

Herald Sun

Metro Tunnel works blamed for Melbourne rat infestation

KIERAN ROONEY, November 7, 2017

MAJOR building projects, including Melbourne's Metro Tunnel, are driving rats out of their hiding spots and into CBD homes and businesses.

A combination of cold weather and regular construction activity has kept pest controllers busy across the city as rats and mice flee the destruction of traditional haunts.

Jim's Termite and Pest Control state manager John Govic said Metro Tunnel had hired them to cull numbers of displaced rodents.

"I do a little bit of work for them and so we've been setting up bait in the laneways to keep the populations under control during demolitions," he said.

"Any kind of vibration and disturbance can be enough to send them packing and, once the work starts, they're not able to return to the underground spots they live in.



"It's quite common practice for construction companies to organise that work. Sometimes, it's our bread and butter as pest controllers.

“Usually by this time of year we’re focused mostly on insects but the cold weather is still keeping us busy with rats and mice around the city.”

Hayes Pest Control owner Mark Hayes said rodent call-outs had grown in the past year.

“We are seeing some high levels of rodent populations that weren’t there before,” he said.

“Construction of the new railway tunnel is one thing impacting their movements and we’ve been getting a lot of calls to businesses located near that work since the project ramped up.

“This is an ongoing thing we’re starting to notice but it’s going to stay that way for quite some time given all the work that is in the pipeline.