



Artists impression only with vegetation shown at maturity



PTP
ALLIANCE

OAKLANDS CROSSING GRADE SEPARATION

VEGETATION FACT SHEET

The Oaklands Crossing Grade Separation Project will improve safety for all road users and ease traffic congestion by lowering the rail line under the road and removing the level crossing.

The project will be delivered by the Public Transport Projects (PTP) Alliance, with the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (DPTI), the Australian Government and the City of Marion.

Minimising impacts

The Oaklands Crossing project has been carefully designed and staged to minimise vegetation clearance.

Currently, there are 105 significant and regulated trees in the project area. Other vegetation consists of small trees such as pepper and olive trees, bushes, grasses and ground covers.

The extent of impact has been limited to areas that need to be excavated

for the lowered rail line, with 33 significant and regulated trees affected. Additional small trees, bushes, grasses and groundcovers will be affected where located close to the new rail line.

Enhancing amenity and habitat

Enhancing amenity and habitat is an important objective of the project. The project will not only replace vegetation but will also enhance amenity and habitat outcomes.

The *Development Act, 1993* requires the project to offset the loss of the 33 significant and regulated trees by planting 87 replacements. The project will plant more than 200 new trees as well as bushes, grasses and groundcovers.

All trees, bushes, grasses and groundcovers planted as part of the project will be irrigated for three years to maximise the ability of plants to thrive.

Selecting species

The landscape design will balance the use of indigenous and non-indigenous species and include semi mature trees to help offset the loss of mature vegetation. Species selection will adhere to safety standards for proximity to rail lines.

The species list is being developed with assistance from local community members and Rail Care volunteers to ensure plants match local conditions.



Rail Care volunteer providing species selection advice to the project team.

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Transport and Infrastructure



Managing removals

Removal of vegetation will be carefully supervised by a fauna specialist and an arborist. All trees will be inspected prior to removal and if animals are found, they will be removed and relocated by professionals.

Reusing limbs and trunks

Fallen limbs play an important part in local biodiversity and large limbs and trunks removed as part of the project will be retained to be placed in parks and reserves. Trunks will also be used to provide nature play opportunities in playgrounds.

Tree hollows are important for local fauna and can take years to form naturally. Almost all of Australia's parrots, including lorikeets, use tree hollows for nesting (Phillips 2001). A number of mammals such as bats and possums also use hollows to nest.

Where practicable, hollows removed as part of the project will be retained for later reuse to be placed in younger trees and on the ground, providing as much local habitat as possible. Retention and reuse of hollows will play an important role in minimising the short term impacts of tree removal on habitat until new trees are established.

Remnant Vegetation

During early investigations, a remnant River Red Gum tree that predates European settlement, was identified within the project area, on Morphett Road. After exploring options to preserve the tree, the PTP Alliance has successfully designed the road diversion (for the bridge build) to ensure it can be retained.



Recycled trunks used for nature play and remnant River Red Gum

Community Wildlife Project

The Community Wildlife Program is a DPTI initiative that involves local communities in helping to offset the loss of habitat caused by necessary vegetation removals.



Local school wildlife workshops involve the community in helping to enhance local habitat.

The Community Wildlife Program provides an opportunity for local schools and community members to work with the Oaklands Crossing project to help enhance wildlife habitat in the local community.

In particular, we will be working closely with local schools and community groups to provide information sessions, nesting box building workshops, and information about how to attract native birds and other wildlife into the local area and residents' back yards.

More information

Further information will be provided to local residents and those registered for updates prior to vegetation being removed, including timing, construction method and potential impacts such as noise and access impacts.

To find out more about the Oaklands Crossing project and register for future email updates, you can contact the project team using the contact details below.



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