



Work on the Bulleen Road diversion was completed in May

Major works start on the Eastern Freeway

Construction Update
August 2024

BIG BUILD EASTERN FREEWAY

We're upgrading the Eastern Freeway with new express lanes, new traffic management technology, Melbourne's first express busway and a seamless connection to North East Link.

Works to establish construction zones between Burke and Tram roads is progressing. Over the coming months we'll continue site investigations, relocate utilities and establish major worksites.

Setting up these work areas with fencing and signage protects drivers, cyclists and pedestrians from construction machinery – it also creates a safe environment for our workers to get on with building this massive job.

Establishment works will continue for the rest of the year, with increased activity around Bulleen Road and Doncaster Road as works ramp up to build the new interchanges. On the Eastern Freeway we're removing the centre median so traffic can be moved onto new lanes by early next year.

Bulleen interchange traffic successfully diverted

Crews worked around the clock at the end of May to upgrade two intersections and connect the new section of road to Thompsons Road and Bulleen Road near the Carey Bulleen Sports Complex.

The Bulleen Road diversion has created space for us to start works to build a new interchange at Bulleen, connecting an upgraded Eastern Freeway to the 6.5 kilometre North East Link tunnels.

With traffic now using the diverted road, our team completed major earthworks to remove the old Bulleen Road and have now begun building the foundations for the permanent Bulleen Road. The diversion will remain in place until late 2025.

A smarter, faster Eastern Freeway



11 minute

faster trips along the Eastern Freeway



6

new express lanes



18

traffic lights skipped to the airport



Busway

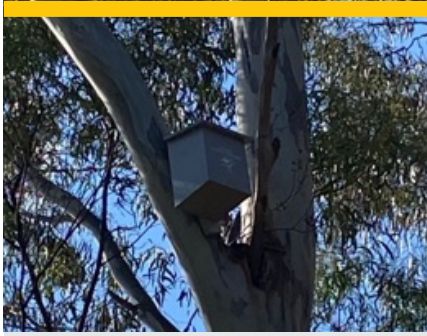
with park and rides at Bulleen and Doncaster



10km

walking and cycling paths

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bigbuild.vic.gov.au/roads-subscribe



New homes for furry residents

We've installed twenty nesting boxes along Kosciusko Road, Balwyn North, for possums displaced by tree removal activities in our Koonung Creek Reserve worksite.

Additional nesting boxes have been installed in and around the Valda Wetlands area. These homes provide possums safe, alternative nesting places in areas familiar to them.



Ready, set, grow!

We're giving away up to 1,000 native trees to help locals green their gardens as we upgrade the Eastern Freeway.

We've partnered with Yarra View Bushland Nursery, Australia's largest social enterprise nursery, to grow and deliver native trees for local gardens as part of our Backyard Tree Planting program.

This program is on top of work already underway to plant at least two trees for every one removed.

More than 10,000 trees will be planted as we build the first stage of the Eastern Freeway Upgrades from Burke Road to Tram Road. It's all part of delivering one of the biggest tree planting programs for a major road project in Victoria.

Email us at contact@bigbuild.vic.gov.au to receive up to three free native trees. Offer closes 31 August 2024 or until stocks run out.



Artist's impression of the new Bulleen Interchange, connecting to the North East Link Tunnels

Flyovers, busway and bridge widening begins in Bulleen

In Bulleen we're starting works to build the new elevated roads for the entrance of the North East Link tunnels. Works are also underway to build the first sections of the Eastern Busway near Bulleen Road, as well as new walking and cycling connections.

Flyover bridges

We're building three flyover bridges in Bulleen starting with the foundations for the southbound flyover that will connect into the Eastern Freeway. In September, we'll start piling inside our work zone north of Thompsons Road.

Bulleen Road bridge

We've removed traffic islands along Bulleen Road and the bridge to prepare for shifting traffic to the west. In September, we'll begin piling works for the new bridge foundations in the freeway centre median. A new separated pedestrian bridge will also be built alongside the widened Bulleen Road bridge.

