

Yanchep Rail Extension: Part 1 – Butler Station to Eglinton Station

Further explanation of decision on Level of Assessment

The Public Transport Authority proposes to extend the existing Joondalup railway line by 7.3 kilometres from Butler Station to the suburb of Eglinton in the City of Wanneroo (referred to as Part 1).

It should be noted that the proposal to construct a railway line from Eglinton to Yanchep (Part 2), which traverses Ningana Bush Forever site, has yet to be referred to the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA).

The EPA has examined the proponent's referral information, considered the comments received on the referral, and determined that the potential impacts are significant enough to warrant formal environmental impact assessment under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*. This means that the EPA will need to:

- assess the environmental acceptability of the proposal; and
- recommend conditions to the Minister for Environment to be applied to the proposal.

Having regard to the significance considerations in the EPA's *Statement of Environmental Principles, Factors and Objectives*, the key environmental issues are considered to be:

- clearing of native vegetation, including up to 1.1 ha of Threatened Ecological Community 26a;
- loss of threatened fauna habitat;
- fragmentation of a small reserve that provides an east-west linkage; and
- localised impacts to neighbouring residential areas from noise and vibration.

The EPA also noted that under the Metropolitan Region Scheme the proposal is located in an area primarily designated for urban development (Figure 1). The railway and stations will be located within commercial and residential areas once surrounding land is fully developed.

The EPA has set the Level of Assessment as Referral Information – Additional Information Required (four week public review). In making the decision on the Level of Assessment, the EPA considered:

- the information provided with the proponent's referral, including existing information about the environmental values from previous assessments in the area; and
- that based on the existing information, the EPA had a high level of confidence in identifying the preliminary key environmental factors and the potentially significant impacts.

In order for the EPA to further assess the proposal and determine if proposed management measures are appropriate, additional information is required including:

- clarifying impacts to subterranean and short-range endemic fauna;
- environmental management measures and/or plans for the key environmental factors; and
- environmental offsets for the potentially significant residual impacts.

This additional information will be published for a 4 week comment period.

Figure 1: Land use zoning along the proposal alignment.

(Source: Yanchep Rail Extension: Part 1 – Butler Station to Eglinton Station section 38 referral information, February 2018)