



Roadheader being lowered into our Manningham work site

Construction progressing in Bulleen

Community Update
November 2024



Work on North East Link is powering ahead with tunnelling underway in Watsonia and Bulleen

We'll be working more hours of the day and night and continuously in some locations throughout the next stage of construction.

With new lanes on Bulleen Road and a temporary upgraded Manningham Road and Bridge Street intersection in place, focus in Bulleen will shift to tunnelling and construction of the future Manningham Road interchange.

Further south, we are building a section of the tunnel that will form part of the connection to the Eastern Freeway. You will notice a lot more machinery in this area, which is being used to complete the tunnel walls as part of our 'cut and cover' works.

At the tunnel entrance, we're continuing earthworks and also putting the foundations in place for the Yarra Link green bridge. You will also see retaining walls that will form the final position of Bulleen Road upon completion of the project.

We will continue to work closely with the local community to inform you of upcoming works. If you feel you are experiencing excessive impacts from construction, we encourage you to contact the project team on **1800 105 105**.

Sign up for updates
northeastlink.vic.gov.au





Drivers using the new Bulleen Road lanes

What we've completed so far

Changes to Bulleen Road

In the last 10 months, there has also been a lot of change to Bulleen Road near the Eastern Freeway.

In December, we opened new lanes to create the space needed to begin works on the tunnel entrance. As you drive along Bulleen Road, you will see earthworks taking place in the old Bulleen Road lanes.

In May, Bulleen Road was moved a second time as part of the first major works for the Eastern Freeway upgrades. With lanes now moved, work has begun on the Eastern Freeway Interchange. You will notice earthworks and piling being undertaken to build the foundations for the entry and exit ramps that will connect the Eastern Freeway to North East Link.

Manningham Road interchange

Earlier this year, we made some significant changes to Bridge Street, Manningham Road, Bulleen Road and Templestowe Road by changing the direction of traffic flow, adding extra lanes and upgrading intersections.

These changes were implemented to ensure we can keep traffic moving as works on the future Manningham Road interchange continue.

You may have noticed some more machinery being used in the area between Bridge Street and Manningham Road. These machines are called hydromills and are used to install the tunnel walls that will form the future entry ramps into North East Link.

To complete these works

60K tonnes

of soil has been placed, including

95%

reclaimed from the project

6.5K tonnes

of asphalt installed

2km

of new kerb installed

1.4km

of new stormwater drainage

50

new utility access points

Works along the Eastern Freeway are also continuing including installation of roadside barriers between Bulleen and Tram roads to create work sites in the centre median and edge of the freeway. With barriers in place, crews will safely build new road sections while freeway traffic keeps moving. Visit bigbuild.vic.gov.au/eastern-freeway-upgrades for more information.

Tunnelling

South of Manningham Road, we've been busy constructing the underground structure that will be used to receive the Tunnel Boring Machines (TBMs) when they complete their journey in Bulleen. Both TBMs have now been launched from Watsonia and we expect them to arrive at the Manningham site from 2026.

We're using a cut and cover method to do this work, which involves digging from the top down between the tunnel walls to create a large box below the ground. With significant excavation now complete, we will commence our next major activity, mined tunnelling.

What we're working on

Mined tunnelling

Initial works have begun to build the southern part of North East Link, between our Trinity and Manningham worksites.

Rather than using TBMs for this section of the tunnel, we will be using large machines called roadheaders to grind away at the rock deep underground as part of the Sequential Excavation Method (SEM) of tunnelling.

To assist with tunnelling activities at our Trinity work site, an acoustic shed is being installed to help remove dirt and rock. Once complete, the shed will be

approximately 65 metres long, 25 metres wide and 17 metres in height.

The dirt and rock taken out from tunnelling will be moved into the acoustic shed to be safely loaded into trucks, covered and then taken off site before it is either reused or disposed of. This process will be managed in line with the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) guidelines.



