



# west gate tunnel project

MARCH 2018



*Works at the Northern Portal, Footscray.*

## Construction underway on the West Gate Tunnel Project

The West Gate Tunnel Project will provide a vital alternative to the West Gate Bridge, quicker and safer journeys and remove thousands of trucks from residential streets in the inner west.

**Construction got underway in January, and works will continue to gear up across the corridor over the coming months.**

### Getting ready for the Tunnel Boring Machines

Works have now started at one of the West Gate Tunnel Project's largest and most critical sites, the Northern Portal on Whitehall Street in Footscray.

Excavators and graders have been working to clear and level the site so crews can start digging a 22 metre deep hole to launch the project's two massive Tunnel Boring Machines.

A neighbouring work site is being established on the corner of Whitehall Street and Somerville Road, and the two sites will be connected by an elevated, covered conveyor belt over Somerville Road, to transport dirt and rock.



## Relocating the North Yarra Main Sewer

Before tunnelling starts, we need to divert a section of the North Yarra Main Sewer, which runs below the centre of Whitehall Street in Footscray/Yarraville – right in the path of the new tunnels.

Diversion works will take up to 12 months and will involve excavation, piling, boring and changes to traffic.



### Whitehall Street traffic changes

Northbound traffic travelling along Whitehall Street, will be diverted for approximately 12 months from April 2018 to enable the North Yarra Main Sewer Works to be carried out.

For more information and a map of the detour route, see [westgatetunnelproject.vic.gov.au](http://westgatetunnelproject.vic.gov.au)



The South Yarra Main Sewer being relocated for the Metro Tunnel Project.

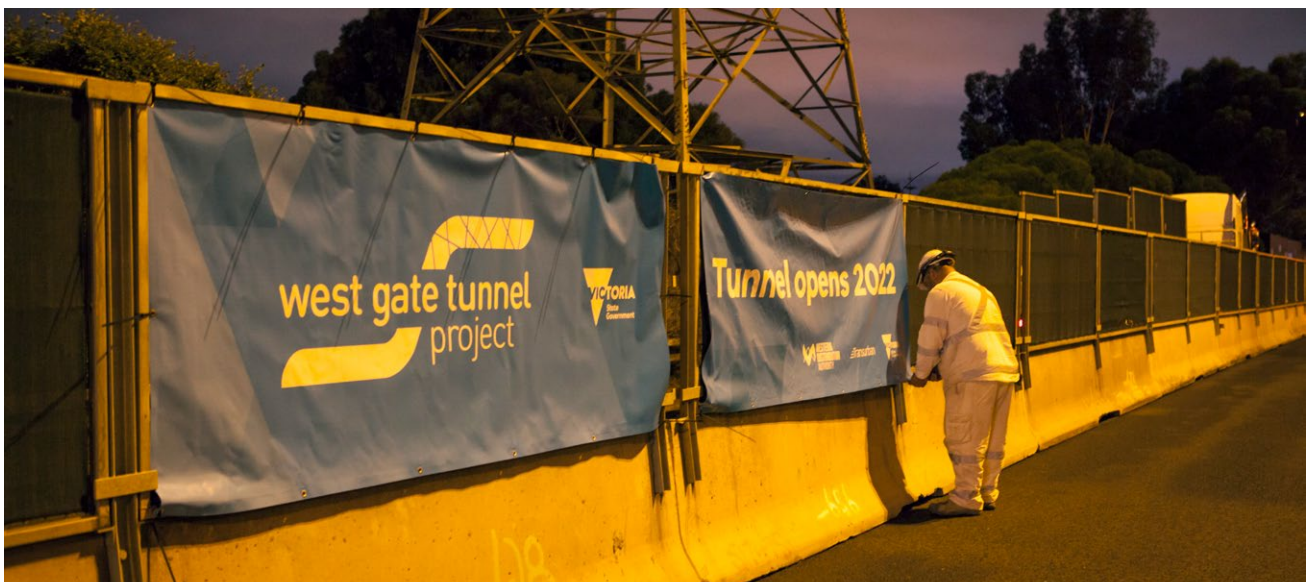
## West Gate Freeway transformation begins

Work is underway to widen the West Gate Freeway to 12 lanes between Williamstown Road and the M80 Ring Road to make traffic flow better and make space for the two West Gate Tunnel portals.

