5 August 2019

Works update: Whitehall Street construction areas

Over the past month our teams have been busy preparing for the launch of the first tunnel boring machine (TBM), Bella who will construct the outbound tunnel. With construction of the launch box complete, some parts of Bella have been lowered into the box for the final stage of TBM assembly. Works on our covered spoil conveyor are complete and the spoil handling facility is undergoing some final touches before being ready to receive the rock and soil from tunnelling.

Before we commence tunnelling; we have a few final pieces of the North Yarra Main Sewer diversion to complete so that we can return Whitehall Street to two-way traffic.

Update on North Yarra Main Sewer diversion

After 12 months, works to divert the 600 metre section of the 120 year old North Yarra Main Sewer are on the home stretch. We have commenced the process to demobilise our sites and reinstate two-way traffic on Whitehall Street. These works will continue throughout August with some night works and temporary traffic changes in place at times. Please observe traffic management signage and traffic controllers.

Here’s what to expect during August:

- Changed traffic conditions at times on Whitehall Street between Somerville Road and Youell Street for site demobilisation and road reinstatement works. Youell Street west and Harris Street at Whitehall Street may also be closed at times.

- Weekend closures on Whitehall Street: 10 – 12 August and 24 – 26 August.

- Whitehall Street will be closed in both directions south of Somerville Road to Leek Street to complete site demobilisation and road reinstatement works. Northbound traffic detour remains via Leek and Hyde Streets; and southbound traffic will be required to detour via Hyde Street, Somerville Road and Earsdon Street. Works will take place from 12 noon Saturday to 5am Monday. There may be some low level associated noise during these works. We will work to minimise it as much as possible and monitor any impacts.

- Whitehall Street will reopen to two-way traffic, the Hyde Street detour will be lifted and the 24hr truck ban on Hyde Street will be reinstated in late August.

New temporary traffic signals on Whitehall Street

From the end of August, the temporary traffic signals installed near 221 Whitehall Street and Hall Street will be activated. The traffic signals will help manage the flow of traffic on Whitehall Street during tunnelling operations.
Utility relocations – late August/early September

Prior to starting the sewer diversion works in 2018, our teams relocated water and gas utilities to create space for the work sites on Whitehall Street.

Once the diversion is complete, these services need to be reinstated and these works will commence in late August/early September. They also involve drilling a new gas line down Somerville Road to tie in with gas services on Whitehall Street. To ensure minimal traffic disruption and a safe working environment on Whitehall Street for the constructions teams, these works will be completed over two to three weeks of both day and night works.

There may be some low level associated noise and we will work to minimise it as much as possible and monitor any impacts. We will be in touch with adjacent residents and businesses closer to the start of works.

Water relocations:
Where: Whitehall Street between Harris Street and Youell Street
Time: Up to two weeks of both day and night works with traffic management in place.
Work hours: 6.00am – 6.00pm and nights will be from 7.00pm – 5.30am.

Gas relocations:
Where: Whitehall Street between Somerville Road and Hall Street
Time: Up to two weeks of night works, including temporary traffic changes at times
Work hours: 7.00pm – 5.30am

Where: Somerville Road (north side slip lane), between Hyde and Whitehall Streets
Time: Up to two weeks of night works with lane closures and traffic management in place
Work hours: 7.00pm – 5.30am.

Thank you for your patience while we complete these important works.

Please note that works are subject to change and could be rescheduled. For more information about the upcoming works and traffic changes, please contact us.

West Gate Tunnel Visitor Info Centre
Our information centre is a great place to learn about one of Victoria’s largest road projects. Located at the corner of Whitehall and Somerville Road. Opening hours are Monday to Friday: 10am – 5pm, Saturday: 10am – 4pm (excludes public holidays and available by appointment).

Contact us
Please contact us if you have any questions or feedback about these works.

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