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A newsletter about the people who live and work in Melbourne's north-east and eastern suburbs and the people who will use North East Link, an upgraded Eastern Freeway and Melbourne's first dedicated busway to get where they need to go. We have a lot of work ahead of us and want to keep you informed along the way.

When you're finished with The Link, please recycle.



Green bridge linking Elder Street to both sides of Greensborough Road and upgraded parking at Watsonia Station. Artist impression. Subject to change.

## Connecting communities

Local residents have visited our Watsonia Community Information Hub in the last month to give feedback on an alternate design for North East Link around Watsonia Station and shops.

The design includes a 60-metre wide green bridge at Elder Street, a multi-level car park at Watsonia Station with around 60 extra spaces and more walking and cycling paths.

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### Community Information Hub update

More than 650 people have dropped into our Community Information Hub at Watsonia shops since doors opened last December.

The hub has the latest project information on show and our team is there to hear feedback and answer questions.

Stop by next time you're in the area to view the project Environment Effects Statement (EES) and chat with the North East Link team.

We're also planning to open a hub in the Bulleen industrial zone soon. It will give business owners and staff easy access to North East Link team members and information to help them during the planning and approvals stage of the project.

See the back page for more details on the EES exhibition.

Watsonia  
Hub



650  
visitors

Since  
December 2018

## Community feedback at work

The alternate design for the project around Watsonia Station and shops is the result of months of engagement with local communities about improving local connections while keeping trucks and through traffic off local roads.

The Elder Street green bridge would pass over North East Link and is wide enough to include a two-way local road for cars and buses, a shared walking and cycling path, trees and green space.

It would provide direct access to upgraded parking at Watsonia Station and a safe connection for walkers and cyclists through to the station, local shops and central bus links near the station entry.

The alternate design was developed while we were busy working on the Environment Effects Statement (EES) so it doesn't appear in the document. It still meets all the proposed environmental performance requirements for the project presented in the EES and, subject to project approval, can be given to builders we invite to further refine the design and submit bids to build the project.

See the alternate design at [northeastlink.vic.gov.au](http://northeastlink.vic.gov.au)



Alternate design information session, Watsonia Community Information Hub



Multi-level car park at Watsonia Station. Artist impression. Subject to change.

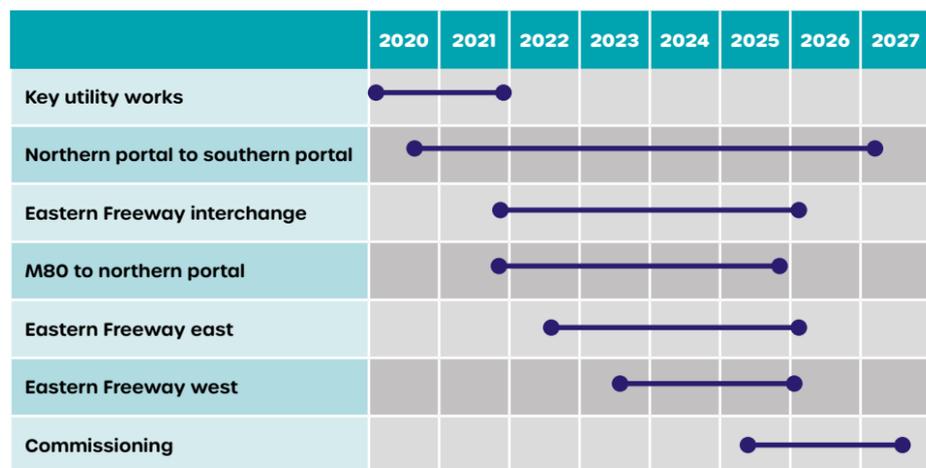
# Gearing up for construction

Two builders have been shortlisted to kick start construction next year once planning approvals are in place.

The early works package of up to \$200 million will focus on relocating utilities such as power, water and gas ready for major construction of North East Link to start.

