

18th August 2017

our reference: 2017/471

Ashurst Australia
Level 26
181 William Street
Melbourne 3000

Attention: Jane Hall

Dear Jane,

re: **West Gate Tunnel Project Inquiry and Advisory Committee**

Joint Expert Witness Statement – Architecture, Urban Design & Landscape

As you are aware I was unable to attend the expert witness conclave for architecture, urban design and landscape in relation to the West Gate Tunnel Project Inquiry and Advisory Committee, which I understand was convened on 10th August 2017.

I have been provided with a copy of the Joint Expert Witness Statement which has been prepared to summarise issues raised during the conclave. I have reviewed that document and provide the following comments in relation to my own opinions on the issues and recommendations contained therein.

Issue 1 – Maribyrnong River environment

I agree with the recommendations to move the tunnel further east and to remove the ramps altogether, on the basis that the current design will result in significant detrimental impacts on the amenity and visual qualities of the Maribyrnong River corridor, which are outlined in my evidence.

Issue 2 – E-Gate and Wurundjeri Way Extension

I agree with the recommendations to remove the Dynon Road connection and to consider alternative options to Wurundjeri Way extension, for instance a boulevard at grade or a tunnel, on the basis that the current design will result in significant detrimental impacts on the amenity and visual qualities of the E-Gate urban renewal precinct and the Moonee Ponds Creek corridor, which are outlined in my evidence.

Issue 3 – Staging and sequencing of major construction

This issue and the recommendations associated with it have not been considered in my evidence.

Issue 4 – Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA)

I agree with issue identified, insofar as it is unclear to me as to why no expert evidence has been provided in relation to the LVIA included within the EES.

Issue 5 – Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA)

I agree with the status comment that the overall assessment was poorly executed, for the reasons which are articulated in my evidence.

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Issue 6 – Landscape and public open space

I agree with the recommendation to clarify ownership and management responsibilities for proposed open space with relevant stakeholders early in the design process (preferably by the end of preliminary design), for the reasons which are articulated in my evidence.

Issue 7 – Landscape and public open space

I agree with the issue that there is concern over the accessibility of public open space along the Maribyrnong River waterfront, for the reasons which are articulated in my evidence.

Issue 8 – Noise barriers

I agree with the recommendation that all public open spaces, including all waterways, should receive sufficient noise mitigation. I have been given the opportunity to review the 3-dimensional computer model of the project prepared on behalf of the Western Distributor Authority, and I note that it is unclear from this model whether all affected public open spaces will receive sufficient noise mitigation, with Railway Place in West Melbourne being an example of this.

Yours faithfully,
hansen partnership pty ltd



Steve Schutt
Director



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