

CITY LINK BURNLEY TUNNEL

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City Link's Burnley Tunnel is now officially open to traffic. EPA, the City of Yarra and Trans Link Operations Pty Ltd are committed to maintaining high standards of operations and monitoring tunnel emissions to ensure good air quality.

The City Link Burnley Tunnel opened to traffic on Friday 22 December 2000. As part of the planning for the opening, EPA has been working to ensure the highest standards of operation are achieved and that rigorous air quality monitoring programs are in place.

In May this year the Bongiorno Inquiry into vent stack emissions was commissioned by the Government. The Inquiry, which carefully considered the views and knowledge of the local community, technical experts and the public, is now complete and the vent stack area around Rooney Street Burnley, has been closely examined as part of that Inquiry.

The Bongiorno report has recommended that the Burnley Tunnel should open and operate in accordance with a licence issued by EPA.

Other key recommendations of the inquiry are:

- EPA to design and implement an intensive and comprehensive air quality monitoring program for the area in the vicinity of the vent stack.

- The monitoring program is to commence as soon as possible and run for at least 12 months.
- Upon completion of the air monitoring program a review of the program and the data will be undertaken.
- Action will be taken if any of the monitoring detects a serious problem prior to the formal review.

TRANSLINK TO MONITOR AIR QUALITY

On 8 December 2000 EPA issued a licence for the operation of the tunnel ventilation system. The licence requires the tunnel operators, TransLink Operations Pty Ltd, to submit a monitoring program that complies with stringent criteria. When the proposal is received, EPA will review it in consultation with Dr Graeme Lorimer prior to any approval being given. Dr Lorimer is the air quality consultant who was engaged by the City of Yarra to manage and analyse data from the joint air monitoring program established by the Cities of Stonnington and Yarra.

ONGOING AIR QUALITY MONITORING

An air monitoring station will be located within 50 metres of the vent stack for a period of at least 12 months. Monitoring will include carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides and particles (PM₁₀).

The tunnel operator will also monitor air quality at the station in Madden Grove as a condition of its EPA licence. The tunnel operator is also required to continuously monitor emissions from the vent stack and provide this information daily to EPA. EPA will make this information available on its website. EPA has also substantially upgraded the Lord Street Richmond air monitoring station.

AIR QUALITY MONITORING DATA AVAILABLE

All data will be reported to the public and independently audited. You will be regularly kept informed of the results of the data. Monitoring data will be available via the EPA website. A newsletter summarising the data will be issued after three months of data has been assessed.

EPA MOBILE AIR MONITORING IN ROONEY STREET

As a first step EPA has already located its mobile air monitoring laboratory in Rooney Street Burnley, within metres of the base of the vent stack. The mobile station is collecting information on a range of pollutants, including those listed above, to ensure that the air quality for residents living in close proximity to the stack is not adversely affected.

If you want to find out more information please contact:

EPA Information Centre
Herald and Weekly Times Tower
40 City Road, Southbank 3006
Tel: 03 9695 2700
Fax: 03 9695 2710

Current air monitoring data can be accessed via the EPA website at www.epa.vic.gov.au