

Kensington Community Reference Group

13 March 2025 – Meeting 29



Project wide update

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Construction Update - RNA

Hobsons Road demolition – project update

- Continued staged removal of asbestos and demolition from remaining buildings
- The demolition subcontractor, Delta, has contracted a Class A asbestos removalist, with independent hygienists carrying out on site air monitoring
- The Asbestos Removal Strategy has been endorsed by WorkSafe
- RNA has contracted its own hygienist as well for an extra layer of oversight
- All air monitoring samples to date have produced a below analytical reporting limit result



Hobsons Road demolition – project update (cont.)

- Building B has been demolished, with demolition of building C, including the chimney, underway and demolition of building E to commence shortly after
- Removal of roof from building F, as well as permanent internal propping to ensure original heritage façade is maintained
- The tree located inside next to the project access gate has been removed
- These works are expected to be completed in April.



Hobsons Road demolition - community update



- The project continues to maintain clear and regular communication with the two local businesses, Spotless and Brotherhood of St Laurence.
- Frontline residents were door knocked and provided with construction notifications.
- The project has not received any concerns from the wider community regarding the demolition works, asbestos removal or local traffic impacts.

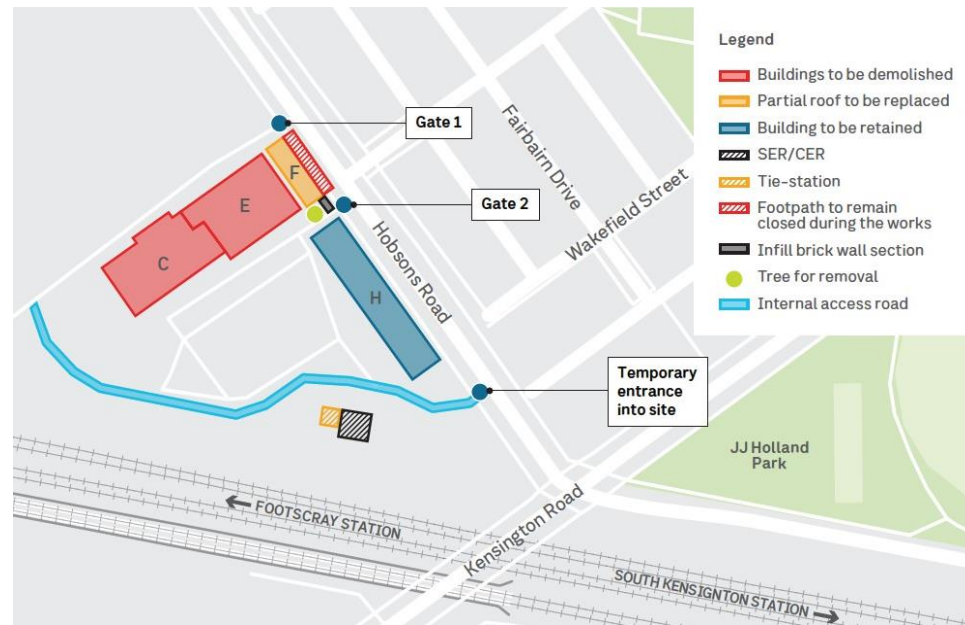


Development Plan Amendment - RNA

- RNA has submitted, to the Minister for Planning, a minor amendment to the RIA Western Portal Development Plan (the Development Plan).
- As part of this process, RNA has been consulting with key stakeholders including Melbourne Water, City of Melbourne and Heritage Victoria. The project will also inform the local community prior to commencing any construction-related activities
- RNA is seeking to amend the Development Plan (relating to aboveground works) to:
 - allow for the installation of a new tie-station at the Metro Tunnel Hobsons Road site in Kensington, located east of the Signalling Equipment Room and Communications Equipment Room (SER/CER buildings).
 - facilitate a minor relocation of a vehicle driveway at the eastern end of Childers Street to allow a rail corridor access point.

New scope - Hobsons Road tie-station

- A tie-station is being installed in Kensington to support power management for the Metro Tunnel and broader rail network as well as a range of future improvements
- This location has been chosen as the Hobsons Road site is designated to support ongoing operations of the tunnel and rail network, with the tie-station being built next to the existing rail asset buildings
- A tie-station is a building located between substations that connects parts of the railway's power system together to improve power regulation on the network
- A common part of Melbourne's railway network, tie-stations also allow sections of rail track to be isolated independently so maintenance or emergency works can be carried out while minimising delays to the network
- This tie-station will also help manage the risk of electromagnetic interference (EMI) in the Parkville biomedical precinct.



Hobsons Road Tie-station (cont.)

