

**For Public Notice via Internet**

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

**Title of Proposal:** Point Nepean Research and Education Field Station project

**Proponent:** Monash University and The University of Melbourne (joint venture)

**Description of Project:**

The proposed Point Nepean Research and Education Field Station (PNREFS) project is for:

- development of a new single-story building at the Point Nepean Historic Quarantine Site to house laboratories, back of house and seawater storage tanks;
- development of parking spaces;
- installation of an underground piped seawater extraction system (two – one intake and one outtake) to connect the new building to Port Phillip Bay – 140-500 m long and with a 50-60 m separation at openings in the Bay; and
- repurpose of an existing structure at the site to allow for undertaking scientific research, offices and accommodation.

The Field Station would be the new home to the National Centre for Coasts Environment and Climate (NCCEC) and research projects would focus on coastal, climate and environment research and include investigation of local topics with global significance.

The Project is funded by a Commonwealth grant program through the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (formerly the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment).

**Decision:**

Assessment through an environment effects statement (EES) under the *Environment Effects Act 1978* **is not required** for the PNREFS project, as described in the referral accepted on 3 October 2022.

**Reasons for Decision:**

- With the exception of potential adverse effects on listed marine biodiversity and heritage values, environmental effects of the project are unlikely to be significant or complex.
- Although some uncertainties remain with the potential effects of the project on marine values and biodiversity, these will be addressed through statutory processes under the *Marine and Coastal Act 2017* and the *Environment Protection Act 2017*.
- Potential adverse effects on Aboriginal cultural heritage and historic heritage values will be addressed through the statutory processes under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* and *Heritage Act 2017*.
- Other potential effects should be readily addressed through statutory requirements under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

**Date of Decision:**

6/2/2023

