



Planning Panels Victoria

Department of Transport and Planning

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16 April 2026

Dear Party

Victorian Planning Authority Projects Standing Advisory Committee Referral 18: Bendigo Regional Employment Precinct

The Committee held a Directions Hearing for the above matter on 14 April 2026 online. Please find attached:

- Committee Directions
- Distribution List
- Hearing timetable outline

The following dates apply:

Time	Date	Documents to be circulated and other matters	Direction
12 noon	Tuesday, 21 April 2026	Parties calling evidence to confirm expert witness details	12
12 noon	Wednesday, 22 April 2026	DTP must provide a submitter location map to the Committee only	7
12 noon	Friday, 24 April 2026	DTP Part A (background and context) submission	10
12 noon	Monday, 27 April 2026	Parties to provide suggested site inspection locations to DTP	8
12 noon	Wednesday, 29 April 2026	DTP 'Day 1' version of the Amendment documentation	11
12 noon	Monday, 11 May 2026	DTP to provide site inspection itinerary	9
12 noon	TBC	Expert witness statements	12, 13, 16
12 noon	TBC	Joint experts report(s)	19
12 noon	Thursday, 14 May 2026	Expert witness statement addendums	18
12 noon	Friday, 15 May 2026	Opening submissions from DTP and parties and any DTP updated Day 1 materials	22, 23
10:00am	Tuesday, 19 May 2026	Hearing commences	
12 noon	Business day before presentation	DTP Part B primary submission	24

Privacy Statement

Any personal information about you or a third party in your correspondence will be protected under the provisions of the Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014. It will only be used or disclosed to appropriate Ministerial, Statutory Authority, or departmental staff in regard to the purpose for which it was provided, unless required or authorised by law. Enquiries about access to information about you held by the Department should be directed to the Privacy Coordinator, Department of Transport and Planning, GPO Box 2392, Melbourne, Victoria 3001



Time	Date	Documents to be circulated and other matters	Direction
12 noon	Monday, 25 May 2026	Any supplementary submission from a party not appearing at the Hearing	26
12 noon	Third business day following conclusion of Hearing	Comments from parties on final drafting	35
12 noon	Fifth business day following conclusion of Hearing	DTP final position on drafting comments	36

Declarations

Member Hellsten declared he would be interacting with Mr Glossop before the commencement of the Hearing in relation to a Planning Institute of Australia (Victoria) PLANET training course to which Mr Hellsten was co-presenting and at which Mr Glossop would be presenting. Member Hellsten declared his engagement with Mr Glossop before the Hearing would be limited to matters associated with delivering the training course. No parties raised concerns with this declaration.

Use of Artificial Intelligence

In cases where submissions or evidence have been generated, wholly or in part, using Artificial Intelligence, a declaration must be made in writing to the Committee at the time of filing.

Legal Assistance Service

Foley's List barristers has a Legal Assistance Service that provides low-cost or no-cost legal support to eligible submitters in Planning Panels Victoria hearings. Assistance ranges from preliminary advice to full representation, with fees reduced or waived. To participate, submitters must meet eligibility criteria. Assistance is subject to barrister availability. More information about the service is available on the PPV [website](#) including information about who to contact at Foley's List to apply for assistance.

If you have questions, please contact Chris Brennan, Senior Project Officer of Planning Panels Victoria on (03) 9935 4142 or office@planningpanels.vic.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Tim Hellsten
Committee Chair

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Circulating documents

1. The Department of Transport and Planning, New Communities (DTP) must host and manage online document sharing. The document sharing platform must allow a party to upload documents directly.
2. Documents must be circulated electronically by uploading them to the document sharing platform. When uploading documents, a party must email all other parties on the distribution list to inform them of the document(s) that have been uploaded. If file size permits, the document(s) may also be attached directly to the email in addition to uploading them to the document sharing platform.
3. Documents must be available to access and download from the document sharing platform until the date the report is submitted by the Committee. Each party is responsible to retain any documents before that date.
4. Documents must meet the following requirements:
 - a) Files must not exceed 20MB in size.
 - b) File names must be as short as possible and begin with the name of the party as it appears on the distribution list:
[Party name] - [Document Title].
 - c) If tabling more than 10 documents at once, all documents must be provided through a fileshare link (for example, DropBox or OneDrive) and be accompanied by an index list.
 - d) A Microsoft Word version or unlocked pdf version of the document must be emailed directly to office@planningpanels.vic.gov.au after being circulated.
5. All information presented to the Committee for the purposes of the Committee process is a public document solely for that purpose unless the Committee directs otherwise. It cannot be used for any other purpose.

