

## For Public Notice via Internet

### REASONS FOR ORDER UNDER *ENVIRONMENT EFFECTS ACT 1978*

**Public works: Suburban Rail Loop Stage One**

**Proponent: Suburban Rail Loop Authority**

#### **Description of project**

The public works are the works proposed to be undertaken for the purposes of the Suburban Rail Loop Stage One, comprising the construction and operation of the rail and supporting infrastructure:

- twin-bore rail tunnels between Cheltenham and Box Hill, via a stabling yard in Heatherton, travelling beneath Clayton, Monash University, Glen Waverley and Burwood;
- six new stations constructed at Cheltenham, Clayton, Monash, Glen Waverley, Burwood and Box Hill, with interchanges to existing railway stations at Cheltenham, Clayton, Glen Waverley and Box Hill;
- stabling, train wash and maintenance facilities, an operational control centre and a power substation at the proposed stabling yard;
- dive structures and rail tunnel portals at either side of the proposed stabling yard;
- a power substation in the vicinity of the proposed Burwood Station; and
- an intervention and ventilation shaft between the proposed Glen Waverley and Burwood stations.

#### **Order**

Being satisfied that works proposed to be undertaken for the purposes of the Suburban Rail Loop Stage One could reasonably be considered to have, or be capable of having, a significant effect on the environment, I have 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 project, constructed over several years affecting residents, businesses and educational and recreational land uses.

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 operated and its dynamic and varied social and community setting.

An environment effects statement will provide a transparent and integrated framework for:

- assessment of the potential environmental effects, taking into consideration design options, scheduling and mitigation alternatives for planning and delivery of the project; and
- evaluation of the effectiveness of proposed measures to avoid, minimise, manage and offset environmental effects.

The Suburban Rail Loop Authority has requested that certain specified works be excluded from the declared public works (excluded works) to facilitate, subject to obtaining any necessary approvals, the commencement of works that may form part of the project before the completion of the environment effects statement process.

The Suburban Rail Loop Authority provided a document titled "*Impact Assessment and Approvals Report – Initial Works*" dated 11 November 2020 (**Assessment Report**) assessing the potential impact of the works it proposes be excluded from the scope of the EES. The works to be excluded from the public works order are specified in Schedule 1 of the order.

The utilities, new underground power lines, road modifications and investigative works are relatively minor and are generally similar in nature to routine works undertaken by infrastructure providers across metropolitan Melbourne. These works will not have, or be likely to be capable of having, a significant effect on the environment.

The ground improvement works at the proposed stabling yard will change the experience of people living in this area, but the works involved will not be dissimilar to conventional construction activity in metropolitan Melbourne, will not affect a large area and will continue for only a short period. The Assessment Report describes the way in which these works will be carried out, and the measure which can be adopted to manage the environmental effects of these works. I am satisfied that the nature of the effects can be monitored, managed and conducted in a way to minimise the impact upon the broader environment and nearby residents. While the closest residents may experience some levels of disruption, the effects upon the environment will not have, or be likely to be capable of having, a significant effect on the environment.

The works specified in Schedule 1 of the order, taken in isolation, and conducted in the manner described by the Suburban Rail Loop Authority, are therefore excluded from this declaration.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Richard Wynne".

**Hon Richard Wynne MP**  
**Minister for Planning**

**Date:** 20 / 12 / 2020