

17 January 2022

ARTC REF# 6-0000-260-EEC-00-LT-0096

Matthew Todd-Jones
Department of Planning, Infrastructure and Environment
4 Parramatta Square
12 Darcy Street
Parramatta, NSW 2150

Email: Matthew.Todd-Jones@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Matthew

**CSSI 7474 Narrabri to North Star, Phase 1 (N2NS) Project
Request for an Extension of Time to submit Amendments to the Ecosystem and
Species Credit requirements and the Report on Final Construction Footprint
Minister's Condition of Approval E19 and E24**

I refer to the Ministers Conditions of Approval (**MCoA's**) issued for the Critical State Significant Infrastructure (**CSSI**) Project No 7474 Narrabri to North Star, Phase 1 dated 13 August 2020 (**N2NS Planning Approval**), and specifically the requirements for reporting on amendments to the ecosystem and species credit requirements and the final construction footprint demonstrating reduced environmental impacts within six (6) months after the commencement of construction required by MCoA's E19 and E24 respectively.

I also refer to: -

1. ARTC's correspondence regarding an extension request of this submission date from 10 October 2021 to 10 November 2021 (Ref: 6-0000-260-EEC-00-LT-0036), which was approved by the Department of Planning, Infrastructure and Environment (**DPIE**) on 10 October 2021; and
2. A second extension request to the 17 January 2022 (Ref: 6-0000-260-EEC-00LT-0052), which was subsequently approved by DPIE on 12 November 2021.

As DPIE is aware, a draft Addendum to the Biodiversity Assessment Report (**BAR**) was provided to Environment, Energy and Science (**EES**) and Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment (**DAWE**) on 22 September 2021 as part of the ongoing consultation, as required by MCoA E19, with responses provided to ARTC on 22 and 25 October 2021, respectively.

Feedback from EES and DAWE generally required the further consideration / assessment of environmental impacts in the areas of the revised construction footprint that sit outside of the approved Submissions and Preferred Infrastructure Report (**SPiR**) construction boundary. ARTC has actively updated the BAR to address these comments as well as including updated Five-clawed Worm-skink survey data.

Inland Rail

Australian Rail Track
Corporation Ltd

ACN 081 455 754

ABN 75 081 455 754

Level 16
180 Ann Street
Brisbane Qld 4000

GPO Box 2462
Queen Street
Brisbane QLD 4000

1800 732 761

inlandrailenquiries@artc.com.au

inlandrail.com.au

ARTC re-submitted an amended BAR to EES and DAWE on 23 December 2021 for review. However, due to extended Christmas / New Year holidays and other priority reviews required to be undertaken by these departments, ARTC is yet to receive feedback on the amended BAR. It is anticipated that feedback will be received by the end of January 2022.

Therefore, in accordance with the provisions of MCoA 6, ARTC formally seeks the agreement of the Planning Secretary to submit the Amendments to the ecosystem and species credit requirements and report on the final construction footprint required by MCoA's E19 and E24 within a later timeframe than the "within six (6) months after the commencement of construction" currently stipulated. ARTC requests agreement to extend the submission date through to 28 February 2022 to comply fully with all the requirements of MCoA's E19 and E24.

Should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact Raju Divakarla, Environment Lead – Regulatory Engagement on rdivakarla@artc.com.au or me on 0407 254 363 or PBorrelli@ARTC.com.au.

Yours sincerely



Peter Borrelli
Project Director N2NS
17 January 2022