Notes

Any request to access a document after that date will be subject to the Freedom of Information process.

For more information on how your submission will be used, refer to the [PPV Website](#).

If your document is larger than 20MB, break it down into parts that are less than 20MB each.

If you do not circulate documents by the specified time, the Committee may not accept the evidence or material. If you think you will not meet the specified deadline you must provide reasons in writing to office@planningpanels.vic.gov.au before the deadline.

The Committee will not publish or accept material that contains offensive or defamatory material, or personal information about other people (such as emails and phone numbers or photographs of people, particularly children).

Paper documents will only be permitted in exceptional circumstances.

If you have with difficulties providing documents electronically you should contact Planning Panels Victoria.

Before the Hearing

Notice of the Hearing

6. Planning Panels Victoria will publish notice of the Hearing on its website, with information on how members of the public can observe it in person and online.

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Submitter location map and site inspection itinerary

7. DTP must provide a map showing the location of submitters (including any late accepted submitters) to the Committee by **12 noon on Wednesday, 22 April 2026**. The Plan must:
 - a) identify submitters by submitter number, and not by name
 - b) be provided only to the Committee.
8. Parties wishing to suggest locations for the Committee's unaccompanied site inspection must provide these to DTP by **12 noon on Monday, 27 April 2026**. Locations must be accessible from the public realm.
9. DTP must provide a site inspection itinerary to the Committee by **12 noon on Monday, 11 May 2026**. The itinerary must show key precinct features including those relevant to the referred issues.

DTP Part A (background and context) submission and 'Day 1' documents

10. DTP must circulate a Part A (Background and context) submission by **12 noon on Friday, 24 April 2026** that includes:
 - a) a summary of the strategic context, including relevant planning policies and controls, Ministerial Directions, Practice Notes and relevant Guidelines
 - b) a summary of the technical background reports
 - c) an overview of engagement undertaken on the draft Amendment
 - d) a summary of other amendments or major permit applications within the precinct that may be under preparation or recently approved that may impact on the Amendment
 - e) an overview of the *Draft Guideline for Preparing Shared Infrastructure Plan for State Transport Infrastructure* and basis of the methodology to be applied in the preparation of a Shared Infrastructure Plan
 - f) details of any other strategic material that DTP intends to rely upon in support of the Amendment that has not yet been provided, or that might assist the Committee in its consideration of the Amendment.

Note

DTP's Part A (background and context) submission will be taken as read. DTP should allow time for questions on Day 1 of the Hearing.

11. DTP must circulate a 'Day 1' version of the Amendment documentation by **12 noon on Wednesday, 29 April 2026**. The Day 1 version must:
 - a) show any suggested changes in response to submissions
 - b) be marked up against the exhibited version
 - c) be labelled 'DTP Day 1 version – Clause X'
 - d) be in an editable format such as MS Word
 - e) be supported by a Table summarising all changes to Amendment documents.

Expert details and statements

12. Full details of all experts must be circulated by **12 noon on Tuesday, 21 April 2026**
13. The date for the circulation of evidence must be advised by DTP in consultation with other parties following conformation of expert witness details (refer Direction 16).
14. An expert statement must:

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- a) be limited to the referred issues in Table 1 of the referral letter to the Committee dated 18 March 2026.
- b) comply with the PPV Practice Note 1 - Expert Evidence ([Expert witnesses \(planningpanels.vic.gov.au\)](https://www.planningpanels.vic.gov.au))
- c) not refer to any individual submitter by name – if necessary, individual submitters should be referred to by submission number. Community groups, organisations, corporations and government agencies can be referred to by name.

