

# UPGRADED INTERSECTIONS OPEN



## HEALESVILLE-KOO WEE RUP ROAD UPGRADE

APRIL 2024



**We're building extra lanes and upgrading intersections on Healesville-Koo Wee Rup Road to make it safer, quicker and easier to get where you need to be.**

### What's been happening?

It was a busy summer as we clocked up over 1,000,000 work hours to open upgraded intersections and switch traffic onto new sections of Healesville-Koo Wee Rup Road.

We've now:

- opened the new roundabouts at Hall Road and Deep Creek
- reopened the upgraded intersections at Ellett and Island roads, with left-in and left-out access to improve safety and traffic flow on Healesville-Koo Wee Rup Road

- opened the new signalised intersection at Greenhills Road, providing better access to and from the industrial estate
- upgraded the surface of the old road between Soldiers Road and Deep Creek and converted it to a new two-way service road
- rebuilt 20 driveways along the east side of Healesville-Koo Wee Rup Road between Ellett and Manks Road, giving residents and businesses direct access to the new road
- installed traffic signs and temporary line marking, guardrail, and wire rope safety barriers along sections of the new road

- finished 18 of the 40 culverts we're building to manage water flow under the road and provide safe access for wildlife
- moved vehicles onto 10kms of new lanes between Southeast Boulevard and Manks Road.

We're also making great progress to finish the new 10km shared walking and cycling path between Manks Road and Livestock Way/Southeast Boulevard. This will join up with the shared path being built as part of Pakenham Roads Upgrade.

*Image above: shared use path and traffic on new southbound lanes.*



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## New bridge over Deep Creek

In December, we opened one of the two new bridges over Deep Creek.

By installing the bridges and straightening the road, we've made it safer for drivers to travel along this section of Healesville-Koo Wee Rup Road.

The bridges are supported by **60 concrete columns**, or piles, that extend **18 metres** below the ground.

A 650-tonne crane was then used to lift **13 Victorian-made concrete beams**, each **33 metres long**, onto the bridge supports. The concrete deck – that forms the base for the road you'll drive on – was poured on top of the beams, followed by the road pavement, linemarking, and safety barriers.

The second bridge over Deep Creek will be open in mid-2024.

### Did you know?

Building two bridges with a gap in between allows sunlight and rain to reach the ground below. This helps the plants and animals that live below to thrive.

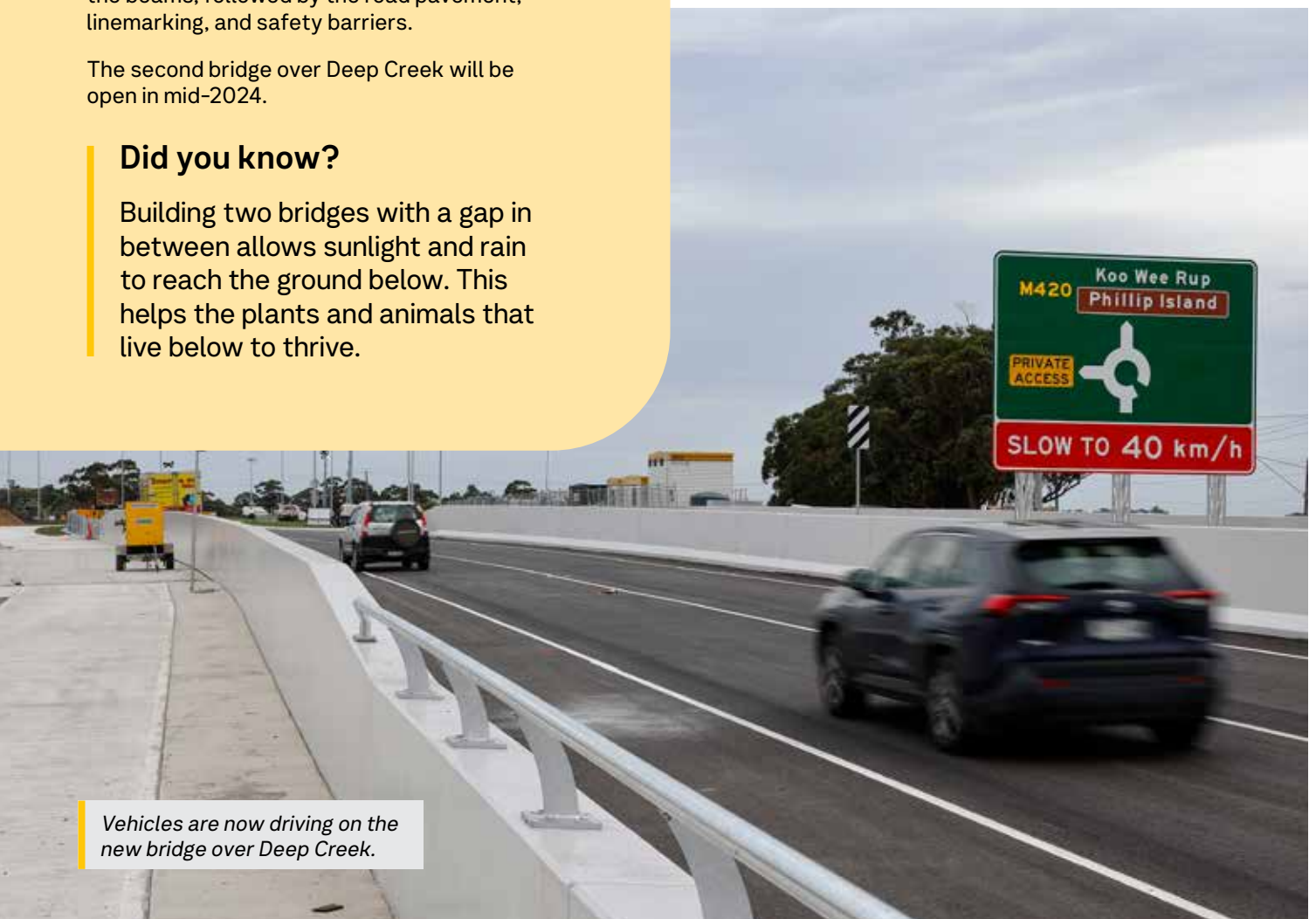


## Helping our native wildlife to thrive

How did the Bandicoot cross the road? Through one of our specially designed culverts!

