



BRIDGE INN ROAD UPGRADE

JUNE 2022

Minimising our impact on the environment

We're adding extra lanes on Bridge Inn Road between Plenty and Yan Yean roads to get you home sooner and safer.

We're also upgrading three key intersections to improve safety for all road users and building better walking, cycling and public transport connections.

Once completed the upgrade will cater for future traffic volumes while also serving the 17,000 people who use Bridge Inn Road every day.

We understand and share the value placed on local flora and fauna by the community. With all major projects, we sensitively balance our impact on the environment with the need to improve road safety and journey reliability.



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MINIMISING IMPACTS TO VEGETATION AND WILDLIFE

01 ASSESSING

Our experts carefully assess the site to understand potential impacts and develop measures to reduce them.

02 SENSITIVE DESIGN

We develop a design that balances the critical safety and efficiency objectives of the project while ensuring it fits within the physical setting and preserves the local aesthetic and environment.

03 MINIMISING IMPACT

We work closely with specialists on site to identify how we'll protect plants and animals.

04 REUSE SOLUTIONS

We work with the community to identify viable uses for felled timber, such as habitat logs and furniture.

05 GREENING THE AREA

We develop landscaping plans and explore partnerships and opportunities for additional planting.

Assessing

We have assessed all aspects of the environment in order to inform our design and control measures. However, we understand that two of the most important environmental features of the local area are vegetation and wildlife, and special consideration has been given to these.

- understand potential impacts that the project may have on identified sensitive species
- develop measures to reduce potential impacts, such as adjusting the design, installing controls and identifying construction "no go zones"
- understand and plan for community concerns about specific areas.

Vegetation and wildlife investigations

We have engaged a team of experts including ecologists and arborists, who are qualified in biodiversity and environmental science, to carry out the flora and fauna assessments for the project.

As part of the site assessments, we've mapped the entire project site to record wildlife, vegetation and significant species.

We've undertaken the investigations to:

- identify sensitive and protected plants and animals, including potential habitats
- ensure we are complying with federal and state environmental legislation requirements including obtaining vegetation offsets

Obtaining environmental approvals

We have all the necessary approvals to undertake this work.

We have obtained approval under the Planning and Environment Act 1987 in the form of a Planning Scheme Amendment. In accordance with the conditions of our approval, we are required to mitigate native vegetation losses with 'offsets'.

Offsets are areas of native vegetation, usually on private land, which we ensure will not be developed through long-term protection agreements. This ensures that there is no overall loss of native vegetation. We have developed an offset management strategy and procured the required offsets for the project.



Minimising impacts

Managing environmental impacts

To manage environmental impacts during the project, we have:

- developed an Environmental Management Strategy which has been approved by the Minister for Planning
- developed managements plans, to control and minimise any ecological and environmental impacts during construction
- sought all appropriate approvals as required and made necessary design refinements to reduce environmental impacts
- developed a timber reuse strategy.

How we're minimising impacts to trees and vegetation

We've engaged qualified ecologists and arborists to identify various species of trees and vegetation throughout the project area, ensuring significant species are retained and protected during construction where possible.

Prior to any vegetation removal, an ecologist, arborist and our environmental team will first do a walkthrough of the site to confirm and approve the trees needing to be removed.

All tree removal will be supervised by qualified professionals to ensure only approved trees are removed.

Traffic management will be in place where tree removal occurs close to the road.

We'll do our best to reduce the impact on trees and vegetation by:

- retaining as many trees as we can through environmentally sensitive design and construction methods
- having an environmental specialist oversee the protection of any sensitive vegetation
- only working in areas required for the project
- protecting trees and sensitive vegetation by fencing off 'no-go zones'
- having specialists inspect trees and vegetation before they're removed and only removing what is unavoidable

- pruning some trees to prevent accidentally breaking branches and damaging the trees
- working with local community groups to identify opportunities for how we can re-use healthy wood for environmental and community projects.

How we're protecting wildlife

Some wildlife may be found within the area, including mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians.

We're working alongside specialists to ensure the protection and safe relocation of wildlife. To minimise impacts to wildlife we'll:

- have a suitably qualified ecologist complete pre-clearance surveys prior to removing any vegetation to determine if wildlife is present or likely to be present
- have the ecologist identify any hollow-bearing trees or other potential habitat and help determine suitable locations for any relocated wildlife
- have a qualified and licensed wildlife handler on site during vegetation removal to safely relocate any fauna that may be affected.

Cultural heritage

The Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) for the upgrade was approved by Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation as the Registered Aboriginal Party, in accordance with the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006 (Vic) on 8 February 2019.

These Traditional Owners have been consulted through the CHMP approval which included desktop, standard and complex assessments.

The findings as a result of the CHMP confirmed there are no known Aboriginal sites or artefacts within the project area.



Greening the area

We're working with landscape architects as well as key stakeholders, including local councils, the Office of the Victorian Government Architect and the Department of Transport to develop an urban design and landscape plan in keeping with the character of the local area and our overall urban design principles.

Tree planting and landscaping are usually the final activities to take place, once major works are completed in the area.

More information including landscaping plans and the types of vegetation to be planted will be shared with the community as the project progresses.

Managing construction impacts

We'll put measures in place to minimise impacts to the community from our works, including construction noise, and vibration.

For more information on how we'll manage noise and vibration please see our Managing noise and vibration fact sheet.



What happens with removed trees and vegetation?

While trees will need to be removed, we're looking at ways to repurpose the suitable timber from removed trees to contribute to the local community.

We'll work closely with the community to use the wood from the trees for environmental and community projects.

Some of the opportunities we're exploring include:

- repurposing wood to make nesting boxes for fauna relocation
- community projects completed by schools and community groups who may make furniture such as park benches or sculptures
- placing logs in nature reserves to establish wildlife habitats

We will also look to collect seeds depending on the time of year and work with local nurseries to grow locally indigenous planting stock for our landscaping works.



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