

Media Release

The Hon Ben Carroll MP

Minister for Industry Support and Recovery

Minister for Business Precincts

Minister for Public Transport

Minister for Roads and Road Safety



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KEEPING THE WEST GATE BRIDGE STRONG FOR DECADES TO COME

Once-in-a-generation repainting works have been completed on Victoria's most iconic bridge, with the Andrews Labor Government investing in further maintenance to keep it strong and stable for decades to come.

The West Gate Bridge has been stripped back and the entire steel structure below deck level has been refreshed for the first time in 40 years thanks to a \$70 million facelift.

Hanging under the bridge on numerous suspended platforms – 58 metres above ground and water – a dedicated team of around 70 workers stripped back the existing surface to bare metal, before applying several coats of paint.

More than 55,000 litres of anti-corrosive paint were used across an 848-metre steel section of the bridge. A similar shade of grey was used for most of the bridge, with the bridge props painted white to give some contrast.

The paint job is an important part of maintaining the bridge and protecting the steel structure from corrosion.

A further \$27.7 million is being invested as part of ongoing maintenance of the bridge, which is a vital river crossing and gateway to Melbourne's western suburbs.

This investment announced in the *2022-23 Victorian State Budget*, is in addition to the regular maintenance that takes place all year round to ensure the bridge remains operational.

This funding package includes \$8.23 million for additional works including bridge pier strengthening.

Since opening in 1978, traffic volumes on the West Gate Bridge have increased from 40,000 vehicles per day to around 205,000.

The ongoing works will assist to keep the bridge structurally sound and safe, reduce lane closures, and keep motorists, freight and tourism moving.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Roads and Road Safety Ben Carroll

"The West Gate Bridge is a Victorian icon, which is why we are continuing to invest in its maintenance to keep it standing strong for decades to come."

"A dedicated, hard-working team of specialists have been working through all seasons over the past three years to complete major repainting works to protect it from Melbourne's adverse weather."

Quote attributable to Member for Williamstown Melissa Horne

"Ongoing maintenance for one of our most important assets will ensure the bridge remains safe and strong for another 40 years."