20 May 2019

Andrew Day
Chief Executive Officer
Manningham City Council
PO BOX 1
DONCASTER VIC 3108

Dear Mr Day

RE: Notification of North East Link EES and Planning Scheme Amendment GC98

I refer to your letter dated 14 May 2019 expressing concerns regarding the notification given landowners and occupiers of draft Planning Scheme Amendment (PSA) GC98.

Notice of the North East Link Environment Effects Statement (EES) which includes draft PSA GC98 in Attachment V, has been broad and extensive. In addition to full page notices appearing in The Age, Herald Sun and The Australian on 10 April 2019, it has included:

- Material sent to over 240,000 properties advising of exhibition of the EES and opportunity to make a submission during week of 15th of April;
- Advertising on the exhibition of the EES, draft PSA and Works Approval placed in 7 Leader publications near the alignment on 9th and 10th of April including the Manningham Leader;
- Advertising on 23rd and 24th April in the 7 Leader publications including Manningham Leader of the upcoming EES ‘drop in’ sessions held from 27th April to 11th May;
- Printed media such as brochures, fact sheets and hard copies of the draft PSA provided at 7 EES ‘drop in’ sessions held near the alignment including at Manningham Hotel and Club;
- Domain Review magazines covering the 7 Local Government Areas in the project area, including Doman Review Eastern (covering Manningham) contained advertisements of the EES, PSA and Works Approval.

The letter provided to landowners complimented the above extensive notification of the EES and draft PSA being on exhibition for public comment. The fact sheet enclosed with the letter also explains the effect of the draft PSA, where to view the documents, and the closing date for submissions is clearly articulated. Whilst the community drop in sessions were coming to a close when the letters were sent, landowners are still able to visit our two community hubs, our website and contact centre.

While I note your concerns, the North East Link Project (NELP) does not agree that recipients would not be aware the draft PSA was on exhibition. Not only did the notification material produced for the EES explain that it was a joint advertisement in respect of the EES, draft PSA and Works Approval application, the letter and accompanying fact sheet also clearly articulated the closing date for submissions.
The exhibition period for the EES, which includes the draft PSA, is 40 business days (10 days more than usual) and allows sufficient time for submissions to be made. Direct notification of the draft PSA was undertaken and provided an adequate timeframe, not dissimilar to that prescribed under Section 19 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987. It should also be noted that while it is a decision for Planning Panels Victoria, NELP will accept any late submissions on the EES, draft PSA and Works Approval application from anyone who considers they need more time.

In relation to the coversheet, this is a standard Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) requirement only relating to hard copy submissions. Online submissions are a convenient method and widely accessible, therefore it would be excessive to supply the cover sheet to all letter recipients.

I trust the above provides an understanding of the engagement we have undertaken with the broader community, those near the alignment and affected by the draft PSA.

Yours sincerely

[Signature]

DUNCAN ELLIOTT
Chief Executive Officer