

Infrastructure Project fact sheet

Applicants who are undertaking an action associated with urban development for an infrastructure project must submit spatial data to DELWP for assessment.

The Melbourne Strategic Assessment (MSA) program only accepts spatial data for an infrastructure project that comprises shapefiles in a zip file format. Shapefiles are to be submitted as part of an NVIM registration.

Shapefiles must:

- be based on survey data from a Licensed Surveyor.
- represent the proposed construction footprint. The proposed construction footprint is defined as any area impacted by works, including areas used for vehicle access, lay-down and materials storage. Works relating solely to cultural heritage survey, geotechnical investigation and service proving are excluded.
- be ESRI shapefiles submitted in a zip file format with the following mandatory file extensions:
 - *.shp , this file contains the geometry of the polygon and shows the outline of the area.
 - *.shx , this file contains the shape index format and provides a positional index for the polygon.
 - *.dbf , this file contains the attribute format for the polygon (table or records).
 - *.prj , this file defines the projection of the polygon. This must be Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994 (VICGRID94).
- represent a **single polygon**, unless suitable justification can be provided that a multiple polygon assessment is

required (i.e. due to construction methodology). Polylines will not be assessed.

Habitat compensation obligations reductions

The MSA program assesses shapefiles to determine the applicable habitat compensation obligations (HCOs) for an infrastructure project. Any reductions to HCOs will be applied during the assessment where the proposed construction footprint intersects with infrastructure projects and/or land parcels that have previously met their HCOs.

Conservation areas

If the proposed construction footprint intersects with any conservation area, a Works in Conservation Area (WICA) application is first required to be submitted to the MSA program's Precinct Structure Planning team for assessment. If, and when, the WICA is approved, the HCOs will then be assessed by the MSA program's Habitat Compensation team. Otherwise, the MSA program's conservation areas are to be protected and avoided.

Timing of payment to meet habitat compensation obligations

HCOs and/or biodiversity offset requirements are required to be met through payment to DELWP prior to construction.

If you have any questions, please email
msa.habitatcompensation@delwp.vic.gov.au

For further information on the MSA program, please refer to
<https://www.msa.vic.gov.au/>

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