

Stage 1 - threshold criteria for taskforce triage

A. On its face the matter warrants Ministerial intervention

1. The matter raises issues of fairness or public interest, such as:
 - there is a need for urgency and the public interest would be served by immediate action;
 - the matter is unlikely to be reasonably resolved by the processes normally available in a timely manner;
 - the mechanisms of the planning process have created a situation that is unjust, unreasonably causes hardship or is clearly in error;
 - anomalous provisions apply and the valid intent is clearly evident or simple inconsequential correction is required,
 - planning requirements can be expedited where it would be disproportionate to further delay
2. The application is of state or regional significance including:
 - may have a substantial effect on achievement or development of State or regional planning or heritage objectives
 - infrastructure, economic and social outcomes that are of strategic significance and include capital investment and employment opportunities
 - raises a major issue of State or regional policy or public interest such as the implementation of Plan Melbourne or Extractive Resources Strategy
 - raises significant environmental issues (noting that matters of significant state and federal environmental matters are managed as BAU through the EES and EPBC processes)
 - could have significant effects beyond their immediate locality.
 - involves complex approval requirements, involving local, state and federal governments
 - involves significant environmental effects
3. The matter would deliver public value eg public and social housing and contribute to a diversity of projects across sectors and across Victoria.

4. Application raises a major issue of policy and determination may have a substantial effect on the achievement or development of "planning objectives".
5. Decision has been unreasonably delayed.

B. Preliminary review of available information indicates the matter meets assessment criteria

1. Economic benefits including jobs, capital value, innovation
2. Net community benefit including for example social and affordable housing and environmental sustainability
3. Aligns to government policy objectives
4. Stakeholder support, views are known or can be ascertained in an expedited manner
5. Project complexity and speed of delivery e.g. benefits will be realised in the short to medium term with appropriate management of risk and opportunities
6. Feasible proposal eg demand is evidenced, supply factors mitigated, proof of funding and shovel ready
7. Probity can be assured – addressed in assessment process.

Stage 2 - Priority projects assessment criteria applied by PFTT

A. Economic

- The project will have a significant short to medium term economic impact (eg Q4 2020 through 2021), including:
 - significant capital expenditure
 - safeguarding existing jobs
 - creating a significant number of new jobs (construction or ongoing)
 - alignment to Victoria's economic strategy.

Building Victoria's recovery taskforce

Priority projects eligibility criteria

B. Social and environmental

- Contributes to the availability of social infrastructure particularly social housing and affordable housing OR community facilities.
- Contributes to local procurement and supply chain opportunities
- Deliver reduced greenhouse gas emissions and improved resilience.

C. Policy alignment

- The project aligns with government policies and priorities, including:
 - Government funded projects
 - supporting essential services
 - commitment to public and social housing and affordability
 - supporting vulnerable communities, regions, industries or sectors
 - priority precincts or sectors

D. Stakeholder views

- The views of relevant stakeholders are known, for example:
 - the proposal is well progressed through a planning process
 - the proposal has been publicly advertised and statutory referrals completed so that third party and referral authority views are known
 - there is a Council resolution on record or Council's views are known and understood, OR
- The views of stakeholders can be sought within an expedited process, OR
- The project would provide such economic or community benefit to Victoria to warrant exemption from notice or limited notice.

E. Project complexity and speed

- The time period for the benefits to be realised
- Leverages existing projects and/or procurements
- The technical and compliance issues involved in the project are well understood, for example:
 - the project does not require extensive technical analysis and expertise beyond planning expertise OR
 - there is a clear path for any technical issues to be resolved within an expedited process.

F. Project feasibility

- The project is genuinely "shovel ready", including satisfying the following threshold due diligence considerations:
 - Financial Risk
 - Non-Financial Risk
 - Project Risk
 - Economic Impact.
- The demand for the project in the context of coronavirus is evidenced
 - Supply chain risks (materials and human capability and capacity) are managed or able to be mitigated
- Financial capital is secured notwithstanding the potential impacts of coronavirus
- Project will preferably commence within 12 months, or be enabled to commence by fast tracking

G. Probity

- Safeguards are in place or can be put in place that would ensure probity and integrity of the application in the context of an expedited process e.g. declarations and undertakings by directors and statements of solvency

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