11. Draft statement of commitments

This section outlines the draft Statement of Commitments proposed by the RTA to minimise, manage and mitigate impacts identified in the environmental assessment.

Director-General's Requirements	Where addressed
A draft Statement of Commitments incorporating or otherwise capturing measures to avoid, minimise, manage, mitigate, offset and/or monitor impacts identified in the impact assessment sections of the environmental assessment. The Statement of Commitments must clearly articulate the desired environmental outcome of the commitment. The Statement of Commitments must be achievable, measurable (with respect to compliance), and time-specific, where relevant.	*Chapter 11*

11.1 Overview

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 for the M2 Upgrade project and highlighted the management measures required to avoid or reduce the environmental impacts of the project. The draft Statement of Commitments specifies 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 Chapter 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 stakeholder and community input during the display of the environmental assessment. Following approval of the proposed upgrade, the revised commitments would guide subsequent phases of design development to minimise impacts on the environment. All future planning approvals, design, construction and/or operation phases of the proposed upgrade would be required to undertake all works in accordance with this Statement of Commitments.

11.2 Draft commitments

The draft Statement of Commitments is provided in Table 125. The draft Statement of Commitments includes:

- An outcome.
- Details of the commitment.
- Reference to the timing of when the commitment applies (pre-construction, construction and post construction).
- Reference to any guiding principle influencing the objective and implementation of the commitment.

Table 125 Draft Statement of Commitments

Outcome	Reference	Commitment	Timing	Guiding principle
Environmental Management				
Compliance and continuous improvement in environmental management.	EM1	The head contractor for the project will have an Environmental Management System (EMS).	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	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 adopted in the environmental assessment.	Pre-construction and construction	*Guideline for the Preparation of Environmental Management Plans* (DIPNR 2004) *RTA QA specification G36 – environmental protection*
Provide a consistent method for managing environmental issues.	EM3	Environmentally sensitive areas (such as native vegetation, cultural heritage and sensitive land uses) within or immediately adjacent to the construction site boundary will be marked on sensitive area maps as well as being demarcated and signposted where relevant. Maps will be made available during on-site briefings to applicable construction personnel.	Pre-construction and construction	
	EM4	All construction personnel will receive training regarding environmental management during project induction. Additionally, targeted environmental task specific training will be provided to appropriate personnel.	Pre-construction and construction	
Community Engagement				
Informed community.	CE1	The community will be informed with measures such as: • Letter box drops, media releases and community updates. • An internet site established and maintained for the duration of the project. • Road signs (electronic and static). • 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 2008h).

Outcome	Reference	Commitment	Timing	Guiding principle
	CE2	An Enquiries and Complaints Management System to be implemented and maintained throughout construction, including: • A 24 hour, 1800 telephone number. • A system to receive, record, track and respond to enquiries or complaints within a specified timeframe. • Acknowledgement of complaints within 24 hours and a process for responding to the complainant within 10 days. • A mediation system for complaints not able to be resolved.	Pre-construction and construction	*Community Involvement and Communications. Draft: A resource manual for staff* (RTA 2008). AS 4269 Complaints Handling.
Construction Traffic and Transport				
Minimised traffic disruption on the M2 Motorway.	T1	Impact on traffic flow during construction will be minimised by restricting lane occupancies to off peak periods.	Construction	AS 1742, Part 3 *Manual of uniform traffic control devices.* Scope of Works and Technical Criteria (SWTC).
	T2	Maintain a minimum of two traffic lanes available every weekday during peak periods (three lanes westbound from Lane Cove Road to Beecroft Road during PM peak period).	Construction	AS 1742, Part 3 *Manual of uniform traffic control devices.* Scope of Works and Technical Criteria (SWTC).
Minimised traffic disruption on non Motorway roads.	T3	Impact on non Motorway roads will be minimised by using the M2 Motorway to access worksites where possible.	Construction	AS 1742, Part 3 *Manual of uniform traffic control devices* Scope of Works and Technical Criteria (SWTC)
Minimised disruption to bus services on the M2 Motorway.	T4	Disruption of bus services will be minimised by appropriate traffic management arrangements. Access to M2 Motorway bus stops will be maintained during the construction phase.	Construction	Scope of Works and Technical Criteria (SWTC)
Minimised impacts on cyclists.	T5	An off-motorway alternative route for cyclists will be available and sign posted prior to commencement of construction. The cycle route will be formulated in consultation with cyclist user groups and councils.	Pre-construction and construction	Scope of Works and Technical Criteria (SWTC)
Operational Traffic and Transport				
Improved reliability and efficiency for M2 Users	T6	The operation of M2 will be monitored following completion of the project and compared to predicted outcomes. Where feasible and reasonable, operational refinements will be made if required to optimise traffic condition	Operation	

