

Which way to the surface?

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The Tunnel Boring Machines (TBMs) will be lowered into the ground at the Arden and Anzac station sites, assembled and then launched.

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They will head away from the CBD on the first leg of their journey.

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The TBMs are then retrieved in Kensington and South Yarra.

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They are dismantled and trucked back to their starting points.

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Finally, the TBMs are relaunched towards the CBD for the last leg of their journeys.

Our magnificent machines

Big and beautiful

Four giant TBMs are needed to dig the Metro Tunnel. At **120m** in length, each TBM and its support structures is as long as **3 E-Class trams** end-to-end. They each weigh more than **1,100 tonnes**, equal to the weight of around **150 elephants**.



Making headway

At the front of the TBM is the 'cutterhead', which acts as a drill that can tunnel through rock **six times** harder than concrete. The face measures **7.28m** in diameter.



Heave-ho

Up to **14 people** work in each TBM at any one time. Workers include the pilot, who drives the TBM, as well as tunnel and electrical engineers.



Silver lining

The TBM not only digs the tunnels but it also seals them. Concrete segments are delivered to the TBM and installed to line the tunnel walls. A total of **56,000** individual segments will be used.



Rock and roll

TBMs bore through a variety of ground conditions, from hard rock to sand, travelling around **10m a day**. The amount of excavated material removed would fill the MCG **1.2 times!**



Home sweet home

Each TBM is manned and monitored **24 hours a day, 7 days a week**. It is fully equipped with facilities for staff, including an office, kitchen and toilets.



Introducing our TBM names

#1

TBM
JOAN



Joan Kirner
Victoria's first female Premier

Joan Kirner was the first female Premier of Victoria (serving from 1990 to 1992) as a member of the Labor Party. She was MP for Williamstown, and while Education Minister her reforms included pioneering the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE).

#2

TBM
MEG



Meg Lanning
Australian cricket captain

Meg Lanning captains the Australian women's national team and the Victorian Spirit. She holds the record for the most centuries in women's one-day internationals and was the youngest Australian (male or female) to score an international 100, when she was 18.

#3

TBM
ALICE



Alice Appleford
Wartime medical hero

Alice Appleford was an Australian civilian and military nurse who took part in both World Wars. During the First World War she served in hospitals in Egypt and France and was one of only seven Australian nurses decorated with the Military Medal for Gallantry.

#4

TBM
MILLIE




Millie Peacock
Victoria's first female MP

Millie Peacock was married to three-time Premier of Victoria Sir Alexander Peacock. After his death in 1933, she won the by-election to succeed him and became the first woman elected to the Parliament of Victoria.

More information

 metrotunnel.vic.gov.au

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It should be noted that this information is current at the time of printing, however due to unforeseen circumstances, changes may occur. Please visit railprojects.vic.gov.au for the latest updates.