



Dear Resident,

METRO TUNNEL PROJECT – TRAM WORKS UPDATE

Recent works to realign the tram and roadway as part of the Metro Tunnel Project have resulted in regular instances of high pitched noise generated by the trams as they pass through the newly laid section of track. This 'wheel squeal' has been the subject of an extensive investigation involving Yarra Trams, Rail Projects Victoria (formerly Melbourne Metro Rail Authority), Cross Yarra Partnership (CYP) and the project's Independent Reviewer.

While the noise generated from the squeal is within the limits allowed for operating rail, all parties involved acknowledge that the noise is annoying, is causing considerable frustration for many residents, and that an urgent solution is required.

Investigations undertaken to date have involved on-site monitoring of the noise against variables including the tram type, tram number, speed of the tram and weather conditions at the time. A full inspection of the tracks has been carried out and there has been a comprehensive review of the design and photos taken during construction.

Wheel squeal occurs on tram networks both in Melbourne and around the world and measures are often applied to address specific causes. In this instance the section of track where squealing occurs varies from day to day and is not linked to any one tram type or tram number. To date, the investigation has not identified any defects in the design and build, nor any clear contributing factor.

Unfortunately, this has made it difficult to quickly resolve the issue. Rail grinding is one solution that has been used successfully in other areas across the network to alleviate wheel squeal. In this instance, the rail grinding that took place on St Kilda Road soon after the installation has not had any noticeable long-term effect on the wheel squeal along this section of track.

We wish to assure you that all parties are working hard behind the scenes to achieve a viable and lasting solution to the issue as quickly as possible. Yarra Trams is currently in the process of testing a type of friction modifier that is applied directly to the tracks. This product has been used successfully interstate and overseas but has never been used before on the Melbourne tram network. For safety reasons, the product needs to be applied on test tracks and tested with the various types of trams in use on St Kilda Road before it can be safely trialled on a live tram network. This process is currently underway and we will provide updates as this progresses.

In the meantime, other options continue to be explored and we will keep residents informed of progress on the issue. We apologise for any inconvenience and frustration this matter is causing.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to phone the Metro Tunnel Project Information Line on 1800 105 105 (press 2 and follow the prompts).

Regards

Metro Tunnel Project Team