Outcome	Reference	Commitment	Timing	Guiding principle
Construction Noise and Vibration				
Minimised noise and vibration impacts during construction.	CN1	All feasible and reasonable mitigation and management measures to minimise construction noise and vibration at sensitive receivers will be implemented.	Pre-construction and construction	DECCW *Interim Construction Noise Guidelines 2009*
	CN2	Noise and vibration monitoring will be undertaken at key locations along the M2 Motorway to assess noise levels and the effectiveness of adopted noise mitigation measures.	Pre-construction and construction	*Technical Basis for Guidelines to Minimise Annoyance Due to Blasting Overpressure and Ground Vibration* (ANZECC 1990). German Standard DIN 4150 Part 3 *Structural Vibration in Buildings* DECCW *Interim Construction Noise Guidelines 2009*
	CN3	Prior to undertaking out of hours works, noise mitigation and management measures would be implemented where feasible and reasonable to minimise the potential impacts at nearby sensitive receivers. This would involve notification to affected communities.	Pre-construction and construction	DECCW *Interim Construction Noise Guidelines 2009*
Operational Noise				
Operational noise and vibration managed.	ON1	All feasible and reasonable mitigation measures will be developed and implemented to meet the noise criteria applicable to the project. Where property treatments are considered they would be undertaken in consultation with the affected sensitive receiver.	Pre-construction and construction	RTA *Environmental Noise Management Manual* (RTA 2001) NSW Government's *Environmental Criteria for Road Traffic Noise*
	ON2	Operational noise will be monitored within one year of project opening. If monitoring indicates that traffic noise levels exceed those predicted, further feasible and reasonable measures will be implemented in consultation with affected sensitive noise receivers.	Operation	RTA *Environmental Noise Management Manual* (RTA 2001) NSW Government's *Environmental Criteria for Road Traffic Noise*
Flora and Fauna				
Manage impacts on flora and fauna.	FF1	Native vegetation will be retained where possible. Areas of vegetation to be retained will be clearly marked in order to reduce the risk of over-clearing.	Pre-construction	*Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* (TCA Act) Threatened Species Conservation provisions of the *Fisheries Management Act 1994*. *Native Vegetation Act 2003* *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*

Outcome	Reference	Commitment	Timing	Guiding principle
				Water Management Act 2000 *Noxious Weeds Act 1993*
	FF2	Clearing for construction compounds will be minimised by retaining mature trees where feasible within compound sites.	Pre-construction and construction.	Same as FF1
	FF3	Prior to any clearing of native trees, a suitably qualified and experienced ecologist will conduct a pre-clearing fauna survey. Potentially hollow-bearing trees within the clearing extents will be identified and marked. A two stage clearing and tree felling process will be implemented to reduce the risk of injury to ant nesting fauna from clearing. An ecologist will be present to supervise the removal of hollow bearing trees.	Pre-construction and construction.	Same as FF1
	FF4	Prior to any works in detention basins, a survey will be undertaken by an ecologist to determine if the basins contain potential habitat for frogs. If potential habitat is present a survey will be undertaken for threatened frog species. Any threatened frogs would be appropriately managed prior to basin works commencing.	Pre-construction and construction.	Same as FF1
	FF5	Prior to the commencement of construction in the area containing *Epacris purpurascens ssp. purpurascens* would be marked by an ecologist. Clearing would aim to avoid this species.	Pre-construction and construction.	Same as FF1
Water crossings designed to incorporated best practice principles.	FF6	All works adjacent to waterways will be developed in accordance with the fish habitat classification of each waterway.	Pre-construction and construction.	Same as FF1 *Why do Fish Need to Cross the Road? Fish Passage Requirements for Waterway Crossings'* – NSW Fisheries (DPI) Publication
Enhance existing habitat.	FF7	Revegetation of areas disturbed as a result construction activities will be conducted by suitably qualified and experienced persons. Suitable felled native trees will be used for habitat. Seeds will be collected in the corridor prior to and during clearing and used as part of the landscape plan.	Pre-construction and construction.	Same as FF1
Manage the spread of weeds and plant pathogens.	FF8	Weed management will occur throughout the extent and duration of the project.	Pre-construction and Construction.	*Noxious Weeds Act 1993*
Offset residual impacts	FF9	The Proponent will develop an offset strategy in consultation with DECCW with the overall aim of offsetting residual impacts to seven hectares of native habitat that is proposed to be cleared permanently. The strategy would focus on conservation and enhancement of habitat in the M2 corridor. The offset strategy would outline the process for identifying priority areas for habitat enhancement within the M2 corridor and management measures that would be undertaken to enhance habitat value.	Pre-construction	

