

13 November 2015

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Nick Wimbush
Major Hazards Advisory Committee
c/- Planning Panels Victoria
Level 5, 1 spring Street
Melbourne VIC 3000

Dear Mr Wimbush

Re: Major Hazards Facilities Advisory Committee: Matters raised in Terms of Reference

The MPA is wholly supportive of the appointment of an Advisory Committee to provide advice to the Minister for Planning regarding improvements to land use planning for areas in the vicinity of Major Hazard Facilities. Developing a coordinated approach to improving how Victoria's land use planning framework responds to the impact of major hazard facilities is vital to protect the amenity of residents and businesses in areas surrounding these facilities, while ensuring their ongoing viability.

The MPA is also generally supportive of the Terms of Reference that establishes the purpose, method and output of the Advisory Committee.

The MPA is developing Precinct Structure Plans in a number of greenfield and established areas which contain existing high transmission gas pipelines. While the increased risk to the pipelines due to changes in land use impacting on these pipelines is very low, the intensified development of areas in the vicinity of these pipelines places a higher population within their 'measurement lengths' (similar to a buffer for some uses).

The MPA considers the Major Hazards Facilities Advisory Committee as an opportunity to develop improved, consistent land use planning practices within the vicinity of these pipelines and requests the Advisory Committee's specific consideration of high pressure gas pipelines as a use with 'adverse amenity potential' under Clause 5(b) of the Terms of Reference. The MPA also seeks the Advisory Committee's recommendations regarding appropriate buffers or other planning tools, or other tools outside planning legislation where relevant.

Additionally, the MPA seeks the Advisory Committee's recommendations on appropriate planning responses to potential future major hazard facilities, for example APA's potential gas-fired power station located in the Northern Quarries investigation area, in the municipality of Whittlesea.

The MPA thanks you for the opportunity to comment on matters raised in the Terms of Reference for the Major Hazards Facilities Advisory Committee.

Should you have any queries regarding these comments please contact Martina Johnson (martina.johnson@mpa.vic.gov.au) Structure Planning Manager on 03 9651 9676.

Yours sincerely



TIM PEGGIE
DIRECTOR- STRUCTURE PLANNING