

For Public Notice via Internet**REASONS FOR DECISION UNDER *ENVIRONMENT EFFECTS ACT 1978*****Title of Proposal:** Western Outer Ring Main Gas Pipeline Project**Proponent:** APA VTS (Operations) Pty Ltd**Description of Project:**

The proposal includes: a construction of a high pressure gas transmission pipeline approximately 50 km in length (including end of line and mid-line aboveground pipeline facilities); and installation of a new gas compressor and associated process control equipment and pipework within the existing APA's gas compressor station site at Wollert. The pipeline would connect the eastern and western sections of the Victorian Transmission System between Plumpton and Wollert, allowing for an increased gas storage at the Iona Underground Gas Storage facility to meet winter peak gas demands.

Decision:

The Minister for Planning has decided that an environment effects statement (EES) is required for the proposed Western Outer Ring Main Gas Pipeline Project, as described in the referral accepted on 28 October 2019.

Reasons for Decision:

- The project has the potential for significant environmental effects, in particular on native vegetation, habitat of terrestrial and aquatic species listed under the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988*, ecologically sensitive waterways and wetlands, and on Aboriginal cultural heritage.
- An environment effect statement is warranted to provide an integrated, robust and transparent process to assess the proposal's effects and associated uncertainties, and to evaluate effectiveness of the proposed avoidance, mitigation, management and offsetting measures, prior to any statutory approval decisions.

Date of Decision: 22/12/19