



# PAKENHAM ROADS UPGRADE

DECEMBER 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.**

In November, we started Stage 2 of the project, with early works in progress to prepare for the start of major works in mid-January 2024. You may have noticed safety barriers set up along McGregor Road and the freeway exit as we've started construction.

Since our last update, we've removed and replaced asphalt on the outbound lanes of the Princes Freeway, with the inbound scheduled later this month. Replacing the old surface with stronger asphalt is an important step in building the new lanes on the freeway between McGregor and Healesville-Koo Wee Rup roads.

We've also:

- connected the new McGregor Road inbound exit ramp to the existing roundabout, which will open later this month
- installed light poles along the new inbound McGregor Road entry ramp
- laid cables for the new street lighting along the freeway
- finished relocating water pipes on Healesville-Koo Wee Rup Road to make room for upgrading the freeway interchanges to traffic light intersections.

## All systems go

The Australian Government has completed its review of the Infrastructure Investment program and confirmed funding for the Pakenham Roads Upgrade.

Stage 1 is now underway and early works have begun on Stage 2. Planning for Stage 3 continues, with site investigations taking place to inform our design.



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Australian Government



# Upcoming works

January and February will be a busy time for the Pakenham Roads Upgrade. We'll fully close sections of Healesville-Koo Wee Rup Road and McGregor Road near the Princes Freeway to complete a series of major works.

## Healesville-Koo Wee Rup Road construction blitz

From 7pm Wednesday 3 January to 7pm Thursday 25 January 2024, we'll complete a three-week construction blitz on the Healesville-Koo Wee Rup Road southern freeway roundabout. To carry out these works safely, we'll close Healesville-Koo Wee Rup Road between Southeast Boulevard and Princes Freeway, including the inbound on and off ramps to the freeway.

During the closure, detours will be in place via Southeast Boulevard, McGregor Road and the Princes Highway. Delays of up to **20 minutes** are expected, so plan ahead and allow for extra travel time.

We understand that these works are highly disruptive and thank you in advance for your patience and understanding. We're working with other Big Build projects in Pakenham to coordinate works and minimise disruption as we complete these vital road and rail upgrades.

There will be detours in place during these works, but you'll still be able to move through Pakenham and access all local businesses. Please visit [bigbuild.vic.gov.au/pkhm-update](http://bigbuild.vic.gov.au/pkhm-update) to find out more.

Once we complete the construction blitz on Healesville-Koo Wee Rup Road, we'll move on to works on the northern McGregor Road roundabout. See the following page for more information.

## Ask an engineer

We sat down with Project Engineer Jonathan to find out more about the construction blitz on Healesville-Koo Wee Rup Road.



**Q: What are you doing to Healesville-Koo Wee Rup Road during the construction blitz?**

A: While the road is closed, we'll demolish the old roundabout and add in thousands of tonnes of soil and rock to raise the height of the intersection. We'll then build a temporary roundabout so the road can reopen while we work on other parts of the project.

**Q: Why does the road have to be closed for so long?**

A: We've got a lot of work to get through, and we'll be working as fast as we can! We need to remove all the barriers and concrete from the old roundabout, bring in more material to raise the height of the road, install drainage and utilities and lay fresh concrete and asphalt to have the road ready to drive on again. By the time the road reopens, the road will be almost two metres higher than it used to be.

**Q: Why does the road need to become so much higher?**

A: The new intersection will be much closer to the bridges over the Princes Freeway than the roundabout is today. We need to raise the level of the road to make it easier for vehicles travelling over the bridge to see the new traffic lights.

**Q: How different will the intersection be once you're done?**

A: The area will look very different after we finish these works in January, but it'll work the same way. The temporary roundabout we're building will let drivers move through the intersection the same way as before.

**Q: If not much is changing, what's the point of the works?**

A: We had originally planned to upgrade both freeway interchanges in one longer construction blitz in late 2024. But by doing some of the works early in the year, we can finish some of the most important steps when the weather is warmer and drier.

Scheduling works this way allows us to do more work behind barriers to upgrade the interchanges, saving us more time overall and reducing the total impact on the community.

We'll also be laying all the underground services like drains and power cables through the intersection. So, while the road will work the same on the surface, there will be lots of changes underground.





