



TBM launch site in Clarinda



**SUBURBAN  
RAIL LOOP**

**Newsletter**

February 2026



# Tunnelling starts this year

Construction of Suburban Rail Loop (SRL) East is ramping up – with tunnelling to start this year from Clarinda and Burwood.

Construction of SRL East is creating up to 8000 jobs, with more than 3000 people already working on the project.

In Cheltenham, crews will be preparing to build the tunnels and new underground station.

They'll be moving underground services, and clearing the site of the former petrol station to enable crews to improve the ground ready for tunnelling. Final planning is underway for the new open spaces at Sir William Fry Reserve.

In nearby Clarinda, the massive tunnel boring machine launch site is taking shape, in preparation for the start of tunnelling.

By the 2050s, Melbourne will be the same size as London is today. The SRL is a key part of how we will manage that growth – delivering world-class public transport, and thousands more homes within walking distance of the new stations.

Planning changes to deliver 70,000 additional homes and 230,000 additional jobs and services in the neighbourhoods around the six SRL East stations are expected to be finalised later this year.



TBM cutterhead at the SRL Heatherton site

## Tunnel boring machines arrive on site

Tunnel boring machines (TBMs) have started arriving on-site before tunnelling starts this year. They will launch from Clarinda to build the tunnels between Cheltenham and Glen Waverley, and from Burwood to build the tunnels between Glen Waverley and Box Hill.

Take a look inside to learn more about the SRL East TBMs.

More information  
[suburbanrailloop.vic.gov.au](http://suburbanrailloop.vic.gov.au)



# Preferred bidder for SRL Stations North

A preferred bidder has been chosen to build the new underground stations at Glen Waverley, Burwood and Box Hill.

Place Alliance is a consortium of John Holland, Kellogg Brown and Root, and Arup and has deep experience delivering major infrastructure projects, including Metro Tunnel, Sydney Metro, WestConnex and Inland Rail.

The SRL East stations will be fully accessible, light-filled spaces with plazas, retail and dining – and will feature elements inspired by the local community and First Nations peoples. Sustainability is at the heart of design, with each station to have a Green Star rating of at least 5 stars.

SRL will have safe, fast and easy connections to existing Metro stations, new and upgraded bus and tram interchanges, new walking and cycling paths and world-class secure bike parking facilities.

The contract is expected to be awarded later this year. Two other shortlisted bidders will compete for the second stations contract – to build the southern stations at Cheltenham, Clayton and Monash.



Artist's impression

## Save time with SRL



No matter where you live, SRL means faster and easier journeys. A student from Cheltenham will be able to travel to Deakin University in just 19 minutes by public transport – a saving of 40 minutes.

Discover how you can use SRL to move across Melbourne and Victoria using our interactive map by scanning the QR code or visiting [suburban-rail-loop/srl-east-journey-planner](https://suburban-rail-loop/srl-east-journey-planner)

## SRL's high-tech trains

Victoria's first fleet of automated trains will be built locally in Dandenong, as part of the SRL East Linewide contract.

The contract also includes the design, installation and testing of the network systems, as well as operation of the new network and has been awarded to TransitLinX – a consortium of John Holland, RATP Dev, Alstom, KBR and WSP. The Linewide contract will create more than 500 local jobs a year during construction, and hundreds more when SRL East opens.

The 13 four-carriage trains will be fully accessible, with modern passenger information systems and platform screen doors at the stations. They'll have dedicated areas for wheelchairs and passengers with special needs, as well as spaces for prams and assistance animals.



Concept only



Scan the QR code or visit [suburbanrailloop.vic.gov.au/sms-cheltenham](https://suburbanrailloop.vic.gov.au/sms-cheltenham) to receive SMS updates and reminders for SRL East works in CHELTENHAM.

# TUNNEL BORING MACHINES

TBMs are arriving on site, ready for tunnelling to start this year.



## About our TBMs

Each SRL East TBM is more than 100 metres long and just over seven metres in diameter. All TBMs will be powered by 100 per cent renewable electricity.



