

Notice of Decision

DECISION UNDER *ENVIRONMENT EFFECTS ACT 1978*

Title of Proposal: Castlemaine Link and Harcourt Modernisation Project

Proponent: Coliban Region Water Corporation

Description of Project:

Coliban Region Water Corporation proposes to construct a 35 kilometre (km) pipeline between the Sandhurst, Barkers Creek and McCay Reservoirs, allowing a two-way transfer raw water between the reservoirs (Castlemaine Link) and the Coliban water supply system. This pipeline will be the 'backbone' for a new 50km reticulation pipeline system that will modernise the rural water supply system in the Harcourt area, which is currently an open channel system built in the mid 1870s (Harcourt Modernisation). Three new pump stations and a two megalitre balance storage facility will support the pipeline and rural water supply system. In addition, power distribution works are also required to connect the pump stations to a power supply and to maintain current voltage levels.

Decision:

The Minister for Planning has decided that an environment effects statement is not required for the Castlemaine Link and Harcourt Modernisation Project, as described in the referral accepted on 8 April 2011, subject to the following conditions:

- (i). Coliban Region Water Corporation (the proponent) must prepare an assessment report, in consultation with the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE), that:
 - documents existing habitat values for Golden Sun Moth and Brush-tailed Phascogale;
 - describes the occurrence and implications of threatening processes listed under the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988*;
 - documents opportunities for avoidance of habitat for Golden Sun Moth and Brush-tailed Phascogale;
 - specifies any proposed adjustments to works and related mitigation measures from the description provided in the referral that could reduce impacts on Golden Sun Moth and Brush-tailed Phascogale; and
 - describes the likely residual effects on Golden Sun Moth and Brush-tailed Phascogale.
- (ii). The proponent must prepare a threatened fauna management plan, in consultation with the DSE, with respect to Golden Sun Moth and Brush-tailed Phascogale, including intended measures to address outcomes of the assessment report required under Condition (i), to the satisfaction of the Minister for Environment and Climate Change.
- (iii). Prior to the removal of any native vegetation, the proponent must prepare a native vegetation offset management plan in accordance with *Victoria's Native Vegetation Management - A Framework for Action (2002)*, to the satisfaction of the Minister for Environment and Climate Change.

- (iv). The proponent is to provide copies of final versions of the assessment report, threatened fauna management plan and native vegetation offset management plan to the Minister for Planning.

Reasons for Decision:

1. The environmental investigations underpinning the referral provide an adequate basis on which to assess the potential for significant environmental effects arising from the project.
2. With the exception of potential effects on some listed fauna species, the environmental effects of the project can be adequately addressed by normal statutory processes, including under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* and the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, without further assessment under the *Environment Effects Act 1978*.
3. Provided the conditions in the Notice of Decision are met, the potential effects on Golden Sun Moth and Brush-tailed Phascogale can be adequately clarified and appropriate mitigation measures identified. This information, together with the environmental investigations already undertaken, would support relevant decisions by statutory decision-makers.

Date of Decision: 14 June 2011