



Managing construction impacts

Solutions for community friendly construction

Minimising construction-related impacts such as noise, vibration and dust is a key objective for the Peninsula Link project. As freeway construction close to residential and commercial areas often creates short term impacts to local residents and businesses, Abigroup is committed to informing the local community of construction activities and developing solutions to keep disruptions to a minimum.

Noise

One of the challenges of large projects such as Peninsula Link is managing the level of construction generated noise.

An environmental management plan has been developed which outlines how we will minimise construction noise and addresses the specific needs of nearby facilities such as hospitals and recreational areas.

The works most likely to generate noise include clearing, bulk earthworks, bridge building and road paving. However, the construction front moves quickly and activities in a particular area rarely last more than a few months. Bridge construction is an exception and can be expected to last between six to 12 months.

Abigroup will confine noisy activities to normal working hours to the greatest extent possible. Normal working hours are 7am to 6pm Monday to Friday and 7am to 4pm on Saturdays. There may be works outside of these hours for safety reasons and for activities requiring temporary road closures such as bridge beam lifts.

Under Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations, noisy construction activities are permitted outside normal working hours but such activities require community consultation and strict noise limits apply.



Regular measurements are taken to assess noise impacts.

For details of how the regulations work you can download a copy of the EPA's noise control guidelines from the EPA website at www.epa.vic.gov.au.

When out-of-hours works are required in a particular area, Abigroup will inform the community about the need for those works and the circumstances under which they will occur.

Other measures to minimise noise impacts will include:

- ▶ early notification of construction activities for affected residents and businesses
- ▶ positioning noisy equipment away from nearby residences and businesses, where possible
- ▶ positioning construction site entry and exit gates away from residences, where possible



Water Trucks are put in place to control dust.

- ▶ erecting temporary barriers to screen works from nearby residences and businesses
- ▶ taking regular measurements to assess noise impacts
- ▶ training for site staff to ensure they are fully aware of the need to minimise noise when working close to residents and sensitive public facilities.

Dust suppression

Dust is sometimes an issue for large construction projects on windy days and in summer when the ground is at its driest. The primary method for controlling dust during construction will be water tankers and cannon mist sprayers using non-potable water mixed with an approved dust suppressant.

Site supervisors will determine the number of water tankers and other equipment needed and the frequency of application. The determination will be based on weather conditions, traffic volumes and the potential of any exposed construction area for producing dust. In addition to water spraying, all construction vehicles travelling to and from a work zone on public roads will be required to have their load bays covered.

Access roads within work zones will be stabilised to minimise dust generation and drivers will be instructed to confine vehicle movements, where possible, to those areas where dust suppression has been employed.

Minimising traffic impacts

- ▶ For the safety of motorists and construction personnel, some changes to traffic conditions are required during road works. Measures during construction include:
 - ▶ safety barriers to separate traffic from work zones
 - ▶ speed limit reductions
 - ▶ signage and traffic controls to guide motorists through changed conditions.
 - ▶ Temporary lane and road closures.

These measures offer a balance for motorists and construction personnel by maintaining lane capacity and allowing safe and efficient construction. While works are scheduled to cause minimal impact, motorists may experience short delays during some activities.

Traffic changes are generally scheduled for off-peak times. Generally, when works intersect with major roads, motorists will be guided, or side tracked, into temporary or newly completed lanes where a roadway is being constructed. This method referred to as “traffic switching”. It is a simple solution but logistically a very complex task requiring intricate planning and co-ordination to keep traffic flowing while meeting construction milestones.

The project team is working with VicRoads and local councils on how to manage temporary disruptions until the 27 kilometre freeway is built.



All traffic management control measures are approved by VicRoads and relevant council authorities.

About the Project

The \$759 million Peninsula Link Project is being delivered as an Availability Public Private Partnership (PPP) by Southern Way in partnership with the Victorian Government. Abigroup is the project’s design and construction contractor and Conneq Infrastructure Services is the freeway operator. Under the Availability PPP, the project will be financed, designed, built, operated and maintained by the private sector for 25 years, but the road will remain toll-free.



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