

# SUGARLOAF INTERCONNECTOR PIPELINE PROJECT

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## INFORMATION ABOUT THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### 1. APPOINTMENT

Under the provisions of Section 151 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, an Advisory Committee was appointed by the Minister for Planning on 18 February 2008 to consider the proposed Sugarloaf Interconnector Pipeline Project. The Advisory Committee is required to provide advice in the form of a written report to the Minister for Planning within four weeks of its last hearing day, in accordance with its Terms of Reference (15 February 2008).

### 2. MEMBERS OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

#### **Kathryn Mitchell – Chair:**

Kathy Mitchell was appointed as Chief Panel Member with Planning Panels Victoria in June 2004. In addition, she was the Interim Chair of the Priority Development Panel from November 2004 to July 2005. Prior to these appointments, Kathy was a full time Senior Panel Member with Planning Panels Victoria since its inception in 1996, and was an occasional sessional member with the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) from 1999 to 2004.

Kathy is President and a Fellow of the Victoria Planning and Environmental Law Association (VPELA), and has been a State Judge for the Urban Development Industry Association - Victorian Chapter (UDIA) Awards of Excellence since 2003. Kathy has a Bachelor of Arts in Planning, a Graduate Diploma in Urban Sociology and a Master of Arts in Planning (Research). She has previously worked in the private sector, local government, and as an academic.

#### **Darrel Brewin:**

Darrel Brewin is a private consultant specialising in natural resource management and agriculture. He provides advice on soil conservation, land capability, salinity management, native vegetation management and revegetation, pasture agronomy, catchment management and farm planning. He has a strong background in rural sociology and rural community engagement. He has lived in rural communities for most of his working life.

He established his consulting practice in 2000 after working with the Victorian and Western Australian Governments' natural resource management and agriculture agencies, including many years as a field advisor and in senior regional management.

Darrel holds a Masters Degree in Agricultural Science, Graduate Diploma in Agricultural Extension, and Diploma in Agricultural Science and is a member of the Australian Institute of Agricultural Science and Technology. His Masters Degree thesis evaluated Victorian government soil conservation program and contributed strongly to the early policy development of the State's Landcare Program.

### **Stephen Hancock:**

Stephen Hancock graduated as a Bachelor of Science (Geology) from Melbourne University in 1961 and completed a post graduate Certificate in Engineering Hydrology at University of NSW (1963). His professional career extended over 45 years and has included working for government, industry and as a consultant in the resource and environmental science fields. He has been involved in environmental impact assessments and project evaluations in Victoria, Australia and overseas. He has undertaken the role of expert technical witness before tribunals, panels and legal jurisdictions especially in relation to mining, water, waste management and for infrastructure projects. Stephen retired from full time work as a consultant in 2007 but continues to be active both locally and internationally as well as providing occasional consultant services in the fields of mining, water and waste management.

Stephen is a Fellow of the Victorian Planning and Environmental Law Association (VPELA) and the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy (AusIMM). He is a Chartered Professional (Environment) of AusIMM and of the Institution of Water and Environmental Scientists (UK) and a Certified Ground Water Professional of the Association of Ground water Scientists and Engineers (USA). He is the recipient of the Richard J Evans Award for Excellence from VPELA and similar awards from the international Mine Water Association and international consultancy firm Woodward - Clyde Inc (The Woodward Lecture).

### **Nick Wimbush:**

Nick holds qualifications in Environmental Science and Public Policy. He has 19 years experience in a variety of State and Local Government roles in Western Australia and Victoria including managing environmental impact assessment of major projects with the West Australian Environment

Protection Authority and advising the Victorian Government in a senior role on coastal planning and development.

He has extensive experience in the private sector in Western Australia, Indonesia (providing environmental advice in open-cut mining) and Victoria both with consulting firms and after founding and running his own environmental consultancy from 2002-2006 specialising in integrated coastal zone management.

He has been a sessional lecturer and unit coordinator in natural resource management at RMIT University in Melbourne, and is currently undertaking post graduate studies in Law.

### **3. KEY DATES**

The Sugarloaf Interconnector Pipeline Project Impact Assessment (PIA) report is currently on public exhibition, and submissions for this close on 18 March 2008. Submissions will be available for viewing at the offices of Planning Panels Victoria after 18 March. The office of Planning Panels Victoria is currently seeking to place submissions in the Municipal Offices affected by proposed pipeline route, and this advice will be made available shortly.

The Advisory Committee will undertake a preliminary inspection of the proposed route of the Sugarloaf Interconnector Pipeline in mid March, and following the receipt of submissions and conclusion of hearings, will undertake further detailed inspections as required.

Once the submissions are received, it is intended that the Advisory Committee will invite the proponent, local Councils and some submitters (including groups and organisations) to discuss their submission, in accordance with the Terms of Reference. These hearings will be open to the public, and the Advisory Committee will prepare a timetable for these after 18 March.

It is proposed that where possible, and subject to availability of suitable venues, hearings will be held in the municipalities of the proposed pipeline route. At this stage, the hearings are proposed to be held on various days between 2 and 17 April 2008. The timetable for the hearings will be posted on the web once it is completed.

*More information about the process will be posted on the website at [www.dpcd.vic.gov.au](http://www.dpcd.vic.gov.au) as it becomes available. Any inquiries about the Advisory Committee process can be directed to Michael Crossman, Panel Associate, Planning Panels Victoria [michael.crossman@dpcd.vic.gov.au](mailto:michael.crossman@dpcd.vic.gov.au) or 03 9637 9692.*