

Environment Effects Statement

The Environment Effects Statement (EES) and draft Planning Scheme Amendment (PSA) closed for comment at 11.59pm on Monday 25 August 2025 but remain available for viewing.

The Inquiry and Advisory Committee (IAC) (appointed by the Minister for Planning) held a directions hearing on Monday 15 September 2025 to set the scope and conduct of the public hearing, which commenced on Monday 27 October 2025 and concluded on Tuesday 3 March 2026.

At the public hearing the IAC considered the exhibited EES and draft PSA, all submissions and evidence, the views of Traditional Owners and Registered Aboriginal Parties, and any other relevant information.

The IAC will provide advice to the Minister for Planning, the Minister will then assess the environmental effects of the project after considering the IAC's report.



Information on the EES process can be found on the [Engage Victoria website](#).

EES and approvals overview

The Western Renewables Link is a complex project developed over several years with ongoing engagement with landholders, communities, industry and government. The project requires detailed technical investigations and a comprehensive planning and approval process before construction may commence.

The Environment Effects Statement (EES) describes the proposed project and its expected environmental effects, the process undertaken to develop the project, and how we propose to avoid, mitigate or manage environmental effects.

The EES process is administered by the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP), formerly the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP), on behalf of Victoria's Minister for Planning.

The Western Renewables Link EES has been prepared in accordance with the Ministerial guidelines for the assessment of environmental effects under the *Environment Effects Act 1978* (Vic) and scoping requirements issued by the Minister for Planning for the project. We have also prepared a draft Planning Scheme Amendment (PSA), in accordance with the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* (Vic).

Whilst the EES exhibition period closed at 11.59pm on Monday 25 August 2025, the EES remains accessible for public viewing.

Environment Effects Statement (EES) considerations



Further information on the EES public review process can be found on the [Department of Transport and Planning website \(Public review of an EES\)](#).

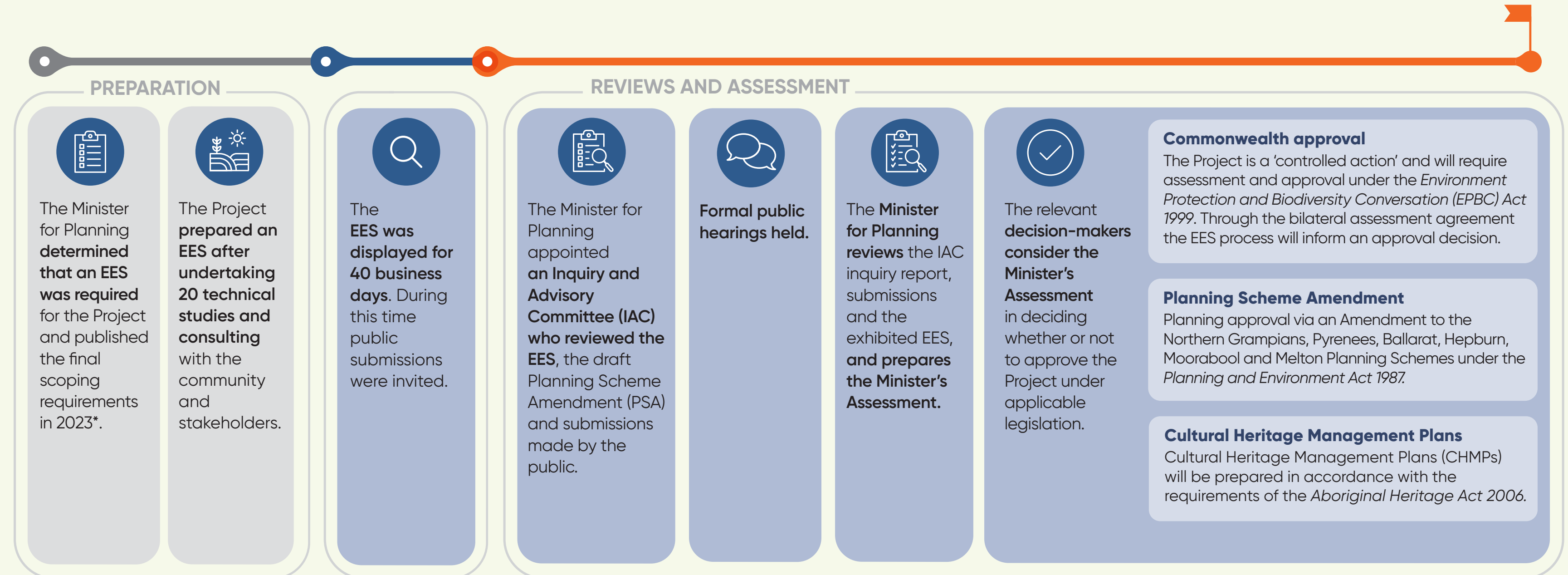
Next steps

The Victorian Minister for Planning appointed an independent Inquiry and Advisory Committee (IAC) to conduct a public hearing, which commenced on Monday 27 October 2025 and concluded on 3 March 2026.

The IAC reviews the exhibited EES and draft PSA, all submissions and evidence, the views of Traditional Owners and Registered Aboriginal Parties, and any other relevant information.

The IAC will now prepare a report on the significance and acceptability of environmental effects of the project. The report will be provided to the Minister for Planning.

The Minister will then issue an assessment, which will determine whether the project's environmental effects are acceptable.



*This was previously determined in 2020 and re-confirmed in 2023 to reflect changes to the Project.



Information on the EES process can be found on the [Engage Victoria website](#).