



# Victoria Government Gazette

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## Environment Effects Act 1978 ORDER UNDER SECTION 3(1)

The Minister for Planning, being satisfied that works proposed in relation to the Melbourne Metro Rail Project could reasonably be considered to have or be capable of having a significant effect on the environment, hereby declares the works proposed to be undertaken by the Melbourne Metro Rail Authority for the purposes of the Melbourne Metro Rail Project to be public works for the purposes of the **Environment Effects Act 1978**.

### **Section 3(3) of the Environment Effects Act: specified procedures and requirements**

The following procedures and requirements under the guidelines are to apply to the Environment Effects Statement (EES) for the works.

- (i) The EES is to document investigations of potential environmental effects of the proposed works, including the feasibility of associated environmental mitigation and management measures, in particular for:
  - a. potential effects of construction and construction-related works on air quality, noise levels, hydrology and surface water quality and groundwater quality;
  - b. potential effects arising from disturbance of contaminated soils or groundwater, acid sulphate soils or geophysical conditions, including with respect to land stability;
  - c. potential effects on Indigenous and non-Indigenous cultural heritage values;
  - d. potential effects on visual, landscape, recreational and biodiversity values;
  - e. potential effects on existing land uses and community and business activities, including with respect to acquisitions, services, connectivity and social impacts;
  - f. potential temporary and permanent effects on transport systems and services, both for residents and businesses located in the vicinity of the project and related works and for the broader community; and
  - g. other effects on land uses and the community.
- (ii) The matters to be investigated and documented in the EES will be set out more fully in scoping requirements. Draft scoping requirements will be exhibited for 15 business days for public comment, before final scoping requirements are endorsed by the Minister for Planning.
- (iii) The proponent may prepare and submit to the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) a draft EES study program to inform the preparation of scoping requirements.
- (iv) The level of detail of investigation for the EES studies should be consistent with the approach set out in the scoping requirements and be adequate to inform an assessment of the significance and acceptability of the potential environmental effects, in the context of the guidelines.
- (v) DELWP will convene an inter-agency Technical Reference Group (TRG) to advise the Department and the proponent, as appropriate, during the preparation of the EES on the scoping requirements, the design and adequacy of the EES studies, and coordination with statutory approval processes.
- (vi) The proponent is to prepare and implement an EES Consultation Plan for informing the public and consulting with stakeholders during the preparation of the EES, having regard to advice from DELWP and the TRG.

**SPECIAL**

- (vii) The proponent is also to prepare and submit to DELWP its proposed schedule for the completion of studies, preparation and exhibition of the EES, which may be amended following endorsement of the scoping requirements. This schedule is intended to facilitate the alignment of the proponent's and DELWP's timeframes, including for TRG review of technical studies for the EES and the main EES documentation.
- (viii) The proponent is to apply appropriate peer review where necessary and quality management procedures to enable the completion of EES studies to a satisfactory standard.
- (ix) The EES is to be exhibited for a period of 30 business days for public comment, unless the exhibition period spans the Christmas–New Year period, in which case 40 business days will apply.
- (x) An inquiry will be appointed under the **Environment Effects Act 1978** to consider environmental effects of the proposal.

Dated 2 September 2015

HON. RICHARD WYNNE MP  
Minister for Planning

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