## **Environment Effects Act 1978**

## AMENDMENT OF ORDER UNDER SECTION 3(1)

The declaration of the Western Distributor Project to be 'public works' by Order of the Minister for Planning under section 3(1) of the Environment Effects Act 1978 gazetted on 23 December 2015 ("the Order"), is amended by:

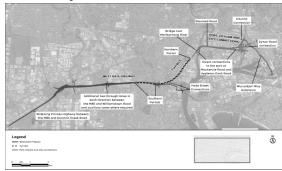
- 1. replacing reference to 'Western Distributor Project' with 'West Gate Tunnel Project';
- 2. replacing the description of the 'public works' to which the Order relates with the following:

The "public works" to which the Order relates comprise the works generally described below and more particularly shown on the plans referred to in Schedule 1:

- 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 connections including road 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 catering for three traffic lanes in both directions, with:
  - o 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
- o 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 onramp 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.

3. replacing Figure 1 with the following schematic diagram of the 'West Gate Tunnel Project';



4. amending the specified procedures and requirements under the guidelines to apply to the Environment Effects Statement for the works to read as follows:

# Section 3(3) of the Environment Effects Act: specified procedures and requirements

The following procedures and requirements under the guidelines are to apply to the Environment Effects Statement (EES) for the works.

- (i) The EES is to document investigations of potential environmental effects of the proposed works, including, as appropriate, the feasibility of design alternatives for the West Gate Tunnel Project and associated environmental mitigation and management measures, in particular for:
  - a. potential effects of construction works on noise, dust and vibration levels, and hydrology and quality of groundwater and surface water;
  - b. potential effects arising from disturbance of contaminated soils or groundwater, acid sulphate soils or geophysical conditions, including risks related to land and river bank or bed stability;
  - c. potential effects on amenity and environmental quality of the adjacent residential areas from the works' operation, in particular air emissions from the proposed ventilation stacks and increased noise levels;

- d. potential effects on visual, landscape, recreational values of areas in the vicinity of the proposed works;
- e. potential effects on native vegetation and biodiversity, in particular listed flora and fauna species and communities;
- f. potential effects on Aboriginal and cultural heritage values;
- g. potential effects on existing land uses, (including Crown Land) and community and business activities, including with respect to acquisitions, services, connectivity and social impacts;
- h. potential temporary and permanent effects on transport network and services, both for residents and businesses located in the vicinity of the proposed and related works and for the broader community; and
- i. other effects on land uses and the community.
- (ii) The matters to be investigated and documented in the EES for the public works described above are set out in more detail in the scoping requirements dated April 2016 endorsed by the Minister for Planning. The scoping requirements continue to apply to the EES, as appropriate.
- (iii) The proponent may prepare and submit to the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) a draft EES study program to inform the preparation of scoping requirements.
- (iv) The level of detail of investigation for the EES studies should be consistent with the approach set out in the scoping requirements and be adequate to inform an assessment of the significance and acceptability of the potential environmental effects of the proposed works, in the context of the guidelines.
- (v) DELWP will convene an inter-agency Technical Reference Group (TRG) to advise the Department and the proponent, as appropriate, during the preparation of the EES, on the scoping requirements, the

- design and adequacy of the EES studies, and coordination with statutory approval processes.
- (vi) The proponent is to prepare and implement an EES Consultation Plan for informing the public and consulting with stakeholders during the preparation of the EES, having regard to advice from DELWP and the TRG.
- (vii) The proponent is also to prepare and submit to DELWP its proposed schedule for the completion of studies, preparation and exhibition of the EES, which may be amended following endorsement of the scoping requirements. This schedule is intended to facilitate the alignment of the proponent's and DELWP's timeframes, including for TRG review of technical studies for the EES and the main EES documentation.
- (viii) The proponent is to apply appropriate peer review where necessary and quality management procedures to enable the completion of EES studies to a satisfactory standard.
- (ix) The EES is to be exhibited for a period of 30 business days for public comment, unless the exhibition period spans the Christmas–New Year period, in which case 40 business days will apply.

Hon Richard Wynne MP

**Minister for Planning** 

**Date: 14 May 2017** 

(x) An inquiry will be appointed under the Environment Effects Act 1978 to consider environmental effects of the proposal.

## Excluded works

The works specified in Schedule 2 hereof are excluded from the declaration of "public works."

#### **SCHEDULE 1**

#### Plans

[See attached]

#### **SCHEDULE 2**

#### **Excluded works**

The following preliminary works:

 Design and investigation activities and works associated with designing the West Gate Tunnel Project and assessing its impacts through the Environment Effects Statement process.

