**Attachment 4**

**For Public Notice via Internet**

**REASONS FOR ORDER UNDER SECTION 3(1) OF THE *ENVIRONMENT EFFECTS ACT 1978***

**Public works: Western Distributor Project**

**Proponent: Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources**

**Description of Project:**

The public works are the works proposed to be undertaken for the purposes of the Western Distributor Project, comprising the works for the construction and operation of:

* Widening of the existing West Gate Freeway by two lanes in each direction to provide overall capacity of six lanes each way between Williamstown Road and M80, collector-distributor carriageways, elevated ramps, structures and surface road connections including a new connection at Hyde Street;
* Two bored tunnels ultimately catering for three traffic lanes in both directions, with the southern portal located on the north side of the West Gate Freeway in the vicinity of Beverley and Hyde Streets, and the northern portal located east of Whitehall Street, north of Somerville Road and west of the Maribyrnong River.
* Bridge works across Maribyrnong River, with three lane viaducts above Footscray Road with direct access to the Port of Melbourne at Mackenzie Road and Appleton Dock Road; and
* Connections to CityLink via the existing Dynon Road ramps, and access to Docklands, West Melbourne and central or inner City via ramps onto Footscray Road with additional connections to Dynon Road and Wurundjeri Way through construction of a new CBD Bypass road between Wurundjeri Way and Dynon Road.

The Minister for Planning, being satisfied that works proposed to be undertaken for the purposes of the Western Distributor Project could reasonably be considered to have or be capable of having a significant effect on the environment, has declared the works to be public works for the purposes of the *Environment Effects Act 1978*, by Order published in *The Government Gazette* on 23 December 2015.

**Reasons for Order:**

* The project is a large-scale road infrastructure project, set in an intensively developed area that is used as a major west-east road link for cross-city and cross-state travel. With its construction effects to extend over several years and some potential effects lasting beyond the construction period the project can potentially affect a range of industrial, commercial and residential land uses immediately adjacent to the project corridor, as well as assets and values associated with the project environmental, social and community setting.
* The works have the potential for significant environmental effects on air quality, biodiversity assets and values, water environments, contaminated soils, acid sulfate soils, Aboriginal and cultural heritage and public amenity, including landscape and visual values and increased traffic noise during both the construction and operation phases of the project.
* An Environment Effects Statement process will provide a robust, transparent and integrated framework through which:
  + the potential environmental effects can be rigorously assessed, including in the context of the comparative effects of feasible design and scheduling alternatives for planning and delivery of the project; and
  + the effectiveness of proposed measures to avoid, minimise, manage and offset environmental effects and related risks can be evaluated.

**Hon Richard Wynne MP**

**Minister for Planning**

**Date:**