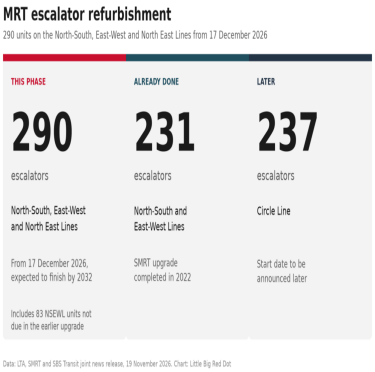
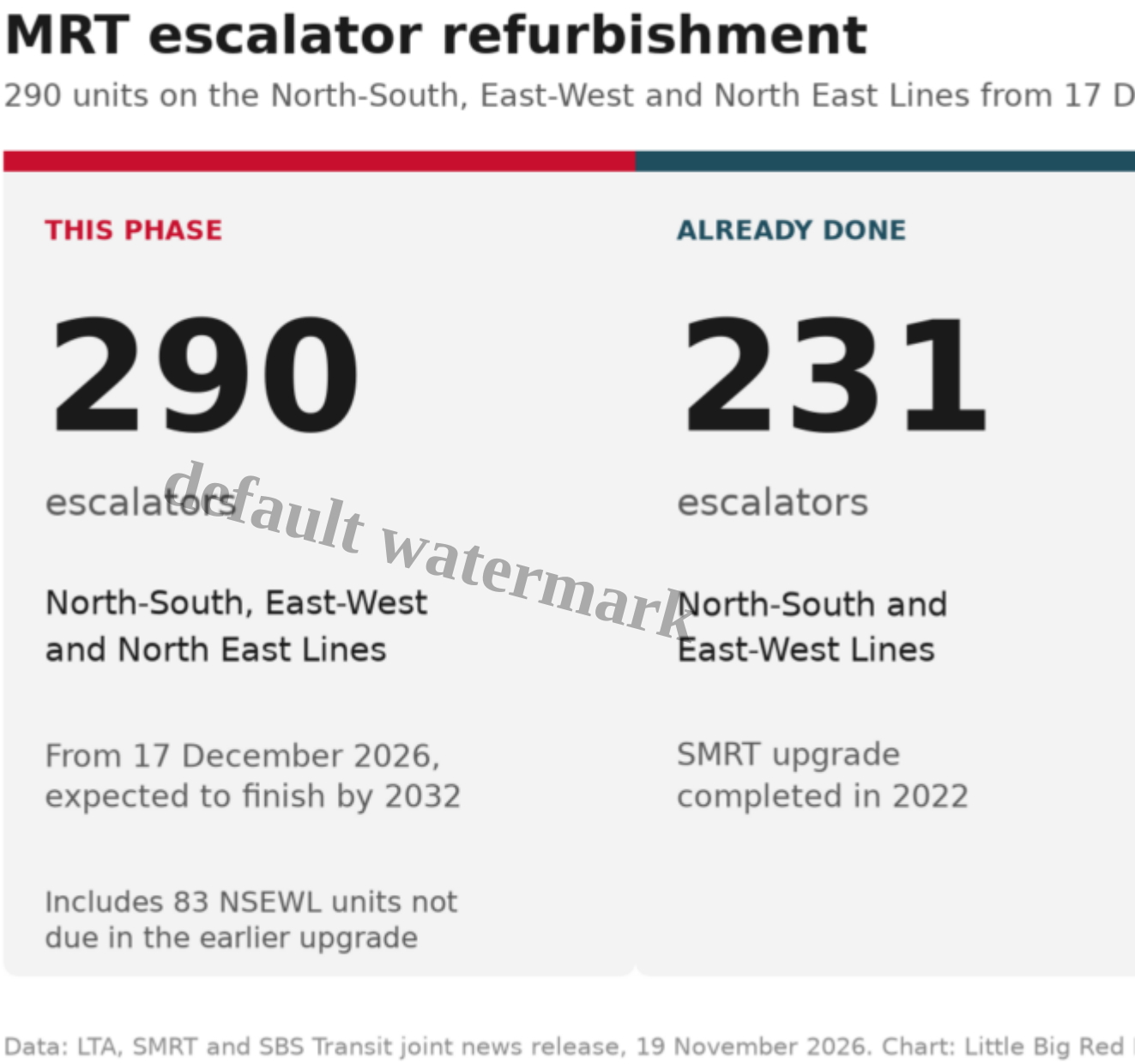


290 MRT escalators to be refurbished from 17 December 2026, with that phase due by 2032

Description

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The Land Transport Authority, SMRT and SBS Transit said on 19 November that they will progressively refurbish 290 escalators across the North-South and East-West Lines and the North East Line from 17 December 2026, with that phase expected to be completed by 2032. A further 237 escalators on the Circle Line will be refurbished, with a start date to be given later.



The 290-escalator phase from 17 December 2026, the 231 units already upgraded, and the 237 Circle Line units still to come. Chart: Little Big Red Dot

What stays running

Where a station has several escalators in the programme, the works will be sequenced. Inside stations, at least one up-riding escalator will remain in service from the platforms to the concourses, and to the entrances. Lifts will remain available throughout the refurbishment period. Directional signs will guide commuters to available lifts, stairs and other alternative routes, and station staff can help anyone who needs assistance.

The programme also covers escalators next to stations, including those at pedestrian overhead bridges. Those bridges have one escalator on each side. While work is under way, there will be no upward-moving escalator on the affected side of the bridge. Commuters can use lifts, stairs or other routes via pedestrian crossings to reach the station.