Widening works have started in the Williamstown Road area, and crews will gradually move west towards the M80 Ring Road between 2018 and 2022.

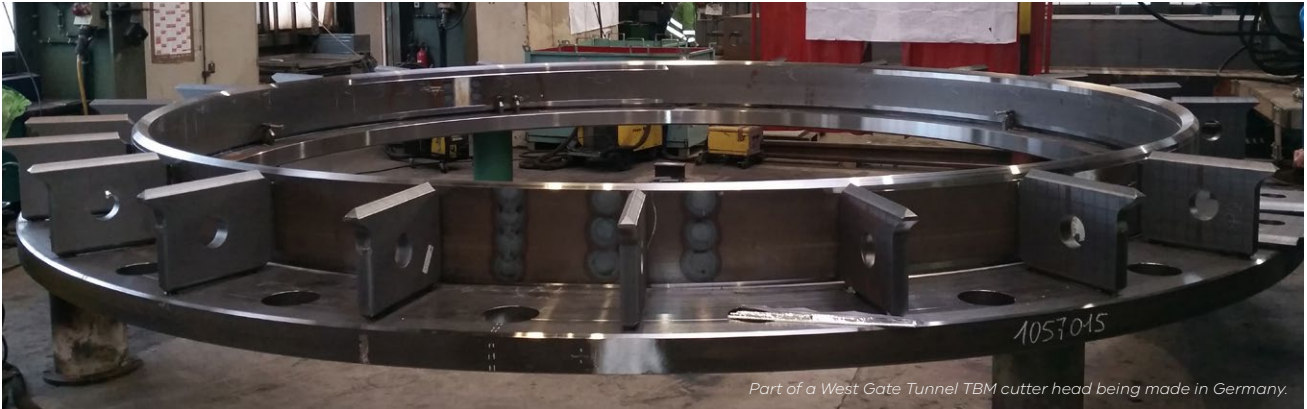
All traffic lanes will be open during peak periods while works are carried out.

For information about changed driving conditions and upcoming lane and ramp closures, see [westgatetunnelproject.vic.gov.au](http://westgatetunnelproject.vic.gov.au)



Workers installing traffic barriers on freeway.

# Tunnel boring machines in production



Part of a West Gate Tunnel TBM cutter head being made in Germany.