Expert conferences and joint expert reports

15. Experts in the following areas must meet to prepare a joint experts report. Experts being called by DTP should act as the chairs for the meetings.
 - a) Planning
 - b) Traffic / transport
 - c) Drainage
 - d) Economics
 - e) Infrastructure contributions.
16. DTP is to liaise with parties calling evidence to:
 - a) Confirm dates for circulation of evidence
 - b) Confirm arrangements for expert meetings including:
 - (i) The description of the expert meeting evidence themes (refer Direction 15) and relevant expert participation
 - (ii) The chair of each expert meeting (anticipated to be the DTP expert) who will be responsible for coordinating arrangements and note taking unless otherwise agreed between DTP and the other parties
 - (iii) dates for expert meetings to be conducted and circulation of joint expert reports.
17. The conference(s) can only be attended by:
 - a) the experts being called to give evidence
 - b) relevant staff from the following government agencies:
 - (i) Traffic/Transport – staff from Department of Transport and Planning (Transport).
 - c) a non-participating note taker if necessary.

Advocates or parties instructing the experts must not attend the conference(s).
18. If any expert is instructed not to reach agreement in respect of points of difference, the expert must report those instructions in writing to the Committee and all parties. Experts will be permitted to provide addendum evidence following conclusion of the conclaves and which must be circulated **by 12 noon on Thursday, 14 May 2026.**
19. The joint experts report(s):
 - a) must list the relevant participants in attendance
 - b) must note if any participant is not present for any significant discussion point
 - c) must record the facts and opinions agreed and not agreed in respect of each issue and the reasons for any disagreement
 - d) should be fewer than five pages with numbered paragraphs
 - e) should not restate the evidence – expert statements should be cross-referenced if required
 - f) must be signed by all participants

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- g) must be circulated by a date to be advised by DTP in consultation with other parties (refer Direction 16).

At the Hearing

- 20. DTP must provide administrative support to manage the Hearing.

Note

This may include finding a suitable venue for an in person Hearing, or if the Hearing is online or hybrid, configuring a video conference meeting, publishing links to the Hearing online, issuing direct invitations to participants (including the Committee, parties and experts) and providing technical support. It may also include managing the document sharing platform and making audio recordings of sessions if directed by the Committee.

Presenting material

- 21. Submissions, presentations and other material presented to the Committee:
 - a) must be presented electronically
 - b) must relate to the key issues in Table 1 of the referral letter from DTP dated 18 March 2026
 - c) must include a summary of fewer than 5 pages if the material is more than 40 pages.

DTP opening submission and updated 'Day 1' documents

- 22. DTP must circulate an opening submission and any 'Day 1' documents that have been further updated by **12 noon on Friday, 15 May 2026**. The opening submission must:
 - a) set out DTP's position on the key issues in Table 1 of the referral letter from DTP dated 18 March 2026
 - b) include DTP's preliminary response to the issues raised in submissions and evidence
 - c) identify any further changes DTP proposes to make to the Amendment including in its initial response to circulated evidence statements and any completed joint expert reports
 - d) include a status summary table in relation to unresolved issues.

Other party opening submissions

- 23. Other parties proposing to provide written opening submissions must circulate them by **12 noon on Friday, 15 May 2026**. Opening submissions must:
 - a) outline the party's position on the key issues in Table 1 of the referral letter from DTP dated 18 March 2026
 - b) provide a list of specific changes sought to the draft Amendment documentation.

DTP primary submission (Part B submission)

- 24. DTP's primary submission must be circulated by 12 noon the business day before its scheduled primary submission presentation which must:
 - a) set out DTP's final position on the referred key issues
 - b) include DTP's final response to the issues raised in submissions and evidence
 - c) identify any further changes DTP proposes to make to the Amendment in response to evidence and submissions.

All submissions

- 25. A party who objects to the proposal must say how the proposal impacts them, how the proposal is inconsistent with Council or government policy or strategy, or both.

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26. A party who intends to supplement their original written submission but not present at the Hearing must circulate their supplementary written submission by **12 noon on Monday, 25 May 2026**.

Note

For information on how to prepare and present material at a Hearing, refer to the [PPV Website](#).

