



15 May 2020

As addressed

Dear Party

---

### **Greater Geelong Planning Scheme Amendment C363ggee: Further information and directions**

---

The Panel recently provided notice of a second Directions Hearing to be held by video conference at 10.00am on Friday 29 May 2020. Since then, the Panel has received various correspondence which warrant further explanation about this Directions Hearing process.

#### **Background**

The first Directions Hearing was held for the above matter in Geelong on 5 March 2020. On 19 March 2020, the Panel advised parties that it did not intend to hold the Hearing in person in April 2020 because of concerns associated with Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). It provided each party with an opportunity to comment on an alternative process. The government subsequently introduced physical distancing restrictions.

The Panel responded to feedback in a letter dated 1 April 2020. It recognised there are parties who advised they do not have the ability or capability to participate in a hearing held by video. The letter informed parties that the Hearing would be held at a local venue and that *“a second Directions Hearing may be needed to revisit procedural matters”*.

The Victorian government introduced the *COVID-19 Omnibus (Emergency Measures) Act 2020* (Omnibus Act) on 25 April 2020 which recognised electronic processes. Since then, Planning Panels Victoria has been conducting most of its hearings by video conference with people throughout Victoria.

However, for reasons set out in its 1 April 2020 letter, the Panel continues to consider that video conference may be unsuitable for conducting the main Hearing for Amendment C363ggee.

#### **Second directions hearing**

Submissions on the merit of the Amendment will not be considered at the Directions Hearing.

The purpose of the second Directions Hearing is to discuss procedural matters associated with finalising the details of the main Hearing. The Panel intends to hold the main Hearing in person and at a local venue in Geelong in August 2020. Specifically, the issues to be discussed seek to:

- set the public Hearing dates
- provide Council with advanced notice so that it can reserve a venue for the public Hearing which can meet government physical distancing and associated requirements
- confirm dates for distributing evidence and Council’s Part A submission
- table correspondence received since the first directions hearing.

---

#### **Privacy Statement**

Any personal information about you or a third party in your correspondence will be protected under the provisions of the Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014. It will only be used or disclosed to appropriate Ministerial, Statutory Authority, or departmental staff in regard to the purpose for which it was provided, unless required or authorised by law. Enquiries about access to information about you held by the Department should be directed to the Privacy Coordinator, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, PO Box 500, East Melbourne, Victoria 8002

Early next week, parties will receive an invitation with a link to access the Directions Hearing. Should you or a representative not be able to participate in the Directions Hearing, you are welcome to email or post any procedural matter you wish to raise by 2.00pm on Thursday 28 May 2020.

The Panel will table any issues raised and speak to these in the normal way at the Directions Hearing.

The Panel will record the proceedings this Directions Hearing and it will be made available to any submitter upon request.

The Panel directs Council to include the following statement on the Amendment C363ggee section of its website:

*The Directions Hearing for Greater Geelong Planning Scheme Amendment C363ggee is scheduled to proceed by video conference at 10am on Friday 29 May 2020. Parties to the Hearing have been contacted regarding these arrangements. The Directions Hearing is open to the public. To observe proceedings, please contact Planning Panels Victoria at [planning.panels@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:planning.panels@delwp.vic.gov.au).*

A guide for using MS Teams is available at:

<https://www.planning.vic.gov.au/panels-and-committees/planning-panel-guides>.

If you have any queries about this letter or MS Teams, please contact Planning Panels Victoria at [planning.panels@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:planning.panels@delwp.vic.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Con Tsotsoros". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Con Tsotsoros**

Panel Chair