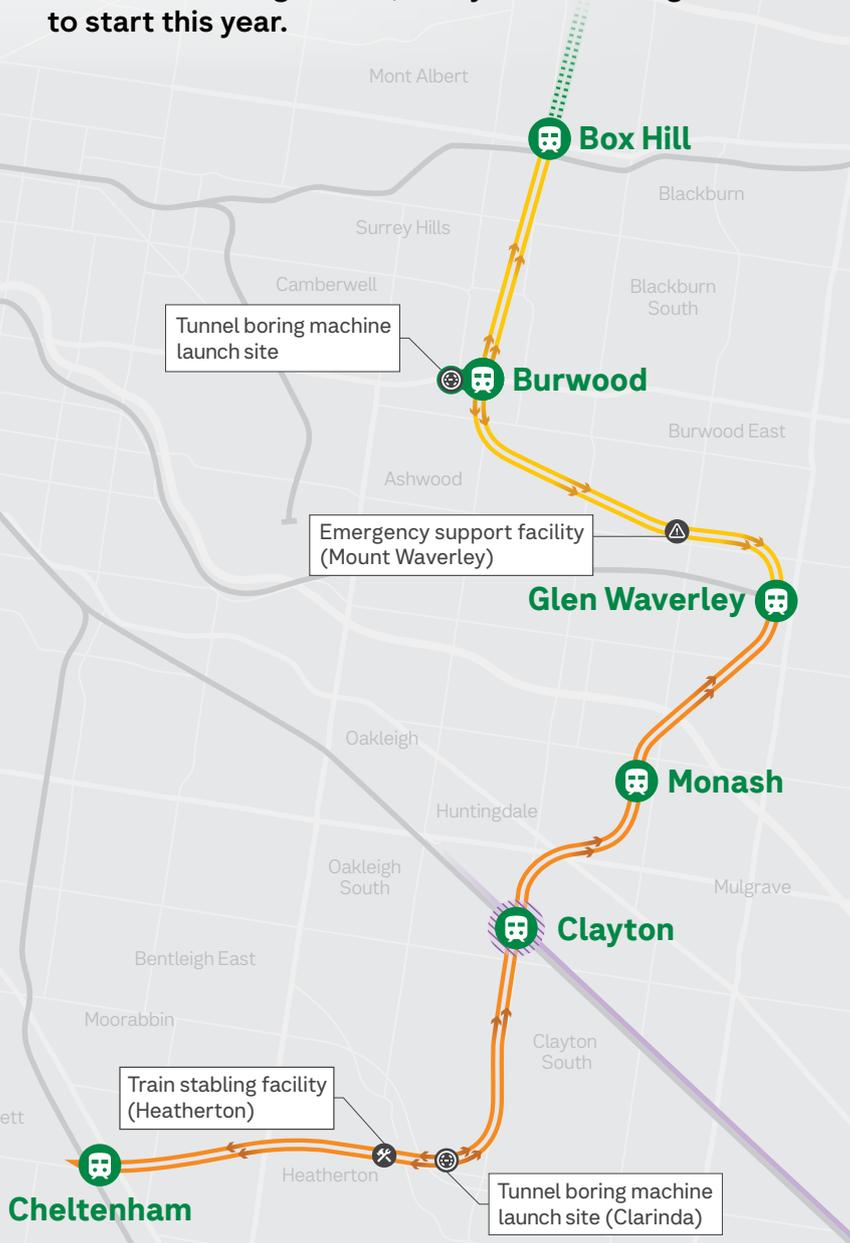
## All-women TBM crew

In a world first, one of the crews operating the SRL East TBMs will be an all-women crew.



