



# PRINCES HIGHWAY EAST

DECEMBER 2021

## Protecting the environment

### Balancing environmental impact and road safety improvements.

The third and final stage of the Princes Highway East Upgrade will deliver an extra 12 kilometres of lanes in each direction through Flynn, Kilmany and Kilmany East, providing a consistent two-lane highway between Traralgon and Sale.

The new lanes will bring immediate safety improvements to around 15,000 motorists who use this stretch of road every day and improve journey times between Traralgon and Sale.

We are committed to the protection of the natural environment. We are sensitively balancing our impact on the environment with our project to improve road safety and journey reliability.

### Planning and assessing the works

We've secured all major planning approvals for the project and we've completed an Environment Effects Statement (EES). All planning scheme amendments are in place and strict environmental requirements have been embedded into construction contracts for the project.

We're working closely with the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, Wellington Shire Council, West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority, and the Environment Protection Authority (EPA).

Construction Environmental Management Plans have been developed to ensure all environmental aspects of the project are carefully managed and monitored.



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## Protecting flora and fauna

As much native vegetation as possible will be retained, with No-Go Zones set up to protect as many areas of trees and native vegetation as possible, and to protect habitat for vulnerable species like the Growling Grass Frog.

Native vegetation that cannot be retained will be offset at a 30-hectare roadside vegetation site between Sheepwash Creek, Traralgon East, and Flynn's Creek Road along the south side of the Princes Highway and a 140-hectare site in Bengworden. The Department of Transport is the custodian of this site.

While as many trees as possible will be protected and retained, some tree removal will be necessary. All timber will be harvested and reused in beneficial ways.

Procedures are in place to ensure that a qualified ecologist inspects construction areas for native wildlife prior to construction commencing and if necessary, will relocate wildlife to a safe place.

## Managing water quality, erosion and sedimentation

Stormwater runoff, erosion and/or sediment deposits on the surrounding environment (including mud deposited on roadways) will be carefully managed to protect local waterways and drains.

For a portion of the project, water is obtained from the Latrobe River. The Latrobe River is a critical asset for the surrounding agriculture community as well as the health of Gippsland Lakes.

Environmental controls are monitored daily to ensure the Latrobe river and surrounding environment are not negatively impacted by the works.

## Managing waste

We are committed to disposing of day-to-day waste in a sustainable manner. Among the sustainability initiatives are Eco-Bins to sort waste and minimise the amount of material going to landfill, an organic waste farm on site, grey water recycling, and a sustainable herb garden.

Material from the works is also repurposed. During the mobilisation stage of the project the contractors undertook comprehensive testing of material. The material which was classed as clean fill was redirected to local quarries for utilisation in rehabilitation. Some of the clean fill is being maintained as stockpiles on site for landscaping and remedial works.



## Contact us

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