

Media Release

The Hon Jacinta Allan MP
Minister for Public Transport
Minister for Major Projects



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METRO TUNNEL TO TRANSFORM CBD AS DEMOLITION CONTINUES

The Metro Tunnel is transforming Melbourne, with new stations breathing new life into parts of Melbourne's CBD.

Minister for Public Transport Jacinta Allan joined the Minister for Industry and Employment Ben Carroll on Swanston Street today, where a strip of five buildings previously dominated by fast food outlets will soon be torn down to make way for the brand new underground station next to Flinders Street.

Buildings that until recently housed McDonald's, Hungry Jack's and KFC are now vacant and have started to be demolished, signalling the start of the area's transformation.

Port Phillip Arcade on Flinders Street will also be demolished in coming weeks, with the heritage-listed Nicholas Building and Young & Jackson Hotel to stay.

Buildings further up Swanston street are also being torn down to make way for the brand new station near the corner of Swanston and La Trobe streets. The Metro Tunnel Project has taken possession of nine buildings in this area including the former Hungry Jack's and a nine-storey building at 200 La Trobe Street.

Demolition of CBD buildings is expected to be completed in March next year, with works and some unavoidable disruption likely to continue in the lead-up to the Christmas period.

The \$11 billion project will create nearly 7,000 jobs and is one of 80 public projects with strict local content requirements to ensure local workers and businesses get their fair share of the work. That's compared to only eight projects over four years under the former Liberal Government.

Seventy of those projects are already underway, with a combined value of more than \$49 billion.

There will be off-peak lane closures on Flinders Street today and tomorrow between Elizabeth and Russell streets to install critical groundwater monitoring devices. This is ahead of some weekend disruptions to Flinders Lane from late November to enable City Square demolition works to continue.

The project team continues to work with businesses affected by Metro Tunnel construction to manage the impact of works and provide support through measures such as signage, promotional offers and advertising.

Major construction on the tunnel and five new stations is expected to start next year, with the project to be completed by 2026.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Public Transport Jacinta Allan

"The Metro Tunnel is the biggest public transport project in Victorian history, and will transform our city with state-of-the-art stations and turn-up-and-go trains."

"A project of this size will cause some disruption, but will deliver decades of benefits – with more trains more often, right across Melbourne."

Quotes attributable to Minister for Industry and Employment Ben Carroll

"We're making sure Victorian workers and businesses reap the benefits of our massive pipeline of major projects."

"The Metro Tunnel is just one of dozens of public projects which are putting local jobs and businesses first."

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