Sustainability objectives and targets
July 2019

Leadership: Achieve excellent environmental, social and economic outcomes across all phases of North East Link

- Seek opportunities to share knowledge and collaborate with stakeholders and industry peers
  - Implement innovative and pioneering initiatives in sustainable design, process or advocacy considered a first in Victoria and/or Australia (IS v1.2 Innovation Inn-1 credit)
  - Implement initiatives for sharing sustainability knowledge gained from the Project (IS v1.2 Man-6 Level 2 credit)
- Use sustainability rating schemes to set benchmarks and track and report performance
  - Achieve a minimum 72 points for ‘Design’ and ‘As Built’ (Excellent) rating type under the IS rating tool v1.2 (or equivalent of the IS v2.0 rating tool)
  - Achieve a minimum Excellent rating (or equivalent) for Operations’ rating type under the IS rating tool
  - Achieve a minimum five-star Green star rating for the motorway control centre
  - Publicly report sustainability performance on an annual basis

Resource efficiency: Embedding energy, water, material and waste reduction initiatives into the design, construction and operation of the Project

- Reduce the use and the lifecycle impacts of all materials, like concrete, asphalt and steel
  - Develop a Resource Efficiency Strategy and Action Plan (IS v2.0 credit Rso-1 Level 2)
  - Achieve a minimum 15% reduction in materials lifecycle impacts (measured by the materials lifecycle calculator) below the base case (IS v1.2 Mat-1 Level 2)
  - Reduce the amount of Portland Cement content in concrete across the Project by a minimum of 30% (against Green Building Council of Australia reference mix design levels)
  - Maximise use of recycled asphalt pavement and other recycled materials in the Project
  - Maximise local steel by volume sourced from fabricators or contractors who are accredited suppliers for the Environment Sustainability Charter of Australian Steel Institute or similar international association
  - Implement a sustainable procurement policy to ensure that major materials have environmental labels or are from sustainable supply chains in accordance with the IS Materials credit
- Reduce water use and maximise the use of alternatives to potable water
  - Maximise harvest and reuse of rainwater, stormwater, wastewater, groundwater and tunnel inflow water
  - Develop Integrated Water Management Projects to supply construction and post-construction uses
  - Develop a water usage and sourcing strategy that includes potable and non-potable water needs, volumes and sources that would be used and generated during construction and operation; identify opportunities to reduce water use and maximise reuse
- Reduce waste and maximise the sustainable reuse of excavated material
  - Implement initiatives to reduce spoil quantities and maximise the beneficial reuse of uncontaminated spoil
  - Maximise waste diverted from landfill and achieve landfill diversion rates of at least 90% by volume of inert and non-hazardous construction waste and 60% by volume of office waste

The Infrastructure Sustainability Council of Australia (ISCA) administers the Infrastructure Sustainability (IS) rating scheme. The scheme evaluates the sustainability performance of infrastructure developments.
Urban ecosystems: Protecting and seeking opportunities to enhance natural environments

- Protect and enhance biodiversity and habitat links
  - Reduce impacts to ecological communities by minimising the removal of native vegetation, fauna habitat and mature old trees
  - Protect and enhance existing habitats, habitat connectivity and ecosystem function, where possible
  - Seek opportunities to create new habitats and habitat links in consultation with local environmental and community groups
  - Apply best practice retention, responsible storage and reinstatement of topsoil to support growing conditions for local species
  - Develop a Green Infrastructure Plan and incorporate Green infrastructure in accordance with IS v2.0 Gre-1 credit
- Seek opportunities to improve stormwater quality and contribute to improvements in waterway environments
  - Identify opportunities to improve water quality and contribute to improved connectivity and enhancement of waterways
- Contribute to local urban forest outcomes
  - Create a dedicated Busway and provide accessible and amenable Park & Ride facilities connected to shared use paths, as guided by the Urban Design Strategy
  - Achieve at least a 10% increase (or greater) in cyclist numbers travelling the North East Link corridor after 3 years of operation
  - Reduce travel distance for cyclists along the Eastern Freeway corridor
  - Increase the number of homes within 500m of a connected shared use path
  - Improve connectivity across East and West sections of the North East Link corridor for Watsonia and Greensborough communities through new and upgraded walking and cycling links
- Respect and promote cultural and historical heritage values
  - Demonstrate a design philosophy and approach that recognises, protects and promotes Indigenous cultural heritage values and celebrates and interprets places and objects of historical heritage importance
  - Seek opportunities to represent Wurundjeri people’s knowledge, insights and Connections to Country via a meaningful, authentic and collaborative process

Communities: Making a positive contribution to social, cultural and community health and wellbeing

- Enhance open space, active transport opportunities and community facilities
  - Implement initiatives that generate positive social and/or environmental outcomes and enhance community wellbeing (IS v12 Hea-1 Level 2)
  - Achieve at least a 10% increase (or greater) in cyclist numbers travelling the North East Link corridor after 3 years of operation
  - Reduce travel distance for cyclists along the Eastern Freeway corridor
  - Increase the number of homes within 500m of a connected shared use path
  - Improve connectivity across East and West sections of the North East Link corridor for Watsonia and Greensborough communities through new and upgraded walking and cycling links
- Create a dedicated Busway and provide accessible and amenable Park & Ride facilities connected to shared use paths, as guided by the Urban Design Strategy
- Seek opportunities to improve bus priority measures and facilities across the North East Link corridor
- Achieve a high level of improvement in recreational facility standards when compared with pre-North East Link facilities
- Respect and promote cultural and historical heritage values
  - Demonstrate a design philosophy and approach that recognises, protects and promotes Indigenous cultural heritage values and celebrates and interprets places and objects of historical heritage importance
  - Seek opportunities to represent Wurundjeri people’s knowledge, insights and Connections to Country via a meaningful, authentic and collaborative process

Economic opportunities: Facilitating opportunities for economic development, provide a skilled local workforce and promote diversity and inclusion

- Achieve social value and sustainability outcomes through procurement
  - Implement a social and sustainable procurement strategy that delivers on relevant legislative and policy frameworks, including Victoria’s Social Procurement Framework
- Promote sustainability capabilities within industry
  - Require relevant contractors and suppliers to adopt and implement recognised and accredited sustainability training for staff
  - Promote sustainability awareness amongst staff and contractors

Climate change: Playing a part in Victoria achieving its emission reduction targets while preparing for the challenges presented by climate change

- Reduce carbon emissions during construction and operation
  - Analyse and implement all feasible opportunities to reduce energy use and greenhouse gas emissions from construction and operation of North East Link
  - Achieve at least a 30% reduction in carbon emissions from the construction of North East Link against an ISCA verified base case calculated in accordance with their independent standards (IS v12 Ene-1 Level 3)
- Use at least 50% of renewable energy for electricity used to construct North East Link (IS v12 Ene-2 Level 15)
- Achieve net zero emissions in the operation and maintenance of North East Link
- Use at least 50% of renewable energy for electricity used to construct North East Link
- Achieve net zero emissions in the operation and maintenance of North East Link
- Design to be resilient to a changing climate
  - Implement a Climate Resilience plan which addresses high and extreme climate change risks

*Note this does not include emissions from traffic using the North East Link. Residual emissions would be offset by renewable energy in favour of other offsets.