

Kensington Urban Design



Childers Street precinct

As works to build the Metro Tunnel’s western entrance progress, we are excited to update you on the future plans for Childers Street in Kensington. Since 2018, we have worked closely with key stakeholders and the local community to refine urban designs for the western tunnel entrance.

**Visit us at
Metro
Tunnel HQ**

**129 Swanston Street,
Melbourne**

Key urban design elements

We are pleased to confirm the key elements of the final urban designs. This includes:

- Reinstated Childers Street road surface, footpaths, pavement and improved landscaping
- A new public space located at 135 Ormond Street
- Enhanced integration between JJ Holland Park, new public space and an updated South Kensington station entrance
- 82 parking spaces between Kensington Road and South Kensington station as well as four accessible parking bays and two emergency vehicle bays
- On street parking for vehicles retained on Childers Street between Tennyson Street and Younghusband Lane
- Landscaping that makes use of Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) to manage and treat rain runoff
- 25 bicycle parking spaces at the station forecourt
- New street lighting along Childers Street
- A new canopy and realigned pedestrian pathways as part of an improved South Kensington station forecourt
- A creative design treatment for the 300m-long flood wall protecting the western tunnel entrance.

Works to reinstate Childers Street have commenced. Some areas along Childers Street will remain as a construction site until project completion in 2025 to allow works on the Metro Tunnel to continue safely.

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Childers Street, directly west of South Kensington station

Corner of Ormond and Childers Street

The area at 135 Ormond Street, north of South Kensington station will feature a new public space as an extension to JJ Holland Park. This space will include a series of mudstone and gabion retaining walls, with extensive plantings.

A key focus of this area is to improve the local pedestrian and cyclist connections. Childers Street has been realigned to improve pedestrian, cyclist and vehicle safety in the area and accommodate additional space directly in front of the South Kensington station entrance. This includes a raised pedestrian crossing that connects the station entrance to the new public space.

To the west of South Kensington station 25 bicycle parking spaces will be provided, along with four accessible parking spaces (Disability Discrimination Act compliant), two emergency vehicle bays and a public seating area with slatted decking.

Flood Wall Design

We are pleased to unveil the design treatment for the western tunnel entrance flood wall.

Developed in consultation with the Kensington community, Stephen Banham's concept for the flood wall creative design is based on the local community's close connection to JJ Holland Park.

One Day in our Park explores the intimate and everyday stories of the local community within the park in a playful and imaginative way.

Following his selection, Stephen and the project team engaged with the community in December 2020, drawing on their stories and memories of the park as inspiration for the final design.

The creative design will comprise of mosaic tiles to celebrate the industrial heritage of Kensington, while also providing long-lasting strength and durability.

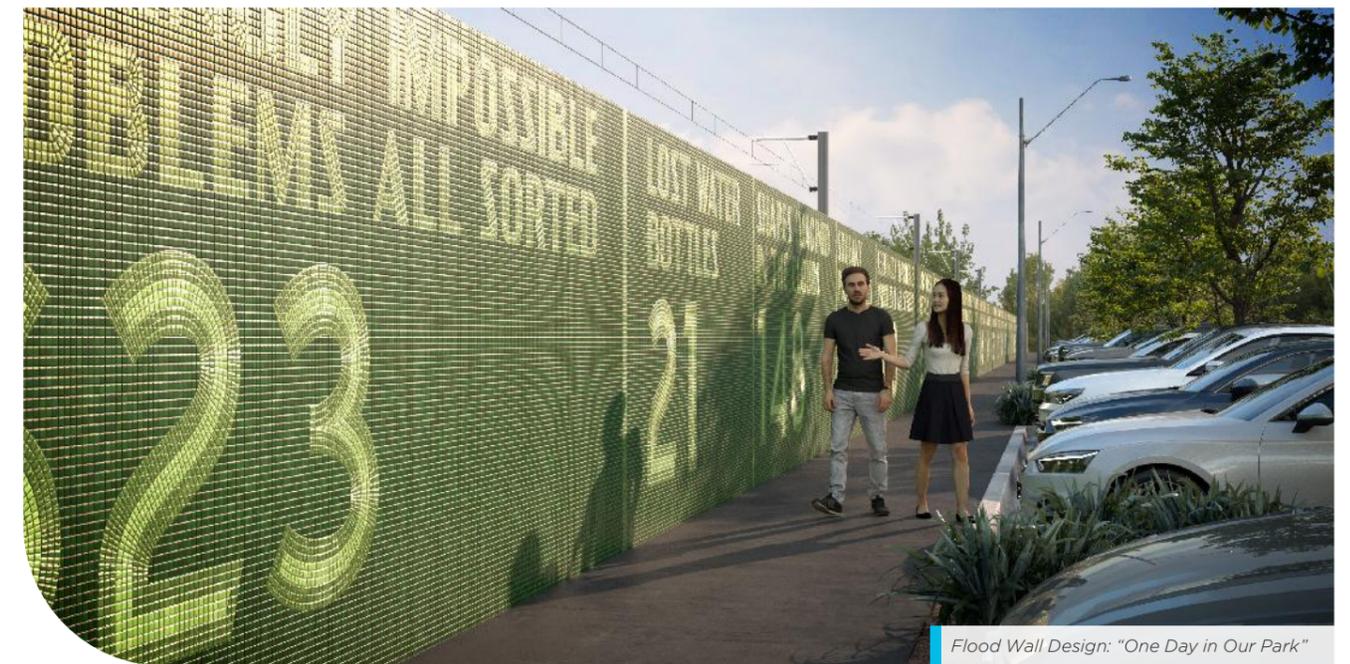
A palette of green tiles has been carefully selected to reference the changing shades of green over the course of a day in the park, ensuring the flood wall is sympathetic to its parkland surrounds.

