

# Victorian Renewable Energy Terminal Environment Effects Statement (EES)

Scoping Requirements FAQs December 2025

## 1. What is the Victorian Renewable Energy Terminal project?

The Port of Hastings Corporation proposes to develop the Victorian Renewable Energy Terminal as a facility to serve as a base of operations for the construction of offshore wind infrastructure in the Commonwealth waters adjacent to Victoria. Longer term, the facility may be used to support maintenance, repowering and decommissioning activities of the offshore wind infrastructure.

The site is situated within the Port of Hastings. It is located to the southeast of Melbourne, approximately 72 km from the Melbourne CBD, and 2.6 km northeast of the centre of Hastings. The terminal is proposed to be situated between BlueScope's steel manufacturing plant, Esso's Long Island Point fractionation plant, at the Old Tyabb Reclamation Area (OTRA) and the adjoining Western Port Bay.

The proposed terminal will incur into the Western Port Ramsar site, an area identified to be of international importance, in particular to waterbird habitat. The Ramsar site extends across the Western Port area which is connected to Bass Strait by a wide channel between Flinders and Phillip Island, and a narrow channel between San Remo and Phillip Island.

The project would include landside development, land reclamation, construction of a quay wall and quay apron and dredging to allow for ship berthing and access. Outside the facility, a utilities corridor within the road reserve is proposed to accommodate electrical, communications, and water infrastructure.

## 2. What is the purpose of EES scoping requirements?

The Port of Hastings Corporation (the proponent) is preparing an environment effects statement (EES) for the Victorian Renewable Energy Terminal project.

The scoping requirements set out the matters to be investigated and documented within the EES. The EES will include a description of the proposed project, rigorous assessment of its potential effects on the environment and approaches to manage those effects.

The EES scoping requirements for the Victorian Renewable Energy Terminal project have been issued by the Minister for Planning and are available on the Planning website:

<https://www.planning.vic.gov.au/environmental-assessments/browse-projects/referrals/victorian-renewable-energy-terminal>



---

### 3. Did the public have an opportunity to comment on the scoping requirements?

Yes. The first draft scoping requirements for the EES were exhibited on the Engage Victoria website from 19 November to 11 December 2024. Notice of the draft scoping requirements' exhibition was advertised in state and local newspapers. A total of 70 submissions were received during the public exhibition period, including from individuals and other stakeholders.

The Department of Transport and Planning prepared updated draft scoping requirements following consideration of public comments on the first draft, and the Commonwealth's decision that the project is a 'controlled action' requiring approval under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

Updated draft scoping requirements for the EES were exhibited on the Engage Victoria website from 3 September to 24 September 2025. Notice of the updated draft scoping requirements' exhibition was advertised in national, state and local newspapers. A total of 62 submissions were received during the public exhibition period.

Submissions received on the first and updated drafts have been provided to the Port of Hastings Corporation, where permission was given, to inform the ongoing development of the EES.

### 4. What issues were raised in public submissions on the draft scoping requirements?

Issues raised by submitters included concerns about:

- effects on biodiversity and ecological values, including on the Western Port Ramsar site, from dredging, land reclamation, lighting, vessel movements and other impact pathways;
- effects on Aboriginal cultural and historic heritage values;
- social and economic effects, including on recreation and tourism;
- effects on traffic and transport, and marine safety;
- the project location and requests to assess alternative locations; and
- public and stakeholder engagement.


### 5. What revisions have been made to the draft scoping requirements in response to public submissions?

The changes made to finalise the scoping requirements were minor and largely involved the inclusion of specific aspects such as consideration of:

- refinement of the project's design that has occurred since the first draft scoping requirements were prepared; this included information regarding the total project area, disturbance footprint, and other project component areas; and
- inputs to the landscape and visual assessment, such as proposed finishes for constructed elements.

Further updates were made in response to feedback provided by the Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, including mention of specific sections of the EPBC Act, schedules of EPBC Regulations, EPBC Act Offset Policy principles, and consideration of compensation under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.

