

# Media Release

Hon Jacinta Allan MP  
Premier



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## WEST GATE TUNNEL SCALES NEW HEIGHTS

The Allan Labor Government's West Gate Tunnel will slash travel times by up to 20 minutes and take trucks off local roads – and it's on track to open later this year.

The project has officially reached new heights, with three massive timber net structures to mark the entry and exit points of the twin tunnels now completed.

Premier Jacinta Allan and Acting Minister for Transport Infrastructure Ben Carroll today visited the largest tunnel portal in Footscray, which now stands 38 metres high.

The structures serve as a visual gateway to Melbourne's west and were inspired by the area's rich maritime traditions and Aboriginal heritage.

Work on the timber net structure began in October 2024. Laminated timber was selected due to its durability, low maintenance requirements, and sustainable qualities. It also offers a lower carbon footprint compared to materials like steel or concrete.

At night, the timber net will have feature lighting as a visual marker for drivers.

Works are continuing at pace across the project and construction of the new bridge and two ramps across the Maribyrnong River is nearing completion, with asphaltting underway and the final pieces of cladding being installed.

Underground, crews have installed more than 60 per cent of the tunnel safety and traffic management systems and will soon begin laying the final road surface.

In the surrounding areas next to the tunnel portals, land is being transformed into a new open space and wetlands – creating new walking and cycling connections for people travelling between the city and Melbourne's west.

The West Gate Tunnel Project will significantly improve travel in Melbourne's west, delivering a second river crossing that will reduce congestion and take 9,000 trucks a day off local roads.

### Quotes attributable to Premier Jacinta Allan

*"When the West Gate Tunnel opens this year, it will give motorists a clear choice when travelling across Melbourne's west – the tunnel or the bridge."*

*"From above or below ground, the West Gate Tunnel Project is taking shape as it races towards completion later this year."*

### Quote attributable to Acting Minister for Transport Infrastructure Ben Carroll

*"While the Liberals tried to block this project, we are delivering it – creating more local jobs and growing businesses."*

### Quote attributable to Member for Footscray Katie Hall

*"The West Gate Tunnel will cut congestion and take 9,000 trucks off local roads every single day – as massive win for residents in the inner west."*

**Media contact:** Bodhi Droga 0413 701 929 | [bodil.droga@minstaff.vic.gov.au](mailto:bodil.droga@minstaff.vic.gov.au)