



NOVEMBER 2019

MORDIALLOC FREEWAY

Trees and vegetation

We're building the Mordialloc Freeway to connect the Mornington Peninsula Freeway to the Dingley Bypass.

The Mordialloc Freeway will slash travel times and ease congestion in Melbourne's south east, providing a safer, more reliable journey.

The project will take 13,000 trucks off local roads, giving local roads back to local residents.

Assessing trees and vegetation

We consulted independent ecologists and arborists to identify trees that can be retained and trees that

require protection during construction as part of the project's Environment Effects Statement (EES).

As part of the EES, we assessed trees and vegetation through:

- field surveys
- reviewing existing data
- mapping existing trees and vegetation.

We looked at over 3,000 trees within the project area to assess:

- structural strength, including the size and location of tree roots
- health and life expectancy
- amenity and environmental value.

Artist's impression at Governor Road



Protecting trees and vegetation during construction

Where trees are being retained, we'll establish a fenced tree protection zone (TPZ) for the duration of construction activities. The TPZ fence protects the area around a tree, above and below ground, to allow the tree to continue growing.

We'll also set up no go zone fences throughout the project site to protect vegetation during construction.

Clearing trees and vegetation

We share the value the community places on the environment, and we're working hard to minimise tree removal where we can during the construction of the Freeway. We anticipate that approximately 1500 trees will need to be removed during construction.

Prior to removal trees will be inspected for the presence of native animals, with a wildlife carer on hand to safely remove and relocate any animals found.

Replanting trees and vegetation

We'll also plant new trees and vegetation at the end of the project.

We're working with landscape designers, councils and local environment groups to determine a landscape design that supports ecology along the Freeway.

We want to ensure that new open space is landscaped in a way that is valuable to the local community. We'll plant trees and vegetation to provide screening for residents and improve the visual amenity.

Native vegetation offsets

When removing any native vegetation, we're required to replace or offset it with the same ecological value to Victoria's biodiversity.

At Devilbend Reservoir in Tuerong, we've acquired native vegetation offsets for the project. The vegetation communities we've secured offsets for are Grassy Woodland, Swampy Riparian Woodland and Lowland Forest.

Seed collection

We'll collect seeds from native trees, shrubs and grasses from within the project area.

We'll replant these seeds within the project area, where possible.

We'll also donate extra seeds to environmental and community groups.

Environmental and community initiatives

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

Some of the opportunities we're exploring include:

- placing logs in nature reserves and near Braeside Park to establish wildlife habitats
- providing wood to local Men's Sheds and schools for use in projects
- creating long-term legacy projects with the wood, such as park benches or sculptures
- directing surplus mulch to landscaping and revegetation projects as well as protecting the root structure of existing trees.



Being accountable for what we do

We've developed an Environmental Management Framework (EMF) which includes approved Environmental Performance Requirements (EPRs) to minimise impacts to tree and vegetation. We're required to achieve these environmental outcomes during the design, construction and operation of the Freeway.

Information on our EPRs can be found in our Environmental Management Framework and viewed at roadprojects.vic.gov.au/projects/mordialloc-freeway

Image left: tree and vegetation

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