Sustainability

# Our commitment

Greater Connect Alliance is committed to designing and building the Great Eastern Highway Bypass Interchanges project (the project) in a way that optimises environmental, social and economic outcomes for current and future generations. Sustainability is being incorporated into every aspect of the design, construction and future operation of the new interchanges and road upgrades. Through sustainable management, the new infrastructure will benefit road users and reduce impacts of the project by:

* Utilising recyclable and easy to maintain materials
* Catering for population growth and changing demands
* Optimising energy efficiency, reducing waste, and incorporating waterwise initiatives
* Protecting and enhancing Aboriginal heritage values
* Prioritising local procurement and creating opportunities for neighbouring businesses

# What are our sustainability targets?

The project will be evaluated against the Infrastructure Sustainability Council of Australia’s (ISCA) Planning, Design and As-Built Ratings. The project has committed to reaching a silver rating for the planning, design, and as-built phases of the project.

# How does the Infrastructure Sustainability rating system work?

The Infrastructure Sustainability (IS) rating scheme is a comprehensive rating system in Australia that evaluates sustainability across the planning, design, construction, and operational phases of infrastructure projects. The aim is to ensure that benefits are not only embedded at the planning stages of projects, but are realised throughout delivery, and into commissioning and operations.

Throughout each phase, ISCA assesses performance against four key areas of sustainability: economic, environmental, social, and governance. A points-based system is used to evaluate and award Rating Certificates as follows:

**Bronze – 20-39 points**

Bronze

**Sliver – 40-59 points**

Silver

**Gold – 60-79 points**

Gold

**Platinum – 80-94 points**

Platinum

**Diamond – 95+ points**

Diamond

The emphasis of this scoring system is placed on understanding the multifaceted nature of sustainability in order to achieve best outcomes for both current and future generations over the lifetime of the infrastructure. The use of the rating scheme is fast-growing in the face of increasing global environmental and social challenges and encourages sustainable development through energy efficiency and waste reduction, improved community and stakeholder engagement, and innovation that will benefit generations to come.

# How will the project achieve sustainable outcomes?

To achieve sustainable outcomes, Greater Connect Alliance has prioritised sustainability issues that are most relevant to the project; reflect the interests of the community and stakeholders; and reduce environmental impacts. The Alliance is committed to improving environmental, social, and economic sustainability by focusing on the following key areas.

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| **Environment** – Protecting biodiversity and native landscapes | **Social** – Developing effective responses to social challenges of today and tomorrow | **Economic** – Supporting local businesses and providing economic stability for the region |
| * Climate and natural hazard resilience * Energy efficiency and carbon reductions * Resource efficiency * Renewable energies * Green infrastructure * Ecological protection and enhancement * Waste reduction and contamination management. | * Stakeholder engagement and involvement * Heritage protection and enhancement * Jobs, skills, and workforce development * Diversity and inclusion * Knowledge sharing. | * Sustainable procurement strategy * Supplier selection (prioritising local and Indigenous businesses) * Conceptualising design for improved traffic conditions * Innovation |

# Our sustainability initiatives:

Greater Connect Alliance is excited about contributing to an increasingly sustainable society. Our commitment to achieving Sustainability Targets is providing us with a chance to innovate and ensure we identify and implement initiatives that reduce the project’s impact on the environment. Some of the initiatives we are incorporating into the project include:

* Use of reclaimed asphalt pavement into road sub-base and principal shared path construction
* Minimised clearing zones to reduce clearing of native vegetation and fauna habitats
* Landscaping using Western Australian native trees and plants
* Use of recyclable materials into bridge and road designs and reduced use of virgin materials. Virgin materials are materials sourced directly from nature in their raw form. Manufacturing products using virgin materials uses much more energy and depletes more natural resources, as opposed to using recycled materials.
* Use of LED street lighting to improve overall energy efficiency
* Sustainable procurement focussed on maximising opportunities and involvement of local and Indigenous businesses and people.
* Education of our staff, workforce, sub-contractors and the local community on the importance of sustainability.