

## North East Link Newsletter

A newsletter to keep you informed about Victoria's biggest ever road infrastructure project, to complete the missing link in the city's freeway network between the M80 Ring Road and the Eastern Freeway.

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Studies to understand soil, rock and water conditions underground are helping inform planning and design. You'll see more of our teams out and about in coming months.

## Getting ready to build the missing link

### Builders are getting ready to start early works for North East Link in 2020.

Once planning approvals are in place for the project, power, water, gas, sewer and telecommunication services will be moved out of the way.

The works will pave the way for major construction to start from early 2021 to help deliver Melbourne's long-awaited North East Link.

CPB Contractors have been appointed to deliver the \$200 million package of works and have already started planning work.

With around 100 services expected to be moved, they're also planning how to minimise disruptions for residents, motorists and local businesses.

Before works start, we'll be in touch to let you know if works are planned in your area, what to expect and how any disruptions will be managed.

The early works program at this stage includes moving a telecommunication tower near the M80 Ring Road interchange, shifting two transmission towers near Watsonia Station, moving a range of above and below ground services near the new interchange at Lower Plenty Road and realigning a main sewer that runs under Bulleen Road.

### What's happening near you?



Sign up to receive the latest email updates about the project and local works in your area: [northeastlink.vic.gov.au/subscribe](https://northeastlink.vic.gov.au/subscribe)

### Finding services underground

Since late 2018, specialists have been working to confirm if the locations of power, gas, water and telecommunication services, shown on dozens of different maps, match what is buried underground.

So far, we've confirmed the exact locations of 147 services and found 29 new ones.

We'll continue to run these investigations to help us prepare for early works to kick off in early 2020.

We will be in touch with you directly if works are happening in your area.



## CEO message

Fixing the missing link in Melbourne's road network is long overdue – but it's not an easy job.

North East Link is Victoria's biggest ever road infrastructure project.

It's now also on its way to delivering the state's largest ever community consultation program, having already received more than 15,750 pieces of community feedback.

Thousands of you have told us you want local roads returned to locals and that our city needs this project – fast.

While delivering the missing link in our city's freeway network will have huge benefits, planning a project of this size in urban areas presents significant challenges.

Conversations with communities have helped us better understand these challenges, make design improvements and start planning the best ways to manage disruptions and impacts.

Many conversations have not been easy, and I want to acknowledge the continued involvement of local residents, schools, community groups, businesses and councils.

As we prepare to move into detailed design and construction, there will be more challenging conversations and difficult decisions but also enormous opportunities.

At every step, we will continue to update people who may be impacted by works. I also encourage you to sign up for email notifications to keep up to date, and keep talking to us and staying involved.

**Duncan Elliott**  
CEO, North East Link Project

## Design proposals underway

Three consortiums, made of some of the world's leading construction companies, have been selected to prepare detailed design proposals for the entire project.

To give their proposals a winning edge, the consortiums will work to refine and improve the design in innovative ways. They must also meet the requirements set by the project's approvals, including the Urban Design Strategy.

We expect the bidders to engage with some stakeholders as they develop their proposals. The selected consortium and detailed design will be announced next year.

The selected consortium will build the tunnels, and work closely with other skilled contractors that will build the rest of their design.

Major construction works are expected to start in early 2021 with the road opening to traffic in 2027.



Nursery manager Steph Cleary at The Tree Shop, Surrey Hills

## Tree planting program begins

We're starting early on one of the state's biggest tree planting programs for a major infrastructure project.

North East Link Project will grow and plant at least 30,000 trees, and we're starting work now.

We're looking for local nurseries to grow thousands of new trees so they're ready for planting well before major construction starts in 2021.

We're also collecting seeds from significant trees in local areas to help meet our commitment to have more trees planted than removed by the end of construction.

The tree planting program will focus on providing better canopy cover that can shade open spaces and walking and cycling paths, as well as support wildlife habitat and corridors.

We'll also be looking at how to contribute to establishing an urban forest that is better able to absorb heat, cool local areas and support cleaner air and water.

If you're a local nursery, community group or social enterprise and can produce stock ready for early planting, register your details online here: [northeastlink.vic.gov.au/news/trees](http://northeastlink.vic.gov.au/news/trees)

## Watsonia Hub reopens

Our Watsonia Hub has reopened its doors, ready for the next phase of the project.

After closing in late July for renovations, the transformed space will be a key place for people to get information and be involved in the project.

Over the next eight years the hub will evolve as the project does, with new interactive maps and technology once the final design is released.

We're also working closely with local businesses in Watsonia. We've started running a series of business support workshops focusing on marketing, building resilience and developing new skills.

Keep an eye out for the next edition of The Link to find out more about how we're supporting local businesses in your area.

Find the Hub at 17 Watsonia Road. Open weekdays from 10am – 5pm, or you can make an appointment by calling 1800 105 105.



## Your voices steering North East Link

Hundreds of people have had their say during the state's most robust impact assessment process, moving North East Link to the next stage of the planning and approvals process.

From July until September, more than 200 of the 850+ people, groups and organisations who made written submissions on the North East Link Environment Effects Statement (EES) put their views forward at a public hearing.