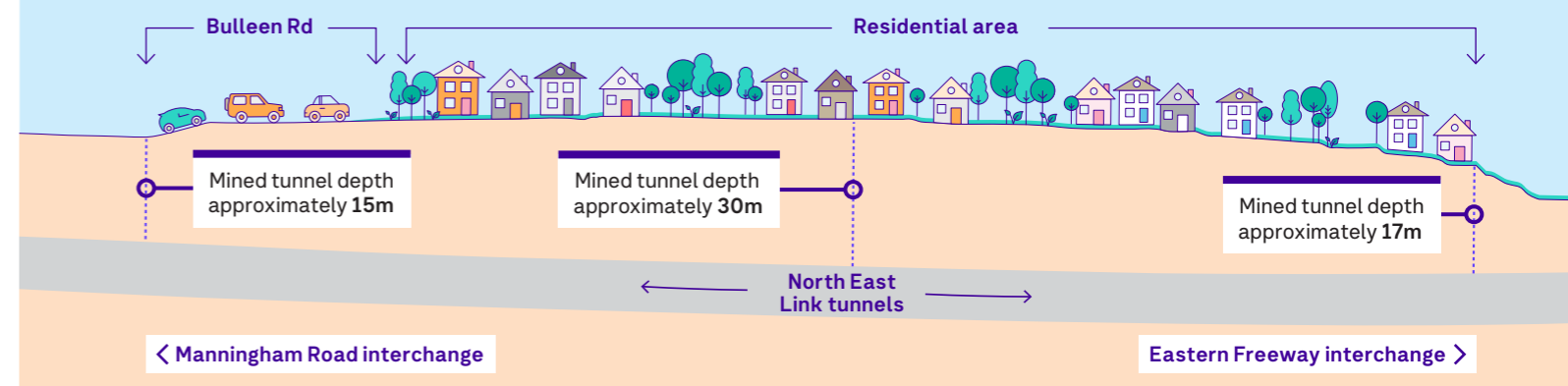
Roadheader used for SEM tunnelling

What is SEM tunnelling?

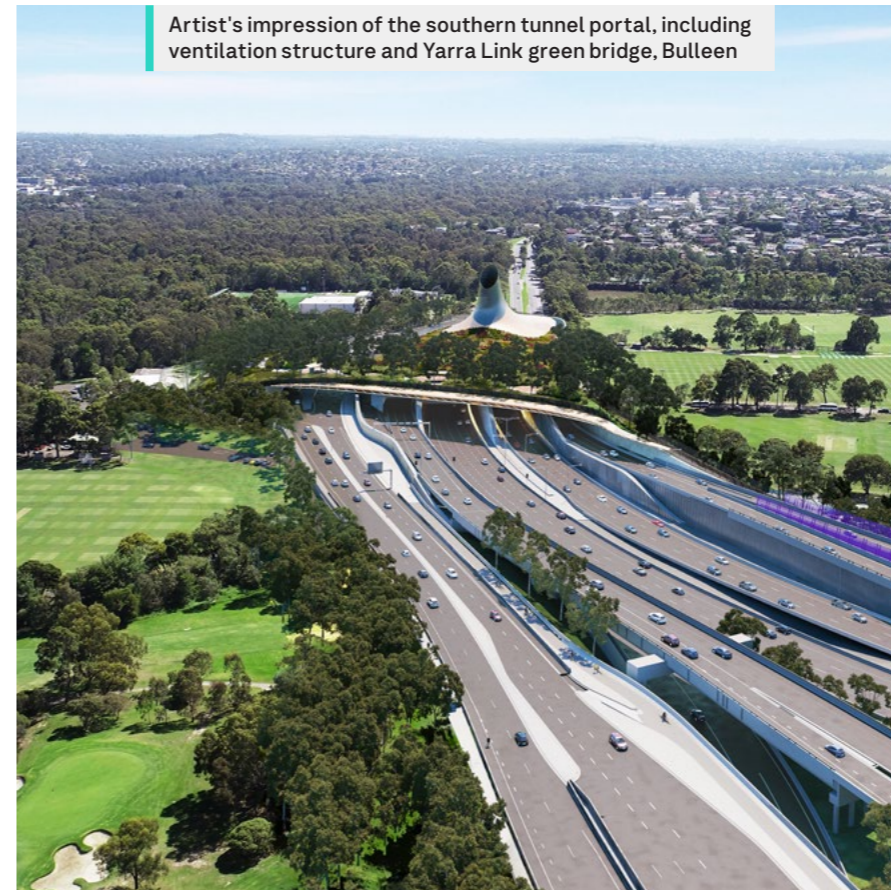
As excavation progresses underground, concrete will be sprayed across the roof and sides of the tunnels and supports will be drilled into the surrounding rock to reinforce the tunnel structure. This method of tunnelling is being used due to the width required to complete the 4 lane tunnels in this section.

