

EastLink Tunnel Features

EastLink has two tunnels under the Mullum Mullum Valley (eastbound and westbound) connecting the Eastern Freeway extension past Springvale Rd with EastLink at Ringwood. The tunnels are each 1.6km long, contain three lanes that are 3.5m wide with a height clearance for vehicles of 4.65m. The tunnels have a gradient of up to 5.5% and are located up to 53m from surface level.

EastLink's tunnels have been designed in line with the World Road Association (PIARC) standards and from their outset will deliver world-class safety features. The tunnels incorporate a range of purpose-built and co-ordinated safety systems including:

- cross passages every 120 metres (14 in total) with fire safety doors providing direct access to the adjacent tunnel. The cross passages will be highly visible.
- exits illuminated by strobe lighting, running man symbols and directional arrows
- emergency walkways at road level for easy access (compliant with the Disability Discrimination Act)
- a deluge system for fire suppression
- radio re-broadcast and public address facilities
- heat detectors
- automatic incident detection
- overhead warning message signs and emergency lighting
- help telephones and mobile phone coverage
- lane closure and variable speed signs
- closed circuit television (CCTV) and
- ventilation system, including a smoke management exhaust system using jet fans, to maintain air quality and driver visibility at all times according to Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) standards.

These systems are linked directly to the EastLink Control Centre, located just 500 metres from the tunnel entrance, ensuring a quick and effective response if an incident occurs.

The EastLink tunnels also have a unique feature to prevent overheight vehicles from entering the tunnels. Vehicles exceeding the tunnel clearance limit will be detected before entering, triggering warning signs and the lowering of boom barriers installed at the tunnel entrances to block access. The barriers can also be lowered if an incident has occurred inside the tunnels to prevent any potential harm to approaching motorists.

Incident management plans are in place to meet the requirements of all emergency services. This requires an initial response time of less than two minutes and comprehensive response within 10 minutes.

For further information please contact:

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The Control Centre monitors the operation of the tunnel 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, ensuring the quickest possible response to emergency situations.

Before the EastLink tunnels open to traffic, an emergency exercise will be carried out involving all the emergency services to test the safety features. These exercises will also be conducted at regular intervals during operation for routine testing and training purposes.

The tunnels also feature an attractive design which incorporates the colour of the native vegetation surrounding the Mullum Mullum Valley. The tunnel entrances integrate with the natural landscape and the interior will feature distinctive green acrylic panels.

The external structures are charcoal coloured and provide a natural transition between outside and in-tunnel light, reducing glare for drivers entering the tunnel.

The front of the ventilation structures will be fixed with steel panels featuring hexagonal patterns and floral motifs reflecting the local flora of the region. Lighting will also be installed to create a soft backlighting effect on the face of each vent structure at night. Vegetation has been planted at the top of each ventilation station and alongside the noise walls to further integrate the local road network with the natural environment.

Before the EastLink tunnels open, ConnectEast will be providing information to motorists on safe travel through the road tunnels and highlighting the extensive safety features.

EastLink Tunnel Integrated Safety Features

