

Attachment 2

For Public Notice via Internet

REASONS FOR DECISION UNDER *ENVIRONMENT EFFECTS ACT 1978*

Title of Proposal: Ex-HMAS Canberra (Sinking) Dive Site

Proponent: Tourism Victoria

Description of Project:

Sinking of the former Navy Frigate HMAS Canberra is proposed for creating an artificial reef for recreational SCUBA divers, located in Bass Strait approximately 3 km offshore from Ocean Grove in water approximately 28 m deep. The scuttled vessel would be managed and maintained by Parks Victoria as a recreational dive site for 20 to 50 years. The preparation and cleanup of the vessel has already occurred in accordance with Commonwealth requirements.

Decision:

The Minister for Planning has decided that an Environment Effects Statement (EES) is not required for the Ex-HMAS Canberra (Sinking) Dive Site as described in the referral accepted on 22 May 2009.

Reasons for Decision:

- Due to the proposed location and the site's seabed consisting largely of mobile sand with very limited biota, the project is not likely to have any direct impacts on local ecosystems or marine biodiversity.
- Potential impacts on the area's currents, wave patterns and sediment movement processes are likely to be very localised.
- Other potential residual effects on the marine environment occurring as a result of the vessel's scuttling and long-term operation, including the breakdown of the structure, can be effectively assessed and managed through the consent processes, primarily under the *Coastal Management Act 1995*.

Date of Decision: 23 JUN 2009