



## Protecting our creeks and waterways

Peninsula Link is one of the largest road projects to be undertaken on the Mornington Peninsula. Work began in February 2010 and is due for completion in early 2013. Southern Way has been selected to finance, design, construct, operate and maintain the new freeway. Southern Way, and its construction contractor Abigroup, are making every effort to minimise the environmental impact of Peninsula Link.

### Protecting our creeks and waterways

Waterways and creeks are integral to a healthy environment, as they provide important habitats and breeding grounds for a range of animal and plant species, including protected species.

The Peninsula Link project area traverses a number of dams, wetlands, drains and waterways across three catchments: Balcombe Creek, Boggy Creek and Watsons Creek.

Abigroup is committed to protecting creeks and waterways before, during and after the construction of Peninsula Link. The project team is also committed to improving the environmental health of our waterways and will be undertaking landscaping and revegetation as part of the construction program.

### Design, construction and our waterways

The construction of Peninsula Link has the potential to impact local waterways and soil. This could be through pollutants such as sediment, nutrients, oil and chemicals, as well as changes to water flows and impacts on vegetation or animals inhabiting waterways.



*Sediment fencing filters clean water into existing waterways.*

Abigroup has developed and will implement a variety of controls to limit impacts to waterways surrounding Peninsula Link. This will include water quality monitoring throughout construction to ensure these measures are effective.

Due to the prolonged drought in Victoria, the project team is aware that both construction and the continued maintenance of Peninsula Link require water sensitive design techniques to be used to limit the amount of water used.

Where possible, water will be captured for use during construction and stored in constructed sediment basins. Rain and runoff water will also play an important role in maintaining the environmental health of the landscape and our waterways adjacent to the constructed freeway.

This will include swales (or low tracts of land to manage water runoff), rain gardens, spill basins and retention ponds.

## Protecting local creeks

Numerous creeks and drainage lines are found close to the Peninsula Link project area, including Boggy Creek, Tamarisk Creek, Watsons Creek, Devilbend Creek and Tuerong Creek. These creeks contain a number of plant and animal habitats, including those of a small number of protected species.

To protect these waterways, temporary crossings will be constructed over local waterways to allow appropriate access for earthworks activities, the construction of bridges and to prevent works from directly impacting these waterways.

Additionally, the following measures will be undertaken:

- ▶ restrictions on works within Boggy, Tamarisk, Balcombe, Watsons, Devilbend and Tuerong Creeks
- ▶ all bridges and waterway crossings will be designed in accordance with Melbourne Water guidelines
- ▶ landscaping and revegetation will follow completion of works, to promote healthy waterways and establish vegetation and animal habitats
- ▶ surface water quality will be monitored to ensure there are no impacts on water quality during construction.



*Tuerong Creek in Moorooduc, home to the fish species Dwarf Galaxias.*

## Protecting local wetlands

Abigroup will protect local wetlands and manage any impacts within and surrounding the project corridor.

Environmental control measures are in place to minimise impacts including appropriate construction methods, clearly marked construction and wetland boundaries, suitable erosion and sediment controls and, where possible, retaining vegetation within the corridor.

Two important wetlands are located in or adjacent to the alignment:

- ▶ Pobblebonk Reserve Wetland and Willow Road Wetland provide potential habitat for Swamp Skink and local frog species. The project will not impact Pobblebonk Wetland, which will be protected by a 'no go' zone throughout the project. Abigroup will carefully manage the potential effects of construction on the Willow Road Wetland.
- ▶ Ramsar, listed Edithvale-Seaford Wetlands is not located within the freeway construction alignment, however the shared use path will pass by the wetlands. Appropriate construction methods and management of stormwater run-off, during construction and operation, will avoid any potential impacts to downstream water quality in this wetland area.

## Impacts on groundwater

Groundwater levels are dependent on land use, local topography and geography, as well as climate conditions. The alignment has been designed to avoid areas where groundwater is likely to be encountered, however in some areas groundwater will be impacted by construction works.

In these areas, the project's environment team will undertake regular monitoring to determine whether groundwater levels are being managed appropriately during works.

## Soil erosion control

Soil erosion on construction sites can be a source of sediment pollution in waterways. Abigroup takes all necessary precautions to ensure that any soil, including potentially contaminated soil, is managed in accordance with statutory guidelines.

The project team will ensure construction minimises erosion and sediment issues and prevents impact on the quality of the water in the local waterways. While there has been no identified contaminated soil within the construction area, a former landfill site is located within 25 metres of the project area. The risk of construction works impacting this site is considered low, however all precautions have been taken in the road design to ensure this site is avoided during construction.

You can find out more about the project by visiting: [www.peninsulalink.com.au](http://www.peninsulalink.com.au).



### Contact Details



If you require the assistance of an interpreter please phone (03) 9280 0753

**Phone** 1300 453 035  
**Email** [contact@peninsulalink.com.au](mailto:contact@peninsulalink.com.au)  
**Web** [www.peninsulalink.com.au](http://www.peninsulalink.com.au)

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