

## For Public Notice via Internet

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

(Referral Number 2022-R11)

#### Proponent

Vopak Gas Australia Pty. Ltd.

#### Project

Vopak Victoria Energy Terminal

#### Description

The project comprises a floating storage re-gasification unit (FSRU) in Port Phillip Bay, approximately 19 km east of Avalon. The FSRU would receive liquefied natural gas (LNG) from import vessels and re-gasify it offshore. The gas would be supplied to the Victorian transmission system via approximately 29 km of underwater and terrestrial gas pipeline.

Key components of the project are:

- Mooring and operating an offshore FSRU (nominally 295 m in length) in Port Phillip Bay.
- Construction of 29 km of gas pipeline between the FSRU and a gas receiving station, including approximately 19 km of pipeline underneath the Port Phillip Bay seabed, 8.5 km of onshore pipeline and 1.5 km pipeline crossing underneath the shoreline.
- Construction and operation of a gas receiving station (GRS) to monitor gas before it feeds into the Victorian transmission system.
- Construction and operation of a substation to step down to the required voltage to power project components such as the GRS and FSRU.
- Construction and operation of 26.5 km of onshore and offshore electricity transmission lines between the substation and FSRU, and approximately 30 km of onshore powerlines between the FSRU and the Moorabool Terminal Station.

#### Decision

The Minister for Planning has decided that an environment effects statement (EES) is required for the Vopak Victoria Energy Terminal.

#### Reasons

- The project has the potential for significant adverse environmental effects on the terrestrial and marine environments of Port Phillip Bay, including marine water quality. The project could result in significant impacts to listed flora, fauna and communities under *the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1995* and *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. The project could also result in impacts to the Port Phillip Bay (Western Shoreline) and Bellarine Peninsula RAMSAR Site. These impacts warrant further investigation.
- The project has the potential to contribute to greenhouse gas emissions and occurs within a significant Aboriginal cultural heritage landscape both onshore and submerged within Port Phillip Bay. The nature and extent of these impacts warrant further investigation.

- Other potential effects of the project on amenity, land use, historic heritage, surface water, groundwater, traffic and transport, as well as visual amenity should be addressed through integrated assessments.
- An EES is warranted to provide an integrated, robust and transparent process to assess the project's potentially significant effects and associated uncertainties, and to evaluate the effectiveness of the proposed avoidance, minimisation, mitigation and offsetting measures, to inform the necessary statutory decision-making.
- The EES process would inform relevant statutory decision-making, particularly under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1995*, *Environment Protection Act 1970*, *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*, *Marine and Coastal Act 2018* and *Pipeline Act 2005*.

**Date of decision:**

1/8/2023