

Heide – Project FAQs

October 2022

What is North East Link?

- North East Link will fix the missing link in Melbourne's freeway network between the M80 Ring Road and the Eastern Freeway. It will slash travel times between our city's north and east by up to 35 minutes, take more than 15,000 trucks off local roads a day and give local roads back to local communities.

What do the North East Link Tunnels deliver?

- Designs for the North East Link Tunnels were released in late 2021 with a Yarra Link green bridge connecting Koonung Creek Trail to Bulleen Park, longer 6.5 kilometre tunnels to Watsonia, simpler interchanges and 50 MCGs of open space across the entire North East Link Program.
- The North East Link Tunnels will take traffic and trucks under instead of through our suburbs and give local roads back to local people. We're also creating new wetlands and parklands, better connecting Koonung Creek and Yarra River trails and delivering a major upgrade of the Eastern Freeway.
- The project will take 14,700 vehicles a day off Bulleen Road and into the North East Link tunnels. It avoids the historic River Red Gum on Bridge Street, reduces impacts on Bulleen Art & Garden, Banksia Park and Heide and opens up more land for future development.
- The project will deliver new cultural precinct wetlands along the banks of the Birrarung (Yarra River), creating a new cultural precinct for Melbourne and linking Heide Museum of Modern Art with the Yarra River parklands.
- Upgraded shared use paths and new pedestrian connection completes the connections with major regional cycling and walking routes. There will be a continuous connection from Melbourne's CBD along Yarra River (Birrarung) to Heide Museum of Modern Art including Koonung Creek corridor, the new cultural precinct wetlands and parklands - opening up new spaces for the community to explore.
- Enhanced public access to the Yarra River Valley Parklands including public open parkland, rehabilitated wetland, new road-side plantings along Bulleen Road and open space that celebrates Indigenous knowledge. For the first time, locals will see down into the Yarra Parklands from Bulleen Road, right through to the Yarra River (Birrarung).

Will there be any direct impacts to Heide during construction?

- A key reason for the design of the North East Link Tunnels is to protect the Yarra River and surroundings, including Heide, by travelling under this area. This is a priority for the project.
- The TBMs will be retrieved south of the Bulleen Road / Manningham Road interchange. Spark has designed the project so that it is not required to use land north of Bridge Street to retrieve the tunnel boring machines which avoids direct impacts to Banksia Park and the grounds of Heide.
- Heide is a no-go zone for construction and the builders will be required to maintain access to Heide as the North East Link Tunnels are built.

When will the project be completed?

- Work to build the North East Link Tunnels will be visible in Bulleen until North East Link is open to traffic in 2028.

What's happening in Bulleen and near the Manningham Road interchange?

- Ahead of major construction starting later this year, we're continuing works to establish our construction compounds and sites in Bulleen including:
 - Barrier and hoarding installation along Bulleen Road
 - Delivering and installing machinery within our work facilities
 - Building retaining walls ahead of piling and tunnelling works
 - Beginning demolition of vacated properties within the Bulleen Industrial Precinct.
- We have commenced tree and vegetation removal along Bulleen Road. Prior to removal of trees, a fauna inspection is completed by a qualified ecologist. Any fauna found in these areas will be relocated to habitat in the local area. As part of the North East Link Program, two trees are planted for every tree removed, and Spark is talking to a range of stakeholders, including Heide, about tree reuse opportunities.
- There may be reduced speeds from time to time on Bulleen Road and Manningham Road with lane closures and local detours overnight from 7pm to 6am with electronic messaging boards in place to keep you up to date with our latest works.

How will construction traffic be managed?

- As works get underway in Bulleen, a traffic management plan is in place to ensure traffic is moving at a safe, reduced speed, and that pedestrians and cyclists are safely separated from vehicles at all times.
- Construction traffic will use dedicated access routes in and out of sites, with traffic controllers in place.
- Keep an eye out for updated traffic signage, traffic controllers and electronic message boards with the latest information, and please observe speed limits when travelling along Bulleen Road.

Where can I go for more information?

- Read more about the works on our website at bigbuild.vic.gov.au/projects/north-east-link-program
- Call us on 1800 105 105 - we're available 24 hours a day, seven days a week
- Write to us at community@northeastlink.vic.gov.au
- You can also follow us on social media for the latest project updates and sign up to receive email notifications about future works in your area here northeastlink.vic.gov.au/news/subscribe