

**For Public Notice via Internet**

**REASONS FOR DECISION UNDER *ENVIRONMENT EFFECTS ACT 1978***

**Title of Proposal:** Western Highway Beaufort Bypass

**Proponent:** VicRoads

**Description of Project:**

VicRoads proposes to construct a new duplicated section of the Western Highway to bypass the town of Beaufort. The project would include construction of a dual carriageway, interchanges to connect the township of Beaufort to the Western Highway, several waterway crossings, an overpass of the Melbourne-Ararat rail line and intersection treatments of local roads.

**Decision:**

The Minister for Planning has decided that an Environment Effects Statement (EES) is required for the Western Highway Beaufort Bypass, as described in the referral accepted on 16 June 2015.

**Reasons for Decision:**

- The project has the potential to result in significant adverse effects on biodiversity, land uses and cultural heritage values.
- The opportunity to avoid or minimise significant adverse effects through alignment selection and mitigation requires further investigation via an integrated assessment of environmental effects, prior to decision-making on a final alignment.

**Date of Decision:** 22 July 2015