

19 November 2013

Notice of Motion, Cr Leppert: East West Link Tender Process

Motion

That the Future Melbourne Committee requests the Minister for Roads, by way of written correspondence from the CEO, to delay the deadline for tenders to build stage 1 of the East West Link until after the Comprehensive Impact Statement (CIS) process has concluded, so that the submissions, and assessment of submissions, to the CIS can be properly taken into consideration before tenders are lodged.

Background

Tenders to construct the East West Link are due in April 2014. The Comprehensive Impact Statement (CIS) process, however, is not due to conclude until approximately July 2014.

This means that the independent panel assessing submissions on the CIS will not release its findings to the Planning Minister, and the Minister not release his final assessment on the CIS, until well after tenderers are expected to complete tender documents.

Whilst tenderers will be invited to adjust their tender documents to respond to the assessment of the CIS, the order of events whereby the primary deadline for tenders comes before the completion of the CIS process undermines the CIS in two respects: it treats the need to respond to matters which may be raised by the assessment of the CIS as a secondary consideration, and it undermines public confidence in the process. Indeed, a frequent criticism by residents living in the vicinity of the East West Link project area is that the order of events demonstrates that submissions to the CIS from the community will not be taken seriously. This point has been covered in the media (see [The Age](#), 29 October 2013).

This matter is particularly important as it relates to Council's submission on the CIS: Council should seek confidence that tenderers will adequately take into consideration the expert advice and community sentiment to be articulated in Council's submission to the CIS and assessed by the independent panel.

Given the size and complexity of the East West Link project, it is essential that environmental, social and economic assessments of the project are completed prior to the deadline for tenders.

Moved: Cr Leppert