10 Draft Statement of Commitments

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 and any consortium or contractor involved in the design, construction and/or operation phases of the project would be required to undertake all works in accordance with these commitments.

Director General's requirements	Where addressed
The environmental assessment must include…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, measureable (with respect to compliance), and time-specific, where relevant.	Chapter 10

From an early stage, the environmental assessment considered the project's potential environmental issues and identified the desired environmental outcomes. This influenced the concept design and highlighted the management measures required to avoid or reduce environmental impacts. The RTA has considered the advice of its specialists, as documented within Chapters 7 and 8 of this environmental assessment, and from this has developed the draft statement of commitments. The commitments made are designed to avoid, manage, mitigate, offset and/or monitor the environmental impacts of the project before and during project construction and into the operational phase.

The RTA's draft statement of commitments is presented in **Table 10-1**. The draft statement of commitments includes:

- The desired environmental outcomes for the project.
- The actions that the RTA will undertake to achieve each desired outcome, with each action assigned a number for future cross reference.
- The timing for action implementation.
- The identification of reference documents of relevance to the desired outcome and/or corresponding actions.

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, conditions of approval would pay regard to the final statement of commitments.

Table 10-1 Draft statement of commitments

Outcome	Ref No.	Key action	Timing	Reference documents
Environmental management				
Compliance and continuous improvement in environmental management	EM1	The head contractor for the project will have an ISO14001 accredited environmental management system, including a performance and compliance auditing program.	Pre-construction and construction	ISO14001:2004. *RTA QA Specification G36 – Environmental Protection*.
	EM2	Suitably qualified and experienced personnel will develop and implement project specific environmental management plans and procedures incorporating, as a minimum, the impact mitigation and management measures identified in the environmental assessment.	Pre-construction and construction	*RTA QA Specification G36 – Environmental Protection.* Relevant RTA policies and specifications. Appendix G of the environmental assessment.
Community consultation				
Informed community	CC1	Keeping the community informed will include: • Regular project updates. • Prior notice of project activities. • Changes to traffic and access and works outside standard working hours. • Contact details for enquiries. Targeted consultation with affected individuals or groups (eg. Forests NSW and other affected stakeholders) will occur as necessary.	Pre-construction and construction	RTA (2008b). *AS 4269 Complaints Handling.* Chapter 6 of the environmental assessment.

Outcome	Ref No.	Key action	Timing	Reference documents
Effective management of community complaints	CC2	Complaint management will include: • A published 24 hour toll free complaints number. • Directions on how to register a complaint. • Acknowledgment of complaints within eight working hours. • Complaint recording. • Tracking of complaints until resolution.	Pre-construction and construction	RTA (2008b). *AS 4269 Complaints Handling.* Chapter 6 of the environmental assessment.
Ecology				
Minimise impacts on flora and fauna	E1	Restrict clearing of native vegetation to the minimum area necessary for construction.	Pre-construction and construction	Section 7.1 of the environmental assessment.
	E2	A qualified ecologist will identify vegetation to be retained within the construction corridor (including *Eucalyptus tetrapleura*, *Melaleuca irbyana* and endangered ecological communities) and clearly delineate this vegetation on work plans. Flagging/fencing, erected before the start of construction, will delineate this vegetation on the project site for the duration of the construction and site restoration periods.	Pre-construction and construction	Section 7.1 of the environmental assessment. DECC (2004b). Australian Network for Plant Conservation guidelines (Vallee *et.al., 2004*).
	E3	Site inductions will inform and instruct construction staff of the requirements for vegetation retention in the construction corridor.	Pre-construction and construction	DECC (2004b).