Installation of One Day in Our Park has now begun. The following image shows a small section of Stephen's design.

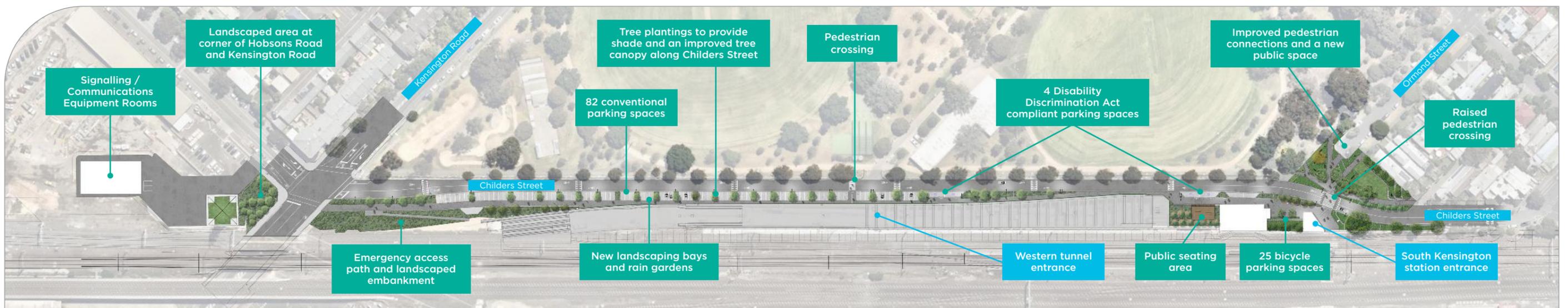
Often described as a "typographic evangelist", Stephen Banham is a typographer and educator. His typographic explorations across some 18 books primarily centre on the cultural life of letterforms.

Banham's design work and writings have appeared in countless international publications and design events, from Barcelona to Beirut, New Zealand to New York. A board member and assessor of the International Society of Typographic Designers, Dr Banham also lectures in typography in the RMIT School of Design.

Recently, Stephen developed a creative artwork that was installed along Swanston Street at the Metro Tunnel's future State Library Station. Here, There offers a continuous and playful typographic loop, generating a sense of endless activity, energy, time and, above all, the sense of repetition we experience as we constantly move from here to there.



Flood Wall Design: "One Day in Our Park"



Signalling / Communications Equipment Rooms

Landscaped area at corner of Hobsons Road and Kensington Road

Kensington Road

Tree plantings to provide shade and an improved tree canopy along Childers Street

82 conventional parking spaces

Pedestrian crossing

4 Disability Discrimination Act compliant parking spaces

Improved pedestrian connections and a new public space

Raised pedestrian crossing

Emergency access path and landscaped embankment

New landscaping bays and rain gardens

Western tunnel entrance

Public seating area

25 bicycle parking spaces

South Kensington station entrance

Childers Street

Childers Street

Ormond Street



View of Childers Street from JJ Holland Park

Location context

JJ Holland Park provides one of the most substantial green spaces for passive recreation and active sports in the Kensington and Flemington neighbourhoods and is enjoyed regularly by community members, local schools and sports clubs. Housing directly abuts the project site near South Kensington station, with an industrial zone to the east of that. Childers Street provides access to this industrial area and the station.

Childers Street also forms part of an important east-west corridor for commuter cycling. Sports groups using facilities in JJ Holland Park rely on the car parking along Childers Street, while patrons of South Kensington station use these parking spaces at other times.

The north side of Childers Street is lined with a row of mature casuarina trees that make a valuable contribution to park amenity. A gravelled jogging path north of that forms a circuit within the park.

Working with the community

Consultation was undertaken with the community to determine preference for the Childers Street urban design. As a result of this engagement, key considerations incorporated into the design include minimising the visual impacts to the park and surrounds, maintaining local vehicular access to the industrial precinct east of the station, providing car parking for park users and bicycle parking for station users, and enhancing the streetscape appearance and amenity for motorists, pedestrians and cyclists in Kensington Road.

Communications and Signalling Equipment Rooms

As part of the Metro Tunnel Project, a Signalling Equipment Room and Communications Equipment Room are being built adjacent to the rail corridor at 1-39 Hobsons Road.

These rooms will host important equipment to operate trains on the new Metro Tunnel. A driveway from Hobsons Road will provide maintenance access to the new buildings and the existing high voltage tower.

Key urban design elements in this area will include architecturally treated panelling surrounding the buildings, along with a landscaped area at the corner of Kensington Road and Hobsons Road.

More information

To find out more about the Metro Tunnel Project:

 metrotunnel.vic.gov.au

 1800 105 105 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week)

Rail Projects Victoria
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Interpreter Service (03) 9209 0147

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.