We're installing 40 large rectangular concrete drains, known as culverts, under the new road and around our works area. While the culverts will help manage water flow from the creeks and waterways in the area, 35 of them have special features such as ledges, permanent wet areas and even hiding spots to provide safe passage for native animals, including the southern brown bandicoots and growling grass frogs.

We'll also plant over 150,000 native trees, shrubs, grasses and aquatic plants to enhance the habitat surrounding our 12 frog ponds.








Vehicles are now driving on the new bridge over Deep Creek.

# What's coming up?

Work is continuing so we can open more new lanes in 2024.

Opening more lanes means improved traffic flow and travel times, and a safer travel experience overall.

Over the next few months, you'll see our crews:

-  finishing works on the second Deep Creek bridge
-  completing all remaining culverts to manage drainage and provide safe crossings for wildlife under the road
-  installing kerbs, streetlights, road signs, and more guardrail and wire rope safety barriers along the new lanes
-  putting the final layer of asphalt on the new lanes and painting permanent linemarking
-  pouring concrete to finish the remaining sections of the shared walking and cycling path.

## Finishing the new sections of road

Vehicles are currently driving on new separated lanes between Southeast Boulevard and the water treatment plant, and the Deep Creek roundabout and Ellett Road.

To finish and open new separated lanes, in April and May we'll work behind barriers to asphalt the northbound lanes between Deep Creek roundabout and the water treatment plant, and between Manks and Ellett roads. We'll then place the final layers of asphalt on sections of the new separated lanes and paint the permanent linemarking on the road.

To connect the new roundabout at Hall Road to the service road, we'll first finish building the new culvert and then lay the road surface over the top. In May, we'll open the connection to the Hall Road roundabout and remove the existing connection to the roundabout south of Deep Creek.

*Image below: we're working to finish the new shared walking and cycling path in mid-2024.*



## Changes to the way you travel

### Healesville-Koo Wee Rup Road

While we work to finish off new lanes and open them to traffic, there will be disruptions. Detours will be in place while we close Healesville-Koo Wee Rup Road at times for asphaltting and installation of lighting and signage.

### Ballarto Road

To finish the new roundabout at Ballarto Road, we'll lay asphalt on each of the approaches and install new streetlights. To complete these works safely, we'll close lanes on Ballarto Road throughout April, with detours in place.

### Princes Freeway lane closures

The Pakenham Roads Upgrade is making great progress, with McGregor Road reopening on **4 March** following a 5-week blitz to widen the Gippsland-bound freeway exit ramp and upgrade the northern freeway interchange roundabout.

In May, we'll work over the weekend to place asphalt on the new Gippsland-bound lane on the Princes Freeway that will connect the new outbound entry ramp at McGregor Road. To complete these works safely, we'll close the Gippsland-bound lanes of the Princes Freeway between the McGregor Road and Healesville-Koo Wee Rup Road ramps from **7pm Friday 3 May to 11.59pm Sunday 5 May**.



To stay up to date with planned traffic disruptions, sign up for SMS and email updates at [bigbuild.vic.gov.au/subscribe](https://bigbuild.vic.gov.au/subscribe) or text HKWR to 0499 073 073.



## A good egg

Roger Vittas loves chickens and he loves eggs. He's been in the egg business for decades, at one time hosting thousands of chickens at his property at 695 Koo Wee Rup Road, Pakenham South. The secret to a happy chicken, he says, is one that listens to local Gippsland radio stations!

Roger has seen a lot of change over the decades, including the latest road upgrade. He says it will save lives, as there have been many accidents along the old stretch of road.

Roger sells quality eggs at his farm, so if you're passing through the area why not stop and grab a dozen?

We're converting the old road to a service road and building a new access from the Hall Road roundabout. In the meantime, you can continue to access the farm from the turn-off onto the service road at the roundabout near Deep Creek bridge.

Vittas Egg Farm  
695 Koo Wee Rup Road  
Pakenham South, 3810



## Giving back to the community

As part of our focus on supporting communities, our project team donated a new fridge and freezer to Sammy's Community Pantry in Pakenham.

Sammy's Community Pantry is a free community food bank that provides free tinned, packaged food and now refrigerated and frozen food to those in need.

The idea to donate to the pantry came from the project team, who started with on-site food drives, but soon turned into a workplace raffle with the goal of supporting the much-needed expansion of the pantry.

A series of workplace raffles took place, raising enough funds to buy a double door commercial fridge and freezer, with both units delivered to the pantry late last year.

The team also made sure the new white goods would be put to good use immediately as they stacked the new fridge and freezer with plenty of fresh produce for everyone to enjoy.

To donate or if you need assistance, drop into Sammy's Community Pantry, located at Giving It A Second Chance Op Shop, 6/114 Princes Highway, Pakenham

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