



Underground power relocation works between Tram and Middleborough roads

Work ramping up on the Eastern Freeway

Construction Update
March 2026



As part of North East Link, we're upgrading the Eastern Freeway with new traffic management technology, express lanes and express busway

On the Tram to Springvale section of the Eastern Freeway, we've been working day and night to set up safe construction zones in the centre median and to build construction compounds in Eram Park and Junction Road Reserve.

To prepare for major construction later this year, we've relocated overhead and underground utilities, installed traffic barriers, built temporary ramps and closed sections of the Koonung Creek Trail.

We'll continue works to remove noise walls ahead of permanent noise wall installation, build sewer shafts and excavate large amounts of soil to create space to widen the freeway.

There will be upcoming changes to the Koonung Creek Trail in the Linear Reserve as we work to establish creek crossings and works areas before realigning the creek later this year. We'll provide more information about this in future updates.



11 minute faster trips along the Eastern Freeway



3.5km of new noise walls



2 new walking and cycling bridges



2,000+ new trees



1 million+ new plants and grasses

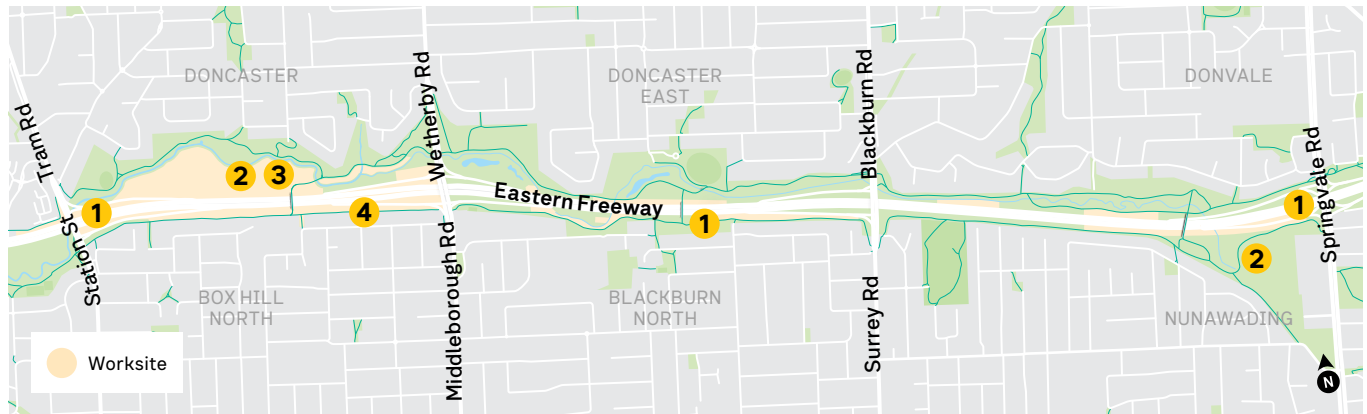
Our Project Information Centre is now open

Visit us at 31–47 Joseph Street, Blackburn North. Chat with the team between 9am–3pm, Tuesday to Thursday.

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New and ongoing works between Tram Road and Springvale Road



1 Traffic barriers and switches

We've installed traffic barriers between Tram and Springvale roads, with speeds reduced to 80km/hour on the freeway.

We've also worked at night on the freeway to remove the centre median, lay asphalt and built temporary ramps at Tram Road, Middleborough Road and Springvale Road to create space for future upgrades.

In early 2026 we'll progressively switch traffic onto new temporary pavement and ramps while we continue to relocate utilities and start to build permanent freeway lanes.

3 Works in Koonung Linear Reserve

We've started building temporary construction vehicle crossings over sections of the Koonung Creek in Koonung Linear Park. In early 2026, sections of the creek will be dewatered to create a safe, dry working area using a pump system and small dams.

Later this year we'll begin works to realign sections of the creek and prepare to build a new walking and cycling bridge.

The creek will be monitored throughout works to protect wildlife and control erosion and sediment.

Managing construction impacts

As with any major construction project, there will be times when our work activities unavoidably impact residents and businesses close to the project. We have environmental controls in place to help minimise the impacts.

