



# MAKING PROGRESS —

## PAKENHAM ROADS UPGRADE

MARCH 2024



**We're upgrading Racecourse Road, McGregor Road and the Princes Freeway in Pakenham, relieving bottlenecks, improving traffic flow and making your journeys safer and more reliable.**

We've been busy on the Pakenham Roads Upgrade this year. We completed back-to-back construction blitzes from January to early March for major works on Healesville-Koo Wee Rup Road and McGregor Road. While the works were disruptive, fully closing roads and working around the clock allowed us to compress months of work into weeks.

In January, we demolished one of the old freeway roundabouts on Healesville-Koo Wee Rup Road,

the first step to upgrading the freeway interchange to two traffic light intersections. We also hit a major milestone on the Healesville-Koo Wee Rup Road bridge, installing 12 beams that will provide the two new lanes over the freeway.

On McGregor Road in February and early March, we widened the Gippsland-bound freeway exit ramp to add a new lane and rebuilt the existing roundabout, to increase the number of vehicles that can use it.

We're making progress with planning for the Racecourse Road Upgrade, with early works expected to kick off in late 2024. In the coming months, our crews will conduct site investigations along Racecourse Road and Bald Hill Road to help finalise our designs.

*Image: The new temporary roundabout on Healesville-Koo Wee Rup Road, south of the Princes Freeway.*



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# BLITZ STATS

A profiler removing asphalt from the road during works to widen the McGregor Road exit ramp.

We put up some impressive numbers during our recent construction blitzes.

## HEALESVILLE-KOO WEE RUP ROAD



Raised the height of the intersection by almost **two metres**



Placed **50,000 tonnes** of soil and rock to build up the new intersection



Installed around **300 metres** of underground drainage



Laid **3,500 tonnes** of asphalt to build the temporary roundabout

## MCGREGOR ROAD



Demolished and removed **3,400 tonnes** of old asphalt and road base



Placed **7,900 tonnes** of soil and rock to widen the freeway ramp and roundabout



Installed **865 metres** of road safety barriers



Laid **3,200 tonnes** of asphalt on the upgraded ramp and roundabout



# Upcoming works

We're now set up to mostly work behind barriers over the next few months.

Over the coming months we'll:

- pour concrete to form the bridge deck that will eventually carry the 23,500 vehicles that travel over the freeway every day
- install the sidewalls, barriers and railings on the new bridge before crews return to lay asphalt
- place crushed rock and soil to build the new lanes on Healesville-Koo Wee Rup Road on both sides of the freeway
- start to build the new northbound lanes on McGregor Road.

In early May, we'll strengthen the road shoulder along the Gippsland-bound side of the Princes Freeway as part of building a new freeway lane. To do these works safely, we'll close the Gippsland-bound lanes of the Princes Freeway over a weekend between McGregor Road and Healesville-Koo Wee Rup Road. Stay tuned for more information on these works and sign up for updates if you haven't already.

## McGregor Road

After five weeks of round-the-clock work, we reopened McGregor Road on Monday 4 March. The Gippsland-bound freeway exit ramp and roundabout have been widened to fit more vehicles and make it easier to exit the Princes Freeway.

We also placed barriers along McGregor Road between the Princes Freeway and Henry Road and Webster Way so we can safely build the new northbound lanes.

Until mid-2024, there'll be some changes to the way you travel on McGregor Road. One lane of traffic will run in each direction on the eastern side of McGregor Road and there will be no right turns from McGregor Road into Henry Road or Webster Way. Please observe all traffic signage as you travel safely through the area.

If you're driving towards the Princes Freeway on McGregor Road, you can access Henry Road by detouring further south and performing a U-turn at the freeway roundabout.

If you're driving from the Princes Freeway on McGregor Road you can access Webster Way by detouring via Park Boulevard and Honeyeater Way.

A section of the footpath along Henry Road will also be closed during this time, with pedestrian detours in place. Please visit [bigbuild.vic.gov.au/pkham-update](https://bigbuild.vic.gov.au/pkham-update) to find out more.

## Healesville-Koo Wee Rup Road

We're also working behind barriers on the Princes Freeway to upgrade the freeway interchange at Healesville-Koo Wee Rup Road. We've made a safe space to work by moving safety barriers along the Gippsland-bound freeway exit ramp at Healesville-Koo Wee Rup Road, reducing traffic to a single lane.

**While drivers will still be able to exit the Princes Freeway at Healesville-Koo Wee Rup Road, if you're heading southbound towards Koo Wee Rup it may be quicker to exit the freeway using the widened exit ramp at McGregor Road instead.**



*The upgraded freeway ramp and roundabout will make it easier to exit the freeway to Pakenham using McGregor Road.*



# PUT YOUR PAK INTO IT

We've installed the 12 bridge beams that form the base of the new Healesville-Koo Wee Rup Road bridge over the Princes Freeway.

Weighing in at 64 tonnes each, the 30-metre-long beams were transported to site at night from a manufacturer in Cobblebank.

Working at night with an 800-tonne crane, we placed the first six beams on the north side of the Princes Freeway, then moved the crane to the opposite side of the bridge to place the remaining six beams on the southern side. The beams took up to an hour to install each, and are secured in place by the concrete bridge deck, which forms the floor of the bridge.



*The first of twelve Super T-Beams being installed to form the base of the new Healesville-Koo Wee Rup Road Bridge*



## Love your local

We celebrated Valentine's Day this year with Heritage Shopping Centre, featuring our Spin & Win wheel of prizes showcasing products from local traders.

A big thank you to everyone we met that day showing some love to their local traders while McGregor Road was closed. Keep an eye out for us at The Heritage throughout the year for more appearances with our prize wheel.

## Coming to an event near you



We'll be back at the Yakkerboo Festival this year with the Big Build team to chat with the Pakenham community on all things road and rail.

Find us at the event to learn more about the projects that are improving Pakenham.

### Event details

**When:** Sunday 21 April  
from 10am

**Where:** Yakkerboo Festival  
P.B. Ronald Reserve,  
Pakenham

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