Busway and underpasses

To create space for Melbourne's first express busway, we've realigned the Bulleen Road outbound exit ramp and will remove a rock wall. The busway will travel under the widened Bulleen Road, connecting the Eastern Freeway to Bulleen Park & Ride.

In September, we'll begin work to realign the citybound on ramp at Bulleen Road. This will create space for the construction of a new shared path underpass, connecting to the Koonung Creek Trail.

New Doncaster Road interchange

Doncaster Road bridge will be rebuilt to improve trips for cars, buses, pedestrians and bikes.

Early works to reconfigure lanes on the bridge and build temporary ramps have started. These works will create the space needed to build the new interchange and incorporate an upgraded Doncaster Park & Ride and Eastern Busway.

Engagement on the Doncaster Park & Ride Urban Design and Landscape Plan (UDLP) will start soon. Please sign up for updates and we'll notify you when plans are made public.



Eastern Freeway traffic disruptions

There will be overnight closures of the Eastern Freeway and freeway ramps between Doncaster and Tram Roads during August and September.

During these closures, we'll place safety barriers on the freeway and remove overhead signage gantries.

For the latest information on times and dates, please check the road signage or visit bigbuild.vic.gov.au

Site establishment continues

With more than 6.5km of freeway between Burke Road and Tram Road, the Eastern Freeway Upgrade team are establishing worksites along the reserves on either side of the freeway to accommodate our workers and store equipment, and heavy machinery. This provides separation for road users and park users from construction activity.

Koonung Creek Reserve worksites

With noise-reducing fencing and site buildings installed, our workforce will start working out of the site later this month.

The Koonung Creek Trail is diverted around our sites and construction vehicles will use direct freeway access to keep heavy traffic off local streets.

Kampman Street to Doncaster Road

We've diverted the shared path onto Kampman Street and over the Estelle Street bridge to the Koonung Creek Trail on the southern side of the freeway.

In the coming months, we'll remove the existing noise walls and get ready to start critical sewer relocation works in this area.

Valda Wetlands

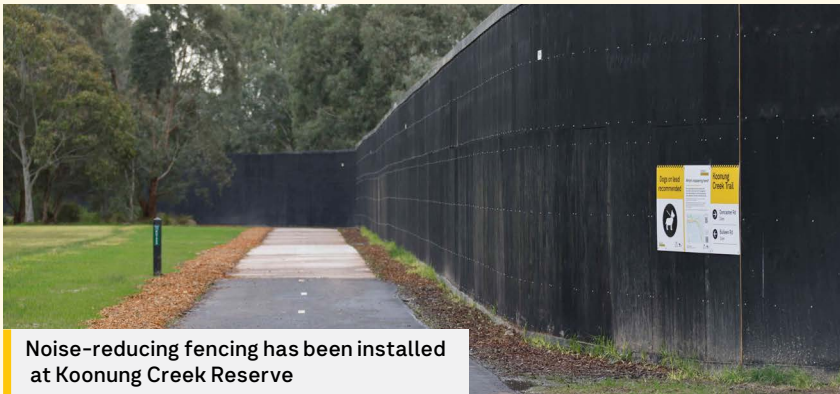
We've built a new temporary walking and cycling path to keep the Koonung Creek Trail connected while we work.

We'll begin to relocate the wetlands and build the freeway construction access and exit points over the coming months, providing us the space to construct the new wetlands and build the upgraded Heyington Avenue Bridge.

Elgar Park north west oval

We're starting works in August to build a construction compound in Elgar Park's north west Oval. This site will provide crucial facilities for workers upgrading the Eastern Freeway between Doncaster and Elgar roads.

The site will be used from late August 2024 until the end of 2026, after which we'll reinstate the oval for community use. We thank the community for their patience while we set up these worksites.



Noise-reducing fencing has been installed at Koonung Creek Reserve



North East Link tunnels and Manningham Road interchange

Further north, works are progressing on either side of Bulleen Road to construct the North East Link tunnels and future Manningham Road Interchange.

As you drive along Bulleen Road, you'll notice earthworks at the tunnel entrance and retaining walls being constructed as part of the foundations for the Yarra Link green bridge.

