**Attachment 2**

**For Public Notice via Internet**

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

**Title of Proposal: Ballarat Line Upgrade**

**Proponent: Melbourne Metro Rail Authority**

**Description of Project:**

The Ballarat Line Upgrade (BLU) comprises a series of rail and station upgrades to the existing Ballarat railway line between Deer Park West, in Melbourne’s outer western suburbs and Warrenheip, outside Ballarat to improve transport services. The rail and station upgrades involve the duplication of track and the installation of passing loops, station upgrades, new stabling facilities and associated works, in particular:

* Duplication of approximately 18km of track between Deer Park West and Melton
* Installation of passing loops at Ballan and Spreadeagle
* Station upgrades at Rockbank, Bacchus Marsh and Ballan
* New stabling facilities at Maddingley (Kerrs Road)
* Decommissioning of the Bungaree loop
* Duplication of approximately 3 km of the track at Warrenheip.

**Decision:**

The Minister for Planning has decided that an Environment Effects Statement (EES) is not required for the Ballarat Line Upgrade project, as described in the referral accepted on 21st July 2017, subject to the following condition:

1. An Environmental Management Framework is to be prepared to the satisfaction of the Minister for Planning, that incorporates Environmental Performance Requirements that define the outcomes to be achieved through project design and construction, to address, amongst other issues:

* Protection of amenity for residents and other sensitive receptors from noise and light spill during construction of the project, particularly where construction works are to take place in the evening and at night time.
* Protection of residential amenity from visual impacts, light spill and noise associated with the construction and operation of the proposed new stabling facilities at Maddingley.

**Reasons for Decision:**

* The majority of works will be located within an existing railway corridor and adjoining areas and consequently there are neither significant new forms of effect nor route options that would warrant assessment through an EES.
* The project’s potential environmental effects are not sufficiently complex or extensive to warrant further assessment, such as through an EES.
* Notwithstanding the above, there is potential for adverse environmental effects on biodiversity values, Aboriginal cultural heritage, historic heritage, amenity and waterways. Effects associated with construction noise and visual amenity can be sufficiently addressed through conditions set out within this decision.
* The potential adverse effects on biodiversity values have been thoroughly examined as part of the referral and will be further assessed and managed through requirements under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988*. This will include ensuring appropriate mitigation and offsets in accordance with state and commonwealth legislation, including in accordance with the *Biodiversity Conservation Strategy for Melbourne’s Growth.* Areas (DEPI, 2013).
* Potential adverse effects on Aboriginal cultural heritage values and historic heritage values can be addressed through the statutory requirements under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*, the *Heritage Act 1995* and the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* .
* Other residual potential effects should be readily addressed through respective statutory requirements under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and *Water Act 1970*.

**Date of Decision: 10 August 2017**