**For Public Notice via Internet**

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

**Title of Proposal:** Portarlington Safe Harbour (Stage 1 Harbour Works)

**Proponent:** Parks Victoria

**Description of Project:**

Parks Victoria is upgrading the existing infrastructure at Portarlington to create a safe harbour in accordance with the 2009 Portarlington Safe Harbour Master Plan, which includes the following works: an approximately 370 metre extension to the existing outer (northern) rock breakwater, a new approximately 270 metre eastern rock breakwater to create a harbour configuration, a new wave screen along the western side of the existing Portarlington Pier, upgrades to the existing outer jetty and reconstruction of the internal finger jetty (both to accommodate up to 45 commercial vessels), two new loading platforms, two ferry berths, installation of navigation aids, sand management and bypassing as required, and initial dredging of up to 30,000 to 48,000m3 within the harbour.

**Decision:**

The Minister for Planning has decided that an Environment Effects Statement (EES) is not required for the Portarlington Safe Harbour (Stage 1 Harbour Works), as described in the referral accepted on 11 September 2015.

**Reasons for Decision:**

* The potential effects of the project on coastal processes, water quality, biodiversity, amenity and landscape values are largely localised and unlikely to be significant.
* There is potential for significant effects on listed historic maritime cultural heritage values of state significance, although appropriate avoidance and/or mitigation of these potential effects on historic shipwrecks will need to be addressed in accordance with the requirements of the *Heritage Act 1995* and *Heritage (Historic Shipwrecks) Regulations 2007*, in consultation with Heritage Victoria.

**Date of Decision:** 12 October 2015