

EastLink MITCHAM
construction
update
August 2007

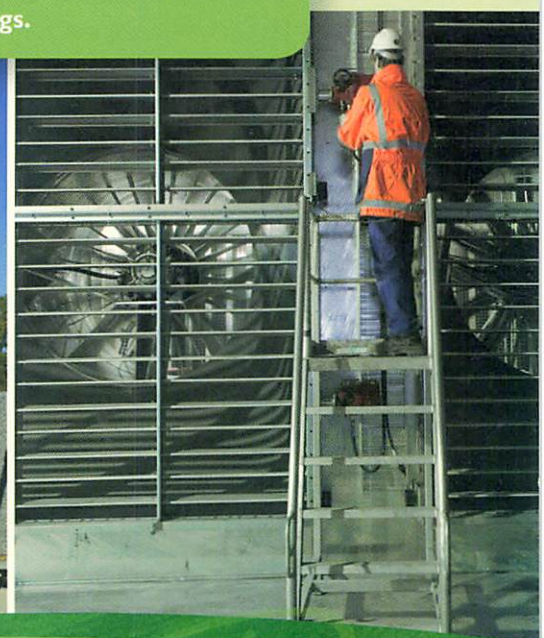
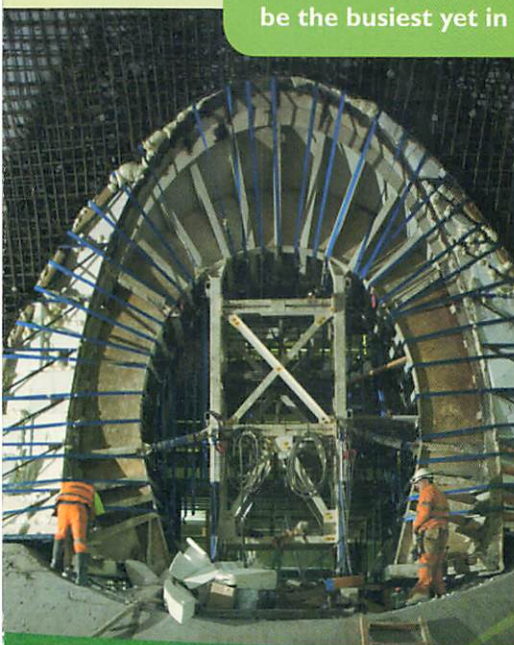


Connecting People

A section of the tunnel where the concrete lining is complete



Melbourne may be experiencing its first real winter for a number of years, but the weather will not slow works underground. The next few months may prove to be the busiest yet in the tunnels, and in the tunnel portal buildings.



Aerial view of asphaltting progress near the Springvale Road portal



Progress so far

In the tunnels:

- Preparing the floor of the tunnels with concrete is around 95 per cent complete.
- Waterproofing the tunnels with plastic lining is around 80 per cent complete.
- Placing concrete in the tunnel arch continues. This is approximately 80 per cent complete in both tunnels.
- Installation of conduits and tunnel drainage is approximately 40 per cent complete.
- Compacting the pavement road base is also around 50 per cent complete.
- Installation of tunnel fans has commenced, and electrical and communications cabling is being fitted from each end of the tunnels. These activities will continue over the coming months.

On the surface:

- The concrete cores of both ventilation stacks are completed. Steel works will shortly commence to connect the eastern stack to the portal.

- The main beam on the western side of Springvale Road bridge has been installed, with the eastern side bridge beam to be installed over the next month.
- Almost all of the noise walls in Mitcham have been installed, with some panels remaining to be installed at each tunnel portal and at Deep Creek Road.
- In the next few months, a tollway gantry will be constructed west of Park Road.
- A section of the shared use path in the Mullum Mullum valley has been completed between Schwerkolt Cottage in Mitcham and Quarry Road, Donvale.
- Over 60 per cent of the roadway across the site surface has been trimmed to final grade.
- Backfilling of earth behind noise walls has commenced near Savaris Court, in preparation for landscaping.

