possible to improve traffic conditions in Pakenham
- 89% of respondents said they preferred high impact, short term disruptions over lengthy low impact disruptions.

Read the full consultation report online at engage.vic.gov.au/pakenham-roads-upgrade.





Building roads and opportunities in the community

We've finished setting up our site compound on the corner of McGregor Road and the Princes Freeway. The compound will be homebase for our project team and work crews while we build the upgrade.

One of the businesses we worked with to build the site compound was Wamarra, an Aboriginal owned and operated business. Wamarra provides meaningful long-term economic independence and career opportunities for Aboriginal people and their communities.

Eight Wamarra staff worked to build the compound's walkway awnings. Working with Wamarra creates an opportunity to give back to and support Aboriginal communities – including the Bunurong/Boon Wurrung and Wurundjeri people, the traditional custodians of the land where our works are located.

Wamarra will also operate our water carts on site throughout the project, helping to keep construction dust to a minimum.

Wamarra is derived from a Wiradjuri word meaning 'to build' and reflects both the business's industry and the way it builds meaningful opportunities for Aboriginal people.

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