

Submission Cover Sheet

North East Link Project EES IAC

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Request to be heard?: No, but please email me th

Full Name: Dr Danny Csutoros

Organisation: Department of Health and Human Services

Affected property:

Attachment 1:

Attachment 2:

Attachment 3:

Comments: Please refer to attached submission.



Secretary

Department of Health and Human Services

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Nick Wimbush
Chair, North East Link Project Inquiry and Advisory Committee
Planning Panels Victoria
GPO Box 2392
MELBOURNE VIC 3001

Department of Health and Human Services submission - North East Link Project Environment Effects Statement

Dear Mr Wimbush

The following is a submission from the Department of Health and Human Services (the department) to the North East Link Project Inquiry and Advisory Committee. The project is designed to have minimal impacts to health, amenity and environmental quality. On balance, the department supports the North East Link project.

The department has a lead role in protecting and promoting the health and wellbeing of all Victorians and reducing inequalities. The Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2015–2019, under the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008* identifies priorities for health and wellbeing for the state. The Plan recognises the importance of healthy and sustainable environments and place-based approaches (including connected and engaged communities and liveable neighbourhoods) to improve health and wellbeing.

The department was represented on the Technical Reference Group chaired by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning to scope and prepare the Environment Effects Statement for public exhibition.

The Environment Protection Authority has been responsible since December 2016 for delivering environmental public health functions related to human health impacts from past, present or potential future waste and pollution. The detailed technical review of potential public health issues associated with noise, surface and groundwater, air quality, contaminated land, traffic and amenity for this project has been undertaken by the Environment Protection Authority, including the detailed technical review and comment on the Health Impact Assessment. Notwithstanding this, the department has an overall interest in the Health Impact Assessment.

In relation to air quality the department notes:

- Changes to air quality during the project's construction are not expected to result in significant or measurable impacts on community health with the implementation of Environmental Performance Requirements.
- Changes to air quality as a result of the operation of North East Link are expected to have negligible to low and acceptable potential health impacts.
- Stringent air quality requirements will apply to the North East Link project to protect the health and wellbeing of residents.

The Social Impact Assessment addresses matters of importance to public health and wellbeing such as community access and connectivity, noise and visual amenity impacts, property acquisition and business relocation, and access to recreation facilities and open space. The department emphasises the importance of protecting and promoting public health and wellbeing during the construction and operation of the project.

The department supports the use of best practice in the design, construction and operation of North East Link to minimise potential health impacts on the health and wellbeing of communities in proximity to the project.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Dr Danny Csutoros, Acting Deputy Chief Health Officer (Environment), Health Protection Branch at the Department of Health and Human Services on (03) 9096 7801 or danny.csutoros@dhhs.vic.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Kym Peake
Secretary

13/6/2019