

# WesternDISTRIBUTOR



## COMMUNITY UPDATE > March 2016

Planning for the Western Distributor has been progressing steadily since the last community update in September 2015. The Government and Transurban are now working together and seeking community input to inform the project's ongoing development and environmental assessment.

### What is the Western Distributor?

The Western Distributor will provide a much-needed alternative to the West Gate Bridge, enhance freight connections and help get trucks out of local streets in Melbourne's inner west. It includes:

- widening from 8 to 12 lanes and other improvements along the West Gate Freeway
- a new road and tunnel under Yarraville and a new road connecting the West Gate Freeway and the Port of Melbourne, CityLink and the CBD
- a bridge over the Maribyrnong River joining an elevated road above Footscray Road
- an eastern interchange connecting to CityLink, inner northern suburbs and the city.

The Western Distributor Project also includes the Monash Freeway Upgrade and Webb Dock Access improvements. You can find out more about these parts of the project on our website.

### Planning is underway

The Minister for Planning has determined that an Environment Effects Statement (EES) must be prepared for the project.

This rigorous process means the Western Distributor's potential social, economic and environmental effects will be identified, assessed and reported in the EES. Around 17 different studies are required including transport, air quality, contamination, groundwater, human health, landscape and visual, land use planning, noise and vibration, social and business.

The EES will be prepared this year and released in early 2017 for public exhibition and comment. You can find out more about the EES process at [www.delwp.vic.gov.au](http://www.delwp.vic.gov.au).

### Project Benefits



6,000 fewer trucks in inner west



Up to 20 minute travel time savings



50% faster trips to the port



\$11billion boost to the economy



20% reduction in casualty crashes



5,600 constructions jobs

## We are seeking your feedback all the way

Since April last year we have been talking with communities, local councils, the freight industry and government bodies. The next phase of community consultation is about to begin, and we encourage you to get involved.

Concept designs will be released in mid-April for discussion. The designs are not final – you will be able to provide feedback on different options for the road design, including the tunnel length and location of the tunnel entrances and connections to Hyde Street, CityLink and the city.

### Come along to a drop-in community session

- Saturday 16 April, 9.30am-1.30pm – South Kingsville Community Centre, 43 Paxton St
- Wednesday 20 April, 5pm-8pm – Grand Star Receptions, 499 Grieve Pde, Altona North
- Thursday 21 April, 5pm-8pm – St Augustine's Parish Hall, 71 Somerville Rd Yarraville
- Saturday 23 April, 9.30am-1.30pm – VU at MetroWest, 138 Nicholson St, Footscray
- Wednesday 27 April, 5pm-8pm – Meat Market, 5 Blackwood St, North Melbourne
- Thursday 28 April, 5pm-8pm – Pumping Station at Scienceworks, Spotswood
- Tuesday 3 May, 5pm-8pm – Limelight Room at Etihad Stadium, 740 Bourke St, Docklands

During these sessions you will be able to talk with the project team, view plans, and tell us your views on key topics including:

- the concept design and options
- traffic noise
- air quality
- urban design
- active transport
- construction

Your feedback provides important input to:

- specialist studies for the EES
- a reference design – the next level of detail in planning
- content for the tender documents we provide to companies who bid to construct the Western Distributor.

## Can't get to a drop in session?

You can still be involved! There will be a number of ways to participate online, or you can contact the project team directly with your views or questions.

## Community Liaison Group

The Western Distributor Community Liaison Group (CLG) will include community members and representatives from councils, industry, the project team and relevant government departments and agencies. It will have an independent chair.

The CLG provides a forum to communicate openly, share information and consider opportunities and issues relating to the Western Distributor's planning, construction and operation.

Thanks to those who have already applied to join the CLG. We have been impressed by the level of interest, expertise and passion in the local community. Membership of the group will be announced shortly.

## How infrastructure projects affect local communities

Major projects provide major benefits – but they can have a range of effects during and after construction: like noise, dust, traffic and access changes, through to visual impacts and other effects on lifestyle. We encourage anyone who lives near the project to get involved, speak to the project team and learn more so they can fully understand the project's potential effects. We will also be contacting those closest to the project area directly inviting them to get involved in the planning process.

## Tender process begins later this year

The construction industry will be invited to bid for the project. Bidders must use the reference design as a guide, explain in detail how they would construct their design and how much it would cost.

The project team will regularly share any new information with bidders, including feedback received through community consultation.

You can see project designs and the EES and make a formal submission early 2017. This will give you detailed information about the design and any potential positive and negative impacts.