Attachment 3

For Public Notice via Internet

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

Public works: **North East Link**

Proponent: **North East Link Authority**

Description of Project:

The public works are the works proposed to be undertaken for the purposes of the North East Link Project, comprising the works for the construction and operation of:

- Western Ring Road to Lower Plenty Road – from the M80 and Greensborough Bypass to the northern tunnel portal, this section would include a mixture of above, below and at surface road sections, with new road interchanges at M80, Grimshaw Street and Lower Plenty Road.
- Tunnels – from the northern tunnel portal located just north of Lower Plenty Road to south of Manningham Road, twin tunnels would travel under residential areas, Banyule Flats and the Yarra River. Near each tunnel portal supporting tunnel infrastructure would be required, including ventilation structures, substations and associated infrastructure. This section would include a new interchange at Manningham Road.
- Bridge Street to Eastern Freeway – this section would include open cut and bored or mined tunnel with the southern tunnel portal located south of the Veneto Club. Further south, surface road and viaduct structures would connect to the Eastern Freeway via a new interchange.
- Eastern Freeway upgrades – from around Hoddle Street in the west through to Springvale Road in the east, modifications to the Eastern Freeway would include widening to accommodate future traffic volumes, provision of new dedicated bus lanes for rapid bus services and associated works; and
- Relevant ancillary temporary works to support the construction project.

Being satisfied that works proposed to be undertaken for the purposes of the North East Link Project 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 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 and commuters and featuring complex ground and hydrological conditions, sensitive ecological values, as well as important heritage and amenity 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, taking into consideration design options, 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 any necessary approvals, "Excluded" works be undertaken prior to the completion of the Environment Effects Statement process. These works are required to inform the assessment process and further design of North East Link and are:
    - works and activities associated with designing and investigating North East Link and assessing its impacts, including geotechnical and environmental investigations, site surveys, and assessments
    - establishing the location and assessing the integrity of existing utilities and services.

I am satisfied that the "excluded works" set out above could not reasonably be considered to have, or be capable of having, a significant effect on the environment as described in the Ministerial Guidelines for Assessment of Environmental Effects under the *Environmental Effects Act 1978.*

Hon Richard Wynne MP
Minister for Planning

Date: 2/2/18