

Media Statement

Nov 25, 2019

EPA recommends METRONET proposal to go ahead, with the construction of 3 green bridges

The Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) has recommended a METRONET proposal to extend the Joondalup train line from the future Eglinton Station to Yanchep to go ahead, subject to a number of conditions including offsets and the construction of three vegetated 'green' bridges over the train line to allow wildlife to safely cross the tracks and to maintain vegetation links.

The Public Transport Authority's (PTA) Yanchep Rail Extension Part 2 – Eglinton to Yanchep proposal is seeking environmental approval for the construction and operation of a 7.2 kilometre extension to the Joondalup railway line from the future Eglinton Station to the suburb of Yanchep in the City of Wanneroo.

EPA Chair Dr Tom Hatton said after a thorough and considerable environmental impact assessment, which included a six-week public review period, the EPA had found the proposal could be environmentally acceptable if certain conditions were met.

"As the proposed train line will divide parts of the Western Australian bush on its planned route which has the potential to cause fragmentation for native wildlife and vegetation, we have recommended the PTA build at least three 'green' bridges over the rail line to maintain the ecological connection," Dr Hatton said.

"The EPA has also recommended offsets to counterbalance the significant residual impacts to threatened and priority ecological communities, including black cockatoo habitat, and a Bush Forever site, and if these conditions are met then the proposal would be environmentally acceptable."

In May this year the EPA recommended the first stage of the Yanchep rail extension, a 7.3 kilometre rail line from Butler to Eglinton could proceed, subject to conditions.

The Yanchep Rail Extension Part 2 is part of the State Government's METRONET program and includes one new transit station for rail and bus at Yanchep. It also includes the construction of stormwater drainage and a turnback facility north of Yanchep Station to allow for the turning and stowage of trains.

The EPA's report to the Minister for Environment is now open for a two-week public appeal period, closing 9 December 2019. Appeals can be made at www.appealsconvenor.wa.gov.au

The Minister for Environment will make the final decision.

EPA Report 1657 is available at www.epa.wa.gov.au

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