Evidence and cross examination

27. Unless agreed by the Chair, evidence-in-chief must be no longer than 30 minutes.
28. Unless agreed by the Chair, cross examination must be no longer than 30 minutes by any one party.
29. An expert may present a summary of their evidence at the Hearing, but it must:
- not include new evidence
 - be circulated by 12 noon the business day before that expert is scheduled to appear.
30. If giving evidence online, an expert must:
- be alone in the room from which they give evidence and not make or receive any communication with another person while giving evidence except with permission from the Committee
 - inform the Committee immediately should another person enter the room from which they are giving evidence
 - not discuss their evidence with any other person during breaks in evidence when under cross examination
 - not have before them any document, other than their expert statement and relevant joint experts report and supporting documents.
31. A party, advocate and the Committee may question an expert.
32. If cross examining an expert, a party must:
- be present for the whole of the expert giving their evidence
 - ask clear and relevant questions, directed to matters of fact or professional opinion, that genuinely assist the Committee in understanding the issues
 - allow the expert time to explain their answer.

Notes

The Chair will regulate cross examination. During the Hearing, the Chair may ask you how much time you will need for cross examining each expert, and will ask you to keep to your estimate. You should aim to complete your cross examination as concisely as possible.

Cross examination time may be limited.

You may be asked to move on to another topic if the line of questioning is not useful to the Committee.

Things to avoid when cross examining include:

- making a submission or providing your opinion
- giving extensive comment or context as an introduction to your question
- asking questions that are unrelated to the evidence
- arguing with the expert
- commenting on the expert or the evidence
- asking questions that have already been asked by another party.

If you do not support the evidence or basis on which it was prepared, or consider the evidence should not be given weight, detail your reasons in your submission rather than raising these issues in cross examination.

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If you are not experienced in cross examination, you are encouraged to write your questions down to ensure they are succinct, structured into themes and able to be asked without long explanations of the context.

For information on how to cross examine, refer to the [PPV Website](#).

Part C (closing) submissions

33. DTP and Council will be provided time to present a Part C (closing) submission. The Part C (closing) submission:
- must not raise new matters
 - may respond to matters raised in other parties' submissions or evidence.

Drafting changes

34. DTP must circulate its final preferred version of the Amendment documentation with its Part C (closing) submission. The final preferred version must:
- show changes proposed in response to evidence or submissions presented at the Hearing
 - be marked up against the Day 1 version
 - be labelled 'DTP Part C (closing) version – [Document title e.g. Environmental Delivery Standards]
 - be supported by a summary table of Amendment document changes.
35. A party seeking to provide drafting comments on the DTP Part C (closing) version of the Amendment documentation must circulate them by **12 noon on the third business day following the conclusion of the Hearing**. Drafting comments must only relate to drafting issues, not broader issues.
36. DTP must circulate its final position on drafting comments by **12 noon on the fifth business day following the conclusion of the Hearing**.

Note

Comments on the final version of Amendment documentation must be limited to drafting (form and content).

Drafting comments can be provided even though your primary position may be that the proposal should not be supported.

Privacy and use of personal information

37. A party must not record, keep, distribute or publish contact details of any other party obtained during the Committee process, or use those contact details for any other purpose.
38. A party must not record any part of a Hearing by any means without permission from the Chair.
39. A party who wishes proceedings to be recorded must make a request to the Chair at least five business days before the Hearing commences, outlining its reasons.
40. If the Hearing is recorded, any person provided with a copy of the recording must not publish or distribute that recording or use it for any purpose other than for the Committee process.

Note

Committee hearings are only recorded in exceptional circumstances. EES Inquiry Hearings are generally recorded (audio only), but you should check with Planning Panels Victoria before the Hearing starts.

