Navigating the EES

An Environment Effects Statement (EES) has been released for the North East Link Project and is now open for public submissions. The EES includes information on how the project could affect the environment during construction and operation and how adverse impacts would be managed.

Planning approvals for major projects in Victoria are often informed by an EES. An EES is the state’s most rigorous impact assessment process. It gives decision makers such as the Minister for Planning and EPA Victoria the information they need to determine whether approvals should be granted and what conditions should apply.

The EES for North East Link describes the existing environment, identifies potential positive and negative effects during construction and operation and proposes ways to avoid, minimise, offset or manage any significant effects.

We’ve been listening

While preparing the EES, we talked with people across the project area to understand their ideas, issues and concerns to reduce project impacts. The EES exhibition period now gives you a chance to have your views considered as part of planning approvals decisions for North East Link.

North East Link will be a new freeway-standard connection between the M80 Ring Road and an upgraded Eastern Freeway. It will complete the missing link in Melbourne’s metropolitan ring road and give the city a fully completed orbital connection for the first time. The project includes Victoria’s longest twin road tunnels, Melbourne’s first dedicated busway along the Eastern Freeway and new walking and cycling links.
What's in the EES? The EES for North East Link has information about a reference project, including:

• an overview of the potential effects;
• Environmental Performance Requirements or EPRs that define the environmental outcomes that must be achieved during construction and operation of North East Link;
• technical reports on topics such as traffic, noise, air quality, ecological and social impacts;
• a map book showing drawings of the reference project assessed for the EES and an Urban Design strategy that will help ensure the project is designed to at least high standards.

1. Step 1. Understand how the EES is structured

The EES includes a summary report and a main report as well as technical reports and attachments. Each has a different level of information to make it easy to get information quickly, or dive deep into the detail.

1. Summary report

• A one-page Executive Summary and an extensive Summary Report.

2. Chapters

If you’re interested in a comprehensive summary of the findings from a particular part of the study, Chapters 2-10 provide a balanced overview of the project, potential effects and how we propose to manage them.

Tip: We recommend you read the Summary Report first.

2.2. Technical reports

If you’re interested in detailed information about the study method used for each of the 10 study topics and want to read about the findings in depth, this information is included in the technical reports. They have been prepared by language that is simple to understand. There is a chapter for each topic.

3. Map book and attachments

This is where to find the Map Book showing the reference project assessed for the EES. It’s also where to find the Urban Design Strategy information about the project’s approach to sustainability, if it is a Works Approval Application and draft Planning Scheme Amendment.

3.1. Data set

The project builders will be informed of the reference project by reading the EES. The project builders will be provided with the reference project information.

4. Step 2. Choose your topics of interest

Transport

Trafﬁc and transport

Assesses potential impacts of North East Link’s construction and operation on trafﬁc, freight, public transport, cyclists and pedestrians along the project corridor and across the wider region. It uses transport modelling to predict changes across the network and provides speciﬁc information on key routes and areas of local interest.

Vibration, ground movement and contamination

Tunnel vibration

Assesses vibration and征了的影响 to the tunnel ventilation structures and surface roads in relation to EPA Victoria standards.

Ground movement

Assesses potential impacts of ground movement from tunnel construction and operation that could impact amenity, buildings, utility assets, or operation of sensitive equipment.

Contamination and soil

Assesses potential contamination and amenity impacts associated with disturbance of contaminated soil and groundwater encountered during construction and operation. Outlines the proposed approach to management of spoil from tunnel construction.

Environment

Arboriculture

Assesses potential impacts to plant growth and structure of native forests, trees and shrubs and outlines a strategy for their management.

Groundwater

Assesses potential impacts on groundwater levels and quality, including potential ecological impacts.

Surface water

Assesses potential impacts on surface water quality and ﬂoodplain function.

Ecology

Assesses potential impacts on native fauna, ﬂora, habitat and ecological communities.

Greenhouse gas

Assesses CO2 and other greenhouse gas emissions during construction and operation that could contribute to the greenhouse effect and climate change.

Air quality and noise

Air quality

Assesses potential impacts on human health, environment and amenity.

