

14 November 2016 – For Immediate Release

EASTLINK ASSESSED TO BE A GLOBAL LEADER IN INFRASTRUCTURE SUSTAINABILITY

The inaugural 2016 *GRESB Infrastructure Assessment* has ranked Melbourne's EastLink 1st for sustainability among transportation assets from across the globe.

The 2016 *GRESB Infrastructure Assessment* covers the environmental, social and governance (ESG) performance of 134 infrastructure assets and 51 infrastructure funds across 53 countries and six continents.

Following the release of the 2016 *GRESB Infrastructure Assessment* results, EastLink's Managing Director Charles Griplas was delighted that EastLink's sustainability performance has been recognised internationally.

"To be ranked number 1 by GRESB for transportation asset sustainability demonstrates that EastLink is a world-leading infrastructure asset right here in Melbourne," said Mr Griplas.

"It is notable that GRESB has also ranked EastLink 1st among toll road operations, 1st among assets in the Oceania region, and 2nd among all types of infrastructure assets across the globe."

"With its modern design, 24/7 traffic control room, intelligent transport systems, incident response teams and traffic control vehicles, all operated by a highly motivated and customer-focused team, EastLink is the safest freeway in Melbourne, offering the highest quality of service and reliability to motorists," said Mr Griplas.

"EastLink's environmental sustainability is unique for a road, including 480 hectares of landscaping, 4 million native trees, shrubs and plants, and more than 60 wetlands that treat rainwater running off the road surface. This ensures that the water is returned to a relatively high quality before entering local creeks," said Mr Griplas.

"In an Australian first, EastLink is now upgrading its 10 tunnel exhaust fans to incorporate variable speed drives, which will result in considerable direct energy savings and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by an estimated 6,441t CO₂-e per annum. The upgrade will also reduce vent stack fan noise in the adjacent community."

"At the Worksafe Victoria Awards held last month, EastLink won the award for Commitment to Workplace Health and Wellbeing. This results from developing a range of programs for EastLink employees, forming a holistic approach to wellness that benefits EastLink as well as the individual," said Mr Griplas.

For further information:

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ABOUT GRESB

GRESB is an industry-driven organisation committed to assessing the ESG performance of real assets globally, including real estate portfolios and infrastructure assets. More than 200 members, of which about 60 are pension funds and their fiduciaries, use the GRESB data in their investment management and engagement process, with a goal to optimize the risk/return profile of their investments.

More details at www.gresb.com

ABOUT EASTLINK

EastLink is Melbourne's largest tollway network, connecting the Eastern, Monash, Frankston and Peninsula Link freeways. Opened in 2008, EastLink now carries a quarter of a million vehicles per day, making it an essential economic artery in Melbourne's east. EastLink is operated by ConnectEast, which is a private company owned by a group of superannuation and sovereign wealth funds.

- EastLink's 480 hectares of landscaping includes 4 million native trees, shrubs & plants. EastLink has its own plant nursery and full time landscaping team.
- More than 60 wetlands treat rainwater running off EastLink's road surface before the water is released to local creeks.
- The twin 1.6km tunnels protect the environmentally sensitive Mullum Mullum valley.
- EastLink's intelligent transport systems, 24/7 control room and incident response teams combine to make EastLink the safest freeway in Melbourne.
- EastLink's local call centre and customer centre employ local people with local knowledge and expertise.
- The 35km EastLink Trail is a valuable community resource, used by cyclists, runners and pedestrians.
- EastLink's architecture, 4 major artworks and 8 smaller artworks, together with our prompt removal of graffiti, ensure EastLink remains visually appealing.
- EastLink offers the lowest toll prices in Australia, with increases limited to inflation. For example, a full length car trip on EastLink costs 16 cents per km compared to a full length car trip on CityLink costing 40 cents per km.

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