The independent Inquiry and Advisory Committee, which was appointed to review the EES and its submissions, has now prepared recommendations for the Minister for Planning. The Minister is expected to make an assessment of the project before the end of the year.

Thank you to the hundreds of people, groups and organisations who got involved and suggested improvements on how North East Link could be planned, constructed and operated.

The EES submissions and public hearing covered an incredible range of interests, ideas, issues and opportunities.

We look forward to sharing with you soon the outcomes, and how they will improve North East Link.



## Project timeline

- ✓ **2017**
  - Project corridor selected
- ✓ **2018**
  - Environment Effects Statement (EES) prepared
- ✓ **Early 2019**
  - EES exhibited for public comment
- ✓ **Mid 2019**
  - EES public hearings
  - Early works builder announced
  - Shortlist of whole of project design consortiums announced
- **Late 2019**
  - Ongoing service investigations
  - Minister for Planning's assessment of EES
  - Planning approvals expected to be received
- **Early 2020**
  - Early works start
- **Late 2020**
  - Successful project consortium and design proposal announced
  - Community consultation
- **Early 2021**
  - Major construction begins
- **2027**
  - North East Link opens to traffic



## Represent your community

Want to represent your community for the construction phase of North East Link?

Our community liaison groups play an important role in keeping the local community informed about key stages of the North East Link Project.

As we move beyond the planning phase and into project construction, we'll be looking to recruit new members.

The independently chaired groups meet every two months to discuss the project, with the whole community encouraged to apply including residents, businesses, local groups and organisations.

If you're interested in keeping your local community up-to-date on the project, and listening to and sharing their ideas with our project teams, we want to hear from you.

We thank our current members for representing their communities during the early stages of the project, and for their report that will now help guide the shortlisted consortiums as they prepare design proposals.

For more information, visit: [northeastlink.vic.gov.au/community/community-liaison-groups](http://northeastlink.vic.gov.au/community/community-liaison-groups)

## Investing in local sport

Millions of dollars of upgrades are coming to sports grounds in Melbourne's northern and eastern suburbs, to keep local clubs playing and thriving during construction and beyond.

We're working closely with clubs that will need to temporarily or permanently move to new grounds as well as councils, associations, schools and landowners to identify the best places to invest in new and existing sports facilities to deliver the most benefit for local communities.

The outcomes of the Environment Effects Statement process will help confirm where investments should be made.

Works to upgrade sports grounds are planned to start well before major construction begins, so clubs can make a smooth transition to their new homes.



5+ sports



12+ months of consultation so far



50+ meetings and workshops



millions of dollars of upgrades



## Popping into your neighbourhood

Nominate a place or local event to hold a North East Link pop-up information session.

We're planning pop-up events in local areas in the coming months and want to know where you want to see us, and what you'd like to talk about.

We were recently out and about in Watsonia and Viewbank, while our Watsonia Hub was temporarily closed for renovations.

Our team kept residents updated about the next steps for North East Link and ran quick quizzes to find out what people want to hear about next. This issue of The Link includes updates on the top three topics.

If you have a spot or local event in your community you'd like us to visit, let us know online at [jointheconversation.northeastlink.vic.gov.au](http://jointheconversation.northeastlink.vic.gov.au) or email [community@northeastlink.vic.gov.au](mailto:community@northeastlink.vic.gov.au)

Top three topics you want to know about:



Early works and construction



Sports club relocations



The environment and trees

## Works happening near you

North East Link is just one part of Victoria's \$70 billion Big Build program of works that will improve the way we move about our suburbs and city. Here's a quick snapshot on what else is planned near you.

Completed
 Construction
 Planning

Streamlining Hoddle Street project



Chandler Highway Upgrade



Rosanna Road Safety Improvement Project



Yan Yean Road Upgrade Stage 1



Yan Yean Road Upgrade Stage 2



Plenty Road Upgrade Stage 1



Plenty Road Upgrade Stage 2



Northern Roads Upgrade



O'Herns Road Upgrade Stage 1



O'Herns Road Upgrade Stage 2



M80 Upgrade - Sydney to Edgars Rd



Hurstbridge Rail Line Upgrade Stage 1



Hurstbridge Rail Line Upgrade Stage 2



Level Crossing Removal Project Rosanna



Level Crossing Removal Project Alphington



Level Crossing Removal Project Reservoir



Level Crossing Removal Project Preston



Level Crossing Removal Project Coburg



For more information visit [bigbuild.vic.gov.au](http://bigbuild.vic.gov.au)

## Supporting local businesses

We're supporting businesses in the Bulleen Industrial Zone that may be impacted by North East Link.

Our specialist land planners are working closely with councils and other landowners to explore relocation options. While the best outcome is for workers to stay with their jobs, we're also planning training and employment support programs to help those needing to transition to new jobs.

Our Bulleen Office is continuing to provide a space for business owners and workers to receive support and information about planning, approvals and upcoming works during this difficult time.

The Bulleen Office is at 7A Kim Close. Local residents are also welcome to drop in. It's open weekdays, 9am - 4pm. For an after hours appointment, call 1800 105 105.



## 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)

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