Mined tunnelling works between our Trinity and Manningham worksites will soon be underway, which will form the tunnel section that links to the future Manningham Road Interchange.

New and upgraded noise walls to tackle Victoria's highest noise standard

The Eastern Freeway Upgrades will deliver a new 63 decibel noise standard, consistent with the highest level of traffic noise protection in Victoria.

In response to community feedback we're also introducing a quieter 58 decibel standard to provide residents with even greater protection from traffic noise at night – a first for a road project in Victoria.

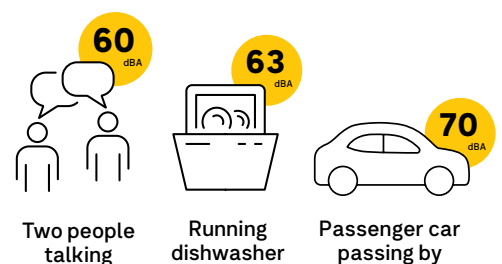
To minimise disruption and where noise walls already provide strong protection, we'll keep or upgrade existing noise walls where possible.

New noise walls will range in height from three to ten metres depending on their location, and will be designed to protect privacy and allow for the flow of natural light.

We've begun removing old noise walls between Bulleen and Doncaster roads, and we'll continue this work between Doncaster and Elgar roads.

We may need to work at night near noise walls to ensure the safety of passing motorists and to reduce traffic impacts during the day. We'll always notify residents in advance of these works.

What is 63dBA comparable to?



Come and visit us!



Information Centre opening hours

9am – 3pm
Tues, Wed,
Thurs

284 Doncaster Road,
Balwyn North

Our office is within the
Greythorn shops, close
to Doncaster Park & Ride.

Our Project Information Centre is now open!

Drop in and chat with our team, check out the latest designs and learn more about the Eastern Freeway Upgrades.

Apply now!

Applications are now open for the North East Community Fund

Grants of up to \$75,000 are available for projects and initiatives that benefit the local community, ranging from art exhibitions, sports club open days and community centre upgrades, while partnerships of up to \$100,000 are also available.

If your community group has a great idea to bring people together, strengthen community bonds, or improve local sporting and event facilities, we'd love to hear from you.

Applications close 3:00pm,
Tuesday 10 September

For more information please visit: northeastlink.vic.gov.au/communityfund



The Sentinel, by artist Inge King

After more than 24 years as the gateway to Doncaster, The Sentinel by artist Inge King will be removed from Doncaster Road as major works take place.

Recognising its significance to the community, the project will safely store and secure the sculpture using supports and padding to ensure the structure is protected during storage. We'll reinstate The Sentinel at a new location in 2025 in consultation with Manningham City Council.

Keeping you up to date

Our community engagement team will be out and about talking to people about works in their area and how we can support you during construction. You can also contact us on **1800 105 105** to speak to a member of the project team or to make an appointment to see us.

For more information, or to sign up to our e-newsletter, visit bigbuild.vic.gov.au/projects/roads/email-and-sms-updates

Construction Timeline



Late 2023

Eastern Freeway safety barriers installed and centre median works started



Early 2024

Worksites established at Freeway Golf Course and the former Boroondara Tennis Centre



Mid 2024

Bulleen Road diversion in place
Piling works begin for bridges and flyovers

Bulleen Bridge widening commences

Koonung Creek Trail diverted around work sites in Balwyn North and Doncaster

Work site establishment commences in Koonung Creek Reserve, Elgar Park and Valda Wetlands

Work begins on new Doncaster Interchange



Late 2024

Freeway widening works continue

Removal of noise walls and construction of temporary noise walls

Major service relocation works underway



2025–2027

Works continue on freeway widening, noisewall construction, reimagining Valda Wetlands and Koonung Creek

Construction of new interchanges at Bulleen and Doncaster and the new Doncaster Park & Ride



2028

Eastern Freeway Upgrades open and North East Link open, connecting with a completed M80 Ring Road



Scan for more details



bigbuild.vic.gov.au/roads

contact@bigbuild.vic.gov.au



1800 105 105 (call anytime)



For languages other than English please call 9209 0147

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