

Response to the Economy and Infrastructure third report into infrastructure projects

The Economic and Infrastructure Committee tabled its third report on infrastructure on 25 May 2017. The Committee recommended:

Recommendation 1: That the government ensure transparency of processes for major projects, including timely availability of key information such as Environmental Effects Statements.

Recommendation 2: That the government ensure that timely and genuine guidance is provided to communities affected by infrastructure projects.

Recommendation 3: That the government engage with opportunities presented by major projects to develop environmental performance solutions that will contribute to population health and to cost savings.

In response to Recommendation 1:

All infrastructure projects that are subject to the Environment Effects Statement (EES) process make key documents available for public comment in accordance with the existing requirements under the *Environmental Effects Act 1978*. This includes public exhibition of the draft scoping requirements for 15 business days, and public exhibition of the EES documents for 20 to 30 business days.

The EES process is explained to the public on the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning's website at <https://www.planning.vic.gov.au/environment-assessment/what-is-the-ees-process-in-victoria>.

A raft of information pertaining to key project processes, including relating to land and environment matters, is included on the relevant project websites and is subject to extensive public information campaigns.

In response to Recommendation 2:

Delivery authorities under the Major Transport Infrastructure Program (MTIP) and their contractors work closely with Transport for Victoria and sector transport agencies to ensure major construction activities and disruptions are coordinated across the network. As part of these coordination activities, locals and visitors are supported with notice, and significant signage and wayfinding, keeping people moving through major work periods.

Each major transport infrastructure project has a dedicated communications strategy targeting residents, businesses and visitors using methods such as advertising, newsletters in letterboxes, emails, signage, flyers, social media, website information and videos. These engagement activities occur at all stages of the projects.

Details of planned disruptions and road closures are captured and published on the Big Build website's disruptions map (<https://bigbuild.vic.gov.au/disruptions>) as well as through project websites. The PTV website and Journey Planner provides information on public transport disruptions, and the VicTraffic website, operated by VicRoads, provides information about traffic conditions and incidents.

In response to Recommendation 3:

Three of the five MTIP administrative offices have developed and implemented sustainability policies. Under these policies, have sustainability objectives and targets - covering energy, materials, water, waste, urban ecology, management and social procurement.

These policies are developed in consultation with Infrastructure Sustainability Council of Australia (ISCA) and the Green Building Council of Australia (GBCA) - the peak bodies for infrastructure and built environment.

Targets are set for energy reduction, renewable energy and limiting emissions to below the ISCA-verified threshold, after benchmarking against industry best practice and other projects. Benchmarks are verified independently by ISCA and GBCA. ISCA awards innovation in sustainability, so delivery partners must constantly improve upon benchmarks in project delivery.

Rail Projects Victoria made its sustainability policy available in full on the Metro Tunnel public website at <https://metrotunnel.vic.gov.au/planning/sustainability>

Level Crossing Removal Authority and North East Link Authority have summaries of their policies available on their public websites:

<https://levelcrossings.vic.gov.au/about/sustainability-policy>

<https://northeastlink.vic.gov.au/environment/sustainability>