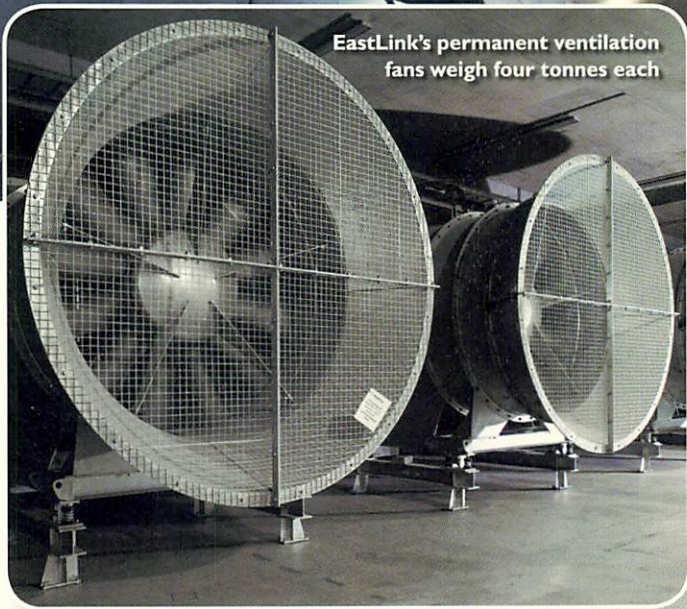
The “Black Stuff”

Asphaltting has begun in the Mitcham Region. Approximately 650 metres of pavement has been laid between the coloured Eastern Freeway noise walls and just east of Park Road bridge. Trucks, machinery and equipment will be moved across the worksite to allow room for the ground to be graded and asphaltting to be laid over the coming weeks.

Worker fitting fire sprinklers in tunnel roof



EastLink's permanent ventilation fans weigh four tonnes each



Thiess John Holland expects asphaltting will occur sporadically during winter, and intensify again in September and October. Construction of concrete road barriers will occur while asphaltting is ongoing, and following this linemarking and installation of road lighting and signs will commence.

Power from the Portals

The portal buildings are much more than just entrances to the tunnels. As well as pushing tunnel air into the ventilation structures, these two-level structures will be vital powerhouses for the ventilation, communications, electrical and safety systems in the tunnels.

Project Manager Nick Dekazos describes the way it all works. "When EastLink is open, air monitoring sensors and control units in the top level of the portal buildings will monitor tunnel air, before large fans push the air out through the ventilation structures," he said.

"Each of the portals – or ventilation buildings – will power the fans and the control units, as well supplying electricity for tunnel lights, electronic message signs and an emergency sprinkler system."

To date, Thiess John Holland has installed the control units, and the large, four-tonne fans in the top floor of each portal building. This equipment is currently being connected to the tunnels with cables, which are fixed on steel beams along the tunnel roof. Before the tunnels are opened, tunnel lights, safety sprinklers and electronic sign boards will also be attached to the steel beams.


On Track

Friday 13 might be an unlucky day for some – but in July this year it heralded the opening of EastLink's newly-constructed shared use path at Yarran Dheran.

Locals have embraced the paved trail, with walkers, mothers with prams, runners and cyclists enjoying the Mullum Mullum valley while using the path, which stretches from Schwerkolt Cottage to near Quarry Road, Donvale. Feedback on the charcoal-coloured recycled plastic fence posts and rock beaching alongside the trail has also been positive.

Over the coming months, the path will be continued from Quarry Road to Park Road incorporating a total of six bridges and several scenic boardwalks within the valley.

For more information on the EastLink shared use paths, access our website (www.thiessjohnholland.com.au.) and follow the link to the 'shared use path notices' page from our home page.



Aerial view of works on the Springvale Road bridge and 'loop road' onto the Eastern Freeway

Where EastLink meets the Eastern Freeway

The Springvale Road and Eastern Freeway interchange is the site of major connection works between Victoria's key arterial roads. When works in this area are complete, EastLink will enable drivers to travel from Melbourne's CBD to Frankston.

