

Attachment 2

For Public Notice via Internet

REASONS FOR DECISION UNDER *ENVIRONMENT EFFECTS ACT 1978*

Title of Proposal: Lakes Entrance Sand Management Projects

Proponent: Gippsland Ports Committee of Management (Gippsland Ports)

Description of Project:

This referral is concerned with Projects B, C and E of a proposed program. This entails a trial of a sand bypass system (Project B) whereby Sand shifters will be deployed near breakwaters on each side of the Entrance to pump sand slurry along a pipeline in the primary dune area to discharge points on beaches east and west of the Entrance. Also, trial of a Trailer Suction Hopper Dredge (Project C), which involves dredging the inner channels and the Bar, with placement of dredged material at two grounds (east and west of the Entrance). Project E comprises a number of initiatives to upgrade and enhance the capacity of the sand transfer system within the Inner Channels.

Decision:

The Minister for Planning has decided that an Environment Effects Statement (EES) is not required for the Lakes Entrance Sand Management Projects as described in the referral accepted on 31 October 2007, subject to the following conditions:

- The final locations of works are to be confirmed in consultation with Heritage Victoria, in order to avoid sites of archaeological sensitivity (with respect to maritime and non-maritime cultural heritage) to the maximum extent practicable.
- The land-based works are to occur outside the Hooded Plover breeding season (August to February) and be subject to appropriate measures developed in agreement with managing agencies, which protect habitat on Long Island and Boole Poole Peninsula.

Reasons for Decision:

- Environmental investigations undertaken on behalf of Gippsland Ports have provided both an adequate assessment of potential environmental effects and a sound basis for the management of residual environmental risks.
- The proposed dredging is largely in areas that have been subject to regular maintenance dredging to keep this artificial Entrance open since its creation in 1889.
- Suitable design changes, offsets and mitigation measures have been identified, particularly with regards to potential impacts on native vegetation, threatened fauna and cultural heritage.
- Overall, the project is unlikely to give rise to significant adverse environmental effects, particularly having regard to the proposed design and mitigation measures and the approval processes that will enable suitable monitoring and assessment of the residual environmental risks.

Date of Decision: 10 January 2008