

Mark Brockbank  
Director Rural & Regional  
Health Infrastructure  
1 Reserve Road  
St Leonards NSW 2065

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Re: Vegetation clearing within Rankin Park to Jesmond (SSI 6888) and John Hunter  
Health and Innovation Precinct (SSD-9351535) interface area

26 July 2022

**Dear Mark Brockbank,**

Approval for the Newcastle Inner City Bypass - Rankin Park to Jesmond, SSI 6888 project was granted by the NSW Minister for Planning on 15 February 2019 and by the Department of the Environment and Energy on 5 April 2019.

In June 2019, the NSW Government announced an expansion of the John Hunter Hospital and John Hunter Children's Hospital with the John Hunter Health and Innovation Precinct (JHHIP) receiving project approval on 30 November 2021 (SSD 9351535).

An area of land (interface area) forms part of both approved projects.

Since the SSI approval Transport has refined the design and has limited clearing of native vegetation to the greatest extent practicable (required by the conditions). As such the SSI no longer requires the entirety of the interface area to be cleared.

Construction in the interface area will be staged, with each project taking control of the area at different times. Based on the staging, Transport do not propose to carry out vegetation clearing within the interface area for the purposes of the SSI. Transport considers that this change is consistent with the SSI Approval (as modified) and the EPBC Act Approval (EPBC 2015/7550).

Transport supports the SSD modification proposed by Health Infrastructure to carry out the clearing the interface area. Transport is in the process of amending the staging report to reflect the above.

Sincerely,



26/07/2022

Peter McNally  
Executive Director Regional Project Delivery

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