

21 July 2020

The Hon. Richard Wynne  
Minister for Planning  
Level 16  
8 Nicholson Street  
EAST MELBOURNE VIC 3002

Dear Minister

**PUBLIC EXHIBITION OF THE CRIB POINT GAS IMPORT JETTY & PIPELINE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS STATEMENT (EES)**

In light of the return to Stage 3 COVID-19 Public Health restrictions on 8 July, I write to you urging that public exhibition of the Crib Point EES be:

1. immediately halted until restrictions have ceased, and
2. extended a minimum additional 20 business days.

I make this request to ensure Council and the community are afforded a fair and reasonable opportunity to respond to what is the most extensive and technically demanding EES prepared in Victoria to date.

Whilst I appreciate the 10-business day extension you granted on 1 June, 40 business days is still manifestly inadequate to respond to this EES; especially whilst our community is under renewed lockdown.

As stated in my previous letter to you regarding this matter (dated 27 April), this is a project of immense scope, complexity and potential impacts for the Mornington Peninsula and surrounding region.

Our community has expressed considerable concern that the return to Stage 3 restrictions is significantly hampering access to the many lengthy EES documents, ability to seek expert assistance to review these reports and conduct necessary site visits – all whilst coping in a global pandemic that is intensifying in Victoria.

.../2

Delays in postage and social distancing constraints on face-to-face consultation is preventing many members of our community from being able to digest the vast array of complex documentation, obtain advice, form a view on all aspects, and prepare and lodge a submission within the current prescribed timelines. This is especially the case for the many people in our community who have been financially, medically and socially disadvantaged by the pandemic, and/or do not have access to information technology and the internet.

Given the significant pressure our community currently is under, I urge you to immediately suspend exhibition until Public Health restrictions are sufficiently eased and extend the exhibition period for at least a further four weeks.

Thank you for considering this request. I look forward to your prompt action on this matter.

In the meantime, should you have any queries regarding this request, or would like to discuss the matter in more detail, please contact Mr David Bergin, Director of Planning & Building on 5950 1087 or [david.bergin@mornpen.vic.gov.au](mailto:david.bergin@mornpen.vic.gov.au).

Yours Sincerely



**Councillor Sam Hearn**  
Mayor