

**For Public Notice via Internet**

**REASONS FOR DECISION UNDER *ENVIRONMENT EFFECTS ACT 1978***  
(Referral Number 2020R-18)

**Title of proposal: Viva Energy Gas Terminal Project**

**Proponent: Viva Energy Gas Australia Pty Ltd**

**Description of project:**

The project comprises a gas terminal with continuous mooring of a floating storage and regasification unit (FSRU), extension to the existing Refinery Pier to support a jetty arm and other ancillaries infrastructure, construction of nitrogen and odorant injection facilities and a 6.5 kilometre gas pipeline connecting to the South West Pipeline at Lara.

Key components of the project are:

- a jetty footprint of two hectares (including the existing Refinery Pier footprint) for construction of an angled jetty arm (approximately 570 metres long) to the existing Refinery Pier and ancillary jetty infrastructure including high pressure gas unloading arms;
- continuous mooring of an FSRU, up to 300 metres in length, at the new berth;
- dredging to deepen an area of 30 hectares in the vicinity of the Refinery Pier;
- construction of nitrogen and odorant injection facilities on refinery premises;
- construction of 2.5 kilometres of aboveground gas pipeline connecting the FSRU to the new injection facility; and
- construction of four kilometres of underground gas transmission pipeline, connecting to the South West Pipeline (SWP) at Lara.

**Decision:**

The Minister for Planning has decided that an environment effects statement is required for the Viva Energy Gas Terminal Project

**Reasons for decision:**

The project has the potential for significant adverse effects on the marine environment of Corio Bay including marine water quality. Sediment mobilisation and water discharges may impact on the marine ecosystem, including seagrass and other habitat for listed fauna species, some of which are listed under the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1995* and *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. The potentially significant effects from construction and operation of the FSRU will occur within Corio Bay and potentially the Port Phillip Bay (Western Shoreline) and Bellarine Peninsular Ramsar site.

The project has the potential for contributing to greenhouse gas emissions which warrant further investigation of the nature and extent.

Other potential effects of the project on air quality, noise, land use, Aboriginal and historic heritage, native vegetation, groundwater, traffic and transport, as well as visual amenity should be addressed through integrated assessments.

An environment effects statement is warranted to provide an integrated, robust and transparent process to assess the project's potentially significant effects and associated uncertainties, and to evaluate the effectiveness of the proposed avoidance, minimisation, mitigation and offsetting measures, prior to any statutory approval decisions.

An EES would also enable a transparent and rigorous process for consideration of potentially significant adverse effects of the project to inform relevant statutory decision-making, including under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1995*, *Environment Protection Act 1970*, *Marine Coastal Act 2018* and *Pipeline Act 2005*.

**Date of decision: 28 /12 / 2020**