



28 July 2021

Our ref. SF2016/016480

Lee McCourt
Acting Team Leader Infrastructure Management
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
Level 2, 26 Honeysuckle Drive
Newcastle NSW 2300

Dear Lee

Albion Park Rail bypass SSI 6878 – Update on impacts to project and compliance resulting from construction shutdown

As you will no doubt be aware construction on the Albion Park Rail bypass project has temporarily stopped, based on the recent direction in the *Public Health (COVID-19 Temporary Movement and Gathering Restrictions) Order 2021* (the Order) as amended on the 19 July 2021.

The site has been stabilised and made secure as much as was feasibly possible prior to the shutdown and, coupled with the advanced state of the project, presents minimal environmental risk during this period.

The project team is aware of the exemptions under the Order and will only carry out work in accordance with the exemptions if required during the shutdown.

Regarding community communication, the community display centre has been closed and an update has been posted on the project website. This update outlines the reason for the site shutdown and advises the community that the phone number and email address is still available and monitored should any concerns or queries be raised.

The project team is also providing regular communication on the project website, via email and notification letters to the community in accordance with the requirements of the Community Consultation Strategy and the Response to COVID-19 submitted in May 2020.

At this stage the project team does not foresee any compliance issues due to the shutdown.

Transport for NSW previously advised the Department on the 25 March 2021 that the forecast date for commencement of operation for Stage 2 of the project was in September 2021. It is likely that the shutdown will affect the date for commencement of operation.

Once the impact of the shutdown on achieving this milestone has been fully understood and a recommencement of construction announced by the NSW Government a further update will be provided to the Department.



If you have any further enquiries please contact Peter Hawkins on 0429 504 605 or at Peter.Hawkins@transport.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Peter Hawkins
Project Development Manager
Transport for NSW