We're also working hard to finalise which builders will get the chance to compete for the \$7-9 billion primary package. This includes detailed design and construction for Victoria's longest twin road tunnels.

## Expected construction timeline for North East Link



The expected construction timeline is not final and is subject to change based on further design work, technical studies, consultation with communities and stakeholders and the procurement process.

## Site investigation works

Our technical teams are getting things ready to fast track construction once planning approvals are complete.

You might have seen us out and about over the last few months confirming the depth and location of underground services like water, gas, telecommunication and electrical services.

Doing this work now helps to reduce risk and helps save time and money later on.

So far, specialists have surveyed around 150 locations. Our investigations are nearly finished, but you may still see our teams completing some final works over the next few weeks.

Thanks to all the local residents near investigation sites for your patience and understanding while we've been getting these important works done.



Technical teams reinstating a footpath on Greensborough Road after looking for underground services.

# Tree replanting program

More than 30,000 trees will be planted for North East Link – delivering one of the largest ever replanting programs for a state infrastructure project.

Sixteen thousand trees are expected to be removed based on the current reference design for the project. For each of these trees removed, two will be replanted.

Before major construction starts, growing programs will start, ready to plant better quality trees and more of them by the time North East Link is finished.

Earlier this month, specialists started collecting seeds from the historically important River Red Gum in Bulleen. The project is also looking for sustainable ways to re-use timber and how to involve local schools, nurseries, social enterprises and interested community groups in growing replacement trees.

"We'll expect the builders who take the project into detailed design to reduce the number of trees removed even further and we'll have strict requirements on them to do this," North East Link CEO Duncan Elliott said.

"Through the tree replanting program we'll work hard to invest in smarter, more strategic planting that creates a lasting legacy for communities and a healthier, more resilient urban forest."

Approximately 75 per cent of the 16,000 trees to be removed are located in areas already reserved for road upgrades, alongside the M80 Ring Road in Greensborough and the Eastern Freeway. Banyule Flats, Warringal Parklands and the Yarra River will be protected.

Based on the current reference design for the project, 52 hectares of native vegetation and a further 10,000 trees within the project boundary could be impacted however the final number will not be known until the detailed designs are complete.

See the Arboriculture chapter in the Environment Effects Statement for more detail.

## Community group update

Based on valuable input from our Community Liaison Groups (CLGs), we're forming two more groups to support local businesses and precincts.

A Bulleen Industrial Zone Liaison Group will help us continue to understand the needs of businesses in the area and discuss support we can provide as the project progresses. We're also looking at options to form a Watsonia Precinct Liaison Group to involve local traders and community representatives in the planning, detailed design, and construction stages for North East Link.

Our two Community Liaison Groups have just visited the Metro Tunnel Project to see how another large infrastructure project is supporting local businesses and working with communities during construction.

The groups are now busy preparing a report of ideas and opportunities raised by communities. The report will be shared with the builders who will take on the next stage of design work.

The CLG report will be one of many resources the builders can call on to refine the project design when they prepare bids to build the project.

## Meet Johanna

Johanna Tabares is an international student from Colombia completing her Civil Engineering degree at Melbourne Polytechnic. She is a youth representative on the CLG North and helps keep her community in touch with the project.

"It has made me realise that engineering is not only about designing and efficiency, but also about connecting communities."



## Keeping local sports clubs thriving while we build North East Link

We know that strong sports clubs help make strong communities.

Over the last year we've been working with local clubs, councils and other interested groups to understand how North East Link could affect sports clubs, groups and facilities and to explore options to manage disruptions.

For many clubs, we're investigating upgrading existing facilities nearby, and in some cases looking at building new fields and facilities for clubs to meet, train, play and compete.

At Bulleen Park, we're working with groups and councils to reconfigure the area to make better use of the space available, including rebuilding Boroondara Tennis Centre, and identifying opportunities for new facilities for some sports clubs on Templestowe Road.

