

11. Draft statement of commitments

DGRs	Where addressed
Draft statement of commitments (SoC):	
The SoC must incorporate or otherwise capture all measures to avoid, minimise, manage, mitigate, offset and/or monitor impacts identified in the impact assessment sections of the EA and ensure that the wording of the SoC clearly articulates the desired environmental outcome of the commitment. The SoC must be achievable, measurable (with respect to compliance) and time specific where relevant.	Table 11-1

This chapter outlines the draft statement of commitments proposed by the RTA to avoid, minimise, manage, mitigate, offset and/or monitor impacts identified in the environmental assessment. The RTA intends to achieve the outcomes and actions detailed in the draft statement of commitments.

From an early stage, the environmental assessment considered the project's potential environmental issues and identified the desired environmental outcomes. This influenced development of the concept design and highlighted the management measures required to avoid or reduce environmental impacts. The RTA has considered the advice of all its specialists in the technical reports and from this has developed the draft statement of commitments.

The draft statement of commitments includes:

- An outcome to be achieved.
- Details of the commitment.
- Reference to the timing of when the commitment applies.
- Reference documents or sections of the environmental assessment influencing the outcome and implementation of the commitment.

The draft statement of commitments specify certain environmental outcomes to be achieved. Greater detail as to how those outcomes would be achieved is provided in the mitigation and management measures in Chapters 9 and 10. The draft statement of commitments is presented in a format that is readily auditable and transparent.

The draft statement of commitments may be revised in response to public submissions to the environmental assessment and/or design changes made before final submission to the Department of Planning. The final statement of commitments would be considered by the Department of Planning in assessing the project. Should approval be granted by the Minister for Planning, the conditions of approval would pay regard to the final statement of commitments.

Table 11-1 Draft statement of commitments

Outcome	Ref. number	Key action	Timing	Reference document
<i>Environmental management</i>				
Compliance and continuous improvement in environmental management.	EM1	An environmental management system, including an environmental performance and compliance program, will be established and maintained for the project.	Pre-construction and construction.	ISO 14001:2004 Environmental Management Systems – requirements with guidance for use. ISO 19011:2003 Guidelines for Quality and/or Environmental Management Systems Auditing. RTA QA specification G36 – environmental protection.
	EM2	The environmental management plans will be developed and implemented by suitably qualified and experienced personnel and will incorporate as a minimum the mitigation and management measures in the environmental assessment.	Pre-construction and construction.	Guideline for the Preparation of Environmental Management Plans (DIPNR 2006).
Provide a consistent methodology to managing environmental issues.	EM3	Environmentally sensitive areas (such as native vegetation and cultural heritage) within the construction site will be marked on sensitive area maps, demarcated and signposted where necessary. Information will be made available during all onsite inductions to construction personnel.	Pre-construction and construction.	
	EM4	All construction personnel will receive training regarding environmental management.	Pre-construction and construction.	
<i>Community consultation</i>				

Outcome	Ref. number	Key action	Timing	Reference document
The community is informed about the project.	CC1	The community will be kept informed with measures such as: - Letter box drops, media releases and/or community updates. - An internet site established and maintained for the duration of the project. - Variable message signs. - Targeted consultation with affected individuals or groups. Information to be provided will include: - Changes to access and traffic conditions. - Details of future works programs. - General construction progress.	Pre-construction and construction.	Community Involvement and Communications. Draft: A resource manual for staff (RTA 2008g).
Management of community inquiries or complaints.	CC2	Communication management will include: - A 24 hour free call contact telephone number. - Directions on how to register a complaint or make an inquiry. - Acknowledgement of complaints within 24 hours. - A complaint recording and tracking system.	Pre-construction and complaints	Community Involvement and Communications. Draft: A resource manual for staff (RTA 2008f). AS 4269 Complaints Handling.
<i>Flora and fauna</i>				
Manage impacts on flora and fauna.	FF1	Targeted surveys will be undertaken during Spring 2009 to assist in further refining the mitigation measures as required. Should any additional impacts be identified, mitigation and management measures will be developed in consultation with DECCW and other relevant agencies.	Pre-construction.	
	FF2	Areas of vegetation identified to be retained will be managed as environmentally sensitive areas.	Pre-construction.	Section 9.1 of the environmental assessment.
	FF3	A suitably qualified and experienced ecologist will conduct a pre-clearing fauna survey, including an inspection of tree hollows immediately prior to tree felling. Fauna with the potential to be harmed during clearing activities will be relocated into suitable adjacent habitat.	Pre-construction and construction.	

