



EES outcomes and planning approvals

The West Gate Tunnel Project has been assessed through an Environment Effects Statement (EES) and planning approvals are in place. Key changes made through the EES process are outlined over the page.

An EES is a well-established process and the most transparent way to assess a major project in Victoria. It ensures that the views of councils, communities, industry and business are considered in planning approval decisions.

The EES for the West Gate Tunnel Project assessed potential changes in 17 areas including:

- transport
- air quality
- noise
- landscape and visual amenity
- vibration
- business
- ecology
- social
- human health



Planning approvals

All key approvals for the West Gate Tunnel Project are in place:

- A Planning Scheme Amendment (PSA)
- An EPA Works Approval
- A Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP)

For information about these approvals visit westgatetunnelproject.vic.gov.au/keyapprovals

The West Gate Tunnel Project will deliver a vital alternative to the West Gate Bridge by providing a second river crossing. It will widen the West Gate Freeway, build a new road tunnel and bridges and provide direct access to the port, CityLink and the north of the city.

Updates to the design and environmental requirements

Public involvement in the project's development and EES process has resulted in design improvements and more than 100 requirements being applied to make sure possible environmental effects are well managed.

Some of the changes that will be made as a result of the planning assessment are outlined over the page.

Key changes have been incorporated into the approved Development and Urban Design Plans. You can find these plans at westgatetunnelproject.vic.gov.au/keyapprovals



Changes resulting from the planning assessment

To maximise the benefits of the project, some of the changes that will be made as a result of the planning assessment include:

- \$20 million for a Community Involvement and Participation Plan for community led initiatives such as sponsorships, grants and community events
- Wurundjeri Way to be lowered and V/Line stabling yards relocated to west of Moonee Ponds Creek to maximise the opportunity for improved cycling and pedestrian connections between Docklands, the future E-Gate site and north and west Melbourne
- A sixth air quality monitoring station at Millers Road, in addition to the five air quality monitoring stations originally planned
- A roadside air quality mitigation strategy for specific locations if monitoring shows a deterioration in air quality as a result of the project
- High quality concrete and perspex noise walls will be built to protect houses, sporting fields and parks along the West Gate Freeway, and the reduced traffic noise levels will be maintained for 20 years after the project opens
- Adding transparent panel cladding to the design of the Maribyrnong River Bridge ramps, to help reduce the visual bulk of the structure
- A study for Millers Road and Williamstown Road to determine works required to cater for projected traffic volumes in 2031 to manage access and safety
- Millers Road residents north of the West Gate Freeway will be offered noise reduction options on their properties
- Five trees will be planted for every one tree removed
- Funding a master plan for a linear reserve along Moonee Ponds Creek in consultation with the council and interest groups
- Extra care taken around schools and kindergartens, including a temporary noise wall next to Emma McLean Kindergarten during construction



Meeting our requirements

The EES process results in requirements the project must meet to ensure construction and operation is well managed, that people and the environment are protected, and that all standard requirements and legislation are met. These are called Environmental Performance Requirements.

Detailed planning and good management will ensure that the project is built and operated according to all requirements.

How did the EES process work?

The West Gate Tunnel Project EES was informed by extensive consultation with communities, councils and a Technical Reference Group and 17 technical studies undertaken by subject-matter experts.

The EES was available for public review and submissions from 29 May to 10 July 2017.

It included:

- project information and plans
- detailed studies of potential impacts
- proposed requirements to manage effects of the project's construction and operation.

An independent Inquiry and Advisory Committee (IAC) was appointed to consider the EES and submissions and make recommendations to the Minister for Planning.

The Minister for Planning is responsible for assessing the project's environmental effects. To do this, he considered advice from the IAC, information in the EES and submissions.

The Minister for Planning prepared an Assessment of the project, which was considered by decision makers before the key planning and environmental approvals documents were lodged.

EES documents and more information about the process is available at www.westgatetunnelproject.vic.gov.au/ees

Planning and consultation

An Environmental Management Strategy must be prepared by the construction contractor in consultation with councils and government agencies, and approved by the Minister for Planning before major works start. This ensures that the contractor understands their obligations and has the right plans, systems, processes and resources in place to meet all requirements.

Once approved, the Environmental Management Strategy will be made available on the project website.

Independent checks and balances

There are checks and balances in place to make sure things are done properly.

An Independent Reviewer and Environmental Auditor (IREA) will review plans and audit what is happening on construction sites and on the road when it opens, to check that all requirements, environmental laws and regulations are achieved.

The IREA's audit reports will be made publicly available.

Key stakeholders such as councils and government agencies will be consulted in the preparation of the environmental management plans.

Key steps in the EES process



Environmental Performance Requirements (EPRs) define the legislative and policy requirements that the project must achieve. There are more than 100 EPRs in place to make sure the project's construction and operation is well managed to protect people and the environment.

A full list of EPRs is available at www.westgatetunnelproject.vic.gov.au/EES

Your questions

Is the project approved and going ahead?

Yes, the West Gate Tunnel Project will open to traffic in 2022.

This project has been through the most robust planning process in Victoria. Strict controls are in place to protect local residents, businesses, road users and the environment, so you can have confidence that the West Gate Tunnel Project is being built and operated to the highest standards.

How was my submission considered?

Submissions have been extensively reviewed and considered by:

- An independent Inquiry and Advisory Committee (IAC) appointed to advise the Minister for Planning
- The Minister for Planning
- The Minister for Roads and Road Safety

Who decided on the EPRs?

EPRs were initially developed by the Western Distributor Authority based on:

- Advice from technical experts
- Consultation with councils, communities and industry
- Environmental laws and regulations
- Requirements from other major projects, including the Metro Tunnel.

Some EPRs were amended through the EES process in response to submissions by councils, EPA Victoria, community groups and further advice from technical experts.

The Minister for Planning also made changes and added extra EPRs, based on advice from the Inquiry and Advisory Committee.



Future Footscray Road

Artist impressions only - does not include detailed design

Contact us

Do you have a question about the project? If you need more information or would like to provide feedback, please get in touch.



westgatetunnelproject.vic.gov.au



westgatetunnelproject@wda.vic.gov.au



1300 280 939



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West Gate Tunnel Project
GPO Box 4509
Melbourne Victoria 3001



Interpreter service: 13 14 50

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