Surface noise and vibration

Assesses potential impacts on surface noise and vibration during construction and operation, including impacts on residences, kindergartens, schools and aged care facilities, and identiﬁes effective mitigation measures that have informed development of EPRs. The section also applies relevant noise standards to guide the selection and design of noise treatments (such as noise walls).

Community

Land use

Assesses changes to current and ongoing land uses and consistency with strategic planning policy.

Business

Assesses potential direct and indirect impacts on businesses, including temporary or permanent land acquisition, temporary occupational changes during construction and operation.

Sustainability

Assesses potential direct and indirect impacts on businesses, including temporary or permanent changes to visual amenity.

Social

Assesses potential positive and negative social impacts during construction and operation, including changes to amenity and character, community cohesion and access to parks such as schools, community and sporting facilities and open space.

Heritage

Aboriginal cultural heritage

Assesses potential impacts of construction activities on Aboriginal cultural heritage places and values, considering Aboriginal cultural heritage sensitivity.

Historical heritage

Assesses potential impacts of construction activities on historical heritage places and values, considering historical heritage sensitivity.
Comment on the EES

The EES process gives you the opportunity to have your views considered in planning approvals decisions for North East Link.

You can get involved by making a submission to an independent inquiry and advisory committee which will be appointed to review the EES and public submissions.

Submissions must relate to the information and topics covered in the North East Link Project EES, Works Approval Application or draft Planning Scheme Amendment.

How to make a submission

Read the EES

The EES is available online at: northeastlink.vic.gov.au/ees

You can also find the EES on display at public locations including:

- Council offices in Banyule, Boroondara, Manningham, Whitehorse and Yarra City
- Local libraries including Balwyn, Bulleen, Camberwell, Diamond Valley, Doncaster, Eltham, Ivanhoe, Kew, Lalor, Mill Park, Rosanna, Thomastown and Whittlesea and Hawthorn Arts Centre
- North East Link’s Watsonia Community Information Hub at 17 Watsonia Road, Watsonia
- State Library of Victoria.

Due to space requirements, the full EES is not available at all locations. For more information on display locations including opening hours and what’s available visit: northeastlink.vic.gov.au/ees

In addition to displaying the EES at the locations above, we are holding information sessions across the project area. You’ll be able to view the EES, talk to technical specialists and ask questions. For information on where and when information sessions are being held visit: northeastlink.vic.gov.au/ees

Need a copy of the EES?

Free copies of the EES are available on a USB at display locations, at information sessions or by contacting us on 1800 105 105 or community@northeastlink.vic.gov.au

Hard copies are available for purchase on request.

Make your submission

Submissions must be made to Planning Panels Victoria by 5pm Friday 7 June 2019.

Online submissions are preferred and can be made at the Engage Victoria Website engage.vic.gov.au/north-east-link-project

If you can’t make your submission online and need to submit in hard copy, you must include a coversheet. Coversheets are available by contacting the DELWP customer service centre on 136 186.

All submissions must include a name and a postal address, are treated as public documents and will be posted on the Engage Victoria website.

If you would like to have an opportunity to speak at the hearing, you must make this request when you lodge your written submission.

You must make your submission directly to Planning Panels Victoria. The North East Link Project cannot accept submissions.
Next steps

The EES will be on public exhibition for 40 business days.

Once submissions close, an independent inquiry and advisory committee appointed by the Minister for Planning will review all submissions.

This will be followed by a public hearing of submissions, likely to begin late July 2019.

A public Directions Hearing will be held on 21 June 2019 to make arrangements for and answer questions about the public hearings. Details of the public hearings will then be published on the Engage Victoria website: engage.vic.gov.au/north-east-link-project

After the public hearings, the inquiry and advisory committee will prepare a report with recommendations for the Minister for Planning.

The Minister will then make an assessment of the environmental effects. The assessment may conclude that the project:
- Will have acceptable environmental effects
- Will have unacceptable environmental effects
- Needs modifications to or additional Environmental Performance Requirements to achieve acceptable outcomes.

The Minister’s assessment will inform other government decision makers on the approvals required for North East Link to proceed.

Key steps in the EES process

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