

For Public Notice via Internet**REASONS FOR DECISION UNDER *ENVIRONMENT EFFECTS ACT 1978*****Title of Proposal:** Golden Beach Gas Project**Proponent:** GB Energy (Vic) Pty Ltd**Description of Project:**

The project encompasses construction and operation of a pipeline and gas plant to produce gas from the Golden Beach gas field (in Victorian waters), for provision to the Victorian Transmission System. The gas pipeline will be designed to be bi-directional, allowing for the Golden Beach gas field, when depleted after 2 - 4 years, to be used as a gas reservoir or storage facility with a 40-year design life.

It also includes offshore drilling testing and completion of up to three sub-sea wells; laying of a 3.8 km sub-sea pipeline and sub-sea infrastructure; a 1.5 km shoreline crossing by horizontal directional drilling; construction of an 18.5 km buried pipeline in a 30 m right of way; and a gas plant with export metering and connection to the existing transmission pipelines

Decision:

The Minister for Planning has decided that an Environment Effects Statement (EES) is required for the proposed Golden Beach Gas Project, as described in the referral accepted on 7 August 2019.

Reasons for Decision:

- The project has the potential for a range of significant environmental effects, in particular on:
 - offshore marine biodiversity values;
 - Aboriginal cultural heritage values; and
 - onshore biodiversity values including Lake Reeve, part of the Gippsland Lakes Ramsar site.
- There is uncertainty associated with the extent, magnitude and acceptability of potentially significant effects. An integrated and rigorous assessment is necessary to ensure the range of adverse effects and related uncertainties are sufficiently investigated, in terms of both their extent and significance, and how significant effects can be avoided and minimised to acceptable levels.
- An EES would enable a transparent and thorough process for consideration of potentially significant adverse effects of the project, including some relevant alternatives, prior to any relevant statutory decision-making, including under the *Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2010*, *Pipelines Act 2005*, *Environment Protection Act 1970* and *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*.

Date of Decision: 08/09/2019