For groups in Watsonia who use reserves that would be needed temporarily for construction including AK Lines Reserve, Gabonia Reserve and Winsor Reserve, we're looking at options to use facilities nearby including planning major upgrades to sports fields and facilities at Greensborough College.

On the Eastern Freeway, for clubs that use two northern ovals at Elgar Park we're looking at a range of options to make use of nearby reserves for temporary relocation.

More information about plans to keep local sports clubs running and thriving while we build North East Link is available for comment in the EES. See the back page for details.

## What else is happening?

North East Link is being delivered alongside a number of other major infrastructure projects to transform the way Victorians live, work and travel.

There's \$38 billion of transport projects currently in construction with more than 41 major projects being built.

From Stage 2 of upgrades to the Hurstbridge Line, removing dangerous and congested level crossings in Alphington, Rosanna, Preston and Reservoir and building the Metro Tunnel so more trains can run more often across Melbourne, the Victorian Government is coordinating a massive overhaul of our transport network. Upgrades to the M80 Ring Road, Plenty Road, Yan Yean Road, Chandler Highway and Hoddle Street will also help transform how Victorians travel. For more information visit [bigbuild.vic.gov.au](http://bigbuild.vic.gov.au)

VICTORIA'S BIG BUILD



## North East Link by numbers

### Travel

- Travel times between Melbourne's north and south-east slashed by up to 30 minutes
- Melbourne's longest twin road tunnels to protect sensitive environmental and residential areas
- Up to 40% faster travel times on an upgraded Eastern Freeway

### Trucks and freight

- 15,000 trucks off local roads a day
- 75% of trucks off Rosanna Road a day
- \$427M annual economic boost from better freight connectivity

### Bikes and buses

- More than 25 kilometres of new and upgraded walking and cycling paths
- Faster trips for the 16,000 people who currently use DART (Doncaster Area Rapid Transit) bus routes
- Two busway park and rides

### EES

- 18 technical studies
- 10,000+ pages
- On exhibition for 40 business days

### Opportunities

- More than 10,000 Victorian jobs
- Access to 56,000 more job opportunities for people living in Melbourne's north-east

### Engagement

- 236,000+ homes reached by newsletters
- 111,000+ visits to our website in 2018
- 6,395+ visitors to 20 information displays in 2018

# Environment Effects Statement on exhibition

An Environment Effects Statement (EES) is now on exhibition and open for public submissions.

An EES is Victoria's most rigorous and transparent impact assessment process. It gives decision makers such as the Planning Minister and EPA Victoria the information they need to determine whether planning approvals should be granted and what conditions should apply.

The EES for North East Link includes information on how the project could affect the environment during construction and operation and how adverse impacts would be managed across 18 study areas including air quality, noise, traffic and transport and ecology.

It's taken around one year to prepare the EES and thousands of pieces of feedback from communities have informed our technical studies and how we're proposing to manage impacts.

Now the EES is on exhibition you can get involved by making a written submission to an independent panel and have your views considered in planning approvals decisions for the project.

The EES is on display from Wednesday 10 April to Friday 7 June 2019.

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

Submissions can be made online at [engage.vic.gov.au/north-east-link-project](http://engage.vic.gov.au/north-east-link-project)

## Talk to our specialists about the ESS



Come to a drop in session to find out about the EES for North East Link.

You'll be able to ask questions and learn more about what's in the technical reports, including existing conditions and potential impacts of North East Link.

