

# PRINCES HIGHWAY EAST UPGRADE

APRIL 2023



## What's been happening on the project

The final stage of works on the Princes Highway East Upgrade between Traralgon and Sale are well underway.

### Works in Flynn and East Kilmany complete

Works along the Princes Highway in Flynn and East Kilmany are now complete.

Lanes are now open along the Princes Freeway between:

- Sheepwash Creek Road and the west of Flynn's Creek Road
- Velore Road in Kilmany to east of Templetons Road.

### Works in Kilmany continue

Construction of the new 95 metre rail bridge is in progress, with the bridge expected to be complete by mid 2023. Work on the bridge's concrete foundations and hanger system will be completed in the coming months.

We've also started works to upgrade the intersection at Sale-Toongabbie Road and Princes Highway.

*Image: In mid-January, Sale-bound traffic was switched onto the newly upgraded lanes in Kilmany East, and the new Templetons Road intersection has been opened.*

Our rail bridge hangers, the long metal cables that hold a bridge together, are arranged in a unique way where they intersect with one another at least twice along the bridge. This results in a rigid and robust structure, which is required to support the trains that will travel over it once complete.



**2** new intersections open on Princes Highway in Flynn and Kilmany



**83** Trees have been planted between Velore Road in Kilmany to east of Templetons Road.



**1000m<sup>3</sup>** of concrete will be poured in the construction of the new rail bridge



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## Project highlights



Two cranes, one weighing 800 tonnes and another 300 tonnes, were used to lift 16 arch segments onto pre-built towers. Combined, the steel arches weigh 450 tonnes, which is equivalent to 75 elephants.



The upgraded intersections at Barrs and Stuckeys lanes are now open, providing safer access for locals and better travel times for all motorists.



The team in Kilmany has proudly partnered with Solomon and Sons, a local Gunaikurnai-owned and operated earthmoving business, who have contributed over 12,800 hours on the project.



Traffic was switched onto the newly built lanes to the west of Kilmany in mid March. This is part of a series of staged traffic switches that will take place throughout the year to allow us to keep you moving while we work.





The new rail bridge is taking shape with all arch segments now in place! Make sure to check it out.



We've completed a new, safer intersection at Templetons Road which is now open for your use!



As part of the upgrade, we've donated 165 tonnes of crushed rock to the Traralgon Railway Reservoir Conservation Reserve to help them build safer walking and cycling paths.



The Highway upgrade between Velore Road and Sale-Cowwarr Road in Kilmany is now complete, providing you with two new lanes in each direction.



Traffic is now flowing in both directions on the newly constructed lanes between Sheepwash Creek and Flynn's Creek roads.



The project team presented the community with a wooden art sculpture created by local artist John Brady. You can see it at the Flynn Community Hall.



## What's happening in the coming months

With major works now complete through Flynn and Kilmany East, crews will now complete minor finishing works including landscaping and line marking.

Major works continue through Kilmany and in the coming months, we'll:

- carry out a series of staged traffic switches where traffic will be moved onto newly built sections of the highway
- complete the new bus turnaround near the Kilmany Town Hall, including installing fencing and building a new bus shelter
- pour the concrete foundations of the rail bridge and strengthen the bridge structure by pulling the steel cables that run through the bridge deck
- slide the rail bridge into place
- close Sale-Toongabbie Road at the Princes Highway to tie the intersection into the widened highway.

While we move barriers on the Princes Highway there will be additional traffic management, lane closure and delays. Please follow all on road signage and direction from traffic controllers.



## Meet the Project Team

Introducing Ashley Oldham, Senior Environmental Advisor for the Kilmany section of the Princes Highway East Upgrade.

Ash is responsible for ensuring we meet all environmental regulatory requirements and that the works have the least amount of impact on the local environment as possible.

This includes flora and fauna management, erosion and sediment control, air and waterway quality monitoring and water and spoil management among many others.

Ash is a local, born and bred in Maffra, where he enjoyed a 25-year career at Southern Rural Water in the environmental and major projects fields before venturing out into the broader construction industry.

He is proud to be part of delivering yet another major infrastructure project for the local area. He has also been a part of significant irrigation modernisation projects in the Macalister Irrigation District including the new Southern Tinamba Irrigation Pipeline.

Ash was also an environmental advisor on the construction of the new Avon River railway bridge and has worked on the North East Link project in Melbourne in recent times.

Ash sees the Kilmany section of the Princes Highway Upgrade as the last piece of the puzzle that better connects the local Gippsland area not only to Melbourne, but east Gippsland as well.

Ash and the entire team are working tirelessly to finish it as soon as possible so Gippslanders can enjoy the benefits.



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