

# Frequently Asked Questions

## Ministerial guidelines for the assessment of environmental effects of the Suburban Rail Loop

### Q1. What is the Suburban Rail Loop?

**A.** The Suburban Rail Loop is a new 90-kilometre rail line that will connect Melbourne's metropolitan train lines from the Frankston Line in the east to the Werribee Line in the west. The first stage of the Suburban Rail Loop program is the south-east segment from Cheltenham to Box Hill.

### Q2. What is Stage One of the Suburban Rail Loop up to?

**A.** In September 2019, the Minister for Transport Infrastructure confirmed the preferred alignment and station precinct locations from Cheltenham to Box Hill. This includes stations at Cheltenham, Clayton, Monash, Glen Waverley, Burwood and Box Hill. The Victorian Government has publicly committed to commence construction of the Suburban Rail Loop Stage One in 2022.

### Q3. Who is the proponent that will deliver the Suburban Rail Loop?

**A.** The Suburban Rail Loop Authority is an administrative office to the Department of Transport and was established to design and deliver the Suburban Rail Loop from Cheltenham to Melbourne Airport.

### Q4. What are ministerial guidelines for the assessment of environmental effects of the Suburban Rail Loop?

**A.** The Minister for Planning has approved ministerial guidelines for the assessment of environmental effects of the Suburban Rail Loop (referred to as the Suburban Rail Loop EES Guidelines).

Section 10 of the *Environment Effects Act 1978* provides for the Minister for Planning to make guidelines for any matters he considers expedient to enable the carrying out of the Act.

The guidelines describe environmental assessment processes under the Act to be adopted for projects proposed as part of the Suburban Rail Loop program.

### Q5. What is the purpose of the Suburban Rail Loop EES Guidelines?

**A.** The Suburban Rail Loop Guidelines aim to provide specific guidance on assessment of the environmental effects of the Suburban Rail Loop program to meet the requirements of the Environment Effects Act.

An environment effects statement for the whole Suburban Rail Loop is impractical because the Suburban Rail Loop will be delivered over decades in a series of discrete but related projects.

The guidelines provide a process for individual Suburban Rail Loop projects to be subject to an environment effects statement (EES), if the proposed works are capable of having a significant effect on the environment.

## **Q6. What do the Suburban Rail Loop Guidelines cover?**

**A.** The Suburban Rail Loop Guidelines set out the process for:

- a) determining the need for an EES for works;
- b) scoping an EES;
- c) preparing an EES;
- d) public review of an EES;
- e) considering public submissions; and
- f) making a final assessment of the environmental effects of Suburban Rail Loop works.

These guidelines are to be used by the Suburban Rail Loop Authority, the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning and all other stakeholders involved in the EES process.

## **Q7. Are there any other ministerial guidelines?**

**A.** Other ministerial guidelines made under section 10 of the Environment Effects Act are the *Ministerial guidelines for assessment of environmental effects under the Environment Effects Act 1978*, which were made in 2006. These ministerial guidelines were amended on 30 September 2012 to support the *National Partnership Agreement on Coal Seam Gas and Large-scale Coal Mining*.