

# Inquiry into Infrastructure Projects

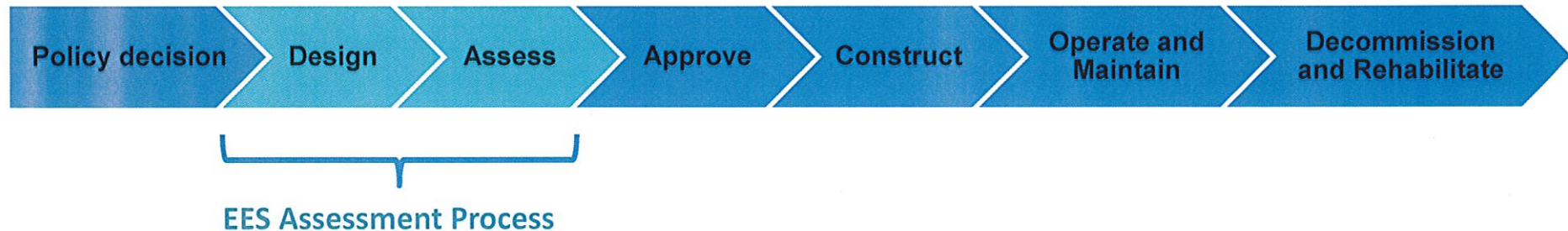
## Economy and Infrastructure Committee

Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning





# 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.

# Administration and Current projects

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.

**Level Crossing Removal program:**

- No projects currently subject to any process under the *Environment Effects Act 1978*.

**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



# 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*

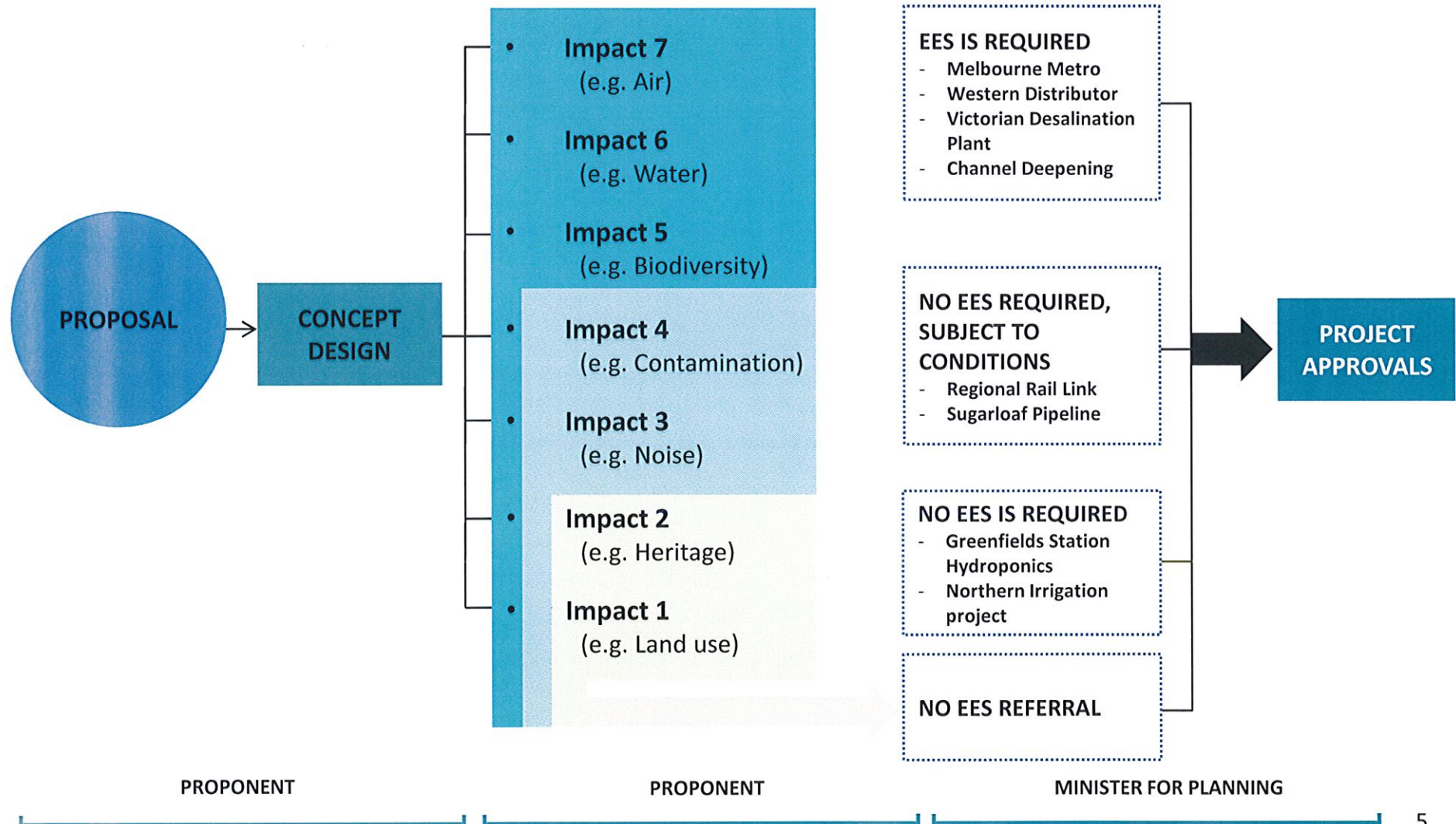
### Primary planning or environmental approvals – assessment and approval for projects with land use planning or environmental impacts including:

