



Media release

From the Minister for Planning

Friday, 15 February, 2008

FEDERAL GOVT SUPPORTS SUGARLOAF PROJECT PROCESS

The Planning Minister Justin Madden has welcomed the Federal Government's accreditation of Victoria's planning and environment assessment process for the Sugarloaf Interconnector Pipeline.

"In December last year I announced an Environmental Effects Statement (EES) was not required for this project on the grounds the potential environmental effects of this project are not of a degree of significance that warrants an EES.

"I determined however the project would be assessed through completion of a Project Impact Assessment (PIA) report to an independent Advisory Committee.

"The Advisory Committee will be required to report to me on the final PIA Report, and provide advice and recommendations about any mitigation actions or offsets on environmental issues," Mr Madden said.

The public will shortly be invited to comment on the PIA report.

"I am delighted the Commonwealth Government has endorsed the Victorian Advisory Committee process under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity and Conservation Act*," he said.

Mr Madden said the Sugarloaf Interconnector Pipeline project is part of Victoria's long-term plan to secure metropolitan and regional water supplies in the future, for the benefit of all Victorians.