

MEDIA RELEASE



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Burnley Tunnel Repair Works

CityLink today gave notice that it will be undertaking repair works in the Burnley Tunnel during July.

The works will permanently repair some minor cracks in a small section of the tunnel wall.

The cracks are around a concrete patch made by the tunnel's original construction contractor to repair minor damage to the area during construction.

The first signs of degradation to the patch were picked up during a routine inspection late last year.

The works will require some overnight, single lane closures and any consequent reductions in speed limits will be limited to off peak times.

Any work requiring CityLink to close more than a single lane will be scheduled to coincide with routine maintenance done during full tunnel closures.

CityLink Infrastructure Manager Zoltan Maklary said the repairs will involve the installation of a steel lining to the section of wall where cracks have developed.

"Let me say up front that the tunnel is secure, and independent engineers agree that the problem constitutes no threat to the safety of motorists," Mr Maklary said.

"We have been able to develop a robust solution that will last 100 years, and it can be delivered in stages to minimise disruption to traffic.

"The area involved is only small, however, the new repair will fully surround the original patch," Mr Maklary said.

Mr Maklary said the custom-made lining will be fixed to the curved tunnel wall in mid-July and anchored into the surrounding rock.

More deep anchors will be installed progressively throughout the rest of the year to ensure lifetime durability of the repair.

A check of contractors' records has found no evidence of any other wall patch repairs of this type done during construction of the tunnels.

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