It's been a dry summer and we've taken action to avoid generating dust as much as possible, including using water carts and hoses during earthworks.

We'll work closely with impacted residents to provide advance notice of disruptive works.

2 Building construction compounds in Eram Park and Junction Road Reserve

We've opened a construction compound in Eram Park, Box Hill North and started construction of a compound in Junction Road Reserve, Nunawading.

The compounds will support construction activities and include office buildings, equipment storage, worker facilities and have direct access from the freeway.

4 Works along Koonung Creek Trail

To create space for new ramps and noise walls, we've closed a section of the Koonung Creek Trail south of the Eastern Freeway, in Box Hill North to create a safe works area.

We've built temporary noise walls and started to remove existing noise walls to make space for future freeway widening works. We'll soon start works to relocate a sewer between the pedestrian bridge and Middleborough Road.



Centre median removal between Blackburn and Springvale roads



Water cart spraying work area to reduce dust



Power relocations under the freeway between Tram and Middleborough roads

Making space for freeway upgrades

In early January we closed the Eastern Freeway to build a trench and install high voltage power cables under the freeway.

This was a huge undertaking, with crews working around the clock in difficult conditions to build a 2.3 metre deep, 55 metre long trench between Tram and Middleborough roads.

Despite the heat, high winds and storms, crews were able to install 18 high voltage cables under the freeway, future-proofing the power network for the community.

These works were a continuation of overhead and underground power line relocations on the Koonung Creek Trail and in Eram Park which will be ongoing until mid 2026.

In addition, piling works have commenced in Eram Park to build sewer shafts and relocate sections of the sewer network.

We'd like to thank the community for their patience during these important works.



Sewer piling rig



Site establishment works

Construction timeline



2025

- Site investigations
- Traffic barriers rolled out from Tram to Springvale roads
- Start utility relocations
- Start building construction compounds



2026

Early 2026

- Construction of temporary ramps on Tram, Middleborough and Springvale roads
- Progressive traffic switches onto temporary ramps and lanes
- Continue utility relocations

Late 2026

- Construction of new Eram Road bridge



2027

- Installation of new noise walls
- Construction of elevated ramps between Tram and Middleborough roads



2028

- Upgraded Eastern Freeway, North East Link and M80 Ring Road Completion opens



Backyard tree planting program

We're giving away up to 250 native trees to help locals green their gardens as we upgrade the Eastern Freeway. This is on top of work already underway to plant at least two trees for every one removed to build the project.

While stocks last, residents near Eastern Freeway construction areas in Blackburn North, Box Hill North, Doncaster, Doncaster East, Donvale and Nunawading can register for free trees. Apply before 29 March 2026. To register visit bigbuild.vic.gov.au/greener-north-east.



Artist's impression of the Koonung Creek bridge to Eram Park

Get the latest disruptions information

The best way to stay up to date with works and upcoming freeway disruptions is by SMS or email.



Sign up for email updates

Get the latest project updates and information via email:
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Receive updates directly to your phone.
Text Eastern Freeway to: **0499 073 073**

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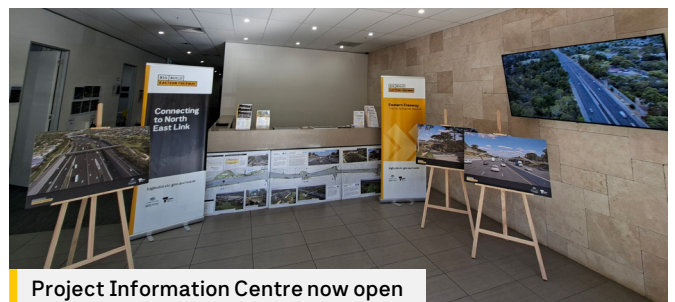
Our Project Information Centre is now open. Drop in and chat with our team, check out the latest designs and learn more about the Eastern Freeway Upgrades.

Location:

31-47 Joseph Street, Blackburn North

Opening hours:

9am to 3pm, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday



Project Information Centre now open

bigbuild.vic.gov.au/roads

contact@bigbuild.vic.gov.au



1800 105 105 (call anytime)



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