

# Edithvale-Seafood Wetlands Discovery Centre

Technical Reference Group  
Meeting No. 4

30 January 2007



# Agenda

- Welcome and Apologies
- Minutes of Last Meeting
- Project Update
- EPBC Act Referral, Site Survey and Assessment
- Timelines
- Next Steps
- Questions
- General Business
- Next Meeting

# Project Status

- EPBC Act referral submitted to Federal Department of Environment and Heritage in December
- Site survey undertaken for both levels and features
- About to commence soil profile investigations at the site of the Discovery Centre
- Commenced assessing basic room/layout needs in preparation for functional design sketches
- Finalising engagement of engineering and specialist consultants

# EPBC Act Referral

- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act* referral submitted to Federal Department of Environment and Heritage (DEH) in December
- Aim of the referral is to determine if the Discovery Centre is to be considered a ‘controlled action’ under the Act - if so, then a full EPBC Act approval will be required
- DEH have advertised the referral on their website during January for public comment
- DEH aim to have a decision made by 2 February, however additional questions and information provided may extend this date slightly

# EPBC Act Referral

- Referral consisted of:
  - Completed DEH referral form
  - Preliminary concept layouts for the centre and surrounds
  - Ramsar Management Plan for Edithvale-Seafood Wetlands
  - GHD Hydrology study
  - Flora and fauna information (species list, bird counts etc.)
- Melbourne Water's position is that the centre should not be considered a controlled action

# EPBC Act Referral - DEH Response

- DEH responses have sought further information regarding:
  - The exact extent of the current referral
  - The proposed pre-treatment wetland, and its impacts on water quality and flow
  - General management of the centre (extent of daytime use, number of visitors, out of hours use etc.)
  - Building and works footprint
  - Minor clarifications of wording and terminology
- Final decision due on 2 February

# EPBC Act Referral – Potential DEH Conditions

- Undertake geotechnical investigations
- Appropriate engineering solutions and technologies to manage any penetrations into peat layer
- Manage acid-sulphate soils in accordance with EPA requirements
- Major construction activity in autumn and winter
- Facility to utilise non-reflective glass, and interpretative elements accessed during daylight hours only
- No noisy external activity after 9:00pm between 1 January and 30 April
- External lighting – for security and safety purposes only, and to be baffled and downcast

# Site Survey

- Survey works have been undertaken at the site, including levels and feature surveys
- Some surveyors stakes and paint markings were placed during the survey to assist the surveyors determine levels and
- Small area has only been recently surveyed due to access problems
- Currently preparing site survey drawings in CAD
- Probable floor level approximately 1.5m above ground to meet flood level requirements

# Next Steps

- Assess impact on final referral decision from DEH
- Complete geotechnical investigations
- Prepare fully completed concept sketches for presentation to Technical Reference Group – March meeting
- Commence preliminary discussions with Cunningham Martyn regarding interpretative elements
- Commence detailed design and planning permit application
- Diversion of some resources to drought recovery projects (due to continuing drought) has affected progress

Thank you

