

Piling works for the new road bridge at  
Watsons Road, Diggers Rest



Diggers Rest, May 2025

# Level crossing removal community update



## Major construction underway

**We're removing the level crossings at Old Calder Highway and Watsons Road, Diggers Rest by building two new road bridges. This will make the Sunbury Line level crossing free in 2025, improving safety, allowing for more trains more often and preparing the area for future growth.**

With major construction underway at both the Old Calder Highway and Watsons Road sites, works are progressing well and both road bridges are taking shape.

At the Old Calder Highway site, extensive works have been completed to build a new roundabout connecting Old Calder Highway to Diggers Rest-Coimadai Road. Crews are now busy preparing the bridge for painting and lighting as well as installing bus bays and shelters, new footpaths and bike paths.

Thank you to everyone who recently provided their feedback on the name of the new road bridge at Old Calder Highway. Watch this space for an exciting announcement coming soon.

Over at Watsons Road, significant progress is also being made. Following the completion of piling, we'll continue works on the retaining walls, abutments, bridge approaches and maintenance paths.

### Project benefits



Easing congestion and improving safety



Two new community spaces at Diggers Rest Station



New and upgraded lighting and CCTV



New and upgraded pathways and connections



New longer bus bays at Diggers Rest Station



Hundreds of new trees and shrubs



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[levelcrossings.vic.gov.au](https://levelcrossings.vic.gov.au)



# Major construction has begun at Watsons Road

**Major construction has kicked off at Watsons Road, with works to build the new road bridge well underway.**

Crews are continuing to build the eastern and western retaining walls, install the bridge piers and build the bridge abutment walls.

Piling works are complete after the team recently used a 65-tonne piling rig to dig seven piles, forming the foundations for the new road bridge across the train line.

The new bridge will include separated pedestrian access to enable connectivity across the rail corridor for future developments north of Diggers Rest.



*Recent piling works at Watsons Road, Diggers Rest*



*Road bridge at Watsons Road, Diggers Rest*

## Recent works at Old Calder Highway

**Works to build the new road bridge at the Old Calder Highway level crossing are ramping up, with the new roundabout connecting Diggers Rest-Coimadai Road with the new road bridge open.**

Thank you for your patience while we worked to install kerbing, resurface the road and build the new roundabout during round-the-clock works in March.

The roundabout will ensure safer and smoother traffic flow across the bridge and into the heart of Diggers Rest.

Since completing retaining walls and installing beams to form the new road bridge earlier this year, we have been hard at work pouring about 800 cubic metres of concrete to form the base slab for the bridge and preparing the bridge for surfacing works.

We'll continue to construct the new road bridge, bus bays and bus shelters, install footpaths and bike paths and build the new exit from the western station car park onto the bridge.

The bridge will take traffic over the rail line south of Stan Payne Reserve, before turning north and connecting to Diggers Rest-Coimadai Road. It includes a raised cycling path to separate vehicles and cyclists.



*Roundabout works at Old Calder Highway*



*Works on the new road bridge at Old Calder Highway, Diggers Rest*

Concrete panels that will form the retaining wall



## Diggers Rest leading the charge to cut carbon emissions

**We're busy finding ways to cut carbon emissions while we build the new road bridge over Old Calder Highway.**

### Calcined Clay

We've used calcined clay as a substitute for cement in concrete to help lower our carbon emissions.

Calcined clay is clay that has been heated to over 650 degrees celsius to become a binding agent in concrete, allowing less cement to be used.

The Diggers Rest level crossing removals are the first to trial and use calcined clay as a substitute for cement in concrete in the rail industry in Victoria.

### Volcanic rock back fill

The project team has also sourced over 10,000 cubic metres of volcanic rock from a local quarry to use as backfill for the new road bridge at Old Calder Highway over the rail line.

Transporting the mix of soil and crushed rock from a quarry located just seven kilometres from site has cut the distance trucks have travelled and saved about 616 tonnes of carbon emissions.

### Glass fibre straps and reinforced polymer bars

Carbon emissions have also been saved through the use of glass fibre straps and reinforced polymer bars that require five times less energy to produce, are two times stronger and 75% lighter than steel alternatives.

The synthetic bars are used to support sections of the bridge's retaining walls, made up of 450 concrete panels.

Calcined clay concrete used on site to form the base slabs of the crew facilities.



## Out and about in Diggers Rest

**While we've been working in the area, our team has been engaging with the community about upcoming works and disruptions.**

We've hosted pop-ups at Diggers Rest Station and Rosenthal Shopping Centre to let commuters know about upcoming rail and car park impacts.

