



# Planning Panels Victoria

Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

23 January 2018

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Dear Ms Morris

## **Re: Fishermans Bend Planning Review Panel - hearing adjournment request**

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I refer to your letter of 19 January 2018 to Kathy Mitchell where you advise that despite your best efforts, you have been unable to secure suitably qualified expert witnesses on behalf of the Minister for Planning in the areas of strategic transport planning, open space planning, and development viability who have the capacity to prepare evidence by 12 February 2018.

You request the Review Panel adjourn the Stage 1 Hearing to Tuesday 13 March 2018, and propose that the Hearing dates for Stage 2 of the Review Panel hearing remain as listed.

The matter of Hearing dates was considered at length at the Directions Hearing held on 20 December 2017. The Review Panel made Directions on 28 December 2017 in response to submissions on the timing of the Hearing, and updated these on 18 January 2018.

The Review Panel has determined that your difficulty in securing suitably qualified Expert Witnesses can be accommodated without the need to adjourn the Hearing. The Review Panel will arrange the timetable to accommodate the availability of the specified witnesses. In this regard, the Panel does not see the need for a further Directions Hearing.

Accordingly, the Minister for Planning will commence his case on 19 February 2018 as directed with its opening submission and its experts in: urban design, statutory planning and economic context. The City of Melbourne and City of Port Phillip will follow this with their Stage 1 submissions together with parties that have requested to be heard in Stage 1.

Evidence for the Expert Witnesses called by the Minister for Planning in the fields of strategic transport planning, open space planning and development viability must be lodged by **12.00noon on Tuesday 6 March 2018** and will appear in the week commencing **13 March 2018**.

The City of Melbourne, City of Port Phillip and other parties who appear in Stage 1 prior to the Expert Witnesses called by the Minister for Planning in strategic transport planning, open space planning and development viability will be provided with an opportunity to respond to matters raised in that evidence, either in the week of 13 March 2018 or in Stage 2.

A Stage 1 timetable will be prepared based on the revised Request to be Heard forms received and will be circulated next week.

Yours sincerely

**Lester Townsend**

Deputy Chair, Fishermans Bend Planning Review Panel

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