

VIC – Sunbury-Bulla-Keilor Agricultural Rejuvenation



Project phase:	Preliminary Business Case
Project phase cost:	\$0.5 million
Australian Government funding:	\$0.3 million*
Other funding:	\$0.3 million* (VIC Government and Others)
Indicative start/finish:	mid-2021 / early 2023

Figures do not add due to rounding

Project description

The Sunbury-Bulla-Keilor Agricultural Rejuvenation project would aim to transform a wastewater stream from rapidly growing urban centres in Melbourne’s west to a valuable recycled water supply. The project aims to connect the Sunbury Recycled Water Plant to supply new and existing irrigation districts and supplies other non-potable demands en-route. The agricultural rejuvenation project aims to enable enterprising irrigators to capitalise on available local labour, existing transport links and access to nearby Greater Melbourne markets by providing a reliable water supply that is resilient to climate change.

The preliminary business case will:

- determine infrastructure requirements and design;
- undertake cost estimates and cost benefit analysis;
- develop construction timeframes; and
- undertake due diligence for planning, cultural heritage and environmental issues.

Proposed benefits

- Improve water access and security for the Sunbury Bulla Keilor agricultural region by providing a new alternate water source.
- Promote growth and sustainability by unlocking existing dryland and irrigated cropping and grazing land for higher value irrigated agriculture.
- Strengthen the National Water Grid by improving resilience in the system by substituting substantial high value water use for low value use.

Project location

The project is located in the Sunbury Bulla Keilor Agricultural area, north west of Melbourne. It is bounded in the north by Sunbury Road, extending south to the Western Ring Road and the Western Freeway, and encompasses the Melbourne Airport environs. The eastern boundary of the project is the eastern boundary of Melbourne Airport extending north along Oaklands Road, and the western boundary is Plumpton Road in the south and the Calder Freeway in the north.

