**Attachment 2**

**For Public Notice via Internet**

**REASONS FOR DECISION UNDER *ENVIRONMENT EFFECTS ACT 1978***

**Title of Proposal: Edithvale and Bonbeach level crossing removals**

**Proponent: Level Crossing Removal Authority**

**Description of Project:**

This referral is for two crossings that are part of the Victoria Government’s program to remove 50 level crossings in Melbourne. These are the level crossing removals at Edithvale Road, Edithvale and Station Street/Bondi Road, Bonbeach. Rail under road has been identified as the preferred option at both Edithvale and Bonbeach. Two trenches, approximately 8 metres deep, 12 metres wide, and 1,000 metres and 1,100 metres long for Edithvale and Bonbeach, respectively, will be constructed within the existing rail corridor.

**Decision:**

The Minister for Planning has decided that an Environment Effects Statement (EES) is required for the project, as described in the referral accepted on 9 March 2017.

**Reasons for Decision:**

* The project has the potential for a range of significant environmental effects. In particular the project as proposed is likely to have significant effects on:
* the regional groundwater regime resulting in potential changes to hydrological conditions at the Ramsar listed Edithvale-Seaford Wetlands;
* the ecological character and habitat values of the Edithvale-Seaford Wetlands, and the dependent flora and fauna, in particular the critical components of habitat for listed waterbirds, due to alterations in the groundwater regime;
* the protected beneficial uses of groundwater, due to alterations in the groundwater regime, along with risks to human health, recreation and ecosystems due to changes in water quality from activation and excavation of potentially acid sulphate soils and from interception/movement of existing contaminated soil and groundwater.
* Other potential effects on the social or environmental setting are unlikely to be significant and should be readily addressed and mitigated through existing statutory processes and requirements under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*, *Environment Protection Act 1970*, *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, including construction noise, traffic and transport impacts, as well as visual impacts.
* Assessment of potentially significant effects through an EES is necessary to ensure their extent, significance and related uncertainties are sufficiently investigated. Those investigations will inform strategies for avoidance, minimisation or mitigation to ensure acceptable residual effects are achieved.
* An EES would also enable a transparent and rigorous process for consideration of potentially significant adverse effects of the project to inform relevant statutory decision-making, including under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, *Water Act 1989* and *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1995*.

**Date of Decision: 5 April 2017**