

West Gate Tunnel Project information

Fact sheet | January 2025

We acknowledge community concerns about emissions from the West Gate Tunnel Project.

Ventilation filtration was considered as part of:

- the Environment Effects Statement process overseen by the Minister for Planning; and
- the Works Approval application assessment by EPA.

EPA assessed the tunnel designs based on the science and emission dispersion modelling. This was a detailed technical assessment using local conditions. It determined filtration was not required, as other controls include:

- The design and height of the ventilation stacks, and
- A high-speed extraction system to push emissions high into the atmosphere will adequately disperse tunnel emissions and minimise any ground level impacts.

The evidence used to make this decision includes:

1. A human health risk assessment prepared for the project concluded air quality changes would not result in measurable adverse changes to the health of the community.
2. The Department of Health and Human Services at the time stated 'the potential air impacts on health from emissions associated with the operation of the tunnels component were assessed as being below health-based guidelines and the risk to human health is also considered to be low'.
3. Local air monitoring after construction and during the early years of operation of the CityLink and EastLink tunnels did not measure significant changes in the local air quality indicating the impacts from tunnel ventilation systems to be low.
4. Tunnel filtration systems trialled in New South Wales did not demonstrate improvement in air quality in the local area.

However, as a precautionary measure, we approved the issue of a Works Approval with conditions that require:

- the final design of the system to include capacity to retrofit ventilation filtration if required
- continuous monitoring of ventilation stack emissions during the operation of the tunnel
- independent analysis to verify emission levels remain within safe limits

This will enable EPA to require further emissions controls if ground level impacts from emissions during the operation of the tunnel vary from that expected in the emissions modelling.

EPA has been regularly reviewing air quality and publishing our assessments and will continue to analyse the ambient air monitoring data during operation.

Our analysis of the local area's air quality data from 2016–2022 is available online [EPA Publication 2058 - Analysis of Westgate Tunnel Project air monitoring data](#). This gives us a baseline to compare future data with. We expect to publish our next assessment in the first half of 2025.

EPA has yet to receive an application for an Operating License for the tunnel ventilation system. When received, EPA will consider all material provided and determine the form of any further community engagement that may be required as part of its assessment.

Further information

For more information or to report pollution, visit epa.vic.gov.au or call 1300 372 842.



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