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Project manager Mike David on site with the central truss made from weathered steel.
Picture: LAWRENCE PINDER



Bridging a 13-year divide

Paddy Naughtin

Works finally begin on 245m Burwood Link footbridge

CONSTRUCTION on the controversial Deakin University footbridge is finally under way, following a 13-year saga which ended only when the Planning Minister came in over the top of Whitehorse Council.
The Gardiners Creek Community Group and West of Elgar Residents Association fought against the 245m Burwood Link bridge connecting the university's two main study areas until minister

Richard Wynne controversially stepped in to approve the bridge in December 2015.
It was one of the longest-running planning debates in Whitehorse's history, with Deakin first proposing the bridge in 2004.
Deakin University Burwood Link project manager Mike David said the bridge would be the biggest weathering steel structure in Australia.

"Weathering steel rusts on purpose and will turn a nice rustic brown colour pretty quickly," Mr David said.
"The colour will be sympathetic with the bush palette."
Nineteen trees along Gardiners Creek will need to be removed or trimmed to make way for the bridge, however, this is far fewer than the 85 trees which would have been impacted in Deakin's previous

bridge design proposal, he said.
Mr David said a crane had been moved on to the site and had begun lifting the bridge pieces into place.
"We're getting to the exciting part of the works now," he said.
"There is a giant crane on site now, it's probably 140ft tall and weighs about 600 tonnes."
Gardiners Creek Community Group member Terry Randle said he was still disappointed the

Planning Minister took the issue out of the hands of the council.
"We still believe the flyover design is far too big, however, it is a lot better than the absolute monster of the previous design," Mr Randle said.
"There's not a lot of natural green space left around here, so we have to protect what's there."

Have your say on the bridge at
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