Egress Structures

Victoria Park Tunnel
INFORMATION

Two egress structures are being built on the Victoria Park site to provide emergency stair access to and from the tunnel in the event of an emergency. They also have important tunnel services including electrical equipment, ventilation, drainage and fire service controls.

The egress structures are critical to the safe operation of the tunnel. In an emergency people will leave their cars and make their way to the structures via a pressurised egress passage behind the tunnel's western wall.

They are essentially utilitarian, concrete structures that are being transformed by innovative design into distinctive park features.

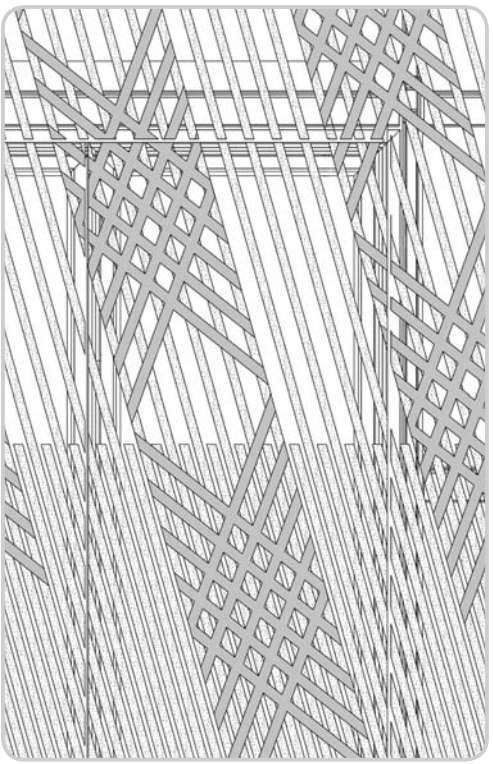
Where are they?

One egress structure is located next to Victoria Street, opposite the Rob Roy Hotel.

The other is located next to Beaumont Street, just to the north of the proposed new skatepark within a recreation plaza space.

The design concept

The inner 'box' of each structure will remain a rigorous engineering structure. Each 'box' will be cloaked by a laser cut architectural skin or shroud designed with input from Kupenga Design and Warren and Mahoney.



The southern egress structure

Due to its prominent location next to Victoria Street, this structure will form a sculptural element within the park. A back-lit 'art-box' will be created on the southern side (facing Victoria Street) displaying a piece of art developed by Kupenga Design.

Kupenga Design has also developed the small-scale kuta pattern which cloaks the structure on all remaining sides and is lit at night with a white light, making it a glowing feature within the park.

Northern egress structure

The northern egress structure is next to the future skatepark on Beaumont Street. This is within a hard surface recreation plaza space which can be used for events and double as parking for emergency vehicles (i.e. fire trucks).

As with the southern structure, a larger scale kuta pattern cloaks the structure on three sides. These three sides will double as a recreational feature, for climbing on at a low level. Climbing holds will be placed around the outer screen and rubber matting put around the base for safety.

The fourth side has a concrete surface which can be used for informal recreation (i.e. handball) or incorporated in to the design of the permanent skate park.

At night the structure will be lit by a red light, the same colour as the climbing hand holds and the rubber matting. The colour also emphasises the primary function of the structure as housing the fire service controls.