- We are building the tie-station over the coming months, so it is ready before the Metro Tunnel opens
- The fully enclosed building will be located next to the existing signalling and communications equipment rooms (SER/CER), adjacent to the rail corridor
- At approximately 12m W x 18m Dx 6m H, the fenced tie-station will be half the size of the fenced SER/CER buildings and will be visually consistent with the same architecturally designed fence.



Hobsons Road tie-station (cont.)



- Construction of the new tie-station will start in mid-March 2025 and take about 6 months to complete
- Works will include piling, steel installation, the delivery and installation of a prefabricated building, followed by testing and commissioning
- The works in March are focused on piling works, with a piling pad to be built for the piling rig to sit on. This involves a roller which could generate medium levels of vibration
- Holes will be drilled into the ground before, piling which will reduce the duration of piling
- Driven piling activities are expected to generate medium to high levels of noise and vibration. This activity will be undertaken during the day and is expected to take 2 weeks
- Piles will be levelled off using a jackhammer which is expected to generate a high level of noise. These works will be undertaken during the day
- During piling activities, dust is expected to be generated, and a water cart will be used as part of dust suppression measures as required
- Deliveries are expected to take place during the day, however night deliveries may occur. We will notify surrounding residents if this is the case.
- Further information will be provided to the community prior to the commencement of works.

Childers Street rail access vehicle crossover



- As previously advised in early 2023, RNA will be constructing a vehicle crossover (driveway) to the eastern end of Childers Street to facilitate a maintenance access point to the rail corridor
- The chosen location of the vehicle crossover has since been relocated 10m along Childers Street (towards South Kensington Station) to avoid rail infrastructure in the corridor that is unable to be moved
- The minor relocation of the vehicle crossover at the eastern end of Childers Street does not result in any net loss to car parking along Childers Street (only parking re-configuration)
- Works to provide rail access on Childers Street will take place between May-June 2025 (TBC), pending Development Plan Amendment approval
- Some further tree removal has been identified to enable these works. Every effort has been made to minimise tree removal and all trees have undergone a detailed arborist assessment
- Works will involve a small excavator, chainsaw, small compaction roller, asphalt machine and crews with hand tools
- These works are expected to generate medium levels of noise with intermittent periods of medium levels of vibration when compacting the ground
- More information about these works will be provided closer to the date.

Trial operations

Trial operations update

- We have reached a critical stage for trial operations within the project.
- Trial operations serve as dress rehearsals for the Metro Trains station staff, drivers and signalers working inside the new tunnels and stations.
- Involves empty trains running along the Sunbury line and entering and exiting the Metro Tunnel. Helps to ensure that everything runs smoothly when the Metro Tunnel opens later this year.

Key dates for trial operations

Saturday 29 March - Sunday 30 March 2025

Saturday 5 April - Sunday 6 April 2025

Monday 14 April – Tuesday 15 April 2025 (Daytime only)

Thursday 17 April 2025

Saturday 26 April - Sunday 27 April 2025



- The project has received feedback relating to a flange (a protruded ridge on the train wheel that maintains position on the rail) squeal coming from the track and a 'whooshing' noise as trains are exiting the tunnel.
- The project is aware of noise concerns and continues to investigate.
- In addition to noise monitoring to help understand the issue, to date the project has trialled noise blankets and undertaken track tamping works at the western tunnel entrance to help reduce the noise.
- Ahead of the next trial weekend scheduled in late March, the project is investigating solutions to reduce the noise including a lubrication strategy. Following implementation of this, further monitoring will be undertaken
- Thank you again for your patience as the project continues to investigate this matter. We will provide an update to the community following our next trial weekend.

Construction Update - CYP

Tunnel works

- Works within the Metro Tunnel are taking place until 15 March 2025, between 7am to 6pm
- On Friday 14 and Saturday 15 March, there will be increased movement of equipment and machinery between the Hobsons Road site and the tunnels during demobilisation
- Timing of work may change depending on weather conditions.



Construction lookahead



* Please note that the table below covers known works. There may be a need to carry out further activities as we move toward Day 1

Activity	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Hobsons Road demolition works										
Tie-station works										
24-hour trial operations (mostly weekends)										
Childers St rail access vehicle crossover										
CYP tunnel works										
<i>Other items</i> (Closure of gap in floodwall, Tennyson St truncation)										Dates TBC

Communications and stakeholder engagement update

Notifications and communications

Current:

- Demolition works at 5-39 Hobsons Road – 6 January 2025
- Overnight works and trial operations update (E-news) - 20 January 2025
- Tunnel works – 13 February 2025 (E-news)

Upcoming:

- Works update – March 2025
- Monthly works updates until completion of tie-station works
- Ongoing trial operations updates

Kensington community event



- MTPO, RNA and CYP will hold a community event at a later date
- Further information will be provided to the community once confirmed.



Other business