## The biggest Tunnel Boring Machines (TBMs) in the southern hemisphere are on their way to the west!

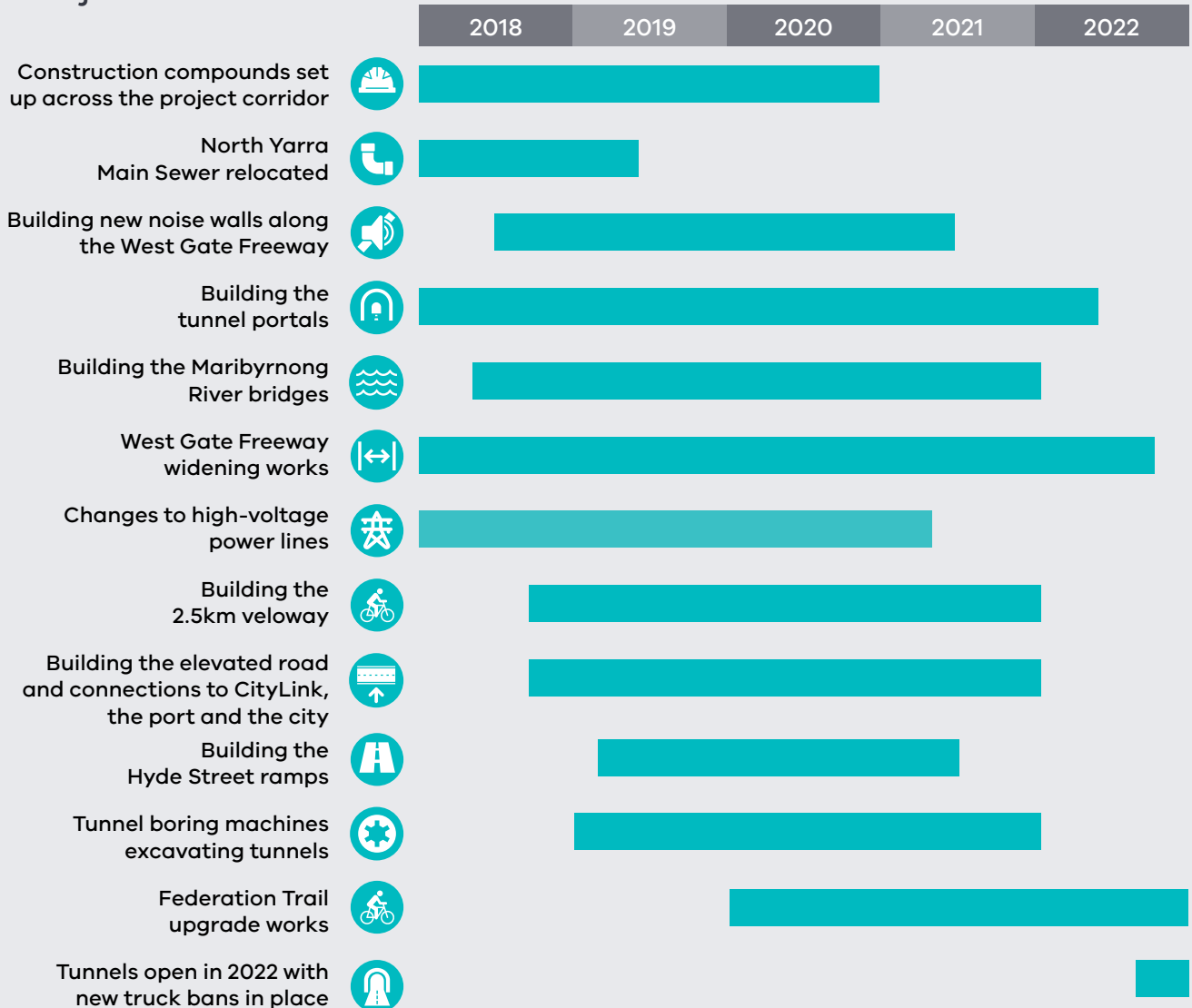
In January, we placed an order for the two massive machines that will build the West Gate Tunnel.

The TBMs will each stand 15.6 metres in diameter – as tall as a five-story building –

and will be 90 metres long. Weighing in at around 4,000 tonnes each, they are being purpose built to suit local ground conditions in Melbourne’s inner west.

Once in the ground, the TBMs will work 24 hours a day, seven days a week to build over six kilometres of tunnel between the Maribyrnong River and the West Gate Freeway.

## Project timeline





## Trucks off local streets

When complete, the West Gate Tunnel will provide a direct connection to the port so trucks won't have to use residential streets that run through the suburbs.

With a purpose built alternative available for trucks, they will be banned from using Francis Street, Somerville Road, Moore Street and Buckley Street north of the West Gate Freeway. Trucks will also be banned on Hudson Street and Blackshaws Road south of the freeway.



### Community Liaison Group

We'd like to thank the West Gate Tunnel Project Community Liaison Group (CLG) for their important contribution to the project during the planning phase.

A new CLG structure is taking shape for the construction phase through until 2022, to keep the community informed of progress and provide a forum for feedback.

## Keeping the community informed

Over summer our team has been out and about at a number of community events and festivals to provide information about the West Gate Tunnel Project and answer questions about upcoming construction works.

Keep an eye out for our team at upcoming events and information sessions in your local area.

In the next few months we will also be opening a new Visitor Information Centre on Somerville Road, Footscray to provide a one-stop shop to find out information about the project.



### Contact us

Missed us at one of our pop-up sessions? Get in touch any time via the following contact details:

-  [westgatetunnelproject.vic.gov.au](http://westgatetunnelproject.vic.gov.au)
-  [westgatetunnelproject@wda.vic.gov.au](mailto:westgatetunnelproject@wda.vic.gov.au)
-  1800 105 105
-  [facebook.com/westgatetunnelproject](https://facebook.com/westgatetunnelproject)
-  @westgatetunnel
-  West Gate Tunnel Project  
GPO Box 4509  
Melbourne Victoria 3001



**Interpreter service: 13 14 50**

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