

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

Public works: **West Gate Tunnel Project**

Proponent: **Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport
and Resources**

Description of Project:

The public works are the works proposed to be undertaken for the purposes of the West Gate Tunnel Project (formerly known as the Western Distributor Project), comprising the works for the construction and operation of:

- Upgrade and widening of the existing West Gate Freeway by two lanes in each direction to generally provide overall capacity of six through lanes each way and auxiliary lanes as required between Williamstown Road and M80 interchange, widening of Princes Freeway between M80 interchange and Kororoit Creek Road, collector-distributor carriageways, elevated ramps, structures and surface road connections including new connections to Hyde Street with the westbound freeway on ramp located to the south of the West Gate Bridge via a section of Simcock Avenue and the eastbound freeway off ramp located immediately north of the West Gate Bridge;
- Two bored tunnels ultimately catering for three traffic lanes in both directions, with:
 - the eastbound tunnel having a length of approximately 2.8 kilometres commencing from the southern portal approximately 300 metres to the west of Williamstown Road and extending to the northern portal located east of the intersection of Whitehall Street and Harris Street;
 - the westbound tunnel having a length of approximately 4 kilometres commencing from the northern portal located east of the intersection of Whitehall Street and Harris Street and extending to the southern portal located approximately 250 metres to the west of the Newport railway line on the south side of the existing West Gate Freeway; and
 - the eastbound tunnel ventilation structure located approximately 60 metres east of Whitehall street and 250 metres north of Somerville Road, and the westbound tunnel ventilation structure located in the widened West Gate Freeway approximately 150 metres west of the Newport railway line, and;
- Bridges across the Maribyrnong River including a central carriageway connecting the tunnels with twin viaducts above Footscray Road and separate on and off ramps to the Port of Melbourne via Mackenzie Road, new off-ramp to Appleton Dock Road and outbound on-ramp from Footscray Road to the viaduct, twin viaducts above Footscray Road and connections to CityLink, Dynon Road and an extension of Wurundjeri Way to Dynon Road and widening to Flinders Street;
- Relocation of major services infrastructure including relocation of high voltage electricity lines and the North Yarra Main Sewer;
- Improvements to the shared pedestrian and bicycle network;

- Upgrades to pedestrian infrastructure and links including replacing existing pedestrian bridges in the vicinity of Wembley Avenue and Rosala Avenue, a new veloway over Footscray Road and new pedestrian bridges over Whitehall Street, Moonee Ponds Creek, Footscray Road and the new Footscray Road connection to the east of CityLink; and
- Creation of new public open space areas of approximately 9 hectares.

The Minister for Planning, being satisfied that works proposed to be undertaken for the purposes of the Western Distributor Project and now known as the West Gate Tunnel 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*, by Order published in *The Government Gazette* on 23 December 2015.

Reasons for Order:

- The West Gate Tunnel Project is a large-scale road infrastructure project, set in an intensively developed area that is used as a major west-east road link for cross-city and cross-state travel. With its construction effects to extend over several years and some potential effects lasting beyond the construction period, the project can potentially affect a range of industrial, commercial and residential land uses immediately adjacent to the project corridor.
- On 18 December 2015, I approved the order under section 3(1) of the *Environment Effects Act 1978* (**EE Act**) declaring that the works proposed to be undertaken by the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources for the purposes of the Western Distributor Project (**Project**) to be Public Works for the purposes of the EE Act. (**Order**)
- At the time that the Order was released, the Project was a market-led proposal and in an unrefined format, and therefore the definition of Public Works in the Order was broad, permitting investigations into the ultimate route of the Project.
- Since this time, the Project has progressed through various stages of refinement and on 2 April 2017, following a competitive tender process, the Government selected a design and construction tender for the Project, which included the selection of an identified design for the Project.
- It is this design which will be subject of investigation in the EES required by the Order. This will facilitate the more targeted and efficient assessment of the environmental effects of the Project.
- I consider that the Order under s3(1) of the Act should be amended to reflect the selected design.
- I have therefore approved an amendment to the Order which:
 - Updates the description of public works and the Project name.

- Confirms that the Scoping Requirements approved by me April 2016 for the Western Distributor Project continue to apply to the assessment of the Environment Effects Statement for the West Gate Tunnel Project, as appropriate.
- Updates the reference to the EES requirements in relation to design alternatives, consistent with the language in the Ministerial Guidelines for Assessment of Environmental Effects.

Hon Richard Wynne MP
Minister for Planning

Date: