



COMMUNITY UPDATE

DECEMBER 2021

PRINCES HIGHWAY EAST UPGRADE

We've started work on the third and final stage of the Princes Highway East Upgrade

Work has now commenced on the third and final stage of the Princes Highway East Upgrade, in the Flynn, Kilmany and Kilmany East sections of the project. The three contractors appointed to deliver the work have mobilised to site, installed safety barriers, installed drainage and commenced major earthworks to build the new lanes.

Image above: Artist's impression of the new rail bridge in Kilmany. Subject to change.

Rail bridge update

We're delighted to unveil the design for the centrepiece of the project – a striking new rail bridge developed in consultation with the Department of Transport and Vline.

The project team is currently finalising design details for the 95m long single span steel arch bridge, which will improve safety and reliability for freight, tourists and commuters. To minimise impacts on the rail network, the bridge will be constructed "offline." When complete, the project team will slide the bridge into its final position – a major operation that will take around a week to complete.

Health and safety

The health and safety of our workforce and community remains our top priority.

Works on the Princes Highway East Upgrade are progressing with strict COVID-safe plans in place.

For more information and advice about the coronavirus (COVID-19), please visit coronavirus.vic.gov.au



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What we're doing

Flynn

In the Flynn section, we have established our site compound and installed safety barriers to allow for major works to commence safely.

Bulk earthworks have commenced across the site and unsuitable material is being removed. While these works take place, there will be an increase in heavy vehicle traffic on the highway.

Redundant sewer mains are also being removed to allow the new lanes to be built and drainage systems are being upgraded to ensure safer driving conditions for road users.

Kilmany

In the Kilmany section, we've conducted a range of site investigations to better understand soil conditions in the area and to pinpoint the exact location of underground utility services.

We've also established a site compound on the Princes Highway, near Velore Road. The site compound includes facilities and a carpark for the construction team and hardstand areas to store construction materials.

We've recently completed vegetation clearing and commenced relocating underground services to make way for the new traffic lanes. You'll also notice that safety barriers have been installed to allow for major earthworks works to begin.

Kilmany East

In the Kilmany East section, we have established a site compound near Templetons Road, featuring a herb garden, up-cycled site furniture and Eco Bins for our construction crew!

We have also installed safety barriers on the highway allowing major works to commence safely.

Work has commenced on the Templetons Road intersection upgrade, to improve safety and access to the Princes Highway. From early December to April 2022, the highway will be reduced to one lane in each direction between Sale-Cowwarr Road and Velore Road.

During this time traffic will still flow uninterrupted in both directions, however there may be changed driving conditions such as reduced speed limits, and delays of up to 5 minutes. We will maintain access to private properties at all times.

Artist impression of rail bridge over the Princes Highway in Kilmany.

Image right: Herb Garden at Kilmany East Compound.



Managing traffic

Over the coming months, we'll be implementing a range of traffic management measures to keep you and our workers safe during the works.

Concrete safety barriers have been installed to separate drivers from areas where construction works are taking place, reduce speed limits and have signs in place to guide motorists through areas with changed traffic conditions, temporary traffic signals and temporary lane closures.

Traffic management measures will change regularly throughout the life of the project as construction works move from one area to the next. Please remember – the construction workers on the project are also mums and dads, sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, and valued friends. They work hard to improve the safety of our roads and we need your help to ensure they return home safely at the end of each day.

Taking care of the environment

We'll be working hard to balance our impact on the environment with the need to improve road safety and journey reliability.

Over the coming months, you'll see "No-Go Zones" being set up to protect as many areas of trees and native vegetation as possible, and to protect habitat for vulnerable species like the Growling Grass Frog.

Native vegetation that cannot be retained will be offset at a 30-hectare roadside vegetation offset site between Sheepwash Creek, Traralgon East, and Flynn's Creek Road along the south side of the Princes Highway and a 140-hectare site in Bengworden. The Department of Transport is the custodian of this site.

Protecting cultural heritage

The protection of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal cultural heritage is a key priority and in preparation for major works, the project team has completed cultural heritage awareness training.

The Princes Highway East Upgrade is in the homeland of the Gunaikurnai people, which covers over 6,000 square kilometres. The project area was inhabited by the Nulert population and is today represented by the Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation.

As part of their training, the project teams learnt about the history of Aboriginal occupation of the project areas and the responsibilities they have to protect Aboriginal cultural heritage in accordance with the project's Cultural Heritage Management Plans.



Artist impression of the upgrade to the Velore Road intersection and new service road in Kilmany.

Meet the project team



Meet Celeste Boan,
Senior Project Engineer,
working on the Kilmany
Section of the upgrade.

Celeste will manage the planning and construction of the new Kilmany Rail Bridge and the upgrades to the Velore Road level crossing.

Celeste brings over 10 years' experience to the project, having previously worked on a number of major infrastructure projects in Melbourne, including Caulfield to Dandenong Level Crossing Removals and the West Gate Tunnel Project.

When we asked Celeste what excites her about being a part of the construction team working on the project, Celeste said, *"I'm really excited by and looking forward to the challenges of building the new 95 metre, steel arch bridge completely offline and once complete, using a hydraulic jack system to slide it into place. This approach significantly minimises our impact on those using the train service."*

We also asked Celeste how she feels the project will best benefit the local community? *"I'll be really proud to have contributed to the project once complete. It will deliver some great benefits for the community, including improved road safety and reliability for the transport network. Over 15,000 motorists using this stretch of road each day, it will certainly make the journey between Traralgon and Sale much quicker and safer."*

Safety improvements for local residents

As part of the project, a dedicated service road will be built in the Kilmany township, making it safer for residents to access their homes and the highway.

The school bus stop will also be relocated from its current location on the side of the highway to a much safer location next to the Kilmany Public Hall.

The project team is working with the Wellington Shire Council, Regional Public Transport and the Kilmany Public Hall & Recreation Reserve Committee to develop the design and ensure the new school bus stop is sited appropriately.

Stay informed

For more information, please visit our project website at roadprojects.vic.gov.au/projects/princes-highway-east-traralgon-to-sale

If you have any questions about the works, please call **1800 105 105** or email contact@roadprojects.vic.gov.au

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Artist's impression.
Subject to change.

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