

# LEVEL CROSSING REMOVAL UPDATE

EDITHVALE AND BONBEACH  
COMMUNITY UPDATE

ISSUE #5 MARCH 2018

Across the Frankston line, work to remove 13 level crossings is well underway.

Three are already gone at Ormond, McKinnon and Bentleigh. The Seaford level crossing will be removed by the end of 2018.

Skye/Overton Road is under construction and a new bridge connecting Station Street across Patterson River in Carrum is also underway. Both projects will be completed by the end of 2018.

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In Edithvale and Bonbeach, an Environment Effects Statement has just been released and is now on public exhibit until 2 May 2018.



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# KEY FINDINGS

## Environment Effects Statement now out for public comment

The Environment Effects Statement (EES) found that **trenches are feasible at both Edithvale and Bonbeach, and that the level crossing works would not impact the Edithvale-Seafood Wetlands.**

The EES for the Edithvale and Bonbeach level crossing removal projects has been released and we encourage you to drop in online, or in person to understand more about the projects.

### What areas are covered in the EES?

The EES focuses on three key areas that could be impacted by the projects:

- The Edithvale-Seafood Wetlands and other ecosystems
- Groundwater levels
- Groundwater quality

### Wetlands

The EES found that the level crossing works would not impact the Edithvale-Seafood Wetlands. This is because groundwater changes resulting from the projects are highly unlikely to occur closer than one kilometre from the Edithvale Wetlands.

### Groundwater levels

Part of the EES focused on how to manage potential impacts the projects may have on groundwater levels and the ecosystems that depend on it.

In Edithvale, due to the characteristics of the soil and water table, we are using a design and construction technique that allows for groundwater to pass through and around the trench. This means that current groundwater levels will be maintained.

At Bonbeach, changes to groundwater levels are relatively minor and unlikely to have a significant impact.

### Groundwater quality

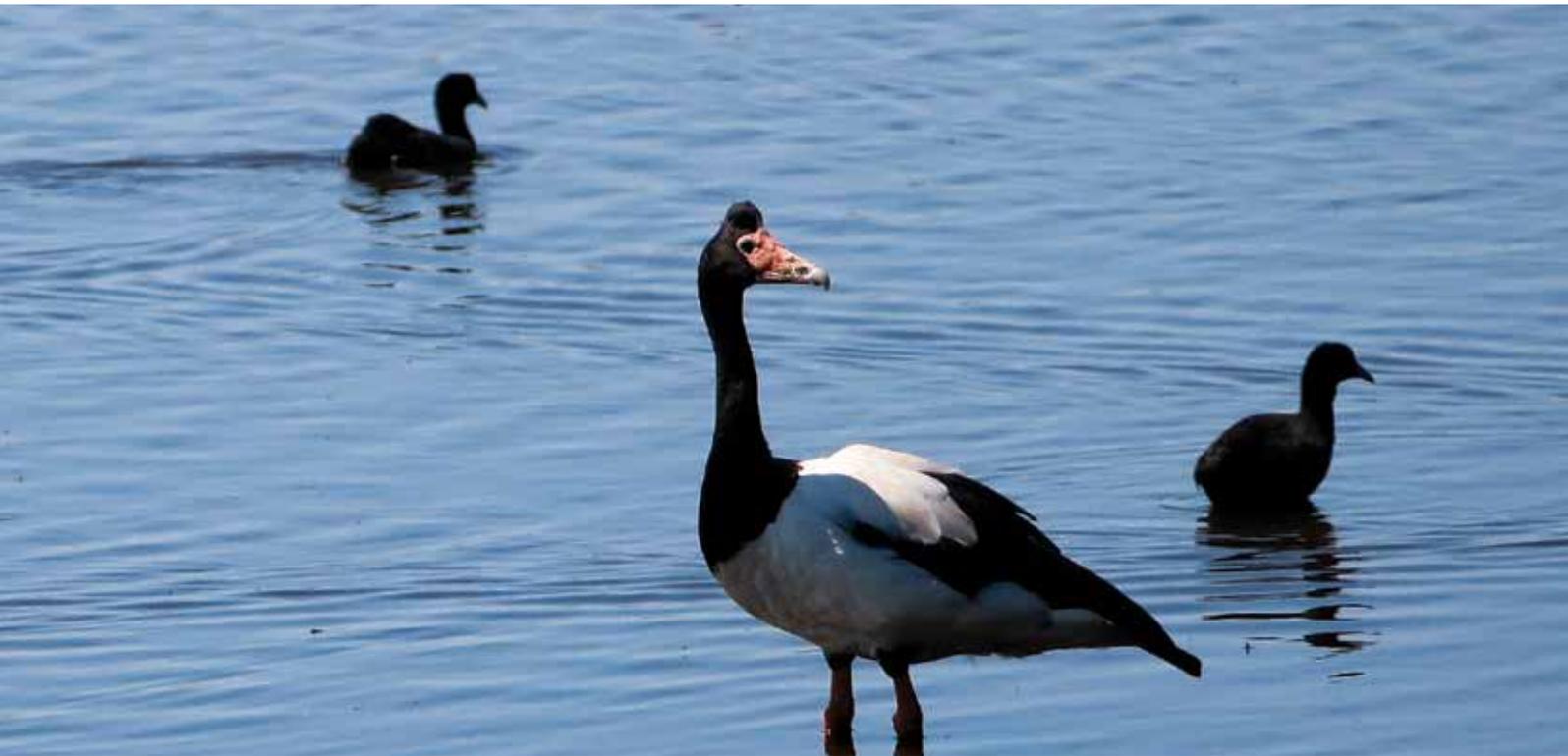
The level crossing removal projects are designed to minimise any potential effects on groundwater quality.