Outcome	Reference	Commitment	Timing	Guiding principle
		The offset strategy would be agreed with the Director-General prior to the commencement of construction.		
Urban Design, Visual and Landscape				
Minimised the visual impact and enhance the character of the road corridor.	UD1	The detailed design, implementation of built elements will be undertaken with consideration of the visual and urban design objectives and principles for the project.	Pre-construction and construction	RTA Urban and Regional Design Practice Notes, *Beyond the Pavement* (RTA 1999) *Bridge Aesthetics* (RTA 2003) *Shotcrete Design Guidelines* (RTA 2005) *Noise Wall Design Guidelines* (RTA 2006) *Landscape Guidelines* (RTA 2008)
Aboriginal Heritage				
Minimise potential for impacts on Aboriginal heritage in accordance with the strategies described in the environmental assessment.	AH1	Project induction will include responsibilities under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*. Site-specific briefings will be given to relevant personnel when working in the vicinity of identified heritage items.	Pre-construction and construction	*National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*
	AH2	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.	Pre-construction and construction	*Skeletal remains — Guidelines for the management of human skeletal remains under the Heritage Act 1977* (NSW Heritage Office 1998).
	AH3	Aboriginal heritage items and sites within 50 metres of work will be managed as environmentally sensitive areas.	Pre-construction and construction	
	AH4	Should any previously unidentified Aboriginal objects or items be located during the works, all work will cease in the vicinity of the find until specialist Aboriginal heritage advice is received.	Construction	*National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*
Non-Aboriginal Heritage				
Minimised impacts on non-Aboriginal heritage.	NH1	If previously unidentified non-Aboriginal heritage items are encountered during construction, all works that would potentially impact the find will stop immediately. Works will not recommence until appropriate clearance has been received.	Construction	RTA Heritage Guidelines and *Heritage Act 1977*
	NH2	Physical and procedural measures to mitigate potential impacts upon the heritage significance of the 'Farmhouse' at 266 – 268 Windsor Road, Model Farms will be developed and implemented prior to and during construction at this location.	Pre-construction	*Heritage Act 1977* *Australia Burra Charter*

Outcome	Reference	Commitment	Timing	Guiding principle
	NH3	Reasonable physical and procedural construction management measures will be developed and implemented to minimise adverse heritage impacts on the heritage causeway beneath Beecroft Road bus ramp.	Pre-construction and construction	*Heritage Act 1977* *Australia Burra Charter*
Water management and soils				
Minimised erosion and sedimentation.	WS1	Management measures will be designed and installed in consultation with a soil conservation specialist. A maintenance and inspection program will be developed and implemented to ensure ongoing effectiveness.	Pre-construction and construction	*Managing Urban Stormwater: Soils and Construction* (Landcom 2005, 2008) RTA *Code of Practice for Water Management*
Minimised contamination risk for receiving waters.	WS2	Bunded areas will be used for storage of oils, chemicals, toxic substances, flammable and combustible liquids and potentially hazardous or contaminating activities, including, but not limited to refuelling stations and washing construction vehicles.	Pre-construction and construction	
Minimised impacts on waterways.	WS3	New bridge piers will be configured to be consistent with the existing structures to minimise hydraulic impacts and potential scour issues.	Construction	*Managing Urban Stormwater: Soils and Construction* (Landcom 2005) RTA *Code of Practice for Water Management*
Minimised scour impacts.	WS4	Permanent stream protection and/or energy dissipation measures as appropriate will be provided at affected culverts downstream of transverse culvert outlets to minimise scour and erosion of the natural waterways, if required and where sufficient space is available.	Construction and operation	RTA QA Specification G38 *Soil and Water Management*
Contamination				
Protection of the environment, workers and the public.	C1	Risk management measures will be followed to address potential contamination in the site corridor during construction.	Pre-construction and construction	
	C2	Collection, testing and classification of sediments in sediment basins will be undertaken. Appropriate management strategies will be implemented prior to works in sediment basins.	Pre-construction and construction	
	C3	An 'Unexpected Finds' Protocol will be developed and implemented.	Pre-construction and construction	
Socio-Economic				
Avoid, minimise and manage adverse amenity impacts on residents during construction.	S1	Minimise disturbance to adjacent residents by managing: • Movement of vehicles (especially outside of standard working hours); • Construction noise attenuation, where feasible and reasonable; • Visual intrusion, dust and light spill.	Construction	

