

Attachment 2**For Public Notice via Internet****REASONS FOR DECISION UNDER *ENVIRONMENT EFFECTS ACT 1978***

Title of Proposal: Mount Buller Sustainable Water Security Project – Off-stream Storage

Proponent: The Mt Buller Mt Stirling Resort Management Board

Description of Project:

The Mt Buller Mt Stirling Resort Management Board (RMB) are proposing to construct a 100 megalitre dam and ancillary infrastructure to support increased visitation to Mount Buller and to meet future demand for potable water, water for snowmaking and to supply emergency firefighting. The works consist of a 100 megalitre dam, four pipes that total 2.1 kilometres, two pump stations, and two break-tanks, realignment of an existing road and new access tracks, decommissioning of an underground fuel storage tank and towers, and service connections. The project construction footprint (PCF) will be confined to 10.3 hectares. The PCF includes areas for roads, stockpile areas and extensions of variable shape and length for ancillary pipe infrastructure leading to and from the dam. Once constructed the project infrastructure would occupy an area of approximately 4.85 hectares.

Decision:

The Minister for Planning has decided that an environment effects statement (EES) is not required, subject to the following conditions, for the Mt Buller Sustainable Water Security Project Off-stream Storage, as described in the referral accepted on 15 August 2017.

- 1) An environmental risk assessment based on detailed design for the project is to be completed by the proponent to the satisfaction of the Secretary¹ of DELWP and the Catchment Management Authority. The risk assessment must include an assessment of environmental and geotechnical risks from construction and operation of the project infrastructure including the risks to the Alpine Bog associated with hydrology and the environmental watering program.
- 2) The hydrological and ecological management and monitoring program (HEMAMP) must be completed to the satisfaction of the DELWP Secretary¹. A monitoring report, together with its independent review (commissioned by the proponent at no cost to DELWP), and revisions to the HEMAMP must be submitted to the DELWP Secretary¹ annually, until further notice. The HEMAMP must address risks that are identified in response to Condition 1, as well as advice from DELWP in the context of annual monitoring reports.
- 3) All construction is to remain within the footprint as described in the EES referral to help limit the potential effects to biodiversity values to those already identified (any measures to reduce others risks must not result in a larger footprint).

Reasons for Decision:

- The project has potential for environmental effects and is within an area known for its significant conservation, scenic, tourism and recreational values, as well as in land instability.
- Uncertainty remains on the extent of potentially significant effects to biodiversity values, in particular uncertainty about the likely effectiveness of the proposed hydrological and ecological monitoring and adaptive management program and therefore the extent of potential impacts to the Alpine Sphagnum Bogs and Associated Fens.
- The conditions set out through this decision provide the most appropriate means for examining the remaining uncertainties and potentially significant residual effects that may occur as a result of the delivery of the project.
- Other residual potential effects should be readily addressed through respective statutory requirements, including under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and *Water Act 1989*.

Date of Decision: September 2017

¹ Secretary (as constituted under Part 2 of the *Conservation, Forests and Lands Act 1987*)