

Our ref: SSI-36656827-PA-89

Sam Pathammavong
Environment and Sustainability Manager
HumeLink
PO Box A1000
Sydney South NSW 1235

16 July 2025

Subject: Proposed changes to the AC03 Road Upgrade

Dear Mr Pathammavong

I refer to your submissions on 7 and 10 July requesting, under Condition B37, the Planning Secretary's agreement to:

1. 31 October 2025 as the alternate timeframe for the Project to deliver the AC03 Road Upgrade treatments identified in Table 4-1 of the Project Approval
2. Amend the requirements of AC03 to remove the channelised left turn (CHL) component
3. Amend the requirements of AC03 to remove the timing requirement.

The Department has reviewed your request and makes the following considerations:

1. Alternate timeframe to deliver the AC03 Road Upgrades

The Department notes that the Project cannot undertake the vegetation clearing necessary for the AC03 road treatments during the Early Works phase, as it requires biodiversity offsets.

As the nominee of the Planning Secretary, I agree that 31 October 2025 will be the alternate timeframe for the Project to complete the AC03 road treatments, noting the Project's commitment to schedule the vegetation clearing so that the AC03 road treatments can be completed as early as possible following the commencement of construction.

I note the Council's observations that the current temporary access to AC03 does not meet Safe Intersection Sight Distances or Austroads Standards. Consequently, it is managed by reduced speed limits and traffic control, which the Council considers inadequate.

2. Removal of the Channelised Left Turn from the required AC03 Road Upgrades

I understand the Project has sought the Planning Secretary's agreement to remove the channelised left turn (CHL) component of AC03, on the basis that *'it is not needed as the Project will not be using the section of Mates Gully Road between the Sturt Highway and AC03, therefore vehicles will not turn left into the site'*.

I note from the Council correspondence that the Council is concerned that the proposed removal of the CHL responds to the AC03A Transport Strategy (Condition B36), which itself proposes to remove project traffic from the majority of Mates Gully Road as detailed above. I understand that the Transport Strategy has not yet been submitted to the Planning Secretary for approval and is required to be prepared in consultation with the Council.

While the AC03 Transport Strategy is independent of this submission, the Department is aware that approving the removal of the CHL component of AC03 could be interpreted as a pre-approval of an AC03A Transport Strategy, which removes project traffic from the majority of Mates Gully Road. Therefore, as nominee of the Planning Secretary, I do not agree to removing the CHL component from AC03 before the AC03A Transport Strategy is submitted.

The Project is welcome to re-submit the request when the AC03A Transport Strategy is submitted.

3. Amend the requirements of AC03 to remove the timing requirement.

The Department notes that the Project has sought the Planning Secretary's agreement to remove AC03's *'prior to construction of the relevant accommodation facility and compound/construction compound'* timing requirement from the CHL component of AC03.

The Department considers this proposal unnecessary, as any future approval to remove the CHL from AC03 will also remove the timing requirement.

You are reminded that if there are any inconsistencies between this letter and the conditions of approval, the conditions prevail.

If you wish to discuss the matter further, please contact Amy Porter on amy.porter@planning.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'AP', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rebecca Eddington

Director Transmission Post Approval

As nominee of the Planning Secretary