Outcome	Reference	Commitment	Timing	Guiding principle
Minimise amenity impacts on residents during operation.	S2	Provide vegetative planting, where appropriate at key locations, to screen the M2 Motorway.	Construction and operation	
Air quality				
Minimise air quality impacts.	AQ1	Feasible and reasonable mitigation and management measures will be adopted to minimise windblown, traffic generated or equipment generated dust and emissions.	Construction	
	AQ2	Dust generating activities will stop where visible dust is being emitted outside the construction corridor with the potential to affect significant receivers and areas and when dust suppression methods are ineffective.	Construction	
	AQ3	Dust monitoring will be undertaken at a number of locations along the M2 Motorway. These will be compared to pre-construction levels.	Construction	
Waste Management				
Waste production minimised.	W1	The 'waste hierarchy' will be maximised during construction and incorporated into work programs, purchase strategies and site inductions, and will be assessed quarterly to identify opportunities for improvement.	Pre-construction	NSW *Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2007* (NSW WARR)
Hazards and risks				
Minimised risk of an incident during construction.	H1	All storage areas for hazardous materials will be located an adequate distance away from watercourses and entry points to the stormwater system. Spillages will be contained and collected for disposal.	Pre-construction and construction	AS 1940 *The Storage and Handling of Flammable and Combustible Liquids*
	H2	Appropriate controls will be put in place for all hazardous and potentially contaminating activities to prevent contamination of watercourses.	Construction	
	H3	Site specific safety issues and personnel responsibilities will be included in the project induction. Safety issues and responsibilities shall be included in activity specific briefings as required.	Construction	*Occupational Health and Safety Act 2000* *Occupational Health and Safety Regulation*
Climate change				
Minimise greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and energy consumption.	GHG1	Energy efficient equipment and management measures will be used where feasible and reasonable to reduce greenhouse gas.	Pre-construction / post construction	

Outcome	Reference	Commitment	Timing	Guiding principle
Property and land use				
	P1	Conduct property inspections, subject to landowner agreement, on all structures within 50 metres of construction activities that generate vibration impacts or any other locations identified by the proponent in a targeted property risk analysis.	Pre-construction	AS 4349.1 *Inspection of Buildings*
	P2	Give a copy of the property inspection report to the owner of each property inspected at least one week before construction that could affect the property commences.	Pre-construction	
	P3	Maintain a register of all properties inspected, indicating whether the owner accepted or refused the property inspection offer. A copy of the register will be provided to the Director-General upon request.	All stages	
	P4	Where liable, rectify any property damage (at no cost to the property owner) caused directly or indirectly by construction or operation. Alternatively, the RTA may negotiate compensation for the property damage with the property owner.	Construction and operation	
	P5	All property acquisitions will be negotiated in accordance with RTA *Land Acquisition Policy*, and compensation will be assessed under the provisions of the *Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act 1991*.	Pre-construction	RTA *Land Acquisition Policy* *Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act 1991*
	P6	Property access will be maintained for the duration of construction. Temporary access requirements will be assessed, designed, managed and rehabilitation prepared in consultation with affected landholders.	Pre-construction and construction	
Ancillary facilities				
Minimise adverse impacts associated with ancillary facilities.	AF1	Ensure the sites for ancillary facilities satisfy the criteria provided in the environmental assessment unless otherwise approved though the CEMP.	Pre-construction and construction	