

The logo for the West Gate Tunnel Project features a stylized teal and blue graphic above the text "west gate tunnel project" in a bold, sans-serif font.

west gate tunnel project

JUNE 2017

Better noise walls

The West Gate Tunnel Project will reduce noise for residents with significantly improved noise walls.

After two years of talking with communities in the inner west, we understand that traffic noise is a key focus for residents.

We've been monitoring noise along the project route and know that noise is already very high in some places.

The project will build high-quality noise walls to achieve a new standard for residents along the corridor.

With the West Gate Tunnel Project noise standard in place, the vast majority of homes along the West Gate Freeway will experience a significant reduction in noise.

The new standard has been informed by community feedback and existing noise policies – including VicRoads policy and others around Australia.

It will manage noise at the most affected properties - those closest to the freeway - so others further away will also gain the benefits.

A better noise standard for the west

In response to community feedback, we have developed a noise standard of 63 dB(A) specifically for the West Gate Tunnel Project that responds to the unique noise issues and community needs along the project's route.

With some residents experiencing noise today of up to 70 dB(A), this will be a significant improvement.

High quality noise walls

Noise walls will be used to minimise noise at buildings along the West Gate Tunnel Project.

New noise walls will be built to a high standard – of a similar or better quality than noise walls on other newly built Melbourne freeways.

They have been designed with residents in mind to protect privacy, reduce traffic noise and provide an attractive outlook. The proposed design uses textured concrete and acrylic panels of pale blues and greens, which allow light to pass through. Where space permits, planting will also be used to screen the noise walls.

An artist's impression showing a silver car driving on a road next to a modern, textured noise wall. The wall is made of light-colored panels with a grid pattern. The background shows a clear sky and some greenery.

Williamstown Road inbound
off ramp from West Gate
Freeway, Yarraville

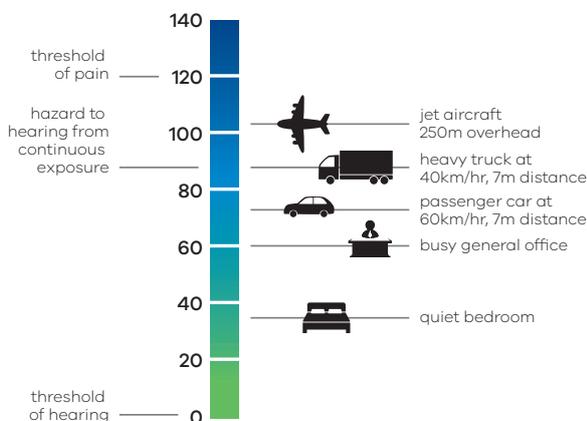
Artist impression only - does not include detailed design

About noise

Noise is measured on a scale of units called decibels, or dB for short. Noise measurements are usually adjusted to reflect how noise is perceived by the human ear, giving a noise unit called 'A' weighted decibels, or dB(A).

Noise from traffic varies over time, both from second to second, and from day to night. The term LA10 is used to describe the noise level which is exceeded for 10 per cent of a measurement period, which for road traffic noise affecting residential properties, is 18 hours, from 6am to midnight.

dB(A) Scale



How noise is measured and modelled

When measuring traffic noise, we use professional acoustic consultants who follow best practice methodology, guidance and regulatory requirements. A variety of factors are taken into consideration when measuring and modelling noise:

- traffic volume, speed and number of trucks
- gradient (steepness) of the road
- surrounding terrain, like hills or valleys
- soft ground or hard pavement between the road and the receiver
- distance from the road
- shielding by structures such as noise barriers or buildings.



Corner of Paringa Road and Langshaw Street , Altona North

Artist impression only - does not include detailed design

Environment Effects Statement (EES)

The EES for the West Gate Tunnel Project has detailed information about how the project could affect people and the environment and how the impacts will be managed. The EES has assessed potential impacts in 17 areas including transport, air quality, noise, landscape and visual, vibration, business, ecology and human health. To view the EES visit www.westgatetunnelproject.vic.gov.au/EES.



Did you know

- Doubling the amount of traffic (for example from 100,000 vehicles per day to 200,000 vehicles per day) increases the noise level by about 3 dB(A)
- An increase in noise level of 3 dB(A) is only just audible to the human ear
- A decrease of 10 dB(A) halves the perceived loudness of noise