

Ms Sonja Shand
Senior Motorway Partnerships Manager (Western)
Transport for NSW
GPO Box K659
Haymarket NSW 1240

29/10/2021

Dear Sonja

NorthConnex (SSI-6136)
Appointment of Independent Environmental Audit Team

I refer to your request (SSI-6136-PA-24) for the Secretary's endorsement of a suitably qualified, experienced and independent audit team to conduct an independent environmental audit of the NorthConnex project. Under Condition E31 of the NorthConnex Infrastructure Approval (SSI-6136), an independent environmental audit is required within twelve months of the commencement of operation and at any other stage required by the Secretary.

The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (**Department**) has reviewed the nominations and information you have provided against Condition E31 of the Infrastructure Approval and the *Independent Audit Post Approval Requirements* (2020), specifically section 3.1.

The Department is satisfied that Mr Maurice Pignatelli is certified with Exemplar Global as a lead auditor in environmental management systems, and that all nominated persons are suitably experienced and qualified in state significant infrastructure developments and have supplied declarations of independence.

Consequently, in accordance with Condition E31 of the Infrastructure Approval I can advise that the Secretary endorses the following persons as the audit team in the following roles:

- Mr Maurice Pignatelli, OptimE Pty Ltd, as Lead Auditor
- Mr Ben Bracken, GHD Pty Ltd (GHD), as Audit Support
- Mr Evan Smith, GHD, as Air Quality Specialist
- Ms Kirsten Crosby, GHA, as Biodiversity Specialist
- Mr Pri Pandey, GHD, as Noise and Vibration Specialist
- Mr Tyler Tinkler, GHD, as Hydrology and Surface Water Specialist.

Notwithstanding the endorsement of the above listed audit team, each respective project approval or consent requires a request for the agreement to the auditor or audit team be submitted to the Department, for consideration of the Secretary. Each request is reviewed and depending on the complexity of future projects, the suitability of a proposed auditor or audit team will be considered.

The Department reserves the right to request an alternate auditor or experts for any future independent environmental audits under the Infrastructure Approval.

The independent environmental audit must satisfy Condition E31 of the Infrastructure Approval. Although not required by the Infrastructure Approval, the Department requests that the independent

environmental audit is conducted consistent with the *Independent Audit Post Approval Requirements* (2020). Failure to do so may require revision and resubmission of the audit report.

Please ensure this correspondence is appended to the audit report.

If you wish to discuss the matter further, please contact Ania Dorocinska, Senior Compliance Officer on 02 9274 6225 or via compliance@planning.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alex McGuirk', with a stylized, cursive script.

Alex McGuirk
A/Team Leader - Government Projects
Compliance

As nominee of the Planning Secretary