## TBM Captains

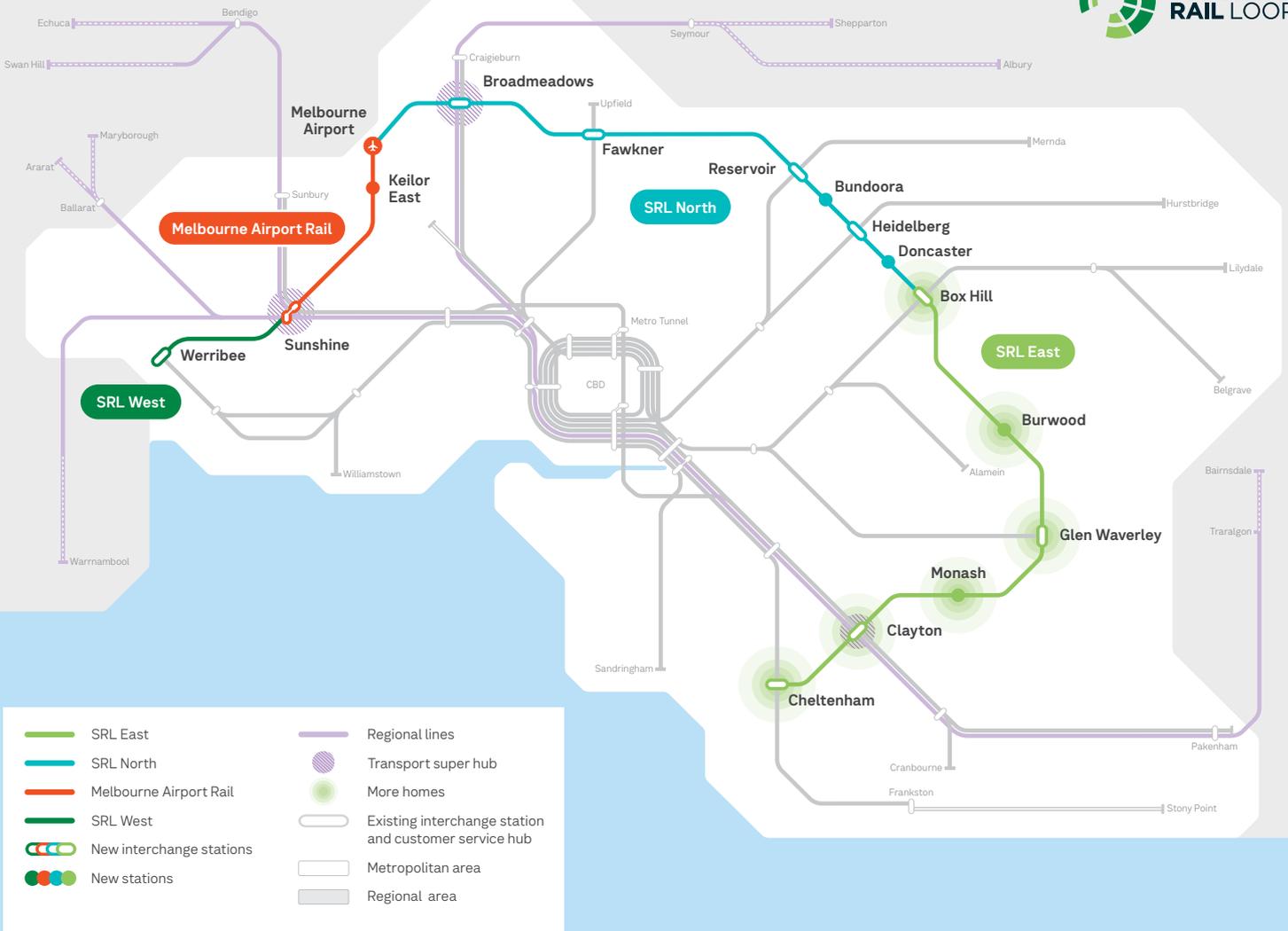
Each year, local primary school students will be chosen as SRL East's 'TBM Captains'. They'll visit an SRL East site to learn about the giant tunnelling machines, and report back to their classes.



- SRL East underground station
- Transport super hub (regional connection)
- SRL East tunnels
- SRL tunnels continued
- Train line
- Regional line



For more information on TBMs, visit [suburbanrailloop.vic.gov.au/tunnel-works](http://suburbanrailloop.vic.gov.au/tunnel-works)



For illustrative purposes, subject to further detailed technical investigations and consultations.

Work is progressing on Suburban Rail Loop and 2026 will be the project's busiest year yet. We have translated this newsletter into other languages to keep everyone updated about Suburban Rail Loop news.



Scan the QR code on your smart phone for more information or go to our website.

郊區鐵路環線 (Suburban Rail Loop) 工程現正進行中，而 2026 年將會是目前為止我們最繁忙的一年。

此通訊已翻譯成多種語言，您可透過各語言版本瞭解郊區鐵路環線之最新消息。



使用手機掃描 QR 碼，以獲取更多資訊或瀏覽相關網頁。

近郊铁路环线 (Suburban Rail Loop) 项目工作正在推进，2026年将会是目前为止我们最繁忙的一年。

我们将这份通讯翻译成多种语言，帮助您及时了解近郊铁路环线项目的最新消息。



请用智能手机扫描二维码了解更多信息，或直接访问我们的网站。

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