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Department of Planning
Received
20 JUL 2010
Scanning Room

Attention: Kylie Seretis

Modification Requestion in regards to Sapphire to Woolgoolga Condition of Approval 2.6

Dear Kylie,

I refer to the previous discussions between the Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) and your Department regarding deletion of skylights from culverts that provide fish passage. This requirement is addressed in Condition of Approval 2.6.

Please find attached an email from Primary Industries Industry & Investment NSW (I&I NSW) outlining that I&I NSW do not want to include skylights in any aquatic underpass on the S2W project.

I&I NSW have verbally provided the following reasons for this approach (James Sakker pers. communication with John O'Donnell on 13 July 2010):

1. According to I&I NSW (Fisheries) there is no real evidence that skylights are providing benefits for fish.
2. The extra expense in installation is not justified.
3. I&I is generally not requiring light wells any more.
4. DECCW has concerns in regards to terrestrial fauna passage being impacted by noise reverberation through the skylights.

RTA agrees with the approach outlined by I&I NSW. The active consultation undertaken by the Leighton Fulton Hogan Joint Venture on design issues is continuing with the regulatory agencies. This issue was discussed in the Environmental Review Group of 18 May 2010 and the outcome agreed was that light wells should not be a part of any design for fish passage. The outcomes of the meeting are attached.

The RTA understands that to progress the issue, it is required to seek a modification to Condition of Approval 2.6. Please find attached the modification request form. RTA respectfully requests that the condition requiring light wells be modified in consultation with RTA.

If you have any questions on this matter please contact Mr Chris Clark on 0438 710 479.

Yours sincerely


Robert (Bob) Higgins
General Manager, Pacific Highway
Encl. 15/7/10