

7 ISSUES PRIORITISATION

7.1 Issues Identification

The EASR (HLA 2006) identified a number of issues associated with the project that may warrant assessment in the EA including:

- air quality;
- water;
- soils;
- noise and vibration;
- hazard and risk (including human health risks);
- flora and fauna;
- heritage;
- transport and traffic; and
- social and economic impacts.

7.2 Prioritisation of Issues

7.2.1 Approach

The prioritisation of issues for the proposed project is based on the need to recognise that the higher the potential severity of adverse environmental effects and the greater the consequence of those unmanaged effects, the higher the degree of assessment required.

Where a high potential effect was identified, the attribute or issue was allocated a higher priority for assessment.

Table 7-1 provides the Issues Prioritisation Matrix upon which the identification of priorities for issues has been based. This method assesses priority on the basis of the potential severity of environmental effects and the likely consequences of those potential effects if unmanaged. The potential severity and consequence of the environmental effect are each given a numerical value between 1 and 3. The numbers are added together to provide a result which is then ranked and shaded in the matrix by the potential level of risk being High, Medium or Low.

Table 7-1: Issues Prioritisation Matrix

Severity Of Effects	Consequence of Unmanaged Effects		
	3 High	2 Medium	1 Low
1 Low	4 (Medium)	3 (Low)	2 (Low)
2 Medium	5 (High)	4 (Medium)	3 (Low)
3 High	6 (High)	5 (High)	4 (Medium)

7.2.2 Initial Assessment

The initial prioritisation of environmental issues related to the proposed project is shown in **Table 7-2**. This assessment aimed to allow the prioritisation of issues for assessment and did not consider the application of mitigation measures to manage environmental effects. In all cases, appropriate and proven mitigation measures, chosen based upon first hand experience and other similar projects, will be used to minimise potential impacts. These measures are described in detail in **Section 8** of this EA.

Table 7-2: Initial Prioritisation Analysis

Issue	Severity	Consequence	Priority
Aspect: Air Quality			
Construction related impacts on air quality	2	3	5
Emissions to the atmosphere with the potential to result in degradation of air quality in the local area	2	3	5
Community concern regarding degradation of air quality	3	2	5
Aspect: Water			
Excess consumption of water	1	2	3
Degradation of water quality in the local area during construction	2	2	4
Degradation of water quality in the local area during operation	2	2	4
Aspect: Soils			
Erosion and sedimentation during construction	1	2	3
Spread of contaminants off-site during construction/operation	2	2	4
Aspect: Noise and Vibration			
Temporary noise nuisance to local residents during construction	2	2	4
Noise nuisance to local residents during operation	2	2	4

Issue	Severity	Consequence	Priority
Aspect: Hazard and Risk			
Exposure of surrounding land uses/population to risks and hazards	2	2	4
Exposure of employees to risks and hazards	2	2	4
Aspect: Ecological			
Loss of habitat due to clearing and development.	1	1	2
Reduction in biodiversity due to loss of habitat for native species.	1	1	2
Impact upon threatened species.	1	1	2
Aspect: Resource Implications			
Excessive demand upon community, natural or transport resources	1	1	2
Aspect: Socio-Economic			
Impacts upon residential amenity such as noise, visual, etc	2	2	4
Impacts upon demand for community resources	1	1	2
Job creation during construction	1	1	2
Job creation during operation	1	1	2
Aspect: Heritage			
Damage or removal of Aboriginal artefacts or places	1	1	2
Detrimental impact upon items of non-indigenous heritage significance	1	1	2

Issue	Severity	Consequence	Priority
Aspect: Land Use			
Inappropriate use of land	1	1	2
Incompatibility of land use with surrounding environment	1	1	2
Aspect: Transport and Traffic			
Increase in traffic on local road network during construction	2	1	3
Increase in traffic on local road network during operation	2	1	3

The initial prioritisation analysis identified that the prioritisation of environmental issues and therefore the focus of EA for the proposed project should be as follows.

High

- Air Quality

Medium

- Soils
- Water
- Noise and vibration
- Hazards and risk
- Social

Low

- Ecological
- Resource implications
- Heritage
- Land use
- Traffic and transportation
- Economic

7.2.3 Community Views

Section 6 of the EA outlines the community consultation undertaken as part of the project, including a workshop held on 27 June 2006 to identify community views on issues to be addressed in the EA. The priorities identified by the community are as follows:

High

- Air Quality
- Noise

- Hazard and risk
- Social
- Land use
- Traffic

Medium

- Soils
- Water

Low

- Ecology
- Resources
- Heritage
- Economic

7.2.4 Final Assessment

The final prioritisation analysis, combining the initial prioritisation analysis with feedback from the local community, is shown in **Table 7-3**.

Table 7-3: Final Prioritisation Analysis

Issue	Severity	Consequence	Priority
Aspect: Air Quality			
Construction related impacts on air quality	2	3	5
Emissions to the atmosphere with the potential to result in degradation of air quality in the local area	2	3	5
Community concern regarding degradation of air quality	3	2	5
Aspect: Water			
Excess consumption of water	1	2	3
Degradation of water quality in the local area during construction	2	2	4
Degradation of water quality in the local area during operation	2	2	4
Aspect: Soils			
Erosion and sedimentation during construction	1	2	3

Issue	Severity	Consequence	Priority
Spread of contaminants off-site during construction/operation	2	2	4
Aspect: Noise and Vibration			
Temporary noise nuisance to local residents during construction	2	2	4
Noise nuisance to local residents during operation	2	3	5
Aspect: Hazard and Risk			
Exposure of surrounding land uses/population to risks and hazards	2	3	5
Exposure of employees to risks and hazards	2	3	5
Aspect: Ecological			
Loss of habitat due to clearing and development.	1	1	2
Reduction in biodiversity due to loss of habitat for native species.	1	1	2
Impact upon threatened species.	1	1	2
Aspect: Resource Implications			
Excessive demand upon community, natural or transport resources	1	1	2
Aspect: Socio-Economic			
Impacts upon residential amenity such as noise, visual, etc	2	3	5
Impacts upon demand for community resources	1	1	2
Job creation during construction	1	1	2
Job creation during operation	1	1	2
Aspect: Heritage			
Damage or removal of Aboriginal artefacts or places	1	1	2

Issue	Severity	Consequence	Priority
Detrimental impact upon items of non-indigenous heritage significance	1	1	2
Aspect: Land Use			
Inappropriate use of land	1	1	2
Incompatibility of land use with surrounding environment	2	3	5
Aspect: Transport and Traffic			
Increase in traffic on local road network during construction	2	3	5
Increase in traffic on local road network during operation	2	3	5

The key environmental issues which form the focus of this EA are therefore as follows:

High

- Air Quality
- Noise
- Hazard and risk
- Social
- Traffic
- Land use

Medium

- Soils
- Land Use
- Water

Low

- Ecology
- Resources
- Heritage
- Economic

The potential impacts of the proposal in relation to each of these issues and proposed mitigation and management measures are addressed accordingly in **Section 8** of this EA.



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