

# SHE'S A PRETTY BIG JOB

Much of Richmond's Queen Street currently looks a little like an enormous children's sandpit, with mounds of dirt being moved from place to place, diggers creating large pits, and lots of enthusiastic spadework going on.



The reality is there's some serious work being done on the spine of central Richmond's most important underground infrastructure – the pipes and cables to bring water, power and internet to our homes and businesses, and pipes taking away wastewater for treatment, and directing floodwaters away and back out to sea. Here's a taste of what the contractor, Downer, has been up to on the Queen Street Upgrade:



Spades may seem a bit low-tech, but workers have to hand-dig around any live pipes or cables to avoid damaging them and cutting off service to homes and businesses



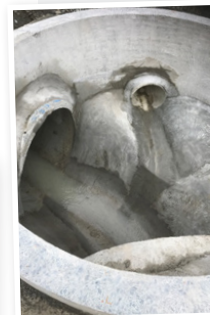
Queen Street properties are connected to the new services at night, then the footpath is safely covered for pedestrians to use during the day.



Removing the 70-year-old asbestos cement water main requires specialist teams and equipment working through the night.



Connecting the new 400mm water pipe to the old cement water pipe and adding in a new control valve.



This giant manhole channels floodwaters into the huge new stormwater pipe – a key part of the work to make central Richmond more flood-resilient.



Constructing the new stormwater slot drain in the middle of the street.



The existing stormwater pipe was thought to be in good condition. However, the reality underground was different – once exposed it was found to be either olden earthenware broken pipe or old concrete butt-ended pipe, with 10mm gaps in between. It had to be completely replaced.

