North East Link tender announced

North East Link has gone out to market, and we are calling for expressions of interest from builders.

Builders are invited to apply to deliver the $200 million early works package, expected to start construction in 2020 after environmental and planning approvals are in place.

We are also calling for builders for the $7-9 billion primary package that involves construction of the tunnels. This procurement process will take 18 months to complete.

Your questions answered

How can you release the project to market when communities haven't seen the full design and you don't have planning approvals?

The first step in the tender process is asking builders to let us know if they are interested in submitting a bid to build North East Link. Expressions of interest help us create a shortlist of potential bidders we can invite to submit detailed tenders as planning and environment requirements become clear. It means we can be sure we only invite the best bidders to move ahead to the next stage. It also gives us, and the preferred bidders, more time to understand how
we can best work together through the next steps in the tender process.

Does this mean you don’t need to do an EES anymore?

The project still needs planning approvals. The Environment Effects Statement (EES) still needs to go on exhibition for public comment and submissions to an independent panel. This is scheduled to happen mid 2019.

Does this mean construction for North East Link will start earlier?

Construction for North East Link is still expected to start in 2020 after the EES process is complete and planning approvals have been received.