Outcome	Ref. number	Key action	Timing	Reference document
	FF4	A two-stage clearing process will be adopted for all hollow tree felling.	Construction.	
Manage the spread of weeds.	FF5	Weed control will be carried out, and techniques will vary depending on the species targeted and the area to be treated. This will be in consultation with the Greater Hume Shire Council.	Pre-construction and construction.	Noxious Weeds Act 1993.
Mitigate impacts on wildlife corridors.	FF6	Natural and artificial crossing treatments if required will be developed in consultation with DECCW.	Pre-construction and construction.	
Minimise impacts on fish and aquatic habitat	FF7	Works within the main watercourse of Mountain Creek will be avoided during the breeding season of the Southern Pygmy Perch (September to January) unless mitigation measures are developed in consultation with the Department of Industry and Investment.	Pre-construction and construction.	
	FF8	Waterway crossings, including temporary works, will be developed in accordance with the fish habitat classification of each waterway and in consultation with the Department of Industry and Investment.	Pre-construction and construction.	Policy and Guidelines for Aquatic Habitat Management and Fish Conservation (NSW Fisheries 1999). 'Why do Fish Need to Cross the Road? Fish Passage Requirements for Waterway Crossings' (Fairfull and Witheridge 2003).
Enhance existing habitat.	FF9	Natural and artificial habitat features and resources (such as felled logs and nest boxes) will be placed in suitable areas to provide alternative habitat for displaced fauna.	Pre-construction and construction.	
Offset loss of vegetation and fauna habitat	FF10	A biodiversity offset package will be developed in consultation with DECCW and other relevant stakeholders.	Pre-construction and construction.	
<i>Aboriginal heritage</i>				
Manage impacts on Aboriginal heritage	AH1	Any Aboriginal heritage items will be managed in accordance with the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (CHAR), which identifies mitigation measures, developed in consultation with Aboriginal stakeholders and DECCW.	Pre-construction and construction.	

Outcome	Ref. number	Key action	Timing	Reference document
	AH2	Aboriginal sites identified to be conserved will be managed as environmentally sensitive areas.	Pre-construction and construction.	Section 9.2 of the environmental assessment.
	AH3	If any skeletal remains are encountered, all works that would potentially impact the find will stop immediately. Works will not re-commence until appropriate clearance has been received.	Construction	Skeletal remains — Guidelines for the management of human skeletal remains under the Heritage Act 1977 (NSW Heritage Office 1998).
<i>Noise and vibration</i>				
Minimise construction noise and vibration impacts.	NV1	Best practice mitigation and management measures will be used to minimise construction noise and vibration at sensitive receivers. Monitoring will be undertaken to determine the effectiveness of mitigation measures. Should construction noise generate complaints and the monitoring confirm this is above predicted levels, additional feasible and reasonable mitigation measures will be implemented.	Construction.	Section 9.4 of the environmental assessment RTA Environmental Noise Management Manual (2001). NSW Government's Environmental Criteria for Road Traffic Noise (EPA 1999). AS 2436-1981 Guide to noise control on construction, maintenance and demolition sites.
	NV2	Where adverse noise impacts from evening and night-time construction activities are identified, a notification and negotiation procedure will be implemented. This will involve consultation with sensitive receivers.	Construction.	NSW Industrial Noise Policy (EPA 2000). RTA Environmental Noise Management Manual (RTA 2001).
Minimise operational noise impacts.	NV3	All reasonable and feasible mitigation measures will be developed and implemented to meet the noise criteria applicable to the project in consultation with the sensitive receiver.	Construction and operation.	NSW Government's Environmental Criteria for Road Traffic Noise (EPA 1999). RTA Environmental Noise Management Manual (RTA 2001).
	NV4	Measurement of operational noise will be undertaken along the project between six months and one year after opening. Should the measurement indicate traffic noise impacts exceeding levels predicted, further reasonable and feasible mitigation measures will be implemented in consultation with the sensitive receiver.	Operation.	NSW Government's Environmental Criteria for Road Traffic Noise (EPA 1999). RTA Environmental Noise Management Manual (RTA 2001).

