

**For Public Notice via Internet**

**REASONS FOR AMENDMENT OF ORDER UNDER SECTION 3(1) OF THE  
*ENVIRONMENT EFFECTS ACT 1978***

**Public works:**                      **Melbourne Metro Rail Project**

**Proponent:**                        **Melbourne Metro Rail Authority**

**Description of Project:**

The public works are the works proposed to be undertaken for the purposes of the Melbourne Metro Rail Project (Project), comprising the works for the construction and operation of:

- Two nine kilometre rail tunnels from South Kensington to South Yarra, travelling generally along the alignment of Swanston Street under the Melbourne Central Business District, to connect the Sunbury and Cranbourne-Pakenham railway lines and to be used by electric trains;
- New underground stations at Arden, Parkville, CBD North, CBD South and Domain, including interchanges with relevant existing railway stations;
- Train/tram interchanges at Parkville and Domain stations;
- Rail tunnel portals at South Kensington and South Yarra; and
- Relevant ancillary temporary and permanent works to support the construction and operation of the tunnels, stations and interchanges.

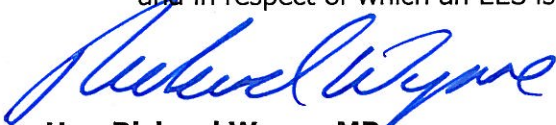
By Order gazetted on 3 September 2015, I declared the Project to be "public works" for the purposes of the *Environment Effects Act 1978* (Act).

I have now amended that Order by including a general description of the declared "public works" and by excluding from the works declared to be "public works" certain specified works, being works associated with design and investigation activities, and activities relating to the relocation of utility services and other physical infrastructure to minimise disruption to the community.

**Reasons for amendment:**

- The Project is a large-scale infrastructure construction project, with construction effects to span several years and some potential effects lasting beyond the construction period, in an intensively developed area used by many residents, businesses, commuters and visitors, and featuring complex ground and hydrological conditions, possible contaminated soils and acid sulphate soils and important heritage, landscape and urban ecological values.

- On 3 September 2015 I declared the whole of the Project to be “public works” under section 3(1) of the Act.
- I consider it appropriate to clarify the general extent of the Project works which are declared to be “public works” under section 3(1) of the Act.
- As foreshadowed in my Reasons for the Order made under s 3(1) and gazetted 3 September 2015, I declined a request from the proponent that unspecified enabling works be excluded from the declaration of “public works” so that those works could be undertaken prior to the completion of the EES process (subject to obtaining necessary approvals for those works).
- The proponent, Melbourne Metro Rail Authority, has since formally requested that certain specified works be excluded from the scope of the EES. On 27 October 2015, the proponent provided a document titled “Enabling Works Description – Melbourne Metro Rail Project, October 2015” setting out the specified works it proposes be excluded from the scope of the EES.
- I am satisfied that the works set out in Schedule 1 of the amended Order could not reasonably be considered to have or be capable of having a significant effect on the environment. Further, the excluded works do not meet the thresholds established in the *Ministerial Guidelines for Assessment of Environmental Effects under the Environment Effects Act 1978*.
- I therefore consider that the Order under s 3(1) of the Act should be amended so as to exclude the works described in Schedule 1 from the works declared to be “public works” and in respect of which an EES is to be prepared.



**Hon Richard Wynne MP**  
**Minister for Planning**

Date: 20/10/15