Pursuant to section 15 of the Victorian Environmental Assessment Council Act 2001 the Minister for Environment and Climate Change hereby requests the Council to carry out an investigation of Crown land and public authority land in the cities constituting metropolitan Melbourne*, and the Shire of Cardinia.

The purposes of the metropolitan Melbourne investigation are to:

(a) systematically identify and assess the uses, resources, condition, values and management of Crown land, and public authority land in metropolitan Melbourne;

(b) assess values of Crown land, and public authority land for areas not committed to a specific use, and report on appropriate future uses relevant to Melbourne’s liveability and natural values; and

(c) report on the contribution of Crown land, and public authority land to Melbourne’s liveability and opportunities for enhancement of this contribution.

In addition to the considerations specified in section 18 of the VEAC Act, the Council would need to take into account the following matters:

- relevant State Government policies, programs, strategies and Ministerial Statements relating to the use of open space in Melbourne, including Melbourne 2030 and Planning for all of Melbourne and Linking People & Spaces;

- public authority plans and strategies such as the Port Phillip Catchment Management Authority Regional Catchment Strategy and Native Vegetation Plan; and

- land required by transport and other utilities for their functions and appropriate access for social, recreational and community activities.

The Council is required to consult with the community in accordance with the VEAC Act, to release a Discussion Paper, and to submit a Final Report on the results of its investigation. The Final Report must be submitted by May 2010.

* Cities of Banyule, Bayside, Boroondara, Brimbank, Casey, Dandenong, Darebin, Frankston, Glen Eira, Hobsons Bay, Hume, Kingston, Knox, Manningham, Maribyrnong, Maroondah, Melbourne, Melton, Monash, Moonee Valley, Moreland, Nillumbik, Port Phillip, Stonnington, Whitehorse, Whittlesea, Wyndham, Yarra, Melbourne Docklands