



Hall Road, Skye

HALL ROAD UPGRADE

MARCH 2021

Managing the environment

We understand that the local environment and landscape is important to the community. With all major projects including the Hall Road Upgrade, we aim to sensitively balance our impact on the environment with the need to improve road safety and journey reliability.

The area around Hall Road is home to trees and vegetation that provide habitat for wildlife and contribute to the look and feel of the local area. As we refine the design for the Hall Road Upgrade, we'll work hard to minimise the project's potential impact to the environment.

Environmental assessment

We engaged environmental experts to assist us with the planning and development for the project and assess how the project might affect the local environment. They looked at:

- biodiversity, including protected wildlife and native vegetation in the local area
- wetlands and parklands
- trees, including large old trees and River Red Gums
- cultural heritage, including Aboriginal heritage.

The results of these assessments will help us finalise a design that minimises the impact on the surrounding

environment and develop plans to protect significant trees, vegetation and wildlife from project impacts.

We'll do all we can to minimise tree removal and disturbance to wildlife. We're working with independent ecologists, zoologist and arborists to identify trees that can be retained and trees that will require protection during construction.

They're also helping to assess the project area by:

- conducting on-site surveys
- mapping existing trees, vegetation and wildlife habitat
- identifying sensitive and protected trees, vegetation and wildlife, including potential habitat.



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Cultural heritage

As part of the development of all road projects, we consult with the Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) for the area to understand what is culturally significant in the area.

We're developing a Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) in consultation with the local RAP, Bunurong Land Council, to identify areas of cultural significance.

The RAP will approve the CHMP, which we will need to follow when designing and constructing the project.

Managing environmental impacts

Before we can begin upgrading Hall Road, we'll develop an Environmental Management Framework (EMF). The EMF will contain mandatory Environmental Management Requirements that regulate construction activities to minimise impacts on the local environment.

The EMF will be submitted to the Minister for Planning for approval. In addition to the EMF, we'll also complete an offset plan which will include our plans on managing the removal of any native vegetation.

Our offset plans

We'll develop a plan that will step out how we will offset the removal of native vegetation in accordance with DELWP's Guidelines for the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation 2017 (DELWP 2017c). This will compensate for biodiversity losses arising as a result of the project, however, will result in a 'no net loss' within the biodiversity condition across Victoria.

As we develop the EMF and continue to refine the design for the project, we'll:

- identify opportunities for wildlife habitat enhancement
- create plans to protect significant trees, particularly around wetland habitat
- put plans in place to safely relocate any wildlife found during construction, including identifying local wildlife rescue organisations
- explore design measures such as installing retaining walls to reduce the project's impact on the wetlands located on private property at the intersection with Taylors Road.

Once we've appointed a construction partner to build the upgrade, we'll work with them to develop an Environmental Management System and Construction Environment Management Plan, in line with the EMF approved by the Minister for Planning.

The purpose of these plans is to make sure all construction works are carefully planned and either avoid or minimise impacts to the environment.

Protecting native trees, vegetation and wildlife during construction

We're committed to retaining and protecting as many trees and native vegetation as possible as we build the Hall Road Upgrade. We'll do this by:

- inspecting trees before they're removed to identify the presence of wildlife
- having protection measures for places that may be frequented by protected bird life, including wetlands and trees

- complying with federal and state environmental legislation requirements
- having designated 'no go zones' and 'tree protection zones' to protect sensitive native vegetation and wildlife.

When major construction is complete, we'll plant new trees and vegetation and explore opportunities to reuse timber to recreate wildlife habitat and benefit the local community.

Environmental and community initiatives

When tree and vegetation removal is unavoidable, we'll look for ways to reuse that timber back into community projects. This may include:

- providing timber salvaged from trees removed from the project site to local community groups, schools and businesses for use in projects
- reusing vegetation and tree logs to establish wildlife habitats
- providing mulch to local landscaping and revegetation projects
- planting days with local community groups and school children.



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