

**For Public Notice via Internet**

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

**Title of Proposal:** Melbourne Wholesale Market Relocation Project

**Proponent:** Department of Primary Industries

**Description of Project:**

Development of a new Melbourne Wholesale Market (MWM) precinct comprising construction of the new Melbourne wholesale fruit, vegetable and flower market and a range of produce wholesaling, preparation, distribution, logistics and general uses. The site is 133ha and is bound by Cooper Street on the north, Hume Freeway to the west, Edgars Road to the east and existing and proposed residential land to the south (map attached). The site is approx. 1.3 km by 1 km. The site comprises two former cattle/sheep farms and a former basalt quarry in the north-east portion of the site.

**Decision:**

The Minister for Planning has decided that an Environment Effects Statement is not required for the proposed Melbourne Wholesale Market Relocation Project, subject to the following conditions:

- Mitigation and management measures proposed by the proponent to protect and enhance habitat for the Growling Grass Frog on and off-site, as detailed in the referral, are implemented to the satisfaction of the Port Phillip Regional Director of the Department of Sustainability and Environment.
- Measures to offset project impacts on the Golden Sun-moth are to the satisfaction of the Port Phillip Regional Director of the Department of Sustainability and Environment.

**Reasons for Decision:**

- The project site has been subject to extensive modification due to past agricultural practices and former quarry works;
- Environmental investigations undertaken to date have been comprehensive, and provide an adequate basis upon which to assess potential environmental effects;
- While there are potential impacts on the Growling Grass Frog (listed as vulnerable under the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988*) due to some habitat removal on site, proposed mitigation and management measures on and off-site to enhance and protect habitat/wetlands will provide adequate offsets; and
- Potential effects on residential amenity are likely to be of local significance only and can be addressed through the planning approvals process for the site.

**Date of Decision:** 20 June 2007