



21 March 2016

Secretary
NSW Department of Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39
Sydney NSW 2001

Attention: Glenn Snow

Pacific Highway Upgrade - Warrell Creek to Urunga
Modification to Condition of Approval A1.(b) – Environmental Assessment
DP& E. Ref: MP 07_0112

Dear Glenn,

I refer to the Minister for Planning and Infrastructures Instrument of Approval document (MP 07_0112 Project Approval 19 July 2011) for the Warrell Creek to Urunga Pacific Highway Upgrade.

Further to discussions between the Department of Planning and Environment's (DP&E) Representative's Glenn Snow and Lauren Rose and NSW Roads and Maritime Services' Chris Clark on 15 March 2016, I would like to request a modification to the Ministers Conditions of Approval A1.(b) to modify the concept design in the Environment Assessment (EA) as approved.

The proposed Modification is a design refinement developed following representations from sections of the community post receipt of the Ministers Approval Instrument, to include on and off ramps in the Project at North Macksville. The inclusion of the proposed ramps at North Macksville will offer an alternate entry to and exit from the township of Macksville for vehicles travelling from and to the north, to the approved interchanges at Bald Hill and Nambucca Heads.

The proposed modification includes a northbound on ramp onto the upgraded Pacific Highway, a southbound off ramp from the upgraded Pacific Highway, connection of the ramps to an upgraded Old Coast Road, an upgraded intersection at Old Coast Road and the existing Pacific Highway (existing highway), a median cross-over facility to enable emergency vehicles (including ambulances stationed at North Macksville) to travel north and south on the upgraded highway and associated mitigated measures.

The proposed modification would impact on an additional 0.077 hectares of Swamp Forest – Swamp Mahogany / Paperbark EEC that was not going to be impacted by implementing the approved concept design as described in the EA. This impact will be offset by adjustments to the approved Biodiversity Offset Strategy (BOS) and Package (BOP) for the Project.

There will be no additional impact to archaeological aspects from implementing the proposed modification.

Roads and Maritime Services

A slight increase in operational noise impact (maximum 1 dB(A)) is predicted at five residences with the proposed Modification.

Proposed mitigation measures include the installation of visual mounds, the provision of screen planting and the installation of lower noise pavement on Old Coast Road. These details are identified as the clouded features in the recently approved Urban Design and Landscape Plan under MCoA B21.

The enclosed Modification Environmental Assessment report outlines the proposed scope of works in detail and identifies the potential environmental impacts and proposed mitigation measures.

Three options were developed by the Project Team for the proposed ramps. One of these options was selected as the Preferred Option. A report which described the three short-listed ramp options and their potential impacts, compared the options and outlined how the preferred option was selected was placed on display for community comment between 16 September and 12 October 2015. A copy of the report "*Warrell Creek to Nambucca Heads Pacific Highway upgrade North facing ramps at North Macksville preferred option report*" (Preferred Option Report) is included at Appendix A to the Modification Environmental Assessment.

Appendix B to the Modification Environmental Assessment is the report on the submissions received in response to the display of the Preferred Option Report, including Roads and Maritime Service's responses to the concerns raised, proposed refinements to the preferred option and commitments made by Roads and Maritime Services.

The proposed Modification has also been presented to the Environmental Review Group for the project, including the Department's Environmental Representative.

The enclosed Modification Environmental Assessment is submitted to the NSW Department of Planning and Environment for approval under Section 75W of the EP&A Act.

Please contact Mr Chris Wicks (RMS Site Environment Officer) on 0428255447 if further information or clarification of the proposal is required.

Yours sincerely,


Robert (Bob) Higgins
General Manager, Pacific Highway
Roads and Maritime Services

21/3/16