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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **SPRUCING UP A LAND DOWN UNDER**

A \$270,000 project to upgrade the Doncaster Road underpass has been completed.

Manningham Mayor, Cr Geoff Gough, said construction workers recently refurbished the thoroughfare to improve safety.

“The underpass has served Doncaster well for more than 30 years, but it was time for a good spruce up.”

“Workers removed a false ceiling and undertook some structural works, including renovations to improve drainage.”

“They also installed new wall treatments and painted some exterior railings which people might see when driving down Doncaster Road,” he said.

Cr Gough said Manningham Council had also mounted signage to assist pedestrians and cyclists.

“Many people use the underpass to safely cross the very busy Doncaster Road, and not everyone is familiar with the surrounding neighbourhood.”

“We’ve installed new signage to help people locate both the underground tunnel and some of the main trails in the area.”

“Workers will also erect a canopy over the coming weeks on the north side of the underpass to protect people from harsh weather elements,” he said.

As part of the project, well-renowned artist Warren Langley erected an art piece on the walls and ceiling, called Immerse.

The creative design features a striking montage of colour and light, and helps to brighten the underground thoroughfare and deter vandalism.

It provides a fresh appearance from a man whose work is always very impressive, having recently won a prestigious award as the creator of the nearby public art fence, connecting the Doncaster Playhouse to the Old Shire Hall.

Cr Gough said the newly restored underpass would greatly assist the parents, students and teachers of the nearby Doncaster Primary School.

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“Manningham Council greatly appreciates the close support it has received from the school, particularly during the construction phase when students were supported across the intersection of Council Street and Doncaster Road by a school crossing supervisor,” he said.

The underpass rejuvenation was the result of a joint partnership between Manningham Council and the State Government’s Department of Infrastructure. Funds were secured from the Local Area Access Project grants for pedestrian and cycling connectivity.

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