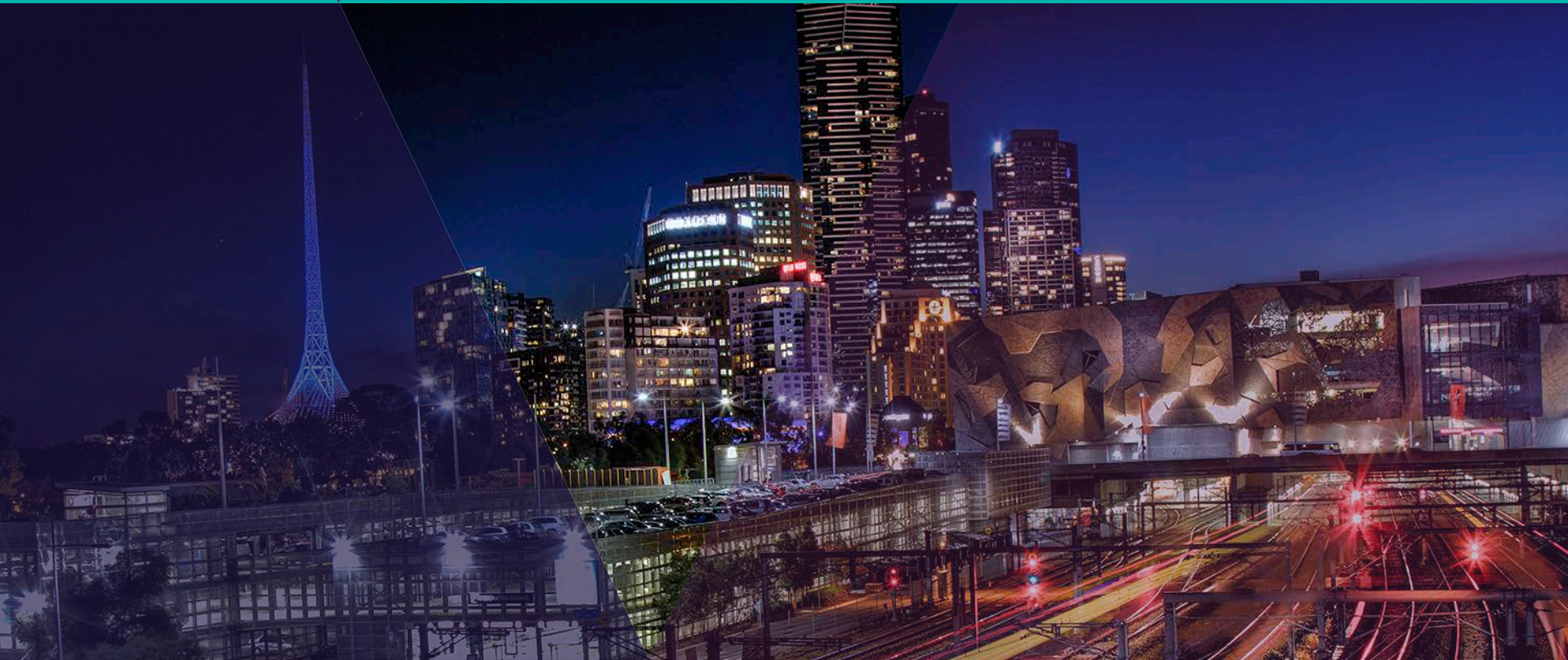
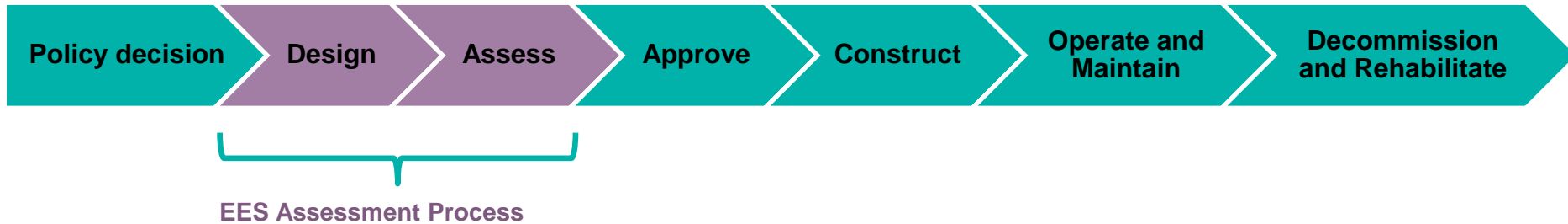


# Inquiry into Infrastructure Projects

## Economy and Infrastructure Committee



# Project Lifecycle and Environmental Regulation



**The EES process deals with the potential social, environmental and economic impact of a project. It can:**

- De-risk project delivery by managing impacts.
- Ensure the effective and efficient use of public funds.
- Provide public input to project design and approval decisions.
- Enable several approval decisions to be made.

# Where does the EES process fit in?

## Victoria has a broad suite of planning and environmental legislation:

### Issue-specific environmental legislation such as:

- *Heritage Act 1995*
- *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2006*
- *Water Act 1989*

**Primary planning or environmental approvals** – assessment and approval for projects with land use planning or environmental impacts including:

- *Planning and Environment Act 1987*
- *Environment Protection Act 1970*

**Formal Impact Assessment** – draws together a wide variety of different impacts, several of which could be significant, into a single formalised assessment process:

- Environment Effects Statement under the *Environment Effects Act 1978*
- Comprehensive Impact Statement under the *Major Transport Projects Facilitation Act 2009*

# Why is an EES used?

**A formal, large scale impact assessment is efficient and best manages impacts.**

- Single process to assess a wide range of impacts.
- Efficiency gains from combined assessment of numerous issue specific or complex primary approvals.
- Manages project and environmental risks.
- Public input on a range of issues.



**The EES process currently applies to two major infrastructure projects:**

- 1. Melbourne Metro** - Declared under the *Environment Effects Act 1978* on 3 September 2015.
- 2. Western Distributor**- Declared under the *Environment Effects Act 1978* on 23 December 2015.

**Head of power:** *Environment Effects Act 1978*

**Administered by:** The Minister for Planning

**Guidance:** Ministerial Guidelines for Assessment of Environmental Effects under the EE Act

## **What's happened?**

- Public exhibition of the EES and draft Planning Scheme Amendment from May - July 2016, with 397 submissions received.
- Joint Inquiry / Advisory Committee (IAC) was appointed by the Minister for Planning, tasked with the review of the EES, draft Planning Scheme Amendment and public submissions.
- Public Hearings were held from August - October 2016, with more than 100 parties heard.

## **What's next?**

- IAC to submit its report mid to late November 2016.
- Minister for Planning to issue his Assessment.

# Western Distributor EES

## What's happened?

- Minister for Planning issued **final EES scoping requirements** to DEDJTR in March 2016
- A **technical reference group** was convened to provide guidance with the scoping requirements and preparation of the EES
- **EES currently being prepared** by the Western Distributor Authority

## What's next?

- Minister for Planning, if satisfied, to authorise **EES for public exhibition**
- EES to be **advertised and submissions to be invited** in early 2017

# Level Crossing Removal program

- Being delivered by the **Level Crossing Removal Authority**
- Currently **no projects** are subjected to an EES process under the *Environment Effects Act 1978*
- To date, planning scheme amendments to facilitate the delivery of **18 level crossing removals** have been approved, plus an amendment to facilitate the Pakenham East Train Maintenance Depot
- **Frankston Rail Corridor** recently announced – LXRA assessment is underway