

Terms of Reference

Priority Projects Standing Advisory Committee

Standing Advisory Committee appointed pursuant to Part 7, section 151 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* to advise the Minister for Planning on referred priority planning proposals.

Name

1. The Standing Advisory Committee is to be known as the 'Priority Projects Priority Projects Standing Advisory Committee' (the Committee).
2. The Committee is to have members with the following skills:
 - a. statutory and strategic land use planning
 - b. land development and property economics
 - c. urban design and architecture
 - d. heritage
 - e. civil engineering and transport planning
 - f. social impacts
 - g. environmental planning
 - h. planning law.
3. The Committee will include a lead Chair, Chairs, Deputy Chairs and not less than ten other appropriately qualified members.

Purpose

4. The purpose of the Committee is to provide timely advice to the Minister for Planning on projects referred by the Building Victoria's Recovery Taskforce (BVRT), projects affected by Covid-19 and or where the Minister has agreed to, or is considering, intervention to determine if these projects will deliver acceptable planning outcomes.

Background

5. The Victorian Government has identified Victoria's building and construction sector as a key mechanism to revitalise Victoria's economy during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.
6. The Government has committed to a fast-track assessment process for priority projects of state and regional significance that are shovel-ready and that will provide immediate benefits to Victoria's economy, keeping Victorians in work and priority infrastructure on track for completion.
7. The BVRT was formally announced on 26 April 2020. The Taskforce was established by the Minister for Planning and Treasurer to help keep Victoria's building and development industry running during the coronavirus crisis. The Taskforce will investigate planning and investment opportunities to boost Victoria's building and development industry over the short, medium and long term.

Method

8. The Minister for Planning or delegate will refer projects by letter to the Committee for advice on whether the project achieves acceptable planning outcomes.
9. The referral letter must specify:
 - a. the specific issues the Minister for Planning seeks advice about
 - b. the mechanism of intervention being considered
 - c. whether, or which previously collected, submissions are to be considered by the Committee
 - d. how the costs of the Committee will be met.

10. The letter of referral will be a public document.
11. In making a referral, the Minister for Planning or delegate must, either:
 - a. be satisfied that any proposed planning controls for the land make proper use of the Victoria Planning Provisions and are prepared and presented in accordance with the Ministerial Direction on The Form and Content of Planning Schemes, or
 - b. seek advice from the Committee on the drafting of the planning controls or permit conditions.
12. The Committee may inform itself in anyway it sees fit, but must consider:
 - a. The referral letter from the Minister for Planning,
 - b. referred submissions,
 - c. the comments of any referral authority,
 - d. the views of the project proponent,
 - e. the views of the relevant Council,
 - f. The relevant planning scheme.
13. The Committee is not expected to carry out additional public notification or referral but may seek the views of any relevant referral authority, responsible authority or government agency.
14. The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) will be responsible for any further notification required. New submissions will be collected by DELWP.
15. The Committee may seek advice from other experts, including legal counsel where it considers this is necessary.
16. The Committee is not expected to carry out a public hearing but may do so if it is deemed necessary and meets its quorum.
17. The Committee may:
 - a. assess any matter 'on the papers'.
 - b. conduct discussions, forums, or video conferences when there is a quorum of:
 - i. a Chair or Deputy Chair, and
 - ii. at least one other member.
18. The Committee may apply to vary these Terms of Reference in any way it sees fit.

Submissions are public documents

19. The Committee must retain a library of any written submissions or other supporting documentation provided to it directly to it in respect of a referred project until a decision has been made on its report or five years has passed from the time of the referral.
20. Any written submissions or other supporting documentation provided to the Committee must be available for public inspection until the submission of its report, unless the Committee specifically directs that the material is to remain confidential. A document may be made available for public inspection electronically.

Outcomes

21. The Committee must produce a concise written report to the Minister for Planning providing the following:
 - a. A short description of the project.
 - b. A short summary and assessment of issues raised in submissions.
 - c. A draft planning permit including relevant conditions from Section 55 referral authorities, or draft planning scheme control depending on the nature of the referral.
 - d. Any other relevant matters raised in the course of the Committee process.
 - e. Its recommendations and reasons for its recommendations.
 - f. A list of persons or authorities/agencies who made submissions considered by the Committee.
 - g. A list of persons consulted or heard, including via video conference.

22. Following the completion of a report, the Committee may deliver an oral briefing to the Minister for Planning and/or DELWP. The briefing may be by video conference or telephone.

Timing

23. The Committee is required to submit its reports in writing as soon as practicable, depending upon the complexity of the referred project between 10 and 20 business days from either:
- a. the date of receipt of referral, if no further submissions or information are to be sought, or
 - b. receipt of the final submission of material or final day of any public process in respect of a referral.

Fee

24. The fee for the Committee will be set at the current rate for a Panel appointed under Part 8 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

The costs of the Advisory Committee will be met by each relevant proponent.



Richard Wynne MP
Minister for Planning

Date: 14 / 06 / 2020

The following information does not form part the Terms of Reference.

Project Management

1. Administrative and operational support to the Committee will be provided by Alex Earnshaw, Business Support Officer, Development Facilitation, the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning on (03) 8508 1398 and alex.earnshaw@delwp.vic.gov.au
2. Day to day liaison for the Committee will be through Andrea Harwood, Senior Project Manager, Planning Panels Victoria on (03) 8392 5123 and planning.panels@delwp.vic.gov.au