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Planning Panels Victoria
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Dear Ms Mitchell,

**Fishermans Bend Planning Review Panel hearing – adjournment request
Draft Planning Scheme Amendment GC81**

We continue to act for the Minister for Planning in this matter.

Despite best efforts, we have been unable to secure suitably qualified expert witnesses on behalf of the Minister in the areas of:

- Strategic transport planning;
- Open space planning; and
- Development viability;

with the capacity to prepare evidence by 12 February 2018.

As the proponent for the draft Amendment subject of the Review Panel hearing, we consider it important for the Minister to lead evidence in these areas.

Accordingly, we initiated further enquiries with potential witnesses and confirmed that the Minister can secure a suitably qualified expert in each of these areas if Stage 1 of the hearing is adjourned to commence on Tuesday 13 March 2018. The potential witnesses have capacity to produce written evidence by 6 March 2018 and provide oral evidence before the Panel in the week of 13 March 2018.

We have confirmed that all of the Minister's other experts (already retained) in the areas of:

- Urban design (x2); and
- Statutory Planning;
- Broad economic context;

are available to appear before the Panel and give evidence in the week commencing 13 March.

In the circumstances, we respectfully request the Review Panel adjourn the Stage 1 hearing to Tuesday 13 March 2018. The Minister proposes that the hearing dates for Stage 2 of the Review Panel hearing remain as listed.

We will provide details of our enquiries in relation to expert evidence early next week.

The Minister requests a directions hearing on 25 January 2018 to enable you to consider the adjournment request.



Should you have any questions, please contact Kate Morris on 0414 870 447.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kate Morris".

HARWOOD ANDREWS