

WEST GATE TUNNEL PROJECT UPDATE

ISSUE #19
MAY 2022

Tunnelling underway on Victoria's alternative to the West Gate Bridge

Tunnelling has started on the project, with Tunnel Boring Machines (TBM) Bella and Vida, starting the journey from Whitehall Street in Yarraville to the West Gate Freeway.

Bella and Vida are operating 24 hours a day, seven days a week for approximately the next 18 months to build the twin tunnels that will provide a more direct journey between the city and the west.

The first TBM to start, Bella is building the longer 4km outbound tunnel while the

second TBM, Vida, is digging the shorter 2.8km inbound tunnel.

Our TBMs are the biggest in the southern hemisphere, with the cutterhead on each machine registering 15.6 metres in height – that's as high as a five-storey building.

The cutterhead will cut through the earth, moving around nine metres a day, but will stop every 2.4 metres to line the tunnel with concrete segments.

Once complete, the West Gate Tunnel will provide a quicker way to get to the city from the west and give trucks a direct route to the Port of Melbourne.

9,000

trucks a day
off local roads

20

minutes travel
time saved

28,000

vehicles off the
West Gate Bridge

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Image: The first tunnel rings are complete

In partnership with:

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 **WEST GATE TUNNEL**
PROJECT

 **MAJOR
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Government



Construction activity at Williamstown Road during summer campaign works

70 per cent of freeway widening work now complete

A six-week construction campaign in Melbourne's west has delivered major progress for the project at Williamstown Road and the M80 interchange.

We now have 70 per cent of work complete to widen the West Gate Freeway from eight to 12 through lanes, reducing congestion and improving travel times.

At the M80, we rebuilt and realigned a number of existing on and off ramps and constructed sections of a new outbound ramp which will take motorists driving from the city from the West Gate Freeway to the Princes Freeway.

We strengthened the bridge over Williamstown Road to make it stronger for decades to come and carry the extra lanes on the West Gate Freeway. We set up a new worksite on the West Gate Freeway to continue freeway widening and building the city bound tunnel entrance, and completely rebuilt the exit ramp to Williamstown Road and on ramp to the West Gate Bridge.

The 50,000 litre tank which will catch debris and protect the nearby Stony Creek and local waterways was also installed under one of the ramps.

Thank you for your patience as we completed these important project works.

2

extra lanes in each direction

50%

extra capacity on the West Gate Freeway

↑↑↑

Express lanes from the Bridge to the M80 interchange

9km

of new noise walls

Construction of elevated road underway

If you've travelled along Footscray Road recently, you'll have noticed the progress we're making in constructing the elevated road.

This new road is an important part of the West Gate Tunnel Project, taking cars and trucks out of the tunnel and connecting them to the city or the port.

A total of 15 spans, each consisting of 17 segments pre-made concrete segments, making up a total 670m of elevated road, have now been lifted into place.

The 238 columns and supports we need to construct the elevated road have also been completed, allowing for construction to continue uninterrupted.

An elevated road builder or "launching gantry," will continue constructing the elevated road above Footscray Road toward the Maribyrnong River, and when this section is complete, it will be turned around to construct the city bound carriageway.



Scan to the QR code to see how the launching gantry builds the elevated road.



Photo of spans constructed to date



Construction of a new ramp at the M80 during summer works



Attached to the underside of the elevated road will be a veloway – the first of its kind in Melbourne.

The cycling super highway:

Is **2.5km** long

Avoids **six** busy truck intersections

Is **4 metres** wide

Hyde Street ramps progress

Significant progress has been made over the summer months in constructing the Hyde Street ramps.

The road deck span between each column is made up of six beams weighing more than 90 tonnes, with six spans complete on the city bound ramp and five complete on the outbound ramp.

The ramp on the northern side of the freeway will provide a new exit ramp for inbound traffic from the West Gate Freeway to Hyde Street.

The ramp on the southern side of the freeway will provide a new entry ramp for westbound traffic from Hyde Street to the West Gate Freeway.

Trucks that can't travel in tunnels, will also be able to avoid residential streets by using the new ramps to connect to the port and fuel depots on Hyde Street.

Construction of the Hyde Street ramps continues throughout 2022.



