

NSW Secretary of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure

Re: Response to Submissions and Agency Advice (SSI-22004371)

29 January 2024

Dear NSW Secretary of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure,

Transport for NSW (Transport) wishes to provide an update on the status of the Great Western Highway Blackheath to Little Hartley project (SSI-22004371), in response to your letter regarding Transport's response to submissions and agency advice dated 7 March 2023.

On 19 September 2023, the NSW Treasurer, the Hon. Daniel Mookhey MLC, handed down the 2023-2024 State Budget. The budget's strategic infrastructure review was tasked with identifying infrastructure projects and programs that should no longer proceed or should be delayed or de-scoped. On 16 November 2023 the Australian Government's response to the Independent Strategic Review of the Infrastructure Investment Program was also released, recommending a number of projects to proceed or not proceed.

Following these Reviews, the NSW and Australian Governments will not provide further funding at this time for the Great Western Highway Upgrade Katoomba to Lithgow East, Central and West sections. The Program has been paused as a result, including the Great Western Highway Blackheath to Little Hartley project.

Should the project receive funding in the future, it is likely to be as a stand-alone project, and not part of any Great Western Highway Upgrade Program or duplication program.

In light of this, Transport has determined that the project is to be paused until further funding is provided, and that project activities should be stopped at the appropriate stage. Therefore, Transport does not intend on submitting the project's Submissions Report, as required under section 5.17(6) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, for two years.

Transport understands that due to DPE's privacy obligations, we are unable to individually respond to all submitters and ask that DPE provides an update to them relating the project status described above.

If you have any questions, please contact Jonathon Blizzard via email at jonathon.blizzard@transport.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ken Reynolds".

Ken Reynolds

Chief Development Officer

Transport for NSW