In order to manage larger traffic volumes, the Springvale Road bridge is being widened on both sides and the on and off ramps at Springvale Road are being strengthened. Traffic islands will be realigned and signalled lights at the interchange will be upgraded. A new pedestrian crossing will be constructed at the southern side of Springvale Road bridge and native landscaping will be put in place around the interchange.

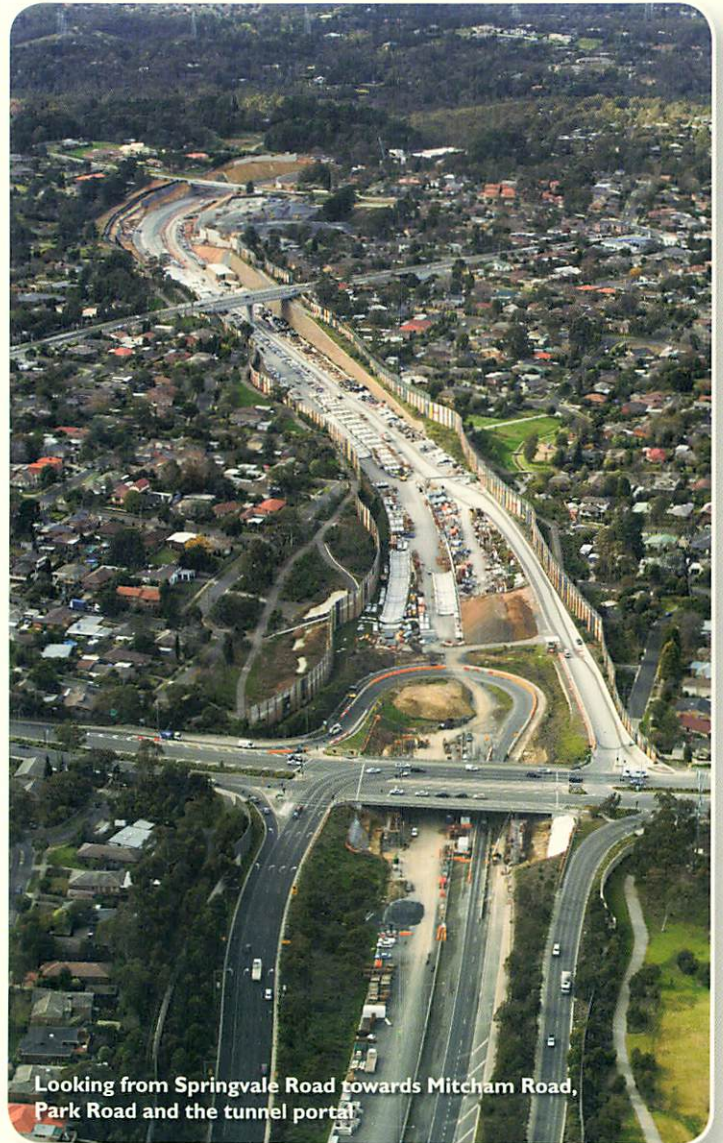
As part of these works, the 'loop road' on ramp to the Eastern Freeway will be demolished just prior to EastLink opening. Motorists driving south on Springvale Road will turn right at traffic lights to reach the Eastern Freeway.

Safety on site

Working safely at this busy interchange is vital. Thies John Holland works with VicRoads to develop detailed traffic plans setting out the safest way to modify the bridge as it is being used.

Reduced speed limits are in place for motorists on Springvale Road bridge and the loop road, and construction traffic is currently restricted to the outer two lanes of the bridge. Cyclists and pedestrians cross Springvale Road using the underpass at the northern side of the bridge, and cyclists are asked to dismount and walk their bikes across the bridge.

The interchange works are expected to be completed by the close of 2007.



Further Information

For more information about these works or if you have any queries please contact us on the EastLink community contact line on 1800 173 176 or visit www.thiesjohnholland.com.au