

PUBLIC COMMENT INVITED

Environment Effects Statement and draft Planning Scheme Amendments

Written submissions on the exhibited documents are now invited. Submissions close 5pm Wednesday 2 May 2018.

The Level Crossing Removal Authority (LXRA) have prepared an Environment Effects Statement (EES) and draft Planning Scheme Amendments (PSAs) for the level crossing removals at Edithvale and Bonbeach.

The EES and draft PSAs will be on public exhibition for 30 business days from 19 March to 2 May 2018. During this time, members of the public are welcome to make written submissions about the EES and PSAs.

The Projects

The Edithvale and Bonbeach Level Crossing Removal Projects (‘the Projects’) include the removal of the level crossings at Edithvale Road, Edithvale and at Station Street/Bondi Road, Bonbeach by the construction of a rail trench. A new train station will also be built at Edithvale and Bonbeach.

The EES

The Victorian Minister for Planning determined on 5 May 2017, that an EES is required for the Projects under the *Environment Effects Act 1978*. The EES process will inform decision-making on the Projects under Victorian law. Further information regarding the EES process can be found on the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning website at www.planning.vic.gov.au/environment-assessment/projects/edithvale-and-bonbeach-level-crossing-removal-project.

The Projects (EPBC 2017/7906) require approval under the Commonwealth Environment Protection and *Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). The relevant controlling provisions for matters of national environmental significance (MNES) are: the ecological character of a declared Ramsar wetland (section 16 and section 17B); listed migratory species (section 20 and section 20A); and listed threatened species (section 18 and section 18A). Assessment of the Projects’ (action) impacts on MNES are being assessed by the State through an accredited process under Schedule 1 (part 2.1(B)) of the Bilateral Agreement with the Commonwealth. The EES being exhibited therefore addresses these potential impacts.

Planning Scheme Amendment

Draft PSAs to the Kingston Planning Scheme have been prepared and will be exhibited with the EES. The draft PSAs will enable LXRA to implement the Projects including an exemption from the requirement to obtain a planning permit.

How to access the EES and draft Planning Scheme Amendment

The EES and draft PSAs will be on exhibition during normal opening hours at the following locations:

- State Library of Victoria, 328 Swanston Street, Melbourne
- City of Kingston Municipal Office, 1230 Nepean Hwy, Cheltenham
- Chelsea Library, 1 Chelsea Road, Chelsea

The documentation will also be available online at levelcrossings.vic.gov.au/EES.

Copies of the EES Summary Report, the EES Main Report, Technical Appendices and Map Book are available for free at all display locations or can be obtained directly from LXRA.

To purchase hard copies of the EES and supporting documents contact LXRA on 1800 105 105 or visit levelcrossings.vic.gov.au.

- Hard copy of the EES Main Report – \$50
- Hard copy of each Technical Appendix – \$75
- Hard copy of the Map Book – \$25

How to make a submission

Submissions on the Edithvale and Bonbeach EES and draft PSAs must be made in writing and received by **5pm on Wednesday 2 May 2018**.

Online submissions are preferred. This can be done via the Victorian Government’s engagement portal: www.engage.vic.gov.au/edithvale-and-bonbeach-level-crossing-removals

Hard copy submissions must be accompanied by a coversheet available only by calling Planning Panels Victoria. Each written submission must have a separate cover sheet and they cannot be copied.

All submissions must state the name and address of the person making the submission. Where a submission is made by two or more persons, it must state the name and address of the person who will represent these persons in any formal public hearing and be their contact person. Anonymous submissions will not be considered. Submissions will be treated as public documents.

Inquiry hearing process

A joint Inquiry and Advisory Committee (IAC) has been appointed by the Minister for Planning under the *Environment Effects Act 1978* and *Planning and Environment Act 1987*. The IAC will review the EES, draft Planning Scheme Amendments, public submissions, and investigate and consider the environmental effects of the Projects in accordance with Terms of Reference approved by the Minister for Planning.

A Directions Hearing will be held:

Wednesday 9 May 2018 10am
Patterson River Golf Club, The Fairway, Bonbeach.

At the Directions hearing, the IAC will consider preliminary or procedural issues and give directions about the hearing, make arrangements for the hearing including the timetable and hearing venue, and answer any questions people may have about the hearing.

Information on the IAC process and timetable for the hearings will be published as it becomes available at www.engage.vic.gov.au/edithvale-and-bonbeach-level-crossing-removals

Drop-in sessions

Drop-in sessions will be held at the following locations and times:

- **6 Lochiel Ave, Edithvale on:**
 - Saturday 24 March 1pm-3pm
 - Saturday 7 April 1pm-3pm
 - Wednesday 11 April 2pm-4pm
 - Saturday 21 April 1pm-3pm
- **Bonbeach Surf Life Saving Club, Beach Reserve, Lord Weaver Grove, Bonbeach on:**
 - Saturday 24 March 10am-12pm
 - Thursday 5 April 2pm-4pm
 - Saturday 7 April 10am-12pm

Questions

Questions relating to the Edithvale and Bonbeach level crossing removal projects should be directed to LXRA at www.levelcrossings.vic.gov.au/EES or by calling 1800 105 105.

Questions relating to the EES process should be directed to the Impact Assessment Unit at DELWP at environment.assessment@delwp.vic.gov.au or by calling (03) 8392 5503.

Questions relating to the IAC process including making a submission, should be directed to Planning Panels Victoria by emailing planning.panels@delwp.vic.gov.au or calling (03) 8392 5121.