

For Public Notice via Internet

**REASONS FOR DECISION UNDER *ENVIRONMENT EFFECTS ACT 1978*
(REFERRAL NUMBER 2020R-12)**

Title of proposal: Gippsland Regional Port

Proponent: Qube Energy Pty Ltd

Description of project:

The project involves redeveloping Barry Beach Marine Terminal (BBMT) into a regional port. The Gippsland Regional Port is intended to handle bulk goods, break-bulk cargos and niche cargos to service the oil and gas industry and support clean energy projects.

The key components of the project are:

- capital dredging to deepen and widen the existing berth pockets, swing basin, Barry Beach Channel and Corner Inlet entrance to accommodate larger, deeper draught vessels;
- maintenance dredging, as required, to keep open navigable areas that silt up over time;
- reconstructing the existing wharf at BBMT;
- constructing a marina to support the operation of offshore clean energy projects and maintenance activities; and
- constructing warehouses, cargo handling facilities and marine operations and maintenance bases.

Decision:

The Minister for Planning has decided that an environment effects statement is required for the Gippsland Regional Port, specifically the works proposed within Victorian jurisdiction as described in the referral accepted on 25 June 2020.

Reasons for decision:

- The project has the potential for a range of significant environmental effects as well as a number of uncertainties that require rigorous and integrated assessment. In particular, the project as proposed could have significant effects on biodiversity and ecological values including native vegetation, listed communities and species (flora and fauna) under the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* and/or DELWP Advisory list, marine ecosystems, coastal processes, water quality, Aboriginal cultural heritage and the local and regional socioeconomic values.
- An environment effects statement is warranted to provide an integrated, robust and transparent process to assess the project's effects and opportunities to avoid and minimise these through any relevant alternatives, as well as evaluate the effectiveness of the proposed avoidance, minimisation, mitigation and offsetting measures.
- An EES will enable appropriate examination of the effects and associated uncertainties to understand the acceptability of likely effects, prior to any statutory approval decisions.

Date of decision: 03 / 08 / 2020