Date	Location	Time
Saturday 27 April	North East Link Community Hub 17 Watsonia Road, <b>Watsonia</b>	10am - 4pm
Tuesday 30 April	MCC Kew Sports Club 397 Barkers Road, <b>Kew</b>	4pm - 8pm
Thursday 2 May	Studio 1 Community Hub 15 Barnet Way, <b>Burnley</b>	3pm - 7pm
Saturday 4 May Sunday 5 May	Manningham Hotel and Club 1 Thompsons Road, <b>Bulleen</b>	10am - 2pm each day
Tuesday 7 May	NewHope Baptist Church 3 Springfield Road, <b>Blackburn North</b>	4pm - 8pm
Saturday 11 May	North East Link Community Hub 17 Watsonia Road, <b>Watsonia</b>	10am - 4pm

## Where to view the Environment Effects Statement

You can also read the EES online at: [northeastlink.vic.gov.au/ees](http://northeastlink.vic.gov.au/ees)

### Where to view the full Environment Effects Statement

Hard copies of the EES are available for you to read in your own time at the community facilities below from **Wednesday 10 April to Friday 7 June 2019**.

The full EES (summary report, main report and technical appendices) is available at the following locations:

#### Abbotsford

Collingwood Town Hall  
140 Hoddle Street, Abbotsford  
Monday to Friday  
8:30am - 5pm

#### Balwyn

Balwyn Library  
336 Whitehorse Road, Balwyn  
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 10am - 6pm  
Wednesday: 10am - 9pm  
Saturday: 10am - 5pm  
Sunday: 1pm - 5pm

#### Camberwell

Camberwell Library  
340 Camberwell Road, Camberwell  
Monday: 9am - 9pm  
Tuesday to Friday: 9am - 6pm  
Saturday: 10am - 5pm  
Sunday: 1pm - 5pm

#### Doncaster

Manningham Civic Centre  
699 Doncaster Road, Doncaster  
Monday to Friday: 8am - 5pm

#### Eltham

Eltham Library  
Panther Place, Eltham  
Monday to Thursday: 10am - 8:30pm  
Friday to Saturday: 10am - 5pm  
Sunday: 1pm - 5pm

#### Greensborough

Banyule City Council  
Greensborough Council Office  
1 Flintoff Street, Greensborough  
Monday to Friday  
8:30am - 5pm

#### Ivanhoe

Ivanhoe Council Library  
255 Upper Heidelberg Road, Ivanhoe  
Monday to Thursday: 10am - 8:30pm  
Friday to Saturday: 10am - 5pm  
Sunday: 1pm - 5pm

#### Kew

Kew Library  
Cnr Cotham Road and Civic Drive, Kew  
Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 10am - 6pm  
Tuesday and Thursday: 10am - 9pm  
Saturday: 10am - 5pm  
Sunday: 1pm - 5pm

#### Lalor

Lalor Library  
2A May Road, Lalor  
Monday to Thursday: 10am - 8:30pm  
Friday to Saturday: 10am - 5pm  
Sunday: 1pm - 5pm

#### Melbourne

State Library of Victoria  
328 Swanston Street, Melbourne  
Monday to Thursday: 10am - 9pm  
Friday to Sunday: 10am - 6pm

#### Nunawading

Whitehorse Civic Centre  
379-397 Whitehorse Road, Nunawading  
Monday to Friday: 8:30am - 5pm

#### Rosanna

Rosanna Library  
72 Turnham Avenue, Rosanna  
Monday to Thursday: 10am - 8:30pm  
Friday and Saturday: 10am - 5pm

#### Watsonia

North East Link Community Hub  
17 Watsonia Road, Watsonia  
Monday to Friday: 10am - 5pm  
Saturday: 10am - 2pm

#### Whittlesea

Whittlesea Library  
57-61 Laurel Street, Whittlesea  
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday: 9am - 5pm  
Wednesday: 9am - 8:30pm  
Saturday: 10am - 1pm

### Where to view the partial Environment Effects Statement

Due to space restrictions, the partial EES is available at the following locations:

#### Bulleen

Bulleen Library (USB ONLY)  
Bulleen Plaza  
79-109 Manningham Road, Bulleen  
Monday to Friday: 10am - 6pm  
Saturday: 9am - 5pm

#### Camberwell

City of Boroondara Council offices,  
8 Inglesby Road, Camberwell  
Monday to Friday: 8am - 5:15pm

