

25 February 2022

Ref: 6-0000-260-EEC-00-LT-0092

Matthew Todd-Jones
Department of Planning and Environment
4 Paramatta 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.

It is noted that construction of the N2NS Project commenced 10 April 2021.

I also refer to 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 and Environment (**the Department**) on 11 October 2021 and the subsequent extension request (Ref: 6-0000-260-EEC-00-LT-0052) to the current due submission date of 28 February 2022 which was approved on 24th January 2022.

As the Department are aware, the construction footprint for the N2NS Project was revised and provided to the various agencies for comment on 10 September 2021 in accordance with MCoA E24 and again on the 6 January 2022. One of the key objectives of the construction footprint reduction was to reduce environmental impacts, including impacts to Plant Community Types (**PCTs**), Koala habitat and biodiversity offsets.

ARTC received feedback from EES on the 14 February 2022 requiring clarifications which require the report to be further updated and appropriate responses developed to meet EES expectations. In addition to this, ARTC wishes to review its original assumptions to ensure a practical final footprint is provided so to reduce any further changes (via modification) in the future that may occur due to unforeseen circumstances. The current ongoing engagement with EES and DAWE (note – no comments have been received to date from DAWE) highlights ARTCs overall commitment to the reduction of its Construction Impact Zone, and the optimisation of this footprint scope proposed is a test to ensure that the project has the practical footprint required to complete the scope of works whilst minimising any unnecessary administrative burden.

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ARTC

The Australian Government is delivering
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Rail Track Corporation (ARTC), in
partnership with the private sector.

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, and the extensions currently agreed. Having regard to the above, the proposed scope proposed by ARTC to update the report, engagement required to close comments, and the current COVID 19 restrictions affecting all activities including face to face meetings, ARTC requests agreement to extend the submission date through to 30 June 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 me on 0407 254 363 or PBorrelli@ARTC.com.au.

Yours sincerely,



Peter Borrelli
Project Director N2NS
25 February 2022






Third extensionrequest

Final Audit Report

2022-02-24

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