

Sustainability

September 2018



The interests of our future generations need to be carefully considered in how we design and deliver the North East Link.



When the Mernda Rail project needed around 45,000 native plants, it partnered with Yarra View Nursery, a social enterprise that employs people with disabilities. Image courtesy of LXRA.

Sustainability for the North East Link Authority means moving beyond just a “business as usual” approach, to one in which we actively seek to maximise long term benefits: for the environment; our communities and our economic prosperity.

Our people are committed to being leaders in sustainability and integrating sustainability principles into planning, design and project decision making. We want to ensure we leave a positive legacy for present and future generations.



Image courtesy of LXRA

What is infrastructure sustainability?

The design and operation of infrastructure contributes to the sustainability of our cities, communities and the day to day lives of individual Victorians, now and into the future.

The Infrastructure Sustainability Council of Australia (ISCA) defines Infrastructure sustainability as:

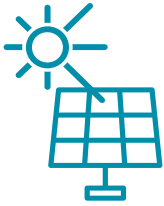
“Infrastructure that is designed, constructed and operated to optimise environmental, social and economic outcomes over the long term.”

Infrastructure sustainability is increasingly considered integral to all major infrastructure projects.

Our sustainability commitments

We want to use this opportunity to develop new approaches and new ways of thinking.

Our commitments span environmental, social and economic themes:



1. Resource efficiency: Embedding energy, water, material and waste reduction initiatives into the design, construction and operation of the Project. We will seek to:

- a. Reduce the lifecycle impacts of materials, like concrete, asphalt and steel
- b. Reduce use of potable water and recycle and reuse water
- c. Reduce waste and excavated material



2. Urban ecosystems: Protecting and seeking opportunities to enhance natural environments.

- a. Enhance biodiversity and habitat links
- b. Support local urban forest strategies



3. Communities: Making a positive contribution to social, cultural and community health and wellbeing.

- a. Enhance open space, active transport opportunities and community facilities
- b. Respect and promote cultural heritage values



4. Economic opportunities: Facilitating opportunities for economic development, provide a skilled local workforce and promote diversity and inclusion.

- a. Employment and training
- b. Sustainable and social procurement
- c. Promote sustainability capabilities within industry

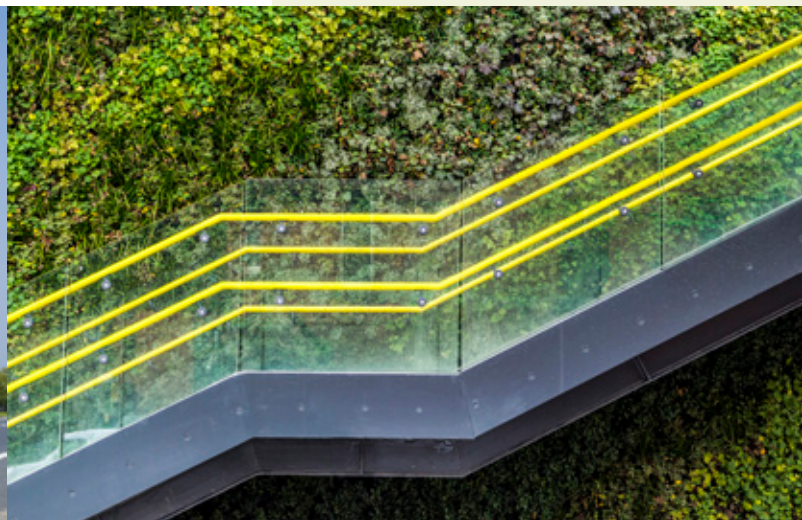


5. Climate change: Playing a part in Victoria achieving its emission reduction targets while preparing for the challenges presented by climate change.

- a. Reduce carbon emissions during construction and operation
- b. Design to be resilient to a changing climate

Solar panels on street lights

Vertical gardens on pillar



Implementing sustainability

In the coming months we will be setting targets to deliver on our sustainability commitments. These targets will be integrated into the North East Link's design standards and delivery. We will be closely tracking their achievement as the project progresses and publicly reporting on our performance.

We will be using the ISCA's Infrastructure Sustainability Rating Tool to set critical benchmarks and evaluate our sustainability performance.

Your ideas

There will be opportunities to get involved in conversations about sustainability soon. To find out more, sign up to receive project updates [here northeastlink.vic.gov.au/news/contact](https://northeastlink.vic.gov.au/news/contact)

Contact us

- 📞 1800 105 105
- @ community@northeastlink.vic.gov.au
- ✉ North East Link Authority
GPO Box 4509, Melbourne VIC 3001

Translation service



for languages other than
English, please call 9679 9896.

Please contact us if you would like this
information in an accessible format.



Authorised and published by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne