



Hon Richard Wynne MP

Minister for Planning
Minister for Housing

8 Nicholson Street
East Melbourne, Victoria 3002

Cr Sam Hearn
Mayor
Mornington Peninsula Shire Council
Private Bag 1000
90 Besgrove Street
ROSEBUD VIC 3939

Ref: MBR042953



Dear Cr Hearn

CRIB POINT ENVIRONMENT EFFECTS STATEMENT EXHIBITION

Thank you for your recent letter about the exhibition process for AGL's and APA's Environment Effects Statement (EES) for the Crib Point Gas Import Jetty and Crib Point–Pakenham Gas Pipeline Project.

In considering your request for the exhibition of the EES to be paused, I am conscious of the range of tensions that arise in the context of all contentious development proposals: allowing for and balancing statutory obligations; practical logistics; geographical factors; fairness to all parties; and the need to arrive at a robust and valid conclusion about the acceptability of the project's environmental effects.

In the case of the Crib Point EES, I have already decided to set an exhibition period of 40 business days, which is longer than the usual exhibition period for an EES.

Pausing the exhibition process until public health emergency restrictions are eased would introduce severe procedural uncertainty. This would add to both the logistical challenges of planning for and managing the remainder of the assessment process and the stresses for all parties resulting from an open-ended timeframe. On balance, while I appreciate the benefits of a pause that you and others have presented, I am not satisfied that they would outweigh the disadvantages.

In all aspects of life, people are adapting to the present circumstances through innovative use of technology and different forms of engagement with networks. I encourage you to make appropriate use of available tools, including social media and remote conferencing platforms, to work with others who may have similar concerns or interests to yours in preparing submissions.

I will ask the inquiry and advisory committee, which I have appointed, to give careful consideration and appropriate weight to all public submissions, having regard to the circumstances under which they have been prepared.

Planning Panels Victoria has given notice the formal hearing is expected to begin on 12 October 2020. It is essential that you lodge a written submission within the exhibition period (that is, by 26 August 2020) if you wish to be heard at the formal hearing. I encourage you also to make full use of the weeks between the end of the exhibition period and when you may be scheduled to appear at the hearing to ensure that you can present your concerns and arguments as clearly and powerfully as possible.

The EES process is intended to provide decision makers with the information about environmental effects that they need to make sound, well-informed decisions. The role of public submitters is a very important element in that process. I acknowledge that the circumstances are unusual and may present particular difficulties, but I encourage you to prepare and lodge a submission in the confidence that I respect, value and give due weight to every submission on an EES.

Please contact Dr Bruce Abernethy, Director Impact Assessment, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, on (03) 8392 5471 or email environment.assessment@delwp.vic.gov.au if you have any questions about the remainder of the process for the Crib Point EES.

Yours sincerely



HON RICHARD WYNNE MP
Minister for Planning

09 / 08 / 2020