

Thornlie-Cockburn Link

Further explanation of decision on Level of Assessment

The Public Transport Authority proposes to construct and operate a new 14.5 kilometre (km) dual railway track to extend the existing Thornlie passenger line to Cockburn Central Station on the Mandurah line and relocate 11 km of freight line within the existing rail reserve.

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*.

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 2.85 ha of a Priority Ecological Community Banksia Woodlands of the Swan Coastal Plain;
- loss of Bush Forever areas;
- loss of threatened fauna habitat including 96 potential black cockatoo habitat trees;
- disturbance of a contaminated site;
- loss and disturbance of wetlands of the Swan Coastal Plain; and
- localised impacts to neighbouring residential areas from noise and vibration.

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.

However, additional information is required to assist the assessment of the proposal and determine if proposed management measures are appropriate. The additional information is required includes:

- contextual information of the environmental values immediately surrounding the development envelope;
- 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.