In Edithvale, where the groundwater is shallower, our design and construction technique allows for groundwater to pass through and around the trench, so groundwater quality will not be impacted.

At Bonbeach, the EES found that the risk of impacts to groundwater quality was negligible, or extremely low.

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**The EES found any potential impacts from the projects on the environment are minor. We will monitor groundwater conditions during, and for several years after construction has finished, to confirm no impacts arise from the projects.**



## More information

### EES website

For everything you need to know about the EES, visit: [levelcrossings.vic.gov.au/EES](https://levelcrossings.vic.gov.au/EES) where you can view the EES document, our summary, fact sheets and videos to help you understand some of the key findings from the EES.

View fact sheets on the following topics:

- Environment Effects Statement overview
- Edithvale-Seafood Wetlands
- Groundwater quality
- Groundwater levels
- Vegetation
- What to expect during construction
- Environmental Management Framework
- Changes to your area

Watch videos of our technical experts explaining the EES findings on:

- Groundwater levels
- Groundwater quality
- Wetlands and vegetation





# Drop in sessions

The EES is on public exhibition from 19 March – 2 May.

We're running drop in sessions during this time and we encourage you to visit us, ask questions and learn more about the EES findings from our environmental specialists and engineers.

## Edithvale drop in sessions

6 Lochiel Avenue, Edithvale

Date	Time
Saturday 24 March	1pm – 3pm
Saturday 7 April	1pm – 3pm
Wednesday 11 April	2pm – 4pm
Saturday 21 April	1pm – 3pm

## Bonbeach drop in sessions

Bonbeach Surf Lifesaving Club –  
Beach Reserve, Lord Weaver Grove, Bonbeach

Date	Time
Saturday 24 March	10am – 12pm
Thursday 5 April	2pm – 4pm
Saturday 7 April	10am – 12pm

## Read the EES

Visit [levelcrossings.vic.gov.au/EES](http://levelcrossings.vic.gov.au/EES)

The EES documentation is also on display during normal working hours at:

- **State Library of Victoria,**  
328 Swanston Street, Melbourne
- **City of Kingston Municipal Office,**  
1230 Nepean Highway, Cheltenham
- **Chelsea Library,**  
1 Chelsea Road, Chelsea

We will also have staff out and about at both Bonbeach and Edithvale train stations during the EES public exhibition period, so keep an eye out for us and come and say hi if you have any questions.



## We want to hear from you

Read the EES online at [levelcrossings.vic.gov.au/EES](http://levelcrossings.vic.gov.au/EES) and let us know what you think.

We welcome written submissions about the Edithvale and Bonbeach EES during its public exhibition period from 19 March to 2 May 2018.

### Make a submission

Submissions on the Edithvale and Bonbeach EES must be made in writing and received by 5pm on 2 May 2018. Online submissions are preferred. This can be done via the Victorian Government's engagement portal: [engage.vic.gov.au/edithvale-and-bonbeach-level-crossing-removals](http://engage.vic.gov.au/edithvale-and-bonbeach-level-crossing-removals)

For hard copy submissions to be considered, they must be accompanied by a coversheet available only by calling the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning on 136 186. Each written submission must have a separate cover sheet and they cannot be copied.

All submissions must state the name and address of the person making the submission. Where a submission is made by two or more persons, it must state the name and address of these persons in any formal public hearing and who will be their contact person. Anonymous submissions are not considered. Submissions will be treated as public documents.

### What's next?

Following the public exhibition, an independent inquiry will consider the effects of the Edithvale and Bonbeach level crossing removal projects, taking on board the EES findings, the proposed planning scheme amendments and public submissions.

A report will be provided to the Minister for Planning for consideration which will inform the Minister's assessment of the project.

We'll inform you when the Minister's Assessment is complete and in the meantime, make sure you're following us online for updates.

### Join the Conversation

We're looking forward to seeing you at one of our drop in sessions but if you can't make it, feel free to ask us a question online, through our online engagement hub at:

[your.levelcrossings.vic.gov.au](http://your.levelcrossings.vic.gov.au)

You can also sign up for project updates on our website.





## Meet Marg Hunter

Marg Hunter is one of our Community Reference Group members.

We caught up with Marg, Secretary of the Friends of Edithvale Seaford Wetlands (FESWI), on a sunny day at the Edithvale-Seaford Wetlands.

Marg has lived in the area for over 60 years and her grandparents moved to the area in 1926 when Marg's mother was a small child.

She credits her mum for her love of the natural environment and history. Marg went on to study at La Trobe University.

Her favourite time of year at the Edithvale-Seaford Wetlands is in early Spring when the cygnets and ducklings appear.

Marg has been a member of FESWI since 2007. Volunteers from FESWI open the Bird Hide and the Melbourne Water Education Centre at Edithvale on weekends and meet regularly to provide community information on the wetlands.

Marg volunteered to be on our Community Reference Group (CRG) as she sees herself as a big picture thinker who wants a good outcome. Given she has a background in local history and environment, LXRA appreciates her local knowledge and experience.

An executive summary of our CRG meeting minutes is available on our website.

## Project timeline



### Early to mid 2017

- LXRA refers projects to the State Government under the Environment Effects Act



### Mid to late 2017

- LXRA prepares EES
- Community and stakeholder engagement including CRG, workshops and online submissions



### Early to mid 2018

- LXRA submits EES to Minister for Planning
- EES goes on exhibition



### Mid to late 2018

- Minister for Planning's Assessment and decision



### 2019

- Construction scheduled to commence



## CONTACT US

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