Most of the other relevant concerns raised in the submissions were considered to be adequately covered by existing requirements. For example, concerns regarding biodiversity and ecological values are covered by the requirements of section 4.3, concerns regarding cultural heritage values are covered by the requirements of



---

section 4.4, and concerns regarding social and economic effects are covered by the requirements of section 4.5. The proponent is also required to undertake effective engagement throughout the EES process with the public and stakeholders, including with the Traditional Owner groups (sections 2.2 and 4.4). Other requests raised in the submissions are matters for other government agencies to consider.

## 6. What happens now that the Minister has issued the final scoping requirements?

The proponent will address the matters set out in the scoping requirements through investigating environmental impacts, gathering information and preparing EES documents, in consultation with the Department of Transport and Planning and a technical reference group (TRG) and independent expert group (IEG), which the Department has put in place for this EES. The TRG is comprised of representatives from government agencies, regional authorities, municipal councils and registered Aboriginal parties (RAPs) with a statutory or policy interest in the project and its effects.

The proponent will also engage the public and stakeholders about the environmental effects of the project and its investigations and provide opportunities for input and feedback to inform the EES. The proponent's EES consultation plan can be viewed at:

<https://www.planning.vic.gov.au/environmental-assessments/browse-projects/referrals/victorian-renewable-energy-terminal>

When the EES has been completed in accordance with the scoping requirements, the Minister for Planning will authorise the EES for exhibition and public comment, typically for a period of 30 business days.

The Minister will appoint an inquiry under the *Environment Effects Act 1978* to consider the EES and submissions received. The inquiry may hold a formal hearing where the proponent and submitters can speak and present expert witnesses to inform a report to the Minister. The Minister will then make an assessment of the project's environmental effects.

After the Minister has made an assessment, the inquiry report and the Minister's assessment will be published on the Planning website.


The Minister's assessment will be considered by statutory decision-makers responsible for the project's approvals.

## 7. What about the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act?

The project was also referred to the Australian Government under the EPBC Act. A delegate for the Minister for the Environment and Water determined in July 2025 that the project is a 'controlled action' requiring assessment and approval under the EPBC Act. The provisions for the Australian Government's controlled action decision under the EPBC Act are:

- Ramsar wetlands (sections 16 & 17B);
- listed threatened species and communities (sections 18 & 18A); and
- listed migratory species (sections 20 & 20A).

The EES process is accredited to assess impacts on matters of national environmental significance under the EPBC Act through the Bilateral (Assessment) Agreement between the Commonwealth and the State of Victoria. The EES for the project will be undertaken in accordance with the bilateral agreement; there will be no separate assessment by the Commonwealth. The Victorian Minister's assessment will be provided to the Commonwealth to inform their decision about the approval required for the project under the EPBC Act. The final EES scoping requirements identify matters relating to the EPBC controlled action decision, so that the



---

EES can appropriately address these matters of national environmental significance that need to be assessed.

## **8. When does the Port of Hastings Corporation expect to publicly exhibit its EES?**

The EES is expected to be on public exhibition in late 2026. During this period, the public can make submissions on the EES.

## **9. Why is an EES required for the Victorian Renewable Energy Terminal project?**

In October 2023, the Minister for Planning determined under the *Environment Effects Act 1978* that an EES is required for the proposed Victorian Renewable Energy Terminal project. This is because the project has the potential for a range of significant effects relating to:

- biodiversity and ecological values within and near the proposed facility at Port of Hastings, including the Western Port Ramsar site;
- tangible and intangible Aboriginal and historic cultural heritage values;
- surface water environments and groundwater;
- air quality and noise on nearby sensitive receptors; and
- land uses and socio-economic values, at local and regional scales, as well as landscape and visual impacts, increased traffic movement and other amenity impacts.

An EES is the most comprehensive and robust assessment process available in Victoria. The EES will provide an integrated and transparent examination of the proposed project and its environmental effects.