



# Planning Panels Victoria

Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

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20 December 2021

Dear Party/Submitter

## **Suburban Rail Loop East: Inquiry and Advisory Committee**

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Thank you for your submission to the Suburban Rail Loop East (SRLE) Environmental Effects Statement (EES). Please find some relevant information that may assist you in understanding the next stages of this public Hearing process.

### **Inquiry and Advisory Committee:**

An Inquiry and Advisory Committee (IAC) was appointed by the Minister for Planning on 14 November 2021 and comprises:

- Kathy Mitchell AM, Chair
- Michael Kirsch, Deputy Chair
- Craig Barker
- Liz Hui
- Kate Partenio.

The IAC is assisted by Hayley Becker, Manager, Major Projects and Georgia Thomas, Project Officer from Planning Panels Victoria. They will be your key points of contact throughout this process.

The IAC was provided with Terms of Reference signed by the Minister for Planning on 7 November 2021.

Clause 55 and 56 of the Terms of Reference notes the IAC is able to seek additional technical and legal assistance. In this regard, the IAC has appointed Peter O'Farrell of the Victorian Bar as Counsel Assisting. It may seek additional technical assistance if required.

### **Submissions and updates:**

At the close of the submission period on 16 December 2021 and then to 20 December 2021, the IAC has received 360 submissions. These will be uploaded to the Engage Victoria website (<https://engage.vic.gov.au/srl-east-iac>) by 24 December 2021.

The Engage Victoria website will be the place for you to find all information required relating to this public process. For example, there is already information relating to key dates for the public process and the site will be added to on a regular basis until the IAC submits its report to the Minister for Planning in mid to late June 2022.

It is important that you check for updates on this site. For example, any document the IAC receives will be allocated a document number and will be uploaded to the site within 24 (business) hours of receipt and processing.

#### **Privacy Statement**

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**Key dates framework Directions Hearing and Hearing:**

For your immediate information, the IAC has provided a list of key dates. All key dates and Directions should be complied with and provided by 12noon on the noted date, and all information sent to [srl.iac@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:srl.iac@delwp.vic.gov.au). These dates are as follows:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Direction</b>
<b>Monday 24 January 2022</b>	All representation and witnesses for all parties and submitters to be identified and advised to IAC.  SRLA to provide a plan of the various areas for inspection, noting inspections are likely to take several days (some accompanied, some not unaccompanied), including areas in and around the SRL sites and alignment, train stabling facility at Pakenham (or equivalent), relevant Melbourne Metro facilities
<b>Tuesday 25 January 2022</b>	Notice of any procedural matters to be provided in writing.
<b>Thursday 27 January 2022</b>	IAC table 'Request for Further Information' report.
<b>Friday 28 January 2022</b>	Directions Hearing at 10.00am (format and venue to be determined).
<b>Week of 7 and/ or 14 February 2022</b>	IAC to undertake various accompanied and unaccompanied site inspections.
<b>Monday 14 February 2022</b>	All SRL proponent expert evidence and a detailed background report to be filed.
<b>Thursday 17 February 2022</b>	All other expert evidence to be filed
<b>Tuesday 22 February 2022</b>	Reply to like expert evidence to be filed.
<b>Thursday 24 February 2022</b>	All Day 1 and Day 2 opening submissions from SRLA and key parties to be filed.
<b>Monday 28 February 2022</b>	Hearing commences for up to 40 business days (format and venue to be determined), generally sitting four days per week until Thursday 5 May (noting that period includes four public holidays).
<b>Thursday 23 June 2022</b>	IAC report submitted to Minister for Planning (35 business days from final day of Hearing, Clause 52 of Terms of Reference).

The purpose of the Directions Hearing is to discuss arrangements for the Hearing.

The purpose of the Hearing is to hear submissions and evidence on the Project.

