



Works in the centre median between Bulleen and Burke roads

# Works progressing on the Eastern Freeway

Construction Update  
December 2024

## BIG BUILD EASTERN FREEWAY

We're upgrading the Eastern Freeway with new express lanes, new traffic management technology, Melbourne's first express busway and a seamless connection to North East Link.

As 2024 comes to a close, we've made substantial progress on critical early works, including setting up worksites, diverting Bulleen Road, and temporarily relocating the Bulleen Road citybound entry ramp. These efforts have been essential in preparing for major construction activities to begin next year.

### A smarter, faster Eastern Freeway



**11 minute**

faster trips along the Eastern Freeway



**6**

new express lanes



**18**

traffic lights skipped to the airport



**Busway**

with park and rides at Bulleen and Doncaster



**10km**

walking and cycling paths



**Installed 17.5km**

of safety barriers across the project



**Built 2km**

of walking and cycling paths around our worksites



**Built 227**

piles so far for the new Bulleen Road interchange



**Started Concrete**

pours to build structures to protect Koonung Creek



**Offered 1,000**

native trees to residents as part of the Backyard Tree Planting Program



**Employed almost 400**

new people on the project this year



**Completed Piling**

of the north abutment of the new Estelle Street bridge, piling for the southern abutment and central pier are also nearing completion



**Started Construction**

of the new Eastern Busway

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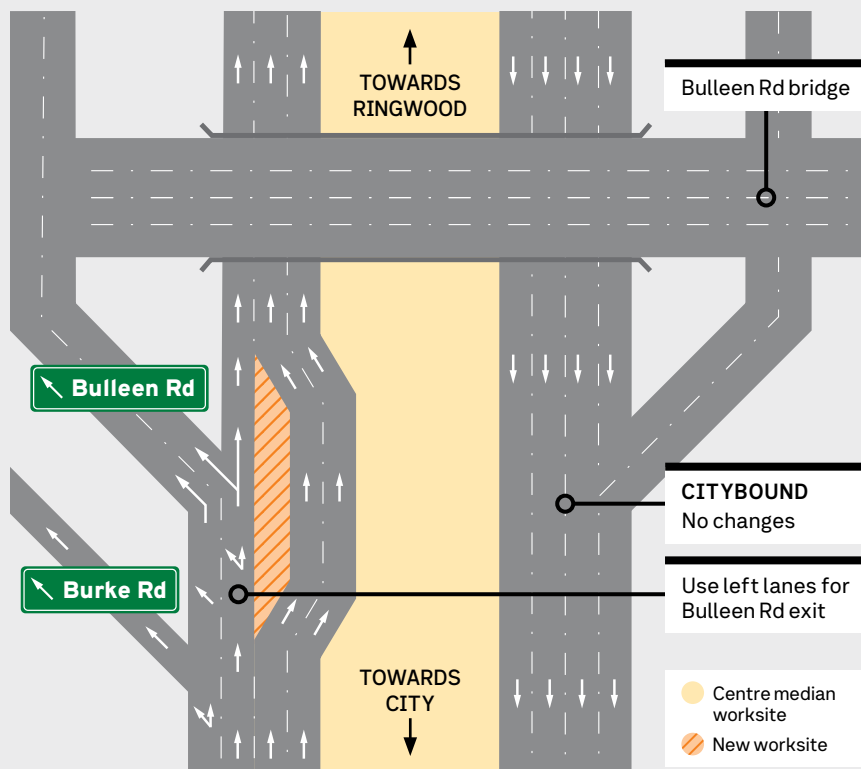


## Traffic changes between Burke and Bulleen roads

In February for up to six weeks, the Ringwood-bound lanes will be split around a new work area on the freeway. We'll maintain the same number of lanes and the 80 km/h speed limit. Drivers exiting at Bulleen Road will need to stay in the left lane.

Note: Map not to scale.

New lane configuration between Burke and Bulleen roads from February



## Super T's coming to Bulleen

In December, we realigned the Bulleen Road citybound entry ramp to the south to create space needed to start building a new shared walking and cycling underpass. This underpass will run beneath the citybound ramps and Bulleen Road bridge, connecting Viewpoint Road and the Koonung Creek Trail. It will provide a safer route by separating pedestrians and cyclists from vehicles.

In January, we'll start lifting the first of 104 Super T's into place for the future Bulleen Road, north of the freeway. These beams, each weighing between 64 and 126 tonnes, will support the base of the elevated section of Bulleen Road. Next year, crews will begin work to build the bridge deck before moving traffic onto the new road.

Once fully complete, the new Bulleen Road will feature up to eight lanes, allowing for safer and more efficient travel for thousands of drivers moving through the area.

### What is a Super T?

Super T's are large pre-fabricated concrete beams. They will be installed onto concrete columns and crossheads and will provide support for the elevated roadway.



Foundations, piers and crossheads installed, ready for the arrival of Super T's

## Upcoming changes to Thompsons Road

As part of the new Bulleen Road interchange, we need to widen Thompsons Road. In late January, we'll work around the clock to shift traffic further north on Thompsons Road. This will create space for new work areas, enabling us to widen the northern section of the Bulleen Road bridge. We'll also begin building sections of the three flyover bridges connecting the North East Link tunnels to the Eastern Freeway.