#### Doncaster

Doncaster Library (USB ONLY)  
MC Square  
687 Doncaster Road, Doncaster  
Monday, Tuesday, Friday: 10am - 6pm  
Wednesday to Thursday: 10am - 8pm  
Saturday: 9am - 5pm  
Sunday: 1pm - 4pm

#### Greensborough

Diamond Valley Library (USB ONLY)  
Civic Drive, Greensborough  
Monday to Thursday: 10am - 5:30pm  
Friday to Saturday: 10am - 5pm  
Sunday: 1pm - 5pm

#### Hawthorn

Hawthorn Arts Centre  
360 Burwood Road, Hawthorn  
Monday to Friday: 8:30am - 5pm

#### Mill Park

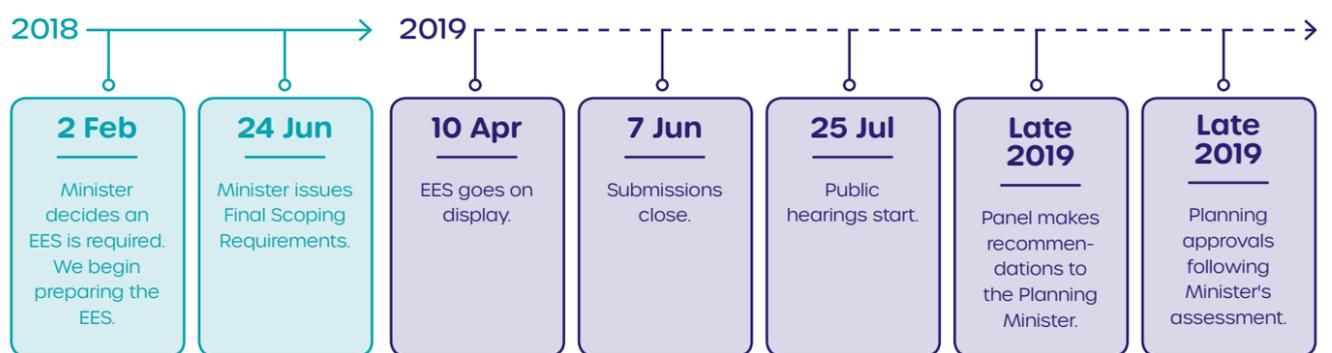
Mill Park Library  
394 Plenty Road, Mill Park  
Monday to Thursday: 10am - 8:30pm  
Friday to Saturday: 10am - 5pm  
Sunday: 1pm - 5pm

#### Thomastown

Thomastown Library  
52 Main Street, Thomastown  
Monday to Thursday: 10am - 8:30pm  
Friday: 10am - 5pm  
Saturday: 10am - 1pm

A take home copy of the full EES is available on USB at all display locations.

## Key steps in the EES process



## Commonwealth approvals

In addition to the EES process in Victoria, there are opportunities for you to have your views considered in Commonwealth environmental approvals for North East Link.

Commonwealth approvals are being assessed by the Australian Government under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Act 1999 (EPBC Act).

The EPBC Act protects and manages matters of national environmental significance, such as federally listed threatened

species and communities, migratory species and environment on Commonwealth land.

A draft Public Environment Report (PER) to assess potential impacts on these matters and outline management approaches has been prepared and will be on display for public comment in late April-May 2019.

To read the PER and find information on how to make a submission visit [northeastlink.vic.gov.au/epbc](http://northeastlink.vic.gov.au/epbc)

## Contact us

[community@northeastlink.vic.gov.au](mailto:community@northeastlink.vic.gov.au)

1800 105 105

[northeastlink.vic.gov.au](http://northeastlink.vic.gov.au)

North East Link Project  
GPO Box 4509, Melbourne VIC 3001



Translation service -  
For languages other than English,  
please call 9679 9896

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If you need assistance because of a hearing or speech impairment, please visit [relayservice.gov.au](http://relayservice.gov.au)

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