



NSW GOVERNMENT
Department of Planning

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Our ref: 9037726

Mr Les Wielinga
Chief Executive
NSW Roads and Traffic Authority
PO Box K198
HAYMARKET NSW 1238

Dear Mr Wielinga

**Director General's Requirements for the Environmental Assessment of
Proposed Pacific Highway Upgrade – Sapphire to Woolgoolga**

The Department has received your application for the proposed Pacific Highway Upgrade – Sapphire to Woolgoolga (Application Number: 06_0293).

I have attached a copy of the Director-General's requirements (DGRs) for the environmental assessment of the project. These requirements have been prepared following the Planning Focus Meeting held on Wednesday, 1 November 2006 and in consultation with the relevant government agencies.

It should be noted that the Director-General's requirements have been prepared based on the information provided to date. Under section 75F(3) of the Act, the Director-General may alter or supplement these requirements if necessary and in light of any additional information that may be provided prior to the proponent seeking approval for the project.

I would appreciate it if you could contact the Department at least two weeks before you propose to submit the Environmental Assessment for the project to determine:

- the fees applicable to the application;
- relevant land owner notification requirements;
- consultation and public exhibition arrangements that will apply;
- options available in publishing the Environmental Assessment via the Internet; and
- number and format (hard-copy or CD-ROM) of the Environmental Assessment that will be required.

Prior to exhibiting the Environmental Assessment, the Department will review the document to determine if it adequately addresses the DGRs. The Department may consult with other relevant government agencies in making this decision. If the Director-General considers that the Environmental Assessment does not adequately address the DGRs, the Director-General may require the proponent to revise the Environmental Assessment to address the matters notified to the proponent. Following this review period the Environmental Assessment will be made publicly available for a minimum period of 30 days.

If your proposal includes any actions that could have a significant impact on matters of National Environmental Significance, it will require an additional approval under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). This approval would be in addition to any approvals required under NSW legislation. If you have any questions about the application of the EPBC Act to your proposal, you should contact the Commonwealth Department of Environment and Heritage in Canberra (6274 1111 or <http://www.deh.gov.au>).

If you have any enquiries about these requirements, please contact Caitlin Bennett, Senior Environmental Planning Officer, Major Infrastructure Assessments on 02 9228 6197 or via email (caitlin.bennett@planning.nsw.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



15.12.08

Chris Wilson
Executive Director
As delegate for the Director-General

Director-General's Requirements

Section 75F of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*

Application number	06_0293
Project	Pacific Highway Upgrade – Sapphire to Woolgoolga The upgrade of the Pacific Highway to provide a four lane, dual carriageway from Sapphire to Woolgoolga, including a bypass of Woolgoolga (Option E), ancillary infrastructure and local access roads.
Location	From Campbell Close approximately 8 kilometres north of Coffs Harbour extending for approximately 25 kilometres to the intersection with Arrawarra Beach Road approximately 31 kilometres north of Coffs Harbour.
Proponent	NSW Roads and Traffic Authority
Date issued	15 December 2006
Expiry date	15 December 2008
General requirements	<p>The Environmental Assessment (EA) must include the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. an executive summary. 2. a detailed description of the project including the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ need for and objectives of the project; ▪ alternatives considered and justification for the preferred option (including an assessment of the environmental costs and benefits of the project relative to alternatives); and ▪ various components and potential staging of the project. 3. an environmental risk analysis identifying the potential environmental impacts associated with the project and taking into account issues raised during consultation (Note: where the risk analysis identifies additional key issues, an appropriately detailed impact assessment of these additional key environmental impacts must be included in the EA). 4. an assessment of the key issues specified below, with the following aspects addressed for each key issue (where relevant): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ describe the existing environment ▪ an assessment of the potential impacts of the proposal (at both construction and operation stages); ▪ identify any planning, land use, development related assumption or modelling used in impact prediction and/ or developing management & mitigation commitments; and ▪ describe measures to be implemented to avoid, minimise, manage, mitigate, offset and/or monitor the impacts of the project and the residual impacts. 5. a draft Statement of Commitments, outlining environmental management, mitigation and monitoring measures. 6. a conclusion justifying the project taking into consideration the environmental, social and economic impacts the proposal; the suitability of the site; and whether or not the project is in the public interest.
Key issues	<p>Planning and Land Use</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of the potential impacts on existing and future planning, land use and development strategies, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - property acquisition, changes to access and land configuration, including forestry and agricultural land uses - existing and known future residential development and access to surrounding communities.

Traffic and Access

- Identification of traffic impacts (construction), changes to regional and local road network and access management, changes in usage characteristics, safety and performance.
- Identification of provisions relating to truck movements, freight efficiency, pedestrians, cyclists and public transport services.

Noise and Vibration

- Assessment of construction and operational noise and vibration impacts including a description of the existing environment, identification of noise objectives and methodologies, and a description of project impacts and affected receivers including all sensitive receptors based on appropriate assessment methodologies.
- Details of the mitigation measures to minimise and manage any noise impacts.

Biodiversity

- Identification of biodiversity impacts and ecological performance, including direct and indirect impacts on habitat and flora and fauna (including threatened and protected species, populations and Endangered Ecological Communities, and aquatic/riparian habitats); cumulative impacts on regional communities, identification and protection of key habitats and corridors, and riparian zone impacts.

Heritage

- Identify and assess the significance of indigenous and non-indigenous heritage and natural areas impacted directly or indirectly, including potential archaeological deposits. Affected items are to be identified by field survey.
- Assess potential impacts on identified items and natural areas of heritage significance, and where necessary include a Statement of Heritage Impact Assessment. Particular attention should be given to the Aboriginal heritage sites at the Coffs Harbour Gun Club and the Arrawarra Creek /Embankment Road site.
- Demonstrate that effective Aboriginal community consultation has been undertaken in determining and assessing impacts, developing options and making final recommendations.

Economic and Social impacts

- Assess the economic and social impacts on local and regional communities. In particular, consideration is to be given to the:
 - potential social and economic impacts on the Woolgoolga community, including the local Sikh community; and
 - potential impacts on the viability, production and management of agribusinesses due to fragmentation, loss of agricultural land and any potential edge effects of the highway.

Soil and Water

- Identification of impacts on surface water, flows and quantity, with particular reference to any likely direct or indirect impacts on surrounding waterbodies, wetlands and their habitats including the potential indirect impacts on the Solitary Island Marine Park by works in proximity to Cunninghams and Double Crossing Creeks.
- Identification of flood prone areas along the project corridor, with an assessment of the potential changes to flooding behaviour, such as flood duration, inundation periods and afflux.

	<p>Urban Design and Landscaping</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe the visual significance of the affected landscape • Identification of sources of visual impacts (including bridges, embankments, interchanges and alterations to natural landscape features) and their visual impact on affected landscapes. • Provide a clear description on how the potential visual impacts would be addressed and/or minimised, such as through road design, particularly in areas along the Woolgoolga bypass route.
<p>Consultation</p>	<p>You should undertake an appropriate and justified level of consultation with relevant parties during the preparation of the EA, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • local, State or Commonwealth government authorities and service providers; and • the public (including community groups, affected landowners and the Sikh community) - document all community consultation undertaken or discuss the proposed strategy for undertaking community consultation. This should include any contingencies for addressing any issues arising from the community consultation and an effective communications strategy. <p>The consultation process and the issues raised should be described in the Environmental Assessment.</p>
<p>Deemed refusal period</p>	<p>120 days</p>