



Artist's impression of new noise walls with acrylic panels for natural light near Eram Road, Box Hill North

A better noise standard for the Eastern Freeway

Fact Sheet: Tram Road to Springvale Road
September 2025

BIG BUILD
EASTERN FREEWAY

We're upgrading the Eastern Freeway to improve transport in Melbourne's east.

New lanes, ramp upgrades and smart traffic technology will ease congestion, and a seamless connection with the new North East Link will cut travel times to the M80 Ring Road by up to 35 minutes.

The upgraded Eastern Freeway, North East Link and connecting M80 Ring Road upgrades will be

designed and built to meet a daytime noise standard of 63 decibels. This is in line with the highest level of traffic noise protection in Victoria.

In response to community feedback, we'll also deliver a quieter 58 decibel standard at night — a first for a road project in Victoria.



63

decibel protection during the day



58

decibel protection at night

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New road surfaces and noise walls


From Tram Road to Springvale Road, quieter road surfaces, existing high-quality noise walls and 3.5 km of new noise walls will work together for the new Eastern Freeway noise standard.

More than 4.7 kilometres of noise reducing asphalt, also known as open-graded asphalt, will be laid to better manage noise. Open-graded asphalt works by using small air pockets in the surface of the road to absorb noise at the source.

Using open-graded asphalt will help keep many of the existing concrete noise walls, keep more existing trees and reduce construction impacts for residents.

- New noise walls will be built in locations where:
- existing noise walls need to be moved to make space for new freeway lanes or improvements to entry and exit ramps
 - existing gaps need to be filled.

Where possible, we'll be working to install new noise walls or temporary noise walls before the existing walls are removed.



Did you know?

The 63 decibel level for the noise standard is measured outside. This means inside levels will be quieter than this.



Noise wall designs

New noise walls have been designed with residents in mind to protect privacy, reduce traffic noise and allow for natural light.

Colours are drawn from the local environment using a natural palette of earthy soil, clay and stone. Materials include a mix of recycled plastic panels moulded using textures and patterns to complement the existing concrete walls, and semi-transparent acrylic panels where natural light is needed.

Recycled plastic is a highly dense material with excellent sound absorption qualities and makes

the project more sustainable. It also means new noise walls are lighter, so they can be installed more easily, with less heavy machinery and less disruption.

Where existing trees need to be removed to build new noise walls at Eram Park, Junction Road Reserve and along Koonung Creek Trail, new trees and plants will help screen and filter views.

Have your say

Urban Design and Landscape Plan

You can provide feedback on the proposed designs for new noise walls while an Urban Design and Landscape Plan for the project is on exhibition from Monday 1 September 2025 until Sunday 21 September 2025.

To find out more, visit engage.vic.gov.au/bigbuild





Artist's impression of new noise walls near Blackburn Road, Blackburn North

Monitoring to ensure compliance

As part of developing the road design, noise monitoring and assessments in the local area will ensure the new noise standard will be met. Traffic noise will also be monitored once the Eastern Freeway Upgrades are complete.

If noise is higher than the required level, we will take action to reduce noise at the affected properties.

In response to community feedback, we've extended the amount of time noise will be monitored from 10 years after the project opens to 20 years, with results made available to the community online.



Find out more at northeastlink.vic.gov.au/environment-effects-statement

Decibel noise scale

140dBA Fireworks

Pain threshold

130dBA Jet engine at takeoff

120dBA Police siren

110dBA Ambulance siren

Extremely loud

100dBA Helicopter

90dBA Hair dryer

80dBA Truck

Very loud

70dBA Car

Loud

65dBA Air conditioner

Moderate

60dBA Conversation

50dBA Moderate rainfall

Faint

40dBA Refrigerator

30dBA Whisper

20dBA Rustling leaves

10dBA Breathing



How noise is measured

Noise is measured on a scale of units called decibels or dB for short. Noise measurements are usually adjusted to reflect how noise is perceived by the human ear. This adjustment is called 'A' weighted decibels, or dBA.

bigbuild.vic.gov.au/roads

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