



Media release

Friday 20 May, 2005

LOOK FOR THE CHANGES AT SPENCER STREET

Spencer Street Station is continuing its transformation into a world class station, with the Spencer Street Station Authority today announcing external access to station platforms through its 80 year old subway will close from Saturday 28 May 2005.

The Authority's Chief Executive, Tony Canavan, said that the subway closure would coincide with the partial opening of a new passenger facility on Collins Street with limited access to metropolitan platforms.

"Change is in the air at Spencer Street, with the spectacular roof taking shape and now the closure of subway access to the station to allow construction works to continue.

"Many metropolitan passengers will have a small taste of the new look station with the partial opening of the Collins Street Concourse, which will eventually provide access to all metropolitan train services at the station."

Mr Canavan urged Spencer Street Station users to be aware of the best entrance points to the station following the subway closure on 28 May 2005:

- The Bourke Street Bridge is the best entry and exit point for all metropolitan platforms at the station
- The new passenger area on Collins Street will at this stage provide access to metropolitan platforms 9 and 10 only
- Regional platforms are easily accessible from the temporary ground floor entrance near the corner of Collins and Spencer Streets, with most regional platforms also accessible from the Bourke Street Bridge
- Disabled access is from the temporary ground floor entrance near the corner of Collins and Spencer Street and the new passenger area on Collins Street for metropolitan platforms 9 and 10
- While external access to the station via the subway will close, the subway will remain open for a short period for some internal movements between platforms.

Mr Canavan said that the clear message for metropolitan rail users is that the Bourke Street Bridge is now the best entrance point while construction continues at the station.

"Passengers should look out for the new directional signage being placed around the station, and if in doubt ask one of our "blue vested" customer service staff for help," he said.

Mr Canavan said the closure of subway access to the station means that station users will use pedestrian crossings at Collins Street and Bourke Streets to cross Spencer Street.

"We are working closely with VicRoads and will monitor crossing times carefully once these changes take place to ensure a safe and smooth flow of people," said Mr Canavan.

Mr Canavan thanked station users for their patience and understanding during the construction and in light of ongoing changes at the station in the months to come.

"This really is a case of some inconvenience in the short term, in order to deliver improved services and facilities for the future," he said.



Spencer Street Station Authority

“The closure of external subway access to the station is essential to the redevelopment, and will eventually see the dark and ageing subway replaced with wide open entrances to improve safety and access.”

The transformation of Spencer Street Station epitomises the biggest rail revitalisation program for Victoria in 120 years – delivering a modern and safe system with better services for the future.

The \$700 million Spencer Street Station redevelopment project is being delivered as a public private partnership between the Victorian Government and the Civic Nexus consortium.

Mr Canavan said that more information about access arrangements at the station was available by calling 1800 800 668 or visiting www.rvr.com.au