



Mr Tony Hedley
Project Director - Geelong Ring Road Project
Roads Corporation (Trading as VicRoads)
174 - 212 Colac Road
HIGHTON VIC 3216

Date: 3 October 2012
EPBC Ref: 2012/6568
EPBC contact: Ms Tessa Bird
(02) 6274 2128
Tessa.Bird@environment.gov.au

Dear Mr Hedley

**Receipt of referral
Princes Highway Duplication - Winchelsea to Colac, VIC**

Thank you for referring the proposal to undertake the duplication of approximately 36 kilometres of the Princes Highway from Deans-Marsh Road, Winchelsea to the Geelong – Warrnambool Rail Line, Colac, Victoria, for consideration under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

Information about this proposed action has been published on the Department's website for public consultation. The period of consultation will extend for 10 business days.

At the end of the consultation period, the information included in the referral, along with any comments received, will be used to help decide whether this proposed action:

- is a controlled action (one that is likely to have a significant impact on matters protected under the EPBC Act and therefore needs to be assessed and approved by the Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities before it can proceed), or
- is not a controlled action and may be undertaken but only as described in the referral, or
- does not require approval under the EPBC Act.

Alternatively, it may be decided, on the basis of the information in the referral that the action is clearly unacceptable (the referred action would have unacceptable impacts on matters protected under the EPBC Act and cannot proceed).

Before making a decision, we may contact you to clarify any details or to ask you for further information. By 31 October 2012 you should receive advice about your referral.

An electronic version of your referral can be viewed on the Department's website at www.environment.gov.au/epbc. This website also includes a range of other information about the process of assessment and decision-making under the EPBC Act.

Your referral has been allocated a unique reference number, EPBC 2012/6568. Please use this number in any communications with the Department as it will help ensure timely and efficient service. You can also use this number to locate any information about your project on the Department's website.

We will make every effort to ensure that the assessment of your proposed action is handled in a professional and helpful manner. A project manager for the next stage of the process has been appointed and will be happy to answer any questions you might have. You can contact Ms Tessa Bird by telephone on (02) 6274 2128 or by email at Tessa.Bird@environment.gov.au

Yours sincerely



Mr Con Voutas
Director
Business Entry Point
South West Section
North, West and Offshore Assessment Branch