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# Attachment 1

## Expert Witness Declaration

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**Name and Address**

Andrew Biacsi is a Director of Contour Consultants Australia Pty Ltd, Town Planners and practices from Level 1, 283 Drummond Street, Carlton Victoria, 3053

**Professional Qualifications**

- Bachelor of Applied Science (Planning)
- Graduate Diploma in Urban and Regional Planning
- Director –Contour Consultants Australia Pty Ltd
- Member of Planning Institute of Australia (PIA)

**Professional Experience**

First employed as a town planner in 1980. I have been employed in both public and private practice for a period of more than 35 years in Victoria, the A.C.T. and New South Wales. I have been in private practice since 1989 and at Contour Consultants since 1991.

**Areas of Expertise**

- Statutory and strategic planning and urban design.
- Advice and assessment of land use and development proposals to planning authorities, government agencies, corporations and developers (including major residential, retail, commercial, industrial, institutional and mixed use projects).
- Preparation and presentation of evidence before VCAT, Supreme Court of Victoria, the Magistrates Court, Liquor Licensing Commission, Building Referees Board and various government appointed independent panels and advisory committees.

**Expertise to Prepare this Report**

My training and experience including involvement with many forms of housing, mixed use and urban renewal projects and developments over a period of approximately 35 years qualifies me to comment on the town planning and strategic policy implications of the proposal.

**Instructions which Define the Scope of this Report**

I received instructions from by Norton Rose Fulbright (NRF), on behalf of a number of landowners/interested parties and Russell Kennedy on behalf of Frank Walker and Sel Reklaw Pty Ltd in relation to 541 Graham Street, Port Melbourne to consider the town planning implications of the proposal encompassing draft Amendment GC81(the Amendment).

**Facts, Matters and Assumptions Relied Upon**

- Inspected the site and surrounds;
- Reviewed the Amendment documentation and Framework and relevant background and supporting documents;
- Reviewed relevant provisions of the Melbourne and Port Phillip Planning Scheme;
- Reviewed and considered the various submissions;
- Reviewed the various submissions to the Panel including those on behalf of the Minister and the Melbourne and Port Phillip Councils;

- Reviewed various statements of evidence, submissions and other information as circulated from time to time throughout the Panel's deliberations;
- Reviewed relevant strategy documents, policy documents, practice notes and advisory notes, as necessary;
- Attended conferences with legal advisers for the client group; and
- Considered relevant correspondence from the Panel and material circulated throughout the course of the Hearing, as circulated from time to time.

**Documents Taken into Account**

Refer to documents described above and in report.

**Identity of Persons Undertaking the Work**

Report prepared by Andrew Biacsi with assistance of Martin Vahala, Town Planner of Contour.

**Relationship with Proponent**

I have no private or business relationship with the client group, other than being engaged to prepare this report although my office is providing advice to various parties (inclusive of some within the client group) in respect to their projects in Fishermans Bend.

**Summary of Opinions**

Refer to my report.

I have made all enquiries that I believe are desirable and appropriate and that no matter of significance which I regard as relevant have to my knowledge been withheld from the Panel.



Andrew Biacsi  
Director  
Contour Consultants Australia Pty Ltd

