



# Foreword

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*North East Link Project*

North East Link is a proposed new freeway-standard road connection that would complete the missing link in Melbourne's metropolitan ring road, giving the city a fully completed orbital connection for the first time. North East Link would connect the M80 Ring Road to the Eastern Freeway, including upgrades to the Eastern Freeway. It would be a safe and efficient freeway connection for 100,000 vehicles per day, reducing travel times, getting trucks off local roads and linking key growth areas in the north and south-east. The project would also support a range of complementary and associated works, separate from the project.

On 2 February 2018, the Minister for Planning determined that North East Link required assessment under the *Environment Effects Act 1978*. The North East Link Project (NELP) has prepared this Environment Effects Statement (EES) to provide an assessment of the potential environmental, social and business impacts associated with the proposed construction and operation of North East Link.

North East Link is the largest construction project undertaken in Victoria. A project of this scale and complexity will have some unavoidable impacts and we are committed to addressing these in a responsible way. The EES recommends

Environmental Performance Requirements that define the environmental outcomes that must be achieved during the design, construction and operation of the project to avoid, manage or mitigate these impacts.

Communication and engagement activities over the last two years have built community and stakeholder awareness and understanding of the project and sought input into project decision-making, planning and development. This feedback has been an important part of developing the EES.

NELP was assisted in preparing the EES by a Technical Reference Group (TRG) convened by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning. NELP would like to thank the TRG and everyone who has contributed to the EES. We continue to welcome community and stakeholder feedback to achieve the best outcomes for this transformational project for Melbourne and Victoria.