### Koonung Creek Trail closures

To complete our works safely, we've closed the Koonung Creek Trail in some sections on both sides of the freeway between Bulleen and Tram roads.

On-street diversions for pedestrians and cyclists are in place. As works progress, there will be further changes to the Koonung Creek Trail with diversions in place where possible.

Please visit [bigbuild.vic.gov.au/disruptions](http://bigbuild.vic.gov.au/disruptions) for the most up to date information and available routes.

# Changes to Doncaster Park and Ride

## An upgraded Doncaster Park and Ride

As part of the Eastern Freeway Upgrades, we're building a new Doncaster Park and Ride and connecting it to Melbourne's first dedicated busway, improving public transport in Melbourne's east.

The upgrade includes three new bus platforms, express connection to the Eastern Busway and multi-level

parking for 435 cars. There will also be new drop and go parking spots and upgraded walking and cycling connections.

In January, the Doncaster Park and Ride car park will close for major construction as we build a temporary freeway ramp and rebuild the Doncaster Road / Eastern Freeway interchange. Construction of your new park and ride will begin in late 2025.

To ensure locals can continue to access buses during construction of the new Doncaster Park and Ride from early 2025, the new Bulleen Park and Ride was built 4 years early. With 370 parking spaces, drop and go bays, secure bicycle parking and improved walking and cycling connections to Koonung Creek Trail, locals will remain connected to bus services during works.

## Changes to bus services

There will be bus timetable changes from 12 January 2025, passengers are encouraged to plan their journey. Bus services will continue to run through Doncaster at the temporary bus stops on Doncaster Road between High Street and Harcourt Street.

To see the revised timetable and to plan your journey, visit [ptv.vic.gov.au](http://ptv.vic.gov.au)



Doncaster Park and Ride – Artist's impression

## Community engagement



### Belle Vue Primary visit

In early November, the project team hosted an excursion for a group of Belle Vue Primary School students.

Students were treated to a bus tour through one of our worksites and saw machinery and equipment working to upgrade the Eastern Freeway.

As part of the experience, the students donned safety vests and hard hats, immersing themselves in the construction environment. They also visited the Kew Traffic School, where they gained further insights into traffic and road safety.



### More tree donations

In October, we visited the Heide Museum of Modern Art to donate some mature gum trees (*Eucalyptus Viminalis*) to add to their ceremonial gathering and learning space at Yaluk Langa.

This gathering space will be a place for the Wurundjeri community to host events and perform traditional ceremonies.



### Community Pop Up

In early December we held a Community Pop Up at the Koonung Creek Reserve playground.

We had free drinks, kids activities and project team members available to answer questions about the project's progress and upcoming works.

## Fencing designs installed

We recently installed designs on our timber fencing around our worksites at Leonis Avenue Reserve worksite in Balwyn North and at Valda Wetlands in Mont Albert North.

At Leonis Avenue Reserve, a photographic design of native gum leaves was placed on the fencing to blend in with the surrounding environment. This design was

chosen in consultation with local residents. Over the coming months, this design will also be placed on sections of the fencing around our worksite at Koonung Creek Reserve.

At Valda Wetlands, we've installed a timeline design to showcase the changing landscape of the Eastern Freeway over the years and how we're building a reimagined Valda Wetlands precinct with new and upgraded walking and cycling paths.



Leonis Avenue Reserve native gum leaf fencing design



## NORTH EAST LINK

### North East Link Update

We've made significant progress this year on both sides of Bulleen Road as part of works to build the North East Link tunnels.

Mined tunnelling has commenced at both our Trinity and Manningham work sites and we are continuing to build a section of tunnel further south towards the future tunnel entrance near Bulleen Park access road.

Earlier this year, we also made changes to Bridge Street, Manningham Road, Bulleen Road and Templestowe Road as part of works to build the future Manningham Road Interchange.

Our North East Link sites will be closed from 21 December to 5 January as part of the Christmas shutdown period.

Some of our crews working on the Eastern Freeway Upgrades will return on 14 January.

We thank the community for their patience and understanding as we continue these works.

## Keeping you up to date

Our community engagement team will be out and about talking to people about works in their area and how we can support you during construction. You can also contact **1800 105 105** to speak to us or to make a time to meet with us.

For more information, or to sign up to our e-newsletter, visit [bigbuild.vic.gov.au/projects/roads/email-and-sms-update](https://bigbuild.vic.gov.au/projects/roads/email-and-sms-update)

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



1800 105 105 (call anytime)



For languages other than English please call 9209 0147

## Construction Timeline



### Late 2024

- Construction of the new Estelle Street bridge begins
- Construction of the Eastern Busway begins



### Early 2025

- Super T beams lifted into place for the new Bulleen Road
- New lane configuration between Burke and Bulleen roads
- Changes to Thompsons Road to allow construction of the new Bulleen Road bridge to continue
- Construction of the Eastern Busway continues
- Temporary bus stops on Doncaster Road open for passengers
- Doncaster Park and Ride car park and bus platforms closed



### Early to mid-2025

- Major works to rebuild the Doncaster Interchange begin
- Major works to relocate underground utility services begin



### Late 2025

- New Estelle Street bridge open
- Construction of the new Doncaster Park and Ride commences



### 2028

Eastern Freeway Upgrades open and North East Link open, connecting with a completed M80 Ring Road



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