

For Public Notice via Internet

REASONS FOR DECISION UNDER *ENVIRONMENT EFFECTS ACT 1978*

Title of Proposal: **Healesville – Koo Wee Rup Road Upgrade**

Proponent: **VicRoads**

Description of Project:

VicRoads proposes to upgrade the Healesville - Koo Wee Rup Road between the Pakenham Bypass and South Gippsland Highland in stages. Ultimately the road would become a freeway standard road, with new connections to the Pakenham Bypass and South Gippsland Highway (bypassing the Koo Wee Rup township).

Decision:

The Minister for Planning has decided that an Environment Effects Statement (EES) is not required for the Healesville – Koo Wee Rup Road Upgrade generally as described in the referral accepted on 28 January 2010, subject to the following conditions:

1. VicRoads must prepare a report assessing the likely effects of the project on local populations of fauna species listed under the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* (FFG Act) and on native vegetation, incorporating both a Fauna Management Plan for priority species and a Native Vegetation Offset Management Plan. This report must have regard to the likely effectiveness of proposed mitigation and offset measures, in the context of likely cumulative effects of future urban growth in the Casey-Cardinia Growth Area as well as relevant action statements and conservation strategies for the Growling Grass Frog (GGF) and Southern Brown Bandicoot (SBB). This report must be prepared in consultation with the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) and to the satisfaction of the Secretary of the Department of Planning and Community Development (DPCD) or his delegate.
2. Once completed and before works commence, the report on threatened fauna species and native vegetation must be submitted to the Minister for Planning, who may appoint an Advisory Committee to advise on the need or otherwise for any adjustments to the siting and design and environmental management requirements for the project, including the finalisation of the Fauna Management Plan and Native Vegetation Offset Management Plan.
3. VicRoads must implement any modifications to the siting and design of the project recommended by the Minister for Planning and must implement the Fauna Management Plan and Native Vegetation Offset Management Plan to the satisfaction of the Secretary DSE or his delegate.

Reasons for Decision:

- With the exception of potential effects on listed fauna species, the environmental effects of the project are unlikely to be of high complexity and significance and therefore are likely to be adequately addressed by normal statutory processes, including under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*.
- Providing the relevant conditions specified in the Notice of Decision are met, the potential effects on listed fauna species and native vegetation can be adequately assessed and would provide an appropriate means of informing statutory decision-making in the siting and design of the road and any required offsets.

Date of Decision: 1 8 MAY 2010