



Discovery Day

Community Update

DECEMBER 2025



Discovery Day

A day to remember: inner west community celebrates the West Gate Tunnel at Discovery Day

Tens of thousands of people came together on Sunday 16 November to celebrate a once-in-a-generation milestone – the chance to walk, run and explore the West Gate Tunnel before it opens to traffic in December.

Yarraville Gardens transformed into a lively hub of activity for Discovery Day, as locals and visitors alike took the rare opportunity to journey through the city's newest tunnels.

The day began with an 8km charity run through the tunnel, raising vital funds for local partners West Welcome Wagon and Community Bike Hub. Both organisations play an important role in supporting inclusion and connection across Melbourne's west – from helping refugees and asylum seekers to settle into the community, to promoting accessible cycling and sustainable transport.

From mid-morning, people filled Yarraville Gardens for a day of free entertainment, live music, food trucks, and interactive experiences. Children tested their road safety skills at the kids' zone, while visitors of all ages lined up for the popular driver simulator to experience what it will be like to travel through the tunnels once they open.



Discovery Day

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Discovery Day

Tens of thousands of people took part in the free 2.5 km walk through the tunnel – a memorable opportunity to experience the scale and innovation of the project up close.

Discovery Day was not only a celebration of engineering achievement, but an opportunity to celebrate and thank the inner-west community who have lived alongside construction of the project for the past seven years.

Thank you, Victoria – what a great turnout!



Get tunnel ready

When the West Gate Tunnel opens, drivers will have a choice between the tunnel or the bridge. Cars can continue to use the West Gate Bridge for free. To learn more about tolls and how to use the new road visit westgatetunnelproject.vic.gov.au/drive



Timber net feature at tunnel portal



Riding into the future: introducing the Dixon Veloway

Cyclists in Melbourne's west are about to enjoy a safer and smoother ride, with the West Gate Tunnel Project's new elevated cycling veloway now open. This dedicated path will give riders a direct, fully separated way to travel between Footscray and the city – avoiding six busy intersections and creating a more predictable and enjoyable journey.

The veloway will be formally known as the Dixon Veloway, honouring the legacy of Victorian cycling legend and Australian Cycling Hall of Fame inductee Iris Dixon. With 16 national titles and 25 Victorian championships to her name, Dixon was a trailblazer for women in sport, inspiring generations of riders through her determination, talent and leadership.

The bright green 2.5k path runs from Shepherd Bridge to Moonee Ponds Creek, linking directly into the Federation Trail.

Opening the veloway is part of the project's broader investment in active transport, delivering more than 14 kilometres of new and upgraded paths across the corridor – making it safer and easier for more people to ride, while helping connect communities.

We can't wait to welcome cyclists onto this world-class new link. To learn more about active transport improvements delivered through the West Gate Tunnel Project, visit westgatetunnelproject.vic.gov.au/cyclists.

Staying safe on the veloway

At four metres wide, with 24/7 CCTV, emergency vehicle access, alarmed emergency exits and continuous lighting along the route, the Dixon Veloway has been designed to give cyclists a modern, safe and convenient way to move around the west.

The veloway will be for cyclists only. Users will need to maintain a safe speed and keep left. In the event of an emergency cyclists should call 000 and for other incidents, riders will be supported by Transurban's Incident Response service by calling 13 33 31 and quoting your location.



Showcasing the work of Indigenous artists

Indigenous culture has inspired a number of urban design features of the West Gate Tunnel Project, including the eel-like cladding on Maribyrnong River bridges and the net features at the tunnel portals.

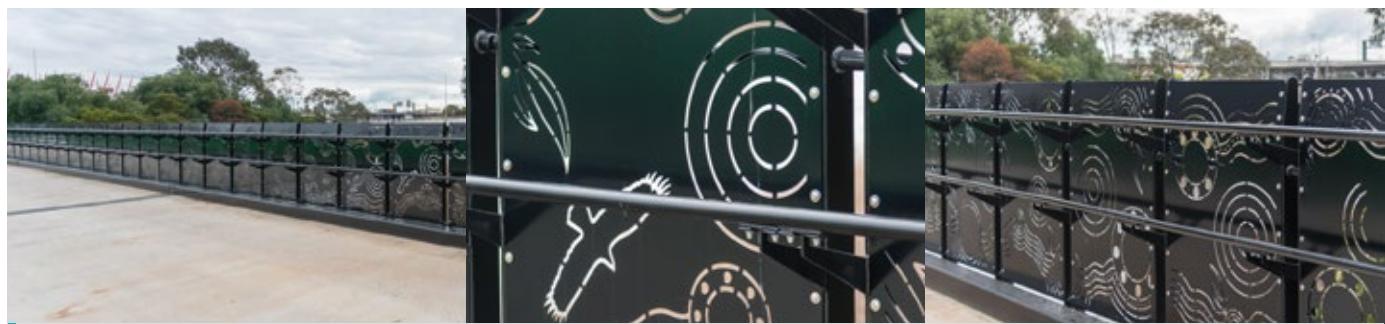
Continuing our commitment to showcasing the rich Indigenous history of the lands on which the West Gate Tunnel Project is built, we have engaged local Indigenous artists to collaborate with us to deliver interpretive artworks at key locations between the CBD and the west.