Outcome	Ref No.	Key action	Timing	Reference documents
Minimise impacts on fauna	E4	A suitably qualified ecologist will undertake pre-clearance surveys, including searches of nests and hollow bearing trees, to identify fauna species at risk of injury that require relocating to alternative, nearby suitable habitat. Follow-up inspections immediately before clearing and during construction will confirm that the sites subject to pre-clearance surveys remain free of fauna.	Pre construction and construction	Section 7.1 of the environmental assessment. *RTA QA Specification G36 - Environmental Protection.*
	E5	Appropriate natural and artificial habitat features and resources (such as hollow-bearing trees, hollow logs, nest boxes and bush rocks) placed in areas adjacent to the project site will provide alternative habitat for displaced fauna. This will include relocation of natural habitat features within the project site.	Pre construction and construction	Section 7.1 of the environmental assessment. Australian Network for Plant Conservation guidelines (Vallee *et.al., 2004*).
Provide for habitat connectivity	E6	Fauna crossings to be constructed as part of the project will provide for fauna movement and habitat connectivity. Crossings will be appropriate to the key species occurring in the locality (eg. dry crossings for *Rufus bettong*).	Pre-construction and construction	Section 7.1 of the environmental assessment.
	E7	Fauna exclusion fencing to be provided at appropriate locations along the proposed upgrade route will direct fauna towards designed fauna crossing structures.	Pre-construction and construction	Section 7.1 of the environmental assessment.
Minimise impacts on aquatic ecosystems, including aquatic habitat and fish species	E8	Design and construction of waterway crossings will be in accordance with the fish habitat classification of each waterway and in consultation with the Department of Primary Industries (Aquatic Habitat Protection Unit).	Pre-construction	Fairfull and Witheridge (2003). NSW Fisheries (1999). NSW Fisheries (2004).

Outcome	Ref No.	Key action	Timing	Reference documents
	E9	Water quality in Glenugie Creek and other local waterways will be protected with sediment basins. Indicative locations of sediment basins are given in the environmental assessment.	pre-construction, construction and operation	Chapter 4 of the environmental assessment.
Provide offsets for unavoidable impacts on important vegetation and habitat	E10	Development of a biodiversity offset agreement will occur in consultation with the Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC) and Forests NSW.	Pre-construction and construction	Section 7.1 of the environmental assessment.
	E11	Plantings of *Melaleuca irbyana* and *Eucalyptus tetrapleura* in areas of suitable habitat adjacent to the project site will follow from seed collection and propagation.	Pre-construction and construction	Australian Network for Plant Conservation guidelines (Vallee *et.al., 2004*).
Effective flora and fauna impact mitigation and management measures	E12	Monitoring for a 12 month period after construction will help to assess the effectiveness of fauna and flora impact mitigation measures and the need for additional measures.	Operation	Section 7.1 of the environmental assessment.
Channel structure				
Minimise impacts on channel structure	CS1	Detailed design will limit impacts on upstream and downstream channel structure (eg. through culvert sizing and other design features to control flow intensity and direction).	Pre-construction, construction and operation	Section 7.2 of the environmental assessment.
	CS2	Stream bank/bed erosion controls will be in accordance with the 'Blue Book'.	Pre-construction, construction and operation	Landcom (2004) and DECC (2008a). Sections 7.2 and 7.6.3 of the environmental assessment.
Operational traffic and transport				

Outcome	Ref No.	Key action	Timing	Reference documents
Maintain State Forest access	OT1	Where the project affects access to State Forest land, the provision of a new service access route of equivalent standard will be provided in consultation with the Department of Primary Industries, Forests NSW. The retention of access to and within State Forest lands adjacent to the project site is necessary for forestry operations, which include logging, fire management and recreation.	Pre-construction and operation	RTA (2003). *RTA QA Specification G10 Control of Traffic.* RTA Land Acquisition Policy. Chapter 4 and Section 7.3 of the environmental assessment. *Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act* 1991.
Maintain access to local road network	OT2	Detailed design will provide for on-going, uninterrupted access to and operation of the local road network.	Pre-construction and operation	Section 7.3 of the environmental assessment.
Operational noise and vibration				
Confirmation of operational noise impacts	ON1	Monitoring 12 months after completion of construction will indicate the need for any feasible and reasonable noise mitigation and management measures.	Operation	DECC-EPA (1999). RTA (2001).
Aboriginal cultural heritage				
Minimise impacts on any previously unidentified Aboriginal objects or suspected human remains	AH1	Protocols developed for the project will facilitate appropriate protection and management of any Aboriginal objects or suspected human remains found during construction. These protocols will include an appropriate level of Aboriginal consultation, as required.	Pre-construction and construction	RTA (2008a). Section 7.5 of the environmental assessment. Appendix E of the environmental assessment.
	AH2	All construction personnel will receive training in the management of Aboriginal cultural materials, including legal obligations, the application of protocols, and the recognition of Aboriginal cultural materials.	Pre-construction and construction	RTA (2008a). *National Parks and Wildlife Act* 1974. Section 7.5 of the environmental assessment. Appendix E of the environmental assessment.

