



MORDIALLOC FREEWAY
OCTOBER 2018

ENVIRONMENT EFFECTS STATEMENT



Biodiversity

The 9km Mordialloc Freeway will improve access to Melbourne's south-eastern suburbs, completing the missing link from Frankston to Clayton.

We've now undertaken 13 key investigations to fulfil our requirements as part of the Environment Effects Statement (EES).

We engaged a team of technical experts to undertake detailed investigations for the project. Both desktop assessments and site investigations were carried out to understand how the construction and operation of the freeway could impact sensitive and high-value environments. The investigations will help inform how we manage the potential impacts of the project.

The full report of this study is available in Chapter 10: Biodiversity of the EES Main Report.

What our studies found

Fauna

Our experts found a total of 210 fauna species resided in the project area. Of these species, 41 are of conservational significance and 12 migratory birds are listed in the *Environment Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cth)* (EPBC Act).

Investigations indicated that potential impacts to these species from our project could include:

- Habitat loss and reduced connectivity
- Wildlife and vehicle collisions
- Habitat disturbance from vehicle lighting and road noise.

To protect these important species and their habitat we will provide:

- Fauna crossings to protect habitat connectivity and offer a safe crossing under the freeway
- Barriers that reduce noise and light disturbance, and influence bird flight paths above traffic

Our investigations also considered habitat impacts on EPBC Act listed species, including:

- Australian Fairy Tern
- Eastern Curlew
- Curlew Sandpiper
- Australasian Bittern
- Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
- Latham's Snipe
- Australian Painted Snipe

Vegetation and flora

Our ecologists found a number of ecological vegetation communities within the project, including vulnerable, depleted or endangered communities. These include:

- 12 Ecological Vegetation Classes (EVC) within the project area, ten of which are considered endangered in the Gippsland Plain Bioregion
- Two threatened ecological communities listed in the *EPBC Act*
- Two threatened communities listed in the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1998 (Vic)*

Targeted surveys also identified five significant flora species in the study area with potential impacts.

The EES studies determined the freeway impact on these vegetation communities and flora species was found to be small, and not considered significant. However, we will implement measures to further protect these species and develop revegetation plans where appropriate.

Keeping our site clean

We're committed to reducing our project impact on the environment, we will:

- Install fauna crossings, including culverts to enhance habitat connectivity
- Provide multi-function barriers to reduce noise and light disturbance, and influence bird flight paths safely above traffic
- Use site-appropriate indigenous species for revegetation
- Maintain no-go zones to protect sensitive vegetation during construction.

We have established Environmental Performance Requirements (EPRs), which define the environmental outcomes we will achieve during the design, construction and operation of the Mordialloc Freeway.

Our EPRs will ensure the nearby habitats maintain their ecological values both during and after construction.

A full list of our EPRs can be found in **Chapter 10: Biodiversity of the EES Main Report**.

EES Documentation

You can view the full EES documentation

Online: roadprojects.vic.gov.au/projects/mordialloc-freeway

In person at:

- Mordialloc Freeway Info Hub
- City of Kingston offices
- City of Greater Dandenong offices
- Chelsea Library
- Springvale Library
- State Library of Victoria
- Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (Melbourne offices)



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