How deep will the tunnels be in Bulleen?

The top of the tunnels will be up to 30 metres at their deepest point. That's around the height of an 8-9 storey building.



Artist's impression of the southern tunnel portal, including ventilation structure and Yarra Link green bridge, Bulleen



Yarra Link green bridge

Along the western side of Bulleen Road, the first stages of the Yarra Link green bridge are beginning to take shape, with concrete pours underway for the 70m long walls.

Works on the foundations along the eastern side of Bulleen Road have commenced and will continue for the rest of the year.

Upon completion, the bridge will be at the portal entry and exit to North East Link and provide an alternative way to cross Bulleen Road, providing improved and safer connections between Bulleen Park and the Koonung Creek corridor.

Featuring indigenous trees, grasses and shrubs, the green bridge will be a space for rest and relaxation, with views of the Yarra River Corridor, Bolin Bolin and as far as Melbourne CBD. The bridge will also provide a shared walking and cycling path trail, drinking fountains and places to rest.

Whether you're walking or cycling, the new green bridge will offer a safe connection across Bulleen Road for years to come.

Managing construction

We're working closely with the local community to manage the impact of works. All works are carefully planned and managed to reduce impacts to local residents and businesses.

How we manage impacts

Light

When we work at night, we will use lights to provide safe working conditions. We will limit the light impacts on residential areas by facing lights towards work areas and away from homes as much as possible. We also use shields to minimise light spill into surrounding areas.

Dust

We try to avoid creating dust during construction. Where it can't be avoided, we will limit its impact on the environment by:

- covering, spraying and monitoring dirt and rock when being transported
- spraying water on open stockpiles and roads to keep dust down
- monitoring dust levels at key locations and taking additional action to suppress dust in extreme windy conditions
- implementing truck wheel washes and sealing haul roads to limit dust exiting the work site.

Noise

Strict controls have been put in place to make sure construction noise is well managed and complies with the (EPA) Victoria guidelines. These controls include:

- choosing materials and equipment that limit noise
- use of alternate construction methods to reduce noise impacts
- providing advance notice to the community and working with them to provide support options to reduce impacts
- monitoring noise levels and taking action to reduce noise wherever possible
- noise mitigation at the source, including noise walls and noise blankets.

If you feel you are experiencing excessive impacts from construction, contact the project team on **1800 105 105** or visit our Community Hub at 17 Watsonia Road, Watsonia between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday.



Women in construction

In partnership with Women in Construction and the Civil Contractors Federation, North East Link is providing Victorians the opportunity to undertake a Certificate III Civil Construction Traineeship – paving the way for women to thrive in the construction industry.

The 18-month program blends trainer-led online sessions, on-site practical observation and time in a classroom. This flexible structure allows participants to manage their training alongside work commitments. This program provides the opportunity for women to build on their existing skillset and forge a pathway in the construction industry.

Find out more about employment opportunities on the project

Visit northeastlink.vic.gov.au/jobs

Yurringa Energy

In an Australian first, North East Link has partnered with Yurringa Energy – an Aboriginal owned renewable energy provider that will supply green power to the project.

Thanks to Yurringa Energy, the Tunnel Boring Machines digging the 6.5km twin lane tunnels will be powered by 100% renewable energy.

Yurringa Energy is creating employment opportunities for First Nations peoples, as well as providing training and development opportunities to support career growth for all employees and contractors.

northeastlink.vic.gov.au

1800 105 105 (call anytime)

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For languages other than English please call 9209 0147

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