Outcome	Ref. number	Key action	Timing	Reference document
<i>Surface and ground water</i>				
Minimise flood impacts.	SGW1	The detailed design of the project will seek to further minimise change in peak flood levels (afflux) in the 1 in 100 year ARI event.	Pre-construction.	Section 9.3 of the environmental assessment.
Conservation of water.	SGW2	Water efficient work practices, such as water reuse and recycling for road construction and revegetation irrigation will be implemented.	Construction.	
<i>Social and economic</i>				
Property access is maintained.	SE1	Property access will be maintained for the duration of the construction. If required, temporary or alternative access would be provided in consultation with the affected landowner(s).	Construction.	Community Involvement and Communications. Draft: A resource manual for staff (RTA 2008g).
Manage impacts to directly affected properties.	SE2	Negotiations for property acquisition will include consideration of property adjustments where required to maintain farm management practices.	Pre-construction and construction.	
Minimise economic impacts on Woomargama.	SE3	Appropriate signage will be provided near to intersections.	Operation.	
	SE4	Consultation with Greater Hume Shire Council will continue through detailed design and construction regarding assistance towards the development of strategies to encourage the continued viability of Woomargama.	Pre-construction, construction and operation.	
	SE5	Support and partial funding will be provided to Greater Hume Shire Council over a two year period for the employment of an economic development officer.	Pre-construction, construction and operation.	
<i>Traffic and transport</i>				
Avoid or minimise impacts on traffic and the road network.	TT1	Pre- and post-construction road dilapidation reports will be prepared for local roads likely to be used for construction. Any damage resulting from construction (not normal wear and tear) will be repaired unless alternative arrangements are made with the relevant road authority.	Pre-construction and operation.	
	TT2	Construction vehicle movements and works programs will incorporate traffic control measures to minimise traffic and transport impacts on local roads and the existing highway.	Pre-construction and construction.	RTA Traffic Control at Work Sites (RTA 2003a) RTA QA Specification G10 Control of Traffic

Outcome	Ref. number	Key action	Timing	Reference document
<i>Non-Aboriginal heritage</i>				
Minimise impacts on non-Aboriginal heritage.	NA1	A supplementary archaeological survey of the assessment area will be undertaken prior to the commencement of construction. Should any further items or additional impacts be identified, mitigation and management measures will be developed in consultation with Heritage Branch, Department of Planning.	Pre-construction.	
	NA2	Mitigation (archival record, test/ salvage excavation) will be completed for impacted heritage items, where required.	Pre-construction.	How to prepare archival records of heritage items (NSW Heritage 1998b). Section 10.1 of the environmental assessment.
	NA3	Non-Aboriginal sites identified to be conserved will be managed as environmentally sensitive areas.	Pre-construction and construction.	Section 10.1 of the environmental assessment.
	NA4	If any unknown non-Aboriginal heritage items are encountered, all works that would potentially impact the find will stop immediately. Works will not recommence until appropriate clearance has been received.	Pre-construction and construction.	
<i>Air quality</i>				
Minimise dust impacts to sensitive receivers.	AQ1	Standard dust and emission control measures will be implemented to manage construction air quality impacts at sensitive receivers.	Construction.	
<i>Soils and water quality</i>				
Minimise erosion and sedimentation.	SW1	Best practice management measures will be designed, installed and maintained to minimise erosion and sedimentation from construction activities.	Pre-construction and construction.	Managing Urban Stormwater: Soils and Construction Volume 1 (Landcom 2006). Managing Urban Stormwater: Soils and Construction, Volume 2D, Main Road Construction (DECC 2008b).
	SW2	A soil conservation specialist will be engaged to provide advice on erosion and sedimentation control.	Pre-construction and construction.	
	SW3	Stabilisation of exposed areas will be undertaken progressively.	Construction.	RTA QA Specification RI 78 Vegetation.