Outcome	Ref No.	Key action	Timing	Reference documents
General construction issues: Construction noise				
Minimise construction noise and vibration and associated impacts	CN1	Construction would be confined to approved construction hours, which will be specified in the approved Construction Environmental Management Plan for the project.	Construction	Section 4.4.7 and Section 7.6.1 of the environmental assessment.
	CN2	Potentially affected sensitive receivers are to be given adequate prior notice of the construction program, kept informed throughout the construction period, and provided with a name and contact number for construction noise information and complaints. A specific notification procedure would be developed for any blasting activities. Any noise complaints will be dealt with through a standard complaints management procedure identified in the community consultation plan.	Construction	ANZECC (1990). German Standard *DIN 4150 Part 3 Structural Vibration in Buildings (Effects on Structures).* DECC (2006). RTA (2008b).
	CN3	Construction noise and vibration would be minimised as far as practical through the implementation of all feasible and reasonable measures.		RTA (2001). DECC *Environmental Noise Control Manual.* EPA (1999).
	CN4	Construction staff training would cover noise mitigation techniques.		Section 7.6.1 of the environmental assessment.
	CN5	Monitoring would be carried out at sensitive receiver locations to assess the need for additional impact mitigation measures. Where potential or actual exceedences of noise goals are identified, additional feasible and reasonable best practice noise management measures will be considered and investigated.	Construction	RTA (2001). DECC *Environmental Noise Control Manual.* EPA (1999).
General construction issues: Construction traffic				

Outcome	Ref No.	Key action	Timing	Reference documents
Minimise impacts on Pacific Highway and local traffic	CT1	Construction vehicle movements and work programs will incorporate traffic control measures to minimise traffic and transport impacts on local roads and the existing Pacific Highway.	Pre-construction and construction	RTA (2003). *RTA QA Specification G10 Control of Traffic.* RTA (2008b). Section 7.6.2 of the environmental assessment.
Minimise impacts on local roads	CT2	Any use of non-arterial roads by construction traffic will require preparation of pre-construction and post-construction dilapidation reports, with copies to go to the relevant roads authority. Repair of any damage resulting from construction (normal wear and tear), will occur, unless alternative arrangements are made with the relevant roads authority.	Construction and post-construction	RTA (2003). *RTA QA Specification G10 Control of Traffic.* RTA (2008b). Section 7.6.2 of the environmental assessment.
Minimise impacts on access	CT3	Construction vehicle movements and work programs will incorporate traffic control measures to maintain access to properties and Glenugie State Forest.	Construction	*RTA Traffic Control at Work Sites (*RTA 2003*).* *RTA QA Specification G10 Control of Traffic.* Section 7.6.2 of the environmental assessment.
General construction issues: Erosion, sedimentation, water quality and riparian management				
Minimise potential for soil erosion	SW1	Restrict the area of soil exposure and disturbance to the minimum amount necessary for construction.	Construction	*RTA QA Specification G40 Clearing and Grubbing.*
	SW2	Detailed design will refine the requirements for construction erosion and sediment control, including the requirements for works within and adjacent to waterways.	Pre- construction	Landcom (2004). DECC (2008a). Section 7.6.3 of the environmental assessment.

