Our Ref: 5008113

Ms Kathy Mitchell
Chair, Fishermans Bend Planning Review Panel
Draft Amendment GC81
Planning Panels Victoria
1 Spring Street
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

Via email: Planning.Panels@delwp.vic.gov.au

Bcc: Parties according to the distribution list

Dear Ms Mitchell

Addendum to EPA’s Closing Submission to the Fishermans Bend Planning Review Panel

At the Planning Review Panel on 20JUN19, our representative, Ruth Davies, was asked to state EPA’s position on being a recommending referral authority for any planning application in the Fishermans Bend precinct which requires preparation of an Amenity Impact Plan. Ms Davies was unable to provide a definitive answer to that question as requested by the PRP. This letter sets out EPA’s position.

EPA is willing to be nominated as a recommending referral authority for any planning permit application which requires an Amenity Impact Plan in the Fishermans Bend Precinct.

EPA will develop guidance on the appropriate contents of an Amenity Impact Plan, in consultation with Melbourne and Port Phillip Councils.

EPA will develop model conditions which the Councils will be able to apply to ensure that proponents appropriately mitigate the risk of amenity impacts.

EPA expects to work proactively with Councils and developers to ensure that the risks of negative amenity impacts are adequately addressed through good practice architectural and engineering solutions, to ensure that the Amenity Impact Plans are appropriate.

Ms Davies noted in her closing remarks that the new Environment Protection Amendment Bill 2018 has gone to Parliament. The Bill has now passed its second reading.

I note that the Bill proposes stronger penalties for environmental offences and a range of new measures to help EPA actively prevent pollution and waste to improve Victoria’s environment, health and wellbeing.

In an Australian first, the Bill proposes a general preventative environmental duty that is criminally enforceable. The general duty would require people conducting activities that pose risks to human health and the environment from pollution and waste to understand those risks and take reasonable steps to eliminate or minimise risks of harm.
As noted by Ms Davies at the Planning Review Panel, EPA expects to take an active role in protecting current and future communities in Fishermans Bend from human health and amenity impacts. Our role will encompass both regulation and strategic planning. EPA encourages the Planning Review Panel to ensure that appropriate environmental protections are incorporated into the final planning controls for Fishermans Bend.

Yours Sincerely

Tim Eaton
Executive Director - Assessments