



Gareth Hatelly
Strategic Planning Manager – Regional Victoria
Victorian Planning Authority
Level 25, 35 Collins Street
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

Dear Gareth

Re. SHEPPARTON SOUTH-EAST PRECINCT STRUCTURE PLAN

I refer to the Draft Amendment C117GSHE to the Greater Shepparton Planning Scheme (Shepparton South East Precinct Structure Plan and Development Contributions Plan), issued for public exhibition 12 February 2024.

Summary

The Department of Transport and Planning (**The Department**) has reviewed the Draft Shepparton South-East Precinct Structure Plan (**PSP**) and the associated background documentation exhibited by the Victorian Planning Authority (**VPA**).

The Department acknowledges the work that has been undertaken to date with the VPA during the Agency Consultation phase and notes some minor matters are being addressed outside of the formal feedback process. The following submission identifies matters that relate to the transport network within and adjoining the PSP Area. In preparing this submission the Department has consulted with the key stakeholders that interact with the transport network.

Context

As planning for the future transport network within Greater Shepparton proceeds, the Department is committed to ensuring alignment between land use changes and existing transport infrastructure, as well as future planning and investment. This necessitates an integrated approach to land use planning, wherein current and future development and operation of the transport system are carefully considered in the preparation of the PSP. The aim is to facilitate efficient, safe, and sustainable movement of people and goods.

In considering the transport network for the PSP area, it is important to note the proximity to Doyles Road, also known as the Shepparton Alternative Route (**SAR**). Recognised as a Nationally Significant Freight Route, the SAR accommodates a substantial portion of heavy vehicle traffic, accounting for approximately 26 percent of its total traffic volume.

The SAR offers an alternative to the Goulburn Valley Highway, typically resulting in shorter travel times, higher operating speeds, and enhanced driver comfort. This is facilitated by several key factors:

- A posted speed limit of 80 km/h for the majority of the SAR;

- The presence of roundabouts along the SAR, promoting continuous vehicle flow with reduced instances of idling or stop-starting; and
- Limited conflicts arising from access control measures for land abutting the SAR.

Shepparton Alternative Route

The Department has been working closely with the VPA to ensure any road and pedestrian infrastructure along the SAR is designed to an appropriate standard to mitigate any impacts of the PSP development on the function of this significant freight route. These encompass:

- Access control measures for land adjoining the SAR, with no direct access provided from the PSP.
- Modification of the Poplar Avenue intersection to an ultimate left-in and left-out configuration.
- Provision of a roundabout at the Channel Road intersection.
- Allocation of land for the future widening of the SAR to accommodate duplication at a future time.
- Establishment of pedestrian facilities to enable safe crossing of the SAR near Channel Road, linking the PSP area with the existing township of Orrvale to the east.

The proposed roundabout on the SAR at Channel Road (IN-03) represents an interim configuration, accommodating single lanes on the SAR. Construction costs for this interim design are included in the Development Contribution Plan (**DCP**). The ultimate roundabout configuration with dual lanes on the SAR has been considered in the PSP and DCP. The costs associated with the land required for the ultimate design are included in the DCP. The Department considers this approach as designed to ensuring balanced outcomes that will secure adequate land provided for future expansion works.

The Department is committed to working with the VPA and stakeholders in the delivery of this PSP and welcome the opportunity to engage further in this process. If you have any queries, please me at [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

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Bruno Spandonide

Associate Director Transport Strategy – Hume Loddon Mallee

7/05/2024

encl.
CC: All parties