**Attachment 2**

**For Public Notice via Internet**

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

**Title of Proposal:** **Harcourt Mountain Bike Park**

**Proponent:** **Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning**

**Description of Project:**

The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) proposes to construct an international standard mountain bike park near Harcourt. The site consists of 221.07 hectares of unreserved Crown land, and is located on a former pine plantation at the western base of Mount Alexander.

The bike park consists of 34 kilometres of single track trails of varying levels of difficulty (beginners, intermediate and extreme) and a visitor landing area comprising two ‘drop’ toilets, shelters, picnic tables and seating and signage. Twelve connecting trails are proposed extending north and south from the entrance to the site. Each trail has a proposed width of approximately 1.2 metres and a maximum construction footprint of approximately 3 metres. The trails will be constructed by scraping and shaping the contours of the land back to bare mineral earth. Some movement of boulders and logs will need to occur as well.

Other works include the upgrading of the existing management tracks and the car park and camping area at Oak Forest, installation of guard rails and the relocation of quarried stone, removal of dangerous exotic trees, closure of tracks with fencing and bollards, weed management and re-vegetation across the site.

**Decision:**

The Minister for Planning has decided that an Environment Effects Statement (EES) is not required for the Harcourt Mountain Bike Park, as described in the referral accepted on 21 June 2017, subject to the following conditions:

1. Before any works commence for the project, the proponent needs to prepare a construction environmental management plan in consultation with the Mount Alexander Shire Council, North Central Catchment Management Authority, Parks Victoria, and the Roads Corporation, which needs to be submitted to and approved by the Secretary of the department administering the *Conservation, Forests and Lands Act 1987*.

2. The proponent needs to prepare an operational management plan for the mountain bike park, which includes the management operations to address revegetation, weed and erosion management, trail and track maintenance, track rehabilitation, signage and viewing area maintenance, with the objective of improving the overall quality of the environmental values across the site. This plan needs to be submitted to and approved by the Secretary of the department administering the *Conservation, Forests and Lands Act 1987*.

**Reasons for Decision:**

* The referral provides sufficient examination of the potential environment effects of the project, as well as how avoidance and management measures are to be used to minimise effects.
* While the project has potential for effects on biodiversity and aboriginal cultural values, these are unlikely to be significant providing effective avoidance and management measures are implemented. The potential effects on biodiversity values can be addressed through a construction environmental management plan and operational management plan, and Aboriginal cultural heritage values will be addressed through the statutory requirements under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*.
* Other residual effects of the project will be addressed through the other approvals, in particular the planning permit under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and permit to take protected flora under the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act* 1988.

**Date of Decision: 11 July 2017**