City bound Hyde Street ramp construction underway

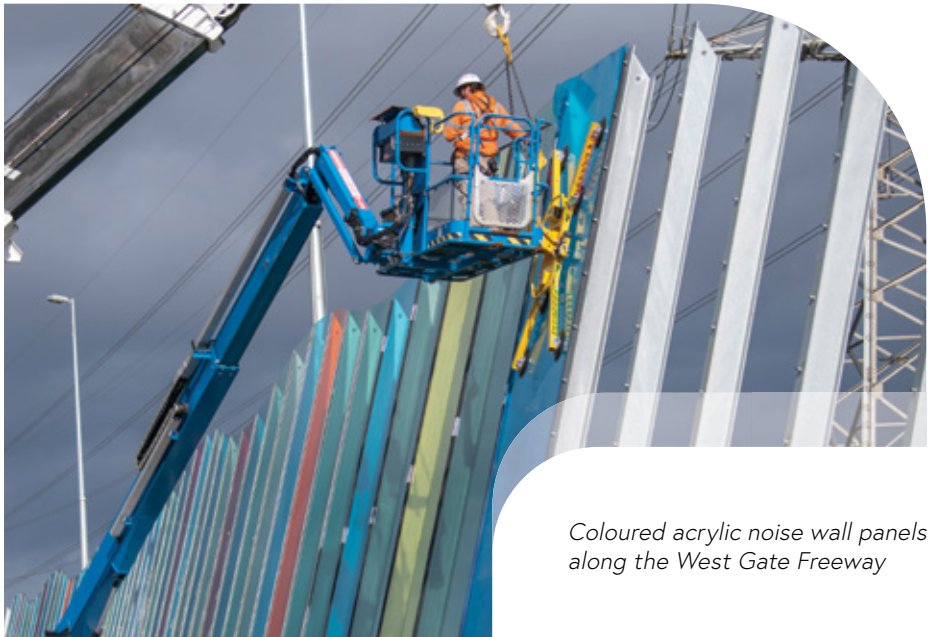
Rainbow noise walls going up

A different type of noise wall has begun appearing on the West Gate Freeway.

Rainbow-coloured acrylic panels are being installed in the centre carriage way of the freeway around Millers Road.

Coloured acrylics were chosen for the centre carriage way to create a contrast to the greens and blues of the other noise walls.

We're building 9kms of new and improved noise walls along the West Gate Freeway reduce traffic noise and provide an attractive outlook.



Coloured acrylic noise wall panels along the West Gate Freeway

West Gate Neighbourhood Fund Grants announced

Twenty-eight local community projects in the inner west will share in almost half a million dollars as part of the West Gate Neighbourhood Fund Grants.

The West Gate Tunnel Project initiative provides funding for not-for-profit organisations to embark on projects that will celebrate, connect and transform inner-west communities.

A wide range of projects are being funded supporting arts and culture, culturally and linguistically diverse communities, sustainability, sport and recreation, and education.

Projects include bocci court upgrades at the Italian Social Club Altona, Arts Gen revamping its multipurpose art and community space, and the East African Women's Foundation creating a space for social and cultural gatherings and provide a one-stop place for access to services, assistance support and referral.

The \$10 million West Gate Neighbourhood Fund is an initiative of the Victorian Government and supports projects that bring people together and build community capacity.

The full of grants recipients and projects is available on the West Gate Tunnel Project website bigbuild.vic.gov.au/projects/west-gate-tunnel-project/community/west-gate-neighbourhood-fund



Priya Pavri (left) and Tania Canas (right) from Arts Gen with Liz Evans from the West Gate Tunnel Project.

What to expect from May to July 2022

- Dynon Road pedestrian and cycling path works continuing
- Massive steel beams for Maribyrnong River bridges installed
- Elevated road construction continues
- West Gate Freeway widening works.



Cross head install

Out in the community again

Our project Info Centre in Yarraville is open again after a temporary closure due to the pandemic, and we've got a new exhibit on display for when you visit.

Drop by and take a look at our replica tunnel boring machine and learn how you construct a tunnel from our tunnelling experts.

The Info Centre recently held an Open Day to celebrate the start of tunnelling and hundreds of people attended to learn about how we are constructing the tunnels, while enjoying entertainment and free food. Thanks to everyone that dropped by on the day.

With events in Melbourne for the past two years being cancelled or postponed due to COVID-19, it has been great to be out and about in the community once again with our Mobile Info Hub.

This year we've been at the Footscray Lunar New Year and Yarraville Festival.

For up to date information on where the Mobile Info Hub will be next, visit bigbuild.vic.gov.au and check out our socials.



Open Day at the Info Centre in Yarraville



The Mobile Info Hub at Footscray's Lunar New Year Festival



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