At Moonee Ponds Creek, perforated steel panel cladding conveys the story of connection and journeys as told by Wurundjeri artist, Samantha Richards.

A yarning circle sculpture at Kororoit Creek, along with six steel totems and traditional patterns on precast concrete seats tells the stories of the Bunurong people and their customs, as told by Bunurong artist, Kobi Sainty.

At the Whitehall Street wetland, a boomerang-shaped seat is laid against the backdrop of steel panels depicting 'three meeting places', each representing a different mob within Wurundjeri, as told by Wurundjeri artist, John Xiberras.

While a second boomerang-shaped seat in the wetland includes steel panels with diamonds representing healing and connection, along with important tools and flora and fauna on Bunurong Country, as told by Bunurong artist, Stacey Edwards.



Samantha Richards' 'Travel Across Time' artwork featured at the Moonee Ponds Creek pedestrian and cycling bridge – the first of four artworks to be installed as part of the series.

New open spaces

We're more than tunnels and roads. The West Gate Tunnel Project is delivering nearly 9 hectares of new parks and wetlands.

New BMX tracks under CityLink near Footscray Road will give riders a space to practice their jumps and pumps, along with direct links to the new veloway and surrounding bike paths, providing easy access to the broader active transport network.

Along Whitehall Street next to the Maribyrnong River tunnel portal, the new wetlands are also complete and birds and various wildlife are beginning to settle into the area.

This pocket of former industrial land has been transformed into a vibrant and open green space, providing a naturalised environment that links directly to Yarraville Gardens via a new walking and cycling path over Whitehall Street and down to the Maribyrnong River.



Completed BMX track works



Completed wetlands

Making the tunnels safe

Asphalting and line marking in the tunnels is complete and extensive testing of the traffic and safety management systems is the last step before opening.

This included testing lane management and speed control signage, as well as fire and smoke suppression systems.

The final commissioning activities to take place in the tunnels were smoke and fire tests.

The tests simulated a real fire scenario, where heat and non-toxic theatrical smoke were generated in order to activate the automated ventilation and fire suppression systems, to extract the smoke.

Also tested was the performance of the automated fire suppression system, ensuring it operates as it should in the event of a fire within the tunnel.

These tests are carried out to ensure the system meets its design and operational requirements, including water target flow rates under worst-case conditions.

Fire Rescue Victoria during testing



Safety and technology systems in the tunnels

- 1,110,000 metres**
of cabling across tunnels and east connecting roads (enough to go from Melbourne to Newcastle!)
- 8,400+ metres**
of fire main (over 20 laps of the MCG)
- 26,000+ metres**
of water piping for fire suppression systems (the length of Phillip Island)
- 1,184**
tunnel roadway lights
- 72**
jet fans

Opening up ready for the West Gate Tunnels

Ahead of the opening of the West Gate tunnels, a number of key bicycle and road connections have recently opened to provide Melburnians with more ways to move around the city.

On 17 October, the Dynon Road cycling link opened to cyclists and pedestrians alike.

The rainbow path goes over the rail lines along Dynon Road and provides a new link from Melbourne's west to North Melbourne and into the CBD.

Later that month on 27 October, the new Wurundjeri Way extension opened to traffic.

The Wurundjeri Way extension links Dynon Road to Wurundjeri Way creating a safer, faster and more reliable

connection to Melbourne's west, Docklands and the south-eastern suburbs.

It is the first new city bypass in a quarter of a century, and this toll-free road will also provide another entry and exit point into Docklands which regularly hosts big crowds for concerts and sports events.

As new and upgraded roads and paths open in December, including the new elevated veloway for cyclists, we recognise it will take everyone time to get to know their new journeys and understand their route options. Try different drives using our virtual map and video tools before you hit the road in real life, at westgatetunnel.vic.gov.au/drive.



Wurundjeri Way extension

What to do if you have an incident on the road?

In the early months of operation, it will take time for everyone to adjust to the new tunnels and connections. Transurban will monitor the West Gate Tunnel, West Gate Freeway and CityLink from its new operations centre in Yarraville, working closely with the Department of Transport and Planning to keep the network running safely and smoothly. If you're in an incident, please stay in your vehicle until help arrives.

Free weekend travel in January – a big thank you

As we prepare to open the West Gate Tunnel at the end of 2025, we want to sincerely thank the inner west community for your patience, feedback, and support throughout construction. Your resilience during years of major works has helped bring this vital new connection to life.

To say thank you, Transurban will offer free weekend travel across the new West Gate Tunnel network during Saturdays and Sundays throughout January 2026. This will give Victorians the chance to experience the new roads, build confidence in the new network, and enjoy the benefits it will bring to the west, port precinct, and the broader freeway system.

Free weekend travel during January is in conjunction with Victoria's free weekend public transport period, providing more choice for how you move around our city this summer.

We look forward to welcoming you onto the new road.

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