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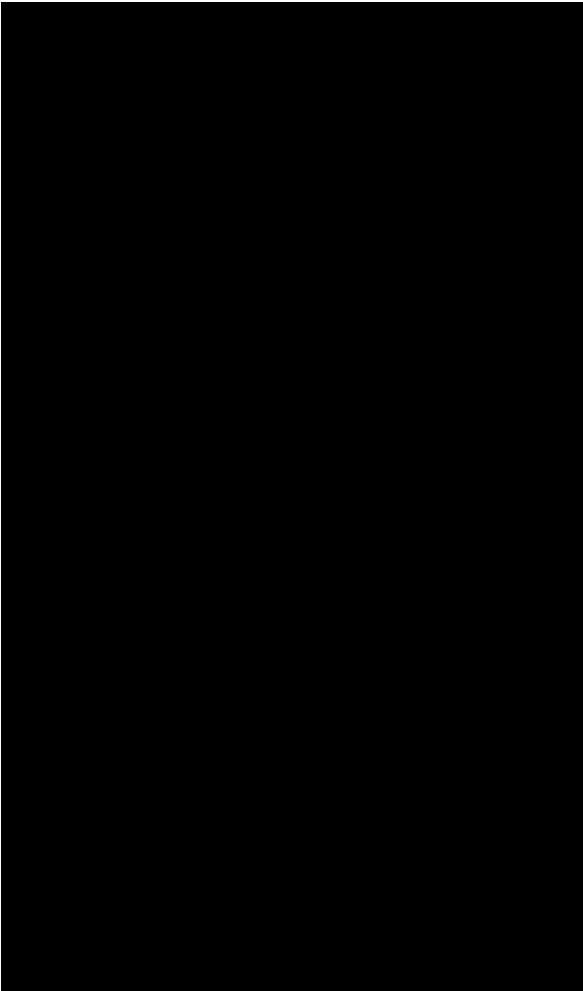
For more information on how your personal information will be used, refer to the Privacy Collection Notice attached to the Committee's Directions Hearing letter dated 25 March 2026.

Distribution List

Victorian Planning Authority Projects Standing Advisory Committee Referral 18:
Bendigo Regional Employment Precinct

Use this list to circulate documents and information in accordance with the Committee's directions. It must not be used for any other purpose. If you are unsure about whether any material or content is appropriate for the Committee process, please seek guidance from Planning Panels Victoria before circulating the material.

Electronic documents

Party	email address
Planning Panels Victoria	
Department of Transport and Planning, New Communities	
Bryan Palmer	
City of Greater Bendigo	
City of Greater Bendigo (landowner)	
Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation (DJAARA)	
Jan Boynton & Alex Malone	
UDIA (Bendigo Chapter)	
YourLand	

Timetable outline

Victorian Planning Authority Projects Standing Advisory Committee Referral 18:
Bendigo Regional Employment Precinct

Day 1: Tuesday 19 May 2026 – Bendigo GovHub

- Opening submissions:
 - DTP – 1 hour
 - Greater Bendigo Council (RA) – 35 minutes
 - YourLand – 20 minutes (to be confirmed)
- Primary submissions:
 - UDIA (Bendigo Chapter) – 30 minutes
 - Jan Boynton & Alex Malone – 15 minutes (before 3.45pm)
 - Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation – 30 mins (after 2.30pm)
 - Bryan Palmer – 15 minutes

Day 2: Wednesday 20 May 2026 - Bendigo GovHub

- Greater Bendigo Council (landowner) Primary submission – 2 hours
- Balance of day for return travel to Melbourne OR commencement of DTP's expert for Theme 1 evidence to commence after 2pm (to be confirmed)

Day 3: Thursday 21 May 2026 – 1 Spring Street, Melbourne, Hearing Room 1 (commence 1pm)

- Evidence on Theme 1 (to be confirmed)

Day 4: Friday 22 May 2026 – 1 Spring Street, Melbourne, Hearing Room 2

- Balance of evidence on Theme 1, and Theme 2 to commence (to be confirmed)

Day 5: Monday 25 May 2026 – 1 Spring Street, Melbourne, Hearing Room 2

- Evidence themes continued (to be confirmed)

Day 6: Tuesday 26 May 2026 – Melbourne, venue to be arranged by DTP

- Evidence themes continued (to be confirmed)

Day 7: Wednesday 27 May 2026 – Melbourne, venue to be arranged by DTP

- DTP primary submission – 3 hours
- Greater Bendigo Council (RA) primary submission – 3 hours

Day 8: Thursday 28 May 2026 – Melbourne, venue to be arranged by DTP

- Greater Bendigo Council (RA) primary submission continued
- YourLand primary submission – 2 hours
- Balance of day – Reserve

Day 9: Friday 29 May 2026 – 1 Spring Street, Melbourne, Hearing Room 2

- DTP closing submission – 1.5 hours
- Greater Bendigo Council (RA) closing submission – 45 minutes
- Drafting discussion