



# LEVEL CROSSING REMOVAL PROJECT

*New Robynsons Road underpass*

# TWO MORE GONE IN THE WEST

FITZGERALD ROAD, ARDEER  
ROBINSONS ROAD, DEER PARK  
ISSUE #4 – OCTOBER 2022

Two more dangerous and congested level crossings have been removed months ahead of schedule, reducing congestion, improving safety and allowing more trains to run on the Geelong and Ballarat lines.

We removed the dangerous and congested level crossing at Robynsons Road in Deer Park last month with a new road underpass beneath the rail line, improving safety for thousands of drivers each day.

The new underpass is already delivering reduced travel times and easier access to services on either side of the rail line.

In July, we also removed the level crossing at Fitzgerald Road in Ardeer, six months ahead of schedule, with a new road bridge over the rail line.





New walking and cycling paths have created better local connections and we're planting more than 250,000 trees, shrubs and grasses in the area.

We're also removing the level crossing at Mt Derrimut Road by elevating the rail line over the road and building a new Deer Park Station and bus interchange by 2024.

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The Geelong and Ballarat lines will be level crossing free between Deer Park and the city by 2024.

## Why we removed them

-  Reduced congestion and improved travel times for 53,000 vehicles each day
-  Enables more trains to run more often
-  Boom gates were down for up to 45% of the morning peak with 37 trains through the level crossings
-  Improved safety for drivers, cyclists and pedestrians



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# FITZGERALD ROAD



Thanks for your patience while we removed the dangerous and congested level crossing at Fitzgerald Road by building a road bridge over the rail line.

Works began in 2021 and were completed in July 2022, six months ahead of schedule.

We connected Fitzgerald Road to Forrest Street with a new road bridge, reducing travel times and improving local connections.

The new section of Western Ring Road shared use path is now open, creating better walking and cycling connections in the west.

We'll finish planting more than 150,000 trees, shrubs and grasses by the end of the year.

Here's what it took to remove the Fitzgerald Road level crossing:



21 bridge piles



900m new shared use path



14 x 61 tonne bridge beams



113 concrete barriers



324 retaining walls

## Western Building Blocks a hit

The next generation of engineers, designers and construction workers had a go at building their own level crossing removals at the Western Building Blocks workshop.

Over 300 parents and children attended the workshops over the July 2022 school holidays.

Kids used large scale building blocks to create their own road bridge and underpass, replicating projects at Robinsons and Fitzgerald roads.

The free interactive sessions helped locals learn more about what goes on behind the scenes on projects in their neighbourhood.

Local parents who accompanied kids said the events were a hit and a great activity to run over the school holiday period.



The next generation test out skills on an excavator



Future engineers get to work designing a new road bridge



*New Fitzgerald Road bridge*



*First cars over the new Fitzgerald Road bridge*

## Artist brings Wurundjeri culture to Fitzgerald Road bridge

Fiona Clarke, a Kirrae Whurrong artist designed the screens along the new Fitzgerald Road bridge and shared use path using symbols important to Wurundjeri culture.

Across Fitzgerald Road, the screens reflect Kulin Nation shields (drumming) for the safety and protection of road users. Other symbols include clap sticks – traditional ceremonial instruments, emu feathers and eels.

The pattern on the retaining walls near Forrest Street was inspired by stone artefacts found along the banks of Kororoit Creek and in the local area.

An artist for over 30 years, Fiona Clarke depicts her Aboriginal culture through tapestry, painting and public art. The designs were developed in consultation with Wurundjeri Elders.



*Artist Fiona Clarke views her work on the new Fitzgerald Road bridge*

*Artwork inspired by Kulin Nation shields*



# ROBINSONS ROAD



Finishing touches on the new Robyns Road underpass

Thanks for your patience Deer Park while we removed the Robyns Road level crossing by building a road underpass under the rail line.

Major works began in early 2021 and the level crossing was gone for good months ahead of the 2023 commitment.

During a 10-day closure of Robyns Road in September, crews worked around the clock to open the new road underpass to traffic.

We'll continue works over the coming months to finish the new road alignment, shared use path and plant more than 100,000 trees and shrubs in the area.

## Here's what it took to remove the Robyns Road level crossing:



Excavated around 60,000m<sup>3</sup> of soil and rock



118 piles



2.3km of new kerbing



324 retaining walls



143 concrete barriers



First cars on the new Robyns Road underpass

Aerial view of Robyns Road during major works



# MT DERRIMUT ROAD



Artist's impression – subject to change

## Major works underway at Mt Derrimut Road

We're removing the level crossing at Mt Derrimut Road by elevating the rail line over the road to reduce congestion. We're also building a new Deer Park Station, creating a safer, better connected Deer Park.

Major construction is underway on the new rail bridge's retaining walls, with piling works continuing and station foundations taking shape.

A new temporary commuter car park is available close to the station while we work.

By 2024, trains will be running on the new rail bridge over Mt Derrimut Road, improving connections for pedestrians, cyclists and the 23,000 vehicles that pass through the crossing each day.

## Upcoming disruptions



### Rail

Coaches will replace Geelong and Ballarat line trains for all or part of the journey from **Friday night 9 December to last service Sunday 11 December** to remove rail infrastructure at Fitzgerald and Robinsons roads.

Plan ahead at [vline.com.au](http://vline.com.au)



### Road

Robinsons Road will be closed between **Hatchlands Drive and Waigani Avenue** overnight at times until the end of the year to finish the new Robinsons Road underpass. Detours and signage will be in place.

For more information about upcoming disruptions visit [bigbuild.vic.gov.au](http://bigbuild.vic.gov.au)



### Parking

The Deer Park Station northern car park will be fully closed until late 2023. Replacement car parking is available nearby.

## Project timeline



### 2021

- Works start at Fitzgerald and Robinsons roads



### Early 2022

- Works start at Mt Derrimut Road



### Mid 2022

- Major construction starts at Mt Derrimut Road
- Fitzgerald Road level crossing removed



### Late 2022

- Robinsons Road level crossing removed
- Shared use path and landscaping complete at Fitzgerald Road and Robinsons Road



### 2024

- Mt Derrimut Road level crossing removed
- New Deer Park Station open

Timeline is subject to change



# Western Community Fun Day

Thanks for coming along to our Western Community Fun Day in October.

We brought the community together to celebrate the completion of major works at Fitzgerald and Robinsons roads and to say thanks for your patience during works.

The free community event at Nancy Street Reserve featured food and coffee from local traders, face painting, children's activities and a walking tour of the new shared use path along Fitzgerald Road.

Visit our website image gallery for more action from the day.



## Keeping in touch



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