

# Media Release

Hon Jacinta Allan MP  
Premier



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## SUBURBAN RAIL LOOP TUNNEL BORING MACHINES ON THE WAY

The Allan Labor Government's Suburban Rail Loop is powering ahead with the first four tunnel boring machines (TBMs) now ordered and the first TBM scheduled for delivery next year.

Premier Jacinta Allan and Minister for Planning Sonya Kilkeny today announced Herrenknecht – one of the world's leading TBM manufacturers – is the preferred contractor to supply the TBMs that will drill 16 kilometres of twin tunnels between Cheltenham and Glen Waverley.

The Suburban Rail Loop will transform Victoria – and by 2026, tunnel boring machines will be in the ground and more than 4,000 people will be directly working on the project.

All four TBMs will be powered by 100 per cent renewable electricity while two of the TBMs will come to Victoria after helping build Sydney Metro – reflecting Victoria's strong pipeline of infrastructure projects and reducing the carbon footprint of the works.

When assembled, each TBM will be up to 120 metres long and more than seven metres wide, with all four to be launched from Clarinda – two drilling south to Cheltenham and two north towards Glen Waverley – travelling close to 90 metres a week.

Two types of TBMs will be operating along the project's alignment – two slurry machines will be used in the northern section, while in a Victorian first, two convertible machines will be used in the south – with the TBMs set to be converted from slurry to earth pressure balance machines to work through softer ground in Cheltenham.

In a world first, one of the eight crews operating the TBMs will be an all-women team – and more than 600 women have already applied for selection.

Construction is forging ahead across all six SRL station sites, including the excavation of a TBM launch site in Burwood and 1,400 people already working on the project.

The project is backed by an \$11.8 billion investment by the Labor Government and a \$2.2 billion investment from the Albanese Labor Government.

### Quote attributable to Victorian Premier Jacinta Allan

*"We can't afford not to build the Suburban Rail Loop and we're getting on with building a project that will transform Victoria."*

### Quote attributable to Minister for the Suburban Rail Loop Danny Pearson

*"The Liberal Party is against the Suburban Rail Loop which means they are against thousands of jobs, developing more homes and building better transport connections."*

### Quote attributable to Minister for Planning Sonya Kilkeny

*"The Suburban Rail Loop will reshape how we grow – and will deliver 70,000 more homes above and around the six new stations."*

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**Quote attributable to Member for Box Hill Paul Hamer**

*“We are getting on and delivering this city shaping project, which will deliver more jobs and better transport connections.”*

**Quote attributable to Member for Glen Waverley John Mullahy**

*“As Melbourne’s population continues to grow, the Suburban Rail Loop will connect people from Glen Waverley to jobs, healthcare and education in a safer and more efficient way.”*

**Quote attributable to Member for Ashwood Matt Fregon**

*“The Suburban Rail Loop will soon connect Deakin and Monash universities to a train service for the very first time.”*