We'll be out and about in the coming weeks so keep an eye out for us.



Recent pop up at Diggers Rest Station

# Meet Penny and Nugget!

These two clucky local residents have become great friends with our project team recently.

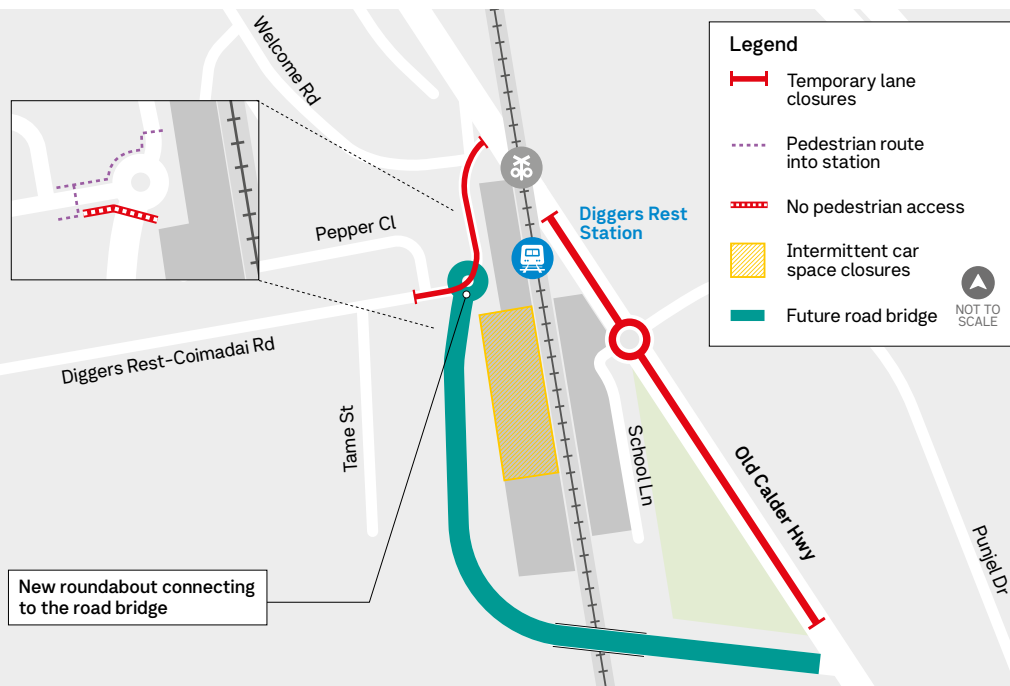
Over March and April our team visited Penny and Nugget each day to check on them and let them out of their hutch while their owners were relocated during a period of busy works in Diggers Rest.



Local residents Penny and Nugget

## Upcoming disruptions in Diggers Rest

<b>Diggers Rest Station western car park</b>	Until 5pm <b>Friday 30 May</b>	Up to 20 spaces will be closed intermittently in the western car park to safely facilitate project works.  Please use remaining available spaces.  Intermittent traffic management will be in place during this time.
<b>Old Calder Highway and Diggers Rest-Coimadai Road</b>	Until <b>Friday 30 May</b> during off-peak hours (9.30am – 3.30pm)	Intermittent and temporary lane closures. Two-way traffic will be maintained at all times.



## Project timeline

- ✓ **Late 2022**  
Site investigations and planning works
- ✓ **2023**  
Community consultation  
Site investigations continue  
Concept designs released  
Further community consultation
- ✓ **Early 2024**  
Final designs released
- ✓ **Mid 2024**  
Site establishment and early works underway at Old Calder Highway and Watsons Road  
Major construction starts at Old Calder Highway
- ✓ **Early 2025**  
Major construction underway at Watsons Road
- **2025**  
Level crossings removed

\* Timeline subject to change.

## Stay up to date

Be the first to know about the Diggers Rest level crossing removals by signing up for regular email updates.

Sign up for SMS updates by texting **DIGGERS** to **0427 840 967**.

If you'd like to talk to us about the project, call **1800 105 105** or send an email to **contact@levelcrossings.vic.gov.au**.

For more information about the project, visit the project homepage.

[levelcrossings.vic.gov.au](https://levelcrossings.vic.gov.au)

[contact@levelcrossings.vic.gov.au](mailto:contact@levelcrossings.vic.gov.au)



For languages other than English, please call 9209 0147.

1800 105 105 (call anytime)

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