Outcome	Ref No.	Key action	Timing	Reference documents
Effective erosion and sediment control measures	SW3	Monitoring of water quality upstream and downstream of the project site during construction will assess the effectiveness of impact mitigation and management strategies. Implementation of additional feasible and reasonable management measures would then occur, if found to be necessary.	Pre-construction and construction	Landcom (2004). DECC (2008a). Section 7.6.3 of the environmental assessment. *RTA QA Specification G38 Soil and Water Management.* *RTA QA Specification G39 Soil and Water Management (Erosion and Sediment Control Plan).*
Non-Aboriginal heritage				
Minimise impacts on non-Aboriginal heritage	NH1	There will be an archival recording of the remnant section of the 1915 branch rail line to be impacted by the project before the start of construction. The recording will follow Department of Planning (Heritage Branch) guidelines.	Pre-construction	*Heritage Act 1977.* NSW Heritage Office (1998). Section 8.1 of the environmental assessment.
	NH2	Protocols developed for the project will facilitate appropriate protection and management of any previously unidentified relics or suspected human remains found during construction. The protocols will include stopping all works in the vicinity of the find, notification of relevant stakeholders and implementation of an appropriate management strategy.	Pre-construction and construction	*Heritage Act 1977.* Section 8.1 of the environmental assessment. Appendix E of the environmental assessment.
	NH3	All construction personnel will receive training in the management of (non-Aboriginal) relics, including legal obligations, the application of protocols, and the recognition of relics.	Pre-construction and construction	*Heritage Act 1977.* Appendix E of the environmental assessment.
Land use and socio-economic impacts				

Outcome	Ref No.	Key action	Timing	Reference documents
Appropriate compensation paid for property acquisition	L1	Negotiation of all property acquisitions will be in accordance with the RTA's *Land Acquisition Policy Statement.* Compensation assessment will be in accordance with the *Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act 1991.*	Pre-construction	RTA *Land Acquisition Policy Statement.* *Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act* 1991.
Minimise impacts on forestry operations	L2	Forests NSW will have access to State Forest land identified for acquisition by the RTA to remove any harvestable timber before the start of construction.	Pre-construction, construction and operation	RTA (2008b). Section 8.2 of the environmental assessment
Disruption of utilities and services minimised	L3	Identification of utilities and services potentially affected by construction, including requirements for diversion, protection and/or support, will occur before the start of construction. Consultation with the service providers will determine the requirements for service alterations and disruptions, including the requirements for advice to customers.	Pre-construction and construction	RTA (2008b). Section 8.2 of the environmental assessment
Greenhouse gas and climate change				
Minimise greenhouse gas emissions and energy consumption	G1	Wherever feasible and reasonable, detailed design will consider whole of life reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and energy consumption.	Pre-construction and construction	AS/NZS 1158:1.1.2005.
	G2	The adoption of energy efficient work practices, including selection of materials and equipment, will minimise energy use and green house gas emissions associated with construction where feasible and reasonable.	Preconstruction and construction	Section 8.3 of the environmental assessment.
Visual and landscape impacts				

Outcome	Ref No.	Key action	Timing	Reference documents
Landscape character of the project study area maintained and enhanced	V1	The detailed design of built elements and landscapes will be in accordance with the visual and urban design objectives and principles of the project.	Pre-construction	RTA (2004b). RTA (2005b). Sections 7.1 and 8.4 of the environmental assessment. RTA *Landscape Guidelines*
Visual impacts minimised	V2	Species used in landscaping will comprise native and locally indigenous plants.	Pre-construction and construction	Sections 7.1 and 8.4 of the environmental assessment.
Air quality				
Air quality impacts minimised	AQ1	Dust controls will minimise dust impacts during construction	Pre-construction and construction	Section 8.5 of the environmental assessment
Hazards and risks				
Minimise hazards and risks (construction)	HR1	During construction, bunds will isolate hazardous liquids and materials, and sedimentation basins will contain spills.	Pre-construction and construction	Section 8.6 of the environmental assessment
Safe work site	HR2	All occupational health and safety measures will be in accordance with relevant legislation.	Pre-construction and construction	Occupational and health legislation. Section 8.6 of the environmental assessment
Minimise hazards and risks (operation)	HR3	Permanent water quality basins will contain spills.	operation	Section 8.6 of the environmental assessment
Waste management				
Minimise waste disposal	W1	Waste management will avoid waste creation, reuse and recycle where possible, and dispose as a last resort	Pre-construction and construction	Section 8.7 of the environmental assessment