



26 August 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 COVID-19 restrictions

Transport for NSW (TfNSW) refers to our previous correspondence dated 28 July 2021, where we notified the Department that the construction shutdown in late July 2021 would likely affect the date for commencement of operation of Stage 2 of the Albion Park Rail bypass project.

Most construction activities have now recommenced on the project, however, the ongoing restrictions due to the COVID-19 Delta Outbreak, as well as the two week construction shutdown has changed the forecast date for commencement of operation.

The new forecast date for commencement of operation is now **late October 2021** (weather and further restrictions dependent).

To abide by the ongoing additional restrictions due to the Delta Outbreak and to continue to operate in the best interests of the communities of Wollongong and Shellharbour LGAs, the project team has continued the temporary pause of some construction activities for the project.

The activities which remain paused are the at-property architectural works required under Condition of Approval (CoA) E47, as well as the post construction building and structure condition surveys required under CoA E52.

It is now unlikely that the at-property architectural works will be completed prior to operation commencing, as is the intent of CoA E47. The at-property architectural works program is about 95 % complete for the eligible properties who have consented to the works being carried out. The at-property architectural works for the remaining 5 % of these properties are forecast to be complete by **end December 2021** (COVID-19 restrictions dependent).

TfNSW advises that the other operational noise mitigation measures (such as noise barriers, the noise mound on the East West link road and the quieter pavement surface) are substantially complete as well.

In accordance with the requirements of CoA E47 TfNSW propose that this letter forms the justification as to why the at-property architectural works cannot be completed prior to operation commencing and seeks the agreement of the Secretary on the revised timeframe.



Further, it is unlikely that the post construction building and structure surveys will be complete within three months following construction completion, as is the requirement of CoA E52.

This letter also serves to provide justification as to why this timeframe may not be able to be achieved and seeks the agreement of the Secretary to extend the timeframe for completion of works under CoA E52 to ***within 6 months of construction completion or unless otherwise agreed by the Secretary.***

Further advice on compliance with these particular conditions of approval will be provided in the pre-operation compliance report, which is due to be submitted to the Department one month before the commencement of operation.

If you have any further enquiries on these matters please contact Peter Chudleigh on 0408 190 418 or at Peter.Chudleigh@transport.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Peter Chudleigh
Environment Officer
Transport for NSW