- *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*

# Impacts drive assessment pathway

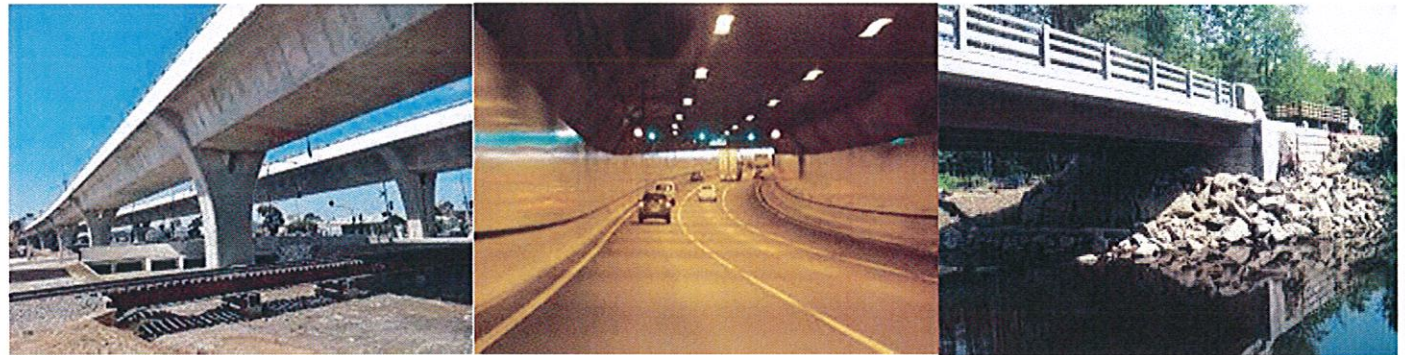




# Why is an EES used?

**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.



# Case study – Regional Rail Link

**Regional Rail Link was a large, complex rail infrastructure project with a capital value of around \$5bn.**

- The project was referred to the then Minister for Planning under the *Environment Effects Act 1978*.
- The Minister decided that no EES was required, subject to conditions that addressed noise.
- Decision recognised that a focussed assessment of a specific impact was more appropriate than a full EES.
- The project was subject to a range of approvals under existing legislation.