Outcome	Ref. number	Key action	Timing	Reference document
Avoid contamination of waterways.	SW4	Spills will be contained immediately. Bunded areas will be used for storage of potentially hazardous and/ or contaminating materials and activities.	Construction.	AS 1940 The storage and handling of flammable and combustible liquids. Storing and handling liquids: Environmental protection – participants manual (DECC 2007). Environmental compliance report: Liquid chemical storage, handling and spill management – Part B Review of best practice and regulation (DECC 2005). RTA Code of Practice for Water Management (RTA 1999c).
	SW5	The project will incorporate structural and non-structural measures to control road run-off pollutants entering Mountain and Sandy creeks.	Operation.	Procedure for Selecting Treatment Strategies to Control Road Run-off (RTA 2003b).
<i>Contaminated land</i>				
Manage contaminated sites	CL1	Sites identified as containing a moderate to high risk of contamination will be analysed and managed in accordance with relevant guidelines.	Construction.	Section 10. 6 of the environmental assessment Waste Classification Guidelines: Parts 1 and 2 (DECC 2008a). Contaminated Land Management Guideline (RTA 2005).
	CL2	If any unknown contaminated sites are encountered, all works at that site will stop immediately. Works will not recommence until the material is analysed and management measures are developed.	Pre-construction and construction.	Waste Classification Guidelines: Parts 1 and 2 (DECC 2008a). Contaminated Land Management Guideline (RTA 2005).
<i>Sustainable management</i>				
Minimise greenhouse gas emissions and energy use.	SM1	Energy efficient work practices will be implemented, including consideration of: - Energy efficient design of site buildings. - Design of construction works sites to minimise unnecessary vehicle movement. - Regular servicing of site plant and equipment. - Training of construction personnel in energy efficient plant operation.	Pre-construction and construction.	

Outcome	Ref. number	Key action	Timing	Reference document
		- The use of accredited GreenPower. - Use of locally sourced materials where available and of suitable quality.		
Minimise waste.	SM2	The waste minimisation hierarchy principles of avoid, reduce, reuse, recycle or dispose will apply to all aspects of the project.	Construction.	Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy (DECC 2006). NSW Government's Waste Reduction and Purchasing Policy. Environmental guidelines – assessment, classification and management of liquid and non-liquid waste (DECC 1999).
<i>Visual amenity and landscape</i>				
Minimise visual amenity impacts	VL1	Built elements and landscapes will be in accordance with the urban and landscape design objectives for the project. Greater Hume Shire Council and the community will be consulted.	Pre-construction.	Section 10.3 of the environmental assessment. Hume Highway Urban Design framework: Prestons (WM7) to Albury (RTA 2009b) Beyond the Pavement Urban and Regional Design Practice Notes (RTA 1999b and 2004 update). RTA Bridge Aesthetics (RTA 2003c) Noise Wall design Guideline (RTA 2006), and Landscape Guideline (RTA 2008h)
	VL2	Landscaping treatments will include native plant species endemic to the local area.	Pre-construction and construction	Section 11.3 of the environmental assessment.
<i>Hazards and risks</i>				
Minimise risks and hazards on the environment and community.	HR1	Hazardous materials will be stored in bunded areas within the construction site boundary. Hazardous materials will not be stored on the floodplain below the 1 in 20 year ARI flood level.	Pre-construction and construction.	AS 1940 The Storage and Handling of Flammable and Combustible Liquids. <i>DEC Bunding and Spill Management Guidelines</i> (in DEC Environmental Protection manual for Authorised Officers). RTA Code of Practice for Water management (RTA 1999c).

Outcome	Ref. number	Key action	Timing	Reference document
	HR2	Potentially hazardous and contaminating activities will be in bunded areas or in other areas where suitable containment measures are in place to prevent discharge into watercourses.	Pre-construction and construction.	AS 1940 The Storage and Handling of Flammable and Combustible Liquids.
<i>Ancillary facilities</i>				
Minimise impacts of ancillary facilities.	AF1	Ancillary facilities (excluding temporary stockpiles) not identified in the environmental assessment will be located in areas: ▪ More than 40 metres from waterways (excluding pipelines, temporary haul roads, creek crossings and access roads). ▪ Of low ecological and heritage conservation significance. ▪ Where there is no significant clearing of native vegetation beyond that already required for the project. ▪ That minimise impact on amenity of the closest sensitive receiver (unless a negotiated agreement is in place). ▪ Of relatively level ground.	Pre-construction and construction.	Section 6.6 of the environmental assessment.
	AF2	Temporary stockpiles will be located in areas: ▪ Of low ecological and heritage conservation significance. ▪ Constructed on the contour at least 40 metres from waterways. ▪ Outside the 1 in 10 year ARI floodplain. ▪ Of relatively level ground.	Construction.	Section 6.6 of the environmental assessment. Managing Urban Stormwater: Soils and Construction Volume 1 (Landcom 2006) Managing Urban Stormwater: Soils and Construction, Volume 2D, Main Road Construction (DECC 2008b).