



MANAGING THE ENVIRONMENT

We're building a second Murray River crossing to connect Echuca and Moama, making it quicker and easier for you to travel across the Campaspe and Murray rivers.

As part of the largest transport infrastructure project in northern Victoria, Major Road Projects Victoria and Transport for NSW are working together to deliver Stages 3 and 4 of the Echuca-Moama Bridge Project.

We're building new bridges over the Campaspe and Murray rivers and upgrading Moama's intersections to connect the Cobb Highway to the new Murray River bridge.

Managing the environment

We've designed the Echuca-Moama Bridge Project to minimise our footprint on the local environment. This has helped reduce the number of trees we needed to remove and lessen impacts on areas such as Victoria Park and the Moama Bushlands.

We've also formed an Environmental Reference Group that represents the environmental interests of Echuca and Moama.

We meet regularly to discuss the environmental aspects of the project, encouraging feedback and gaining local knowledge and advice, which informs our design and construction practices.

Environmental assessment

We've assessed the project's potential environmental, social, economic, and cultural heritage impacts as part of an Environment Effects Statement (EES), which was undertaken between 2013 and 2015.



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We invited the community to comment on the Project's EES and an independent planning panel reviewed all submissions, heard from expert witnesses and held public hearings. The Minister for Planning concluded that the current design of the project provided the best environmental outcome in comparison to the other design options.

The assessment proposed a range of mitigation actions aimed at minimising impacts on the environment and the community.

Protecting flora and fauna

We're ensuring native species are supported during and after our works by:

- creating more than 450 additional habitat hollows in Victoria Park and along the Campaspe River to provide shelter and protection for local wildlife
- engaging a qualified zoologist and fauna handler to safely relocate any animals in our project area to suitable local habitats.

We're also enhancing local fauna populations by:

- purchasing additional local habitat offset areas for the Squirrel Glider
- monitoring the Victorian Temperate Woodland Bird Community every six months for five years
- installing seven connectivity structures (including rope bridges and glider poles) so that Squirrel Gliders can safely cross the new road between woodland habitats.
- conducting an annual inspection of the habitat hollows we have installed to assess their effectiveness.

What we're doing to protect trees

As part of the Biodiversity Assessment Guidelines, we've offset the removal of native vegetation with the purchase and protection of similar native vegetation within the regional catchment area.

Prior to removing trees, we:

- located every tree with a diameter greater than 100mm in the project area, and gathered detailed information, such as species, size, presence of habitat hollows and timber reuse potential
- used the data we collected to refine the road design to retain as many trees as possible
- protected trees located on the perimeter of the project area, by creating partitioned 'no go zones'.

Reusing timber

The timber we remove is a valuable natural resource.

We've worked closely with the Murray River and Campaspe Shire councils, regional catchment management authorities and the project's Environmental Reference Group to identify 'high value' timber reuse opportunities.

So far, we have:

- provided around 95 per cent of Stage 2's reusable timber to catchment management authorities for river aquatic works, to enhance fish and river health
- delivered timber to the Port of Echuca from Stage 2 for its wharf restoration program
- provided the Kyabram Fauna Park with timber from Stage 2 to improve habitats for its native animals
- used hollow bearing logs for wildlife habitat and river health programs
- provided low-grade timber to the local councils to produce mulch for their community landscaping projects in Echuca and Moama.

Planting native trees

Towards the end of the project, we'll revegetate Victoria Park in Echuca with native trees, shrubs and grasses. Our aim is to increase vegetation density and provide habitat and food for endangered species such as the Squirrel Glider.

We will also undertake extensive weed control in Victoria Park to reduce weeds such as the highly invasive Bridal Creeper.

We'll continue to work with local councils and our Environmental Reference Group as we deliver our revegetation program.

Managing air quality

We're reducing dust from construction and minimising any potential impacts on air quality by:

- covering loads carried by trucks travelling to and from the worksite
- ensuring construction vehicles adhere to reduced speed limits
- watering down areas where our earthworks are occurring
- keeping soil stockpiles small and wetting them to reduce wind erosion
- installing crushed rock and rumble grids for trucks to minimise the amount of mud and dirt tracked onto local roads
- quickly cleaning any material tracked onto local roads
- using polymer applications on exposed batters that help bind the soil by forming a thin shell on the earthen surface.

We've also installed monitors near homes, schools and businesses to observe the air quality during construction.

If you have concerns or questions about these works, please contact the Project Team on **1800 105 105** or **contact@roadprojects.vic.gov.au**

Contact us

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