



WEST GATE TUNNEL PROJECT RESPONSE

DATE: 8 September 2017

RESPONSE TO IAC QUESTION: **Approval Process for various Plans - 2**

QUESTION:

I was asked by Counsel Assisting whether the following specific plans required to be prepared by the EPRs should be approved by the Minister for Planning:

- Communications and Community Engagement Plan (EPR SP2)
- Construction Noise and Vibration Management Plan (EPR NVP3)
- Air Quality Management and Monitoring Plan (EPR AQP6) and
- Landscaping Plan (EPR EP6)

RESPONSE:

Each of these plans is included in the list of plans to be prepared under the EPRs in Table 8-4 of the EMF. Table 8-4 also specifies the entity responsible for preparation of the plans and the agencies and entities that are to have input into the plans' preparation. These Plans are also described as Level 3 documents that are devoted to the management of discrete issues or components (see Table 8-3).

The EES does not note any particular 'approval' for each of these plans. Having reviewed the overall framework and processes for establishing the overall management of the project (as described in the EES documentation) I am of the view that it is not appropriate or necessary for the Minister for Planning to approve the four Plans described above. I say this for the following reasons:

- Each of the Plans are principally a 'technical document' flowing out of the overarching management system and seek to give effect to the EPRs
- The preparation of all subsidiary Plans must be in accordance with the EPRs and EMS.
- The Minister for Planning will approve the EMS that will include the process for identifying the specific measures to be put in place to achieve each of the EPRs (see link between Plans and EPRs at Table 8-4).

However, I consider that each Plan should be formally approved to achieve certainty in the process for all parties. To this end I consider that the Independent Reviewer and Environmental Auditor should have the responsibility of confirming compliance by and approving the:

- Construction Noise and Vibration Management Plan, and
- Air Quality Management and Monitoring Plan
- Communications and Community Engagement Plan
- Landscaping Plan



I consider that this process is appropriate as and specific local issues will be addressed through the consultation process with the local authorities.