

For Public Notice via Internet

REASONS FOR DECISION UNDER *ENVIRONMENT EFFECTS ACT 1978*
(REFERRAL NUMBER 2024-R08)

Proponent

East Gippsland Shire Council

Project

Bairnsdale Airport Expansion

Description

The project will upgrade the Bairnsdale Airport by lengthening and widening the existing runway to facilitate larger aircraft using the airfield. A new air ambulance transfer facility will be constructed. The upgrades will allow for the airport to be utilised by emergency services and support emergency management response.

Decision

The Minister for Planning has decided that an environment effects statement (EES) **is not required** for the Bairnsdale Airport Expansion, as described in the referral accepted on 25 October 2024.

Reasons

- The Bairnsdale Airport was chosen due to its size and ability to provide services to a larger portion of the population. It was also selected as the most suitable location given its current and expected future operations as a key hub for aerial firefighting and the military emergency response. There are no feasible alternatives for the configuration of the proposed infrastructure.
- The proposal has the potential for significant impact on native vegetation and some associated threatened species. However, avoidance and minimisation of effects has occurred already, and residual aspects will be addressed and offset as part of the planning permit approval required.
- Other potential effects, including effects on land, water, air and heritage, are unlikely to be significant and can be readily addressed through existing statutory requirements, such as under the *Environment Protection Act 2017*, *Heritage Act 2017*, *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*, *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* and *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

Date

27/1/2025