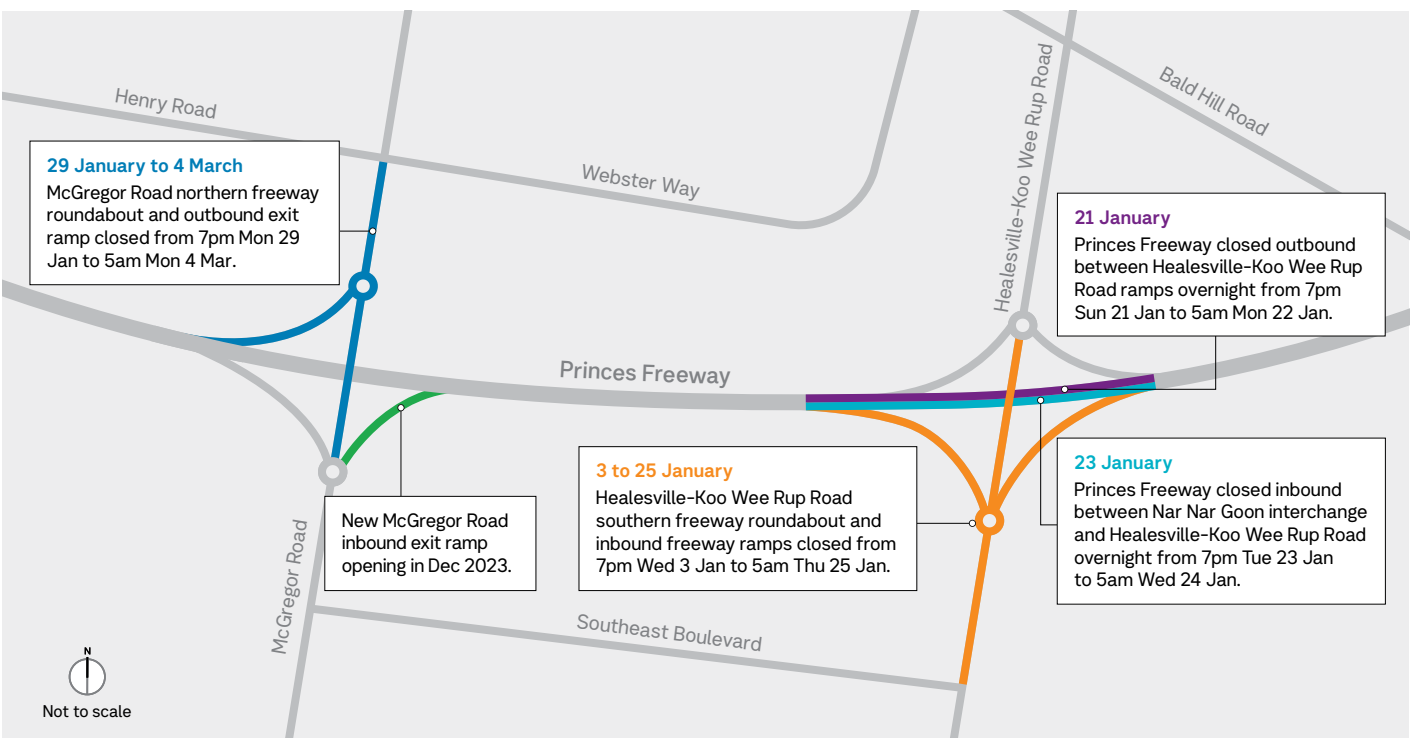
# Healesville-Koo Wee Rup Road bridge beam lifts

In January we'll also install the beams for the new Healesville-Koo Wee Rup Road bridge over the Princes Freeway.

These bridge beams will support the road surface on the new bridge and are a major milestone for the project. To lift these beams into place, we'll close sections of the Princes Freeway overnight, with delays of up to five minutes expected.

From **7pm Sunday 21 January to 5am Monday 22 January**, we'll close the Princes Freeway outbound between the Healesville-Koo Wee Rup Road freeway ramps to lift beams for the north side of the bridge. Detours will be in place via the freeway ramps.

Then, from **7pm Tuesday 23 January to 5am Wednesday 24 January**, we'll close the Princes Freeway inbound between the Nar Nar Goon interchange and Healesville-Koo Wee Rup Road to lift beams for the south side of the bridge. Detours will be in place via Princes Highway and McGregor Road.



Artist impression of the upgraded intersection of McGregor Road, Henry Road and Webster Way.



## Works start on McGregor Road

In November, we started works on Stage 2 of the Pakenham Roads Upgrade, the McGregor Road Upgrade.

Early works on the project have begun behind safety barriers installed along McGregor Road and the freeway ramp to move utilities out of the way along with earthworks to prepare for the new lanes.

Major works will begin late January 2024. From **7pm 29 January to 5am Monday 4 March**, we'll close the McGregor Road outbound exit ramp and McGregor Road between the southern roundabout and the Henry Road/ Webster Way intersection.

During this time, we'll work 24/7 to upgrade the roundabout between the Princes Freeway and Henry Road/Webster Way, widen the exit ramp and prepare the intersection of McGregor Road, Henry Road and Webster Way for our next stage of construction works.

While detours will be in place, you'll still be able to access all your local businesses such as Heritage Shopping Centre, as well as Pakenham Springs Primary School and Shanagolden Aged Care and Retirement Living.

## Building roads with local businesses

As we work on upgrading the roads that you use every day in Pakenham, we're also focused on working with Pakenham-based businesses where possible. From the tools and materials to build the job, to fresh produce to keep the construction team going, local businesses are key partners in delivering the project.

Here are some of the things we've sourced from local businesses in Pakenham to build the project:

- water tanks for our site compounds and work areas
- temporary safety barriers to keep crews safe on the road
- construction tools
- building materials like soil, rock and steel reinforcement bars
- fresh fruit and coffee from local suppliers for the site compound
- recycling and waste management services.

You'll still be able to access all your local businesses like Soilworx during our construction works.



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1800 105 105 (call anytime)

[contact@bigbuild.vic.gov.au](mailto:contact@bigbuild.vic.gov.au)



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