

PROJECT NAME: Golden Beach Gas Project

Amended procedures and requirements under section 8B(5) of the *Environment Effects Act 1978*.

Under the declared state of emergency in response to the coronavirus pandemic, conventional exhibition of environment effects statements (EES) is not possible. Physical display of printed copies of the EES in public places cannot occur. Similarly, arrangements with respect to hearings of inquiries under the Environment Effects Act will also differ, if restrictions are still in force at the time of an inquiry.

Accordingly, the procedures and requirements applying to the EES, issued on 8 September 2019 in accordance with section 8B(5) of the Act and the *Ministerial guidelines for assessment of environmental effects under the Environment Effects Act 1978*, are amended as follows.

- (a) The EES is to be exhibited for a period of 30 business days for public comment, or such other period as the Minister may subsequently direct in writing.
- (b) No less than two weeks before the first day of the public exhibition period, the proponent must place notices in newspapers and on-line, or otherwise communicate with known interested parties, to:
 - 1. foreshadow the intention to commence formal exhibition;
 - 2. note the impossibility of providing exhibition copies for physical inspection at public exhibition places;
 - 3. describe intended on-line availability of the EES and related documentation for exhibition purposes; and
 - 4. invite potential submitters to register to receive EES documents on USB media, and for those who may have accessibility issues or, where electronic options are impracticable, in hard copy.
- (c) Where hard copy documents are reasonably requested, the proponent must provide hard copies of:
 - 1. the EES summary document and mapbook (if applicable) free of charge, and the EES Main Report for a modest charge aligned with postage costs, unless instructed otherwise by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning's (DELWP) Director Impact Assessment; and
 - 2. other EES attachments or EES technical appendices, subject to payment of an appropriate fee, having regard to costs of printing and postage and the circumstances of the request, unless instructed otherwise by DELWP's Director Impact Assessment.
- (d) The proponent must dispatch requested USB media and hard copies to registered addresses within a week of receipt of each registration (and payment, where relevant) or in time for the commencement of the exhibition period, whichever is the later.
- (e) The inquiry that I will appoint under the Environment Effects Act, subject to its approval by the Governor in Council, to consider the environmental effects of the proposal is to be conducted by in the most practicable manner available under the prevailing circumstances. That might, if necessary, include the use of video conferencing or other comparable technology.
- (f) The proponent must arrange for recordings to be made of any hearings of the inquiry, whether held conventionally or remotely, subject to any directions from the inquiry chair, and must cause recordings to be posted on-line as quickly as practicable. The proponent must post links to the recordings on its project website as soon as practicable after each day of hearings. DELWP must post links to the recordings on its relevant web pages as soon as practicable after each day of hearings.

Notification

The following parties (proponent and relevant decision-makers) are to be notified of these amended procedures and requirements in accordance with section 8B(4)(a)(i) and 8B(5) of the Environment Effects Act:

- GB Energy (Vic) Pty Ltd (proponent);
- Minister for Resources;
- Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change;
- Minister for Planning;
- Secretary of Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning;
- Executive Director and Aboriginal Victoria;
- Gunaikurnai Traditional Owner Land Management Board;
- Executive Director and Heritage Victoria;
- Wellington Shire Council;
- Environment Protection Authority; and
- West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority.



HON RICHARD WYNNE MP
Minister for Planning

Date: 13 / 09 / 2020