The IAC will provide more information about the location of the Directions Hearing in mid-January and will discuss the arrangements for the main public Hearing, including the venue and timetable, at the Directions Hearing.

When you lodged your submission, you indicated whether you wished to be heard by the IAC. You needed to provide information on how long you require, whether you will be represented and

whether you will be calling any expert witnesses. If you did not wish to be heard but have changed your mind and now wish to be heard, please email [srl.iac@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:srl.iac@delwp.vic.gov.au) by 12noon on 21 January 2022.

If you did indicate you wish to be heard and want to add or change any of the relevant details, including if you no longer wish to be heard, you will need to advise through email to [srl.iac@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:srl.iac@delwp.vic.gov.au) by 12noon, 21 January 2022.

The IAC needs this information so that it can properly plan the Hearing and timetable processes, and to advise people at the Directions Hearing.

**Form of Hearing:**

The IAC will invite the Proponent (Suburban Rail Loop Authority) to make an opening submission on Day 1 (28 February 2022). On Day 2 (1 March 2022), the IAC will invite key parties such as the municipal Councils, public agencies such as EPA Victoria and Melbourne Water and key landholders such as Monash University and community groups such as 'Move the Train Yard' to make short opening submissions that outline their key issues.

Day 3 will then commence with the Proponent's case that is likely to run for about 10 days. Key issues such as traffic and transport, noise and vibration that include technical evidence might be grouped together with like evidence from other submitters at specific times.

The Government agencies and municipal Councils will then present their cases followed by key landholders. This will be followed by community groups and individual submitters.

It is expected the Hearing will conclude at the end of the first week of May 2022, with closing submissions from the Day 2 parties and then the Proponent.

The IAC is keen to conduct the Hearing in person and is making arrangements for that to occur, but in such a way that it will be live streamed so that people do not have to come to the venue everyday if they want to listen in. This of course is totally dependent on the advice of the Victorian State Government and the Chief Health Officer, so there will be a full back up plan if the Hearing needs to be held by video conference.

**Site inspections:**

The IAC has foreshadowed it will be undertaking detailed site inspections prior to the main Hearing commencing during February 2022, some of which will be accompanied. This may occur over several days, depending on the sites and taking into account weather conditions.

The IAC will undertake a one-day unaccompanied inspection prior to the Directions Hearing on 28 January 2022 so that it is familiar with the general route for the SRLE, and the surrounding land uses and conditions in preparation for the Directions Hearing.

To enable this, the SLRA has provided a plan of areas it considers can be viewed in one day, as Tabled Documents 4 and 5 and can be viewed on [Engage Victoria](#). It is understood this plan is one the SRLA has used previously for site inspections by other parties. The IAC will travel by minibus and will not enter any private land.

So that this can be conducted as efficiently as possible, the IAC will be seeking that a staff member of the SRLA accompany the IAC to ensure it travels to key sites and locations in a timely manner. The IAC will direct that the staff member does not make any commentary on any aspect of the Project. In addition, that person will be someone familiar with the route but not someone that will have a key role in the Hearing process.

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To put this in context, a similar approach was adopted for the recent Crib Point EES process in 2020 when a similar inspection by that IAC was conducted under these rules. If you have any concerns about this process, please advise the IAC by 10 January 2022.

**Keeping up with information:**

It will be very important that you become familiar with the Engage Victoria website because it will be a key means for communication with submitters. Documents will be updated daily, timetable changes will occur, new information will be provided and the like. The IAC will not be sending emails or letters about these matters, it will be up to you to check the web site each day to keep up with the process.

Please do not hesitate to contact the office of Planning Panels Victoria at [srl.iac@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:srl.iac@delwp.vic.gov.au) if you require any further information. Please note, the relevant officers of Planning Panels Victoria and its IAC team will be unavailable from 23 December 2021 until 6 January 2022 and will respond to any inquiries upon their return.

Your sincerely,



**Kathy Mitchell AM**  
Chair, SRL East IAC