

Technical studies

What assessments are needed?

To support the applications, we must provide detailed technical assessments based on the functional design for the project. The applications must assess how the project aligns with the General Environmental Duty, planning policy and planning controls, as well as how impacts and risks will be avoided, minimised and managed.

These assessments typically include (but are not limited to):



Potential impacts

Preliminary investigations were undertaken in 2024 to identify potential impacts and to scope what technical investigations would likely be required for the project.

Environmental and health risks

- The project is expected to pose low and acceptable risks to the environment and human health.
- In Port Fairy and Portland the new reserve osmosis plant will be built next to the existing water treatment plants. While due to insufficient land at the Heywood Water Treatment Plant, it will be built on land directly to the south of the existing plant.
- Activities will be managed with appropriate controls to minimise risks so far as reasonably practicable.

Waste management

- All construction and operational waste will be managed according to regulations.
- No harmful emissions to the environment are expected.

Aboriginal cultural heritage

- As the project is a high impact activity, mandatory Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plans will be prepared.

Water reuse and groundwater use

- The facility will be designed to reuse water wherever possible.
- Some additional groundwater will be needed (20-25% process loss), but this is within existing licenced limits.

Ecology

- Further investigations are being undertaken to confirm the presence of EPBC and FFG listed flora and fauna species, as well as native and non-native vegetation in the project area.

Noise

- New equipment will introduce some noise, but impacts to the community are expected to be low.
- Equipment will be selected or treated to meet applicable noise standards.

Odour

- No increase in odour risk is expected.

Wastewater

- Wastewater will be treated through the existing Sewage Treatment Plant (STP).
- Although the STP will have increased discharge volumes, no new contaminants are expected in the discharge.
- Total dissolved solids (TDS) and other water quality parameters will remain largely unchanged.

Construction traffic

- During construction, the community may notice an increase in truck traffic in the area. We encourage all drivers to be aware of changes in traffic conditions and follow signage and safety instructions.

Historic heritage

- Three dry stone walls were identified in Port Fairy area, investigations are ongoing to confirm potential impacts and options for mitigation.

