

Attachment 4

For Public Notice via Internet

REASONS FOR ORDER UNDER SECTION 3(1) OF THE *ENVIRONMENT EFFECTS ACT 1978*

Public works: **Melbourne Metro Rail Project**

Proponent: **Melbourne Metro Rail Authority**

Description of Project:

The public works are the works proposed to be undertaken for the purposes of the Melbourne Metro Rail Project, comprising the works for the construction and operation of:

- Two nine kilometre rail tunnels from South Kensington to South Yarra, travelling generally along the alignment of Swanston Street under the Melbourne Central Business District, to connect the Sunbury and Cranbourne/ Pakenham railway lines and to be used by electric trains;
- New underground stations at Arden, Parkville, CBD North, CBD South and Domain, including interchanges with relevant existing railway stations;
- Train/ tram interchanges at Parkville and Domain stations;
- Rail tunnel portals at South Kensington and South Yarra; and
- Relevant ancillary temporary and permanent works to support the construction and operation of the tunnels, stations and interchanges.

The Minister for Planning, being satisfied that works proposed to be undertaken for the purposes of the Melbourne Metro Rail Project could reasonably be considered to have or be capable of having a significant effect on the environment, has declared the works to be public works for the purposes of the *Environment Effects Act 1978*.

Reasons for Order:

- The project is a large-scale infrastructure construction project, with construction effects to span several years and some potential effects lasting beyond the construction period, in an intensively developed area used by many residents, businesses, commuters and visitors, and featuring complex ground and hydrological conditions, possible contaminated soils and acid sulphate soils and important heritage, landscape and urban ecological values.
- The works have the potential for significant environmental effects on a range of environmental values, having regard to the nature of the area within which the project is proposed to be constructed and its dynamic and varied social and community setting.
- An Environment Effects Statement process will provide a robust, transparent and integrated framework through which:

- The potential environmental effects can be rigorously assessed, including in the context of the comparative effects of feasible design, scheduling and mitigation alternatives for planning and delivery of the project; and
- The effectiveness of proposed measures to avoid, minimise, manage and offset environmental effects and related risks can be evaluated.
- The proponent has proposed that, subject to obtaining necessary approvals, "enabling" works be undertaken prior to the completion of the Environment Effects Statement process. These works include design and investigation activities, relocation and protection of utilities, and modifications to the existing train and tram network within tram and rail reserves which are generally small scale in nature and required to minimise disruption to businesses, residents and visitors to the Melbourne central business district. The treatment of these proposed "enabling" works under the *Environment Effects Act 1978* will be considered when more information is available as to the potential for these works to have or to be capable of having a significant effect on the environment.



Hon Richard Wynne MP
Minister for Planning

Date: 2/9/15