Models for Coordinating Approvals and Procurement Processes – A Strategic Choice

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Approvals and procurement – how are they connected?

Impact assessment and approval

Contractor procurement

Project delivery
What are the steps in design evolution?

Concept design

Reference design

Tender design

Detailed design

Design development

More detail & certainty
EIS Key Features

Melbourne Metro Rail Project
- 9 km of rail tunnel
- 5 new stations
- EIS based on reference design
- Project approved January 2017
- Contract close December 2017

West Gate Tunnel Project
- 4 km of road tunnel
- 4 km widened freeway and 2.5 km of new elevated road
- EIS based on tender design
- Project approved December 2017
- Contract close December 2017
Melbourne Metro Rail Project - EIS based on reference design

West Gate Tunnel Project - EIS based on tender design

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Reference design for impact assessment - advantages

- Avoids perception that decision on project approval has been made
- Avoids the need to manage probity associated with tender process
- Tenderer involvement is contained in terms of duration
- Specific approvals conditions are known prior to tender
- Competitive tension not lost for final negotiations regarding approvals conditions
Tender design for impact assessment - advantages

• Conceptually more easy to grasp for a public audience
• Greater opportunity to harness design innovation
• Greater clarity on the design actually being proposed and how it will look
• Greater clarity on construction methods, work sites, sequencing and duration
• Higher confidence in assessments presented.
Conclusions

- Both processes work
- Each have pros & cons
- Characteristics of project should influence strategic choice
Conclusions

Key considerations for strategic choice include:

• Extent of design resolution & opportunities for innovation
• Sensitivity of stakeholders to project location & form
• Predictability of approvals outcomes
• Timing of delivery

Be aware that choices exist!