

MEDIA RELEASE



25 March 2007

Burnley Tunnel to re-open 10am Tuesday

Citylink has today announced the Burnley Tunnel will re-open on Tuesday morning.

The Burnley Tunnel was closed by a fatal traffic accident and fire on Friday, 23rd March shortly before 10.00am.

Jean Ker Walsh, spokesperson for CityLink, said engineers and contractors are confident that repairs and full systems testing will allow the tunnel to be re-opened at 10am on Tuesday.

“CityLink engineers have today confirmed the soundness of the tunnel infrastructure and good progress on repair works,” Ms Ker Walsh said.

“They are confident that the scheduled completion of works, full systems testing and final clearance on structural integrity, fire safety systems and road safety standards can be achieved.

“The recovery and re-opening just four days after this tragic event is remarkable.

“However, there has been no short cut on safety taken to schedule the Tuesday morning re-opening.

“It is, in good part, due to the co-operative effort by our own engineers, contractors, Vicroads, fire services, and independent assessors that we have been able to achieve so much in four days.”

Ms Ker Walsh said CityLink was grateful to all those who had assisted in any way with the many aspects of the emergency response and recovery process.

“We especially thank the Roads Minister Tim Pallas, Vicroads and Yarra Trams for their support in making traffic and transport arrangements that will allow Melburnians to move more easily around the city until the tunnel re-opens.

“In thanking those people and the public for their patience, we are also mindful that the families and friends of those who died are today struggling with the most difficult outcome of Friday’s incident. They are in our thoughts,” she said.

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