What the refurbished units will do

The rebuilt escalators will have an in-built voice announcement system for safety announcements, LED indicators for the direction of travel, and improved lighting. As with earlier refurbished units, they will run at dual speeds: regular speed during peak hours, to keep commuter flow moving, and a slower speed during off-peak hours, to conserve energy and to better serve older commuters.

The programme builds on SMRTâ??s earlier upgrading of 231 escalators across the North-South and East-West Lines, which was completed in 2022. This latest phase will cover 83 escalators along those lines that were not due for upgrading under the earlier programme.

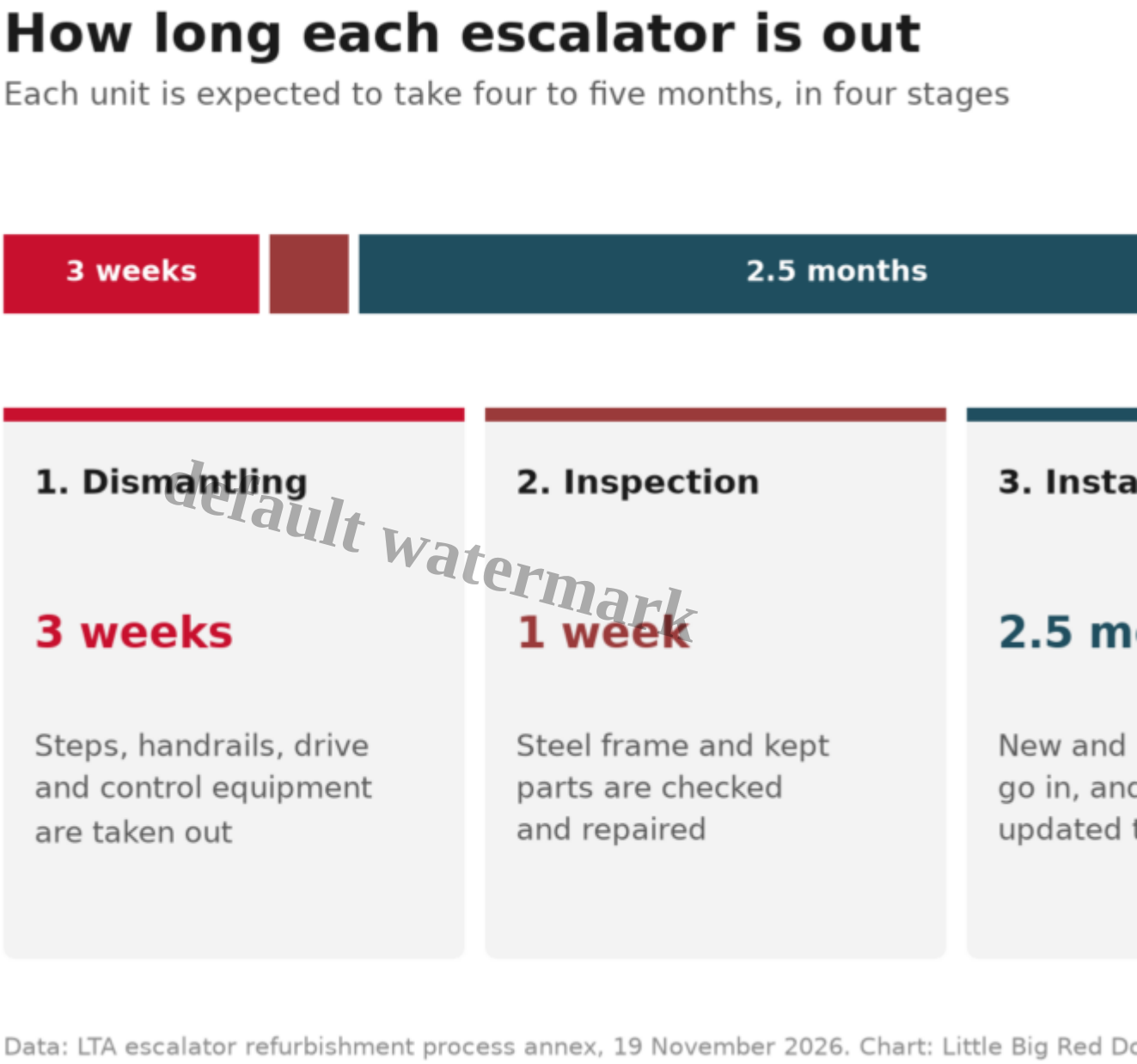
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How long each escalator is out

Each escalator is expected to take four to five months. The works replace and upgrade key mechanical and electrical components, including the motor, control equipment, steps, handrails and safety features.

There are four stages. Dismantling of the parts due for renewal, including steps, handrails, traction machines, the drive system, cables, control equipment and associated safety components, takes three weeks. Inspection of the steel frame and retained components, with any repairs, takes one week. Installation of the new and upgraded parts takes two and a half months, and the unit is also updated to prevailing standards. Testing and commissioning takes one and a half months, including tests of the safety switches and a load test, before the escalator returns to passenger use.

The work takes place inside an operational station, with limited working space and close to commuters and residential areas.



The four stages of work on each escalator, expected to take four to five months in all. Chart: Little Big Red Dot

A start date for the 237 Circle Line escalators has not been set; further details will follow in due course. The details are on the LTA newsroom.

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