



Andrew Skele
Environment Manager – NSW
ARTC Inland Rail
Level 16, 180 Ann Street
Brisbane, QLD, 4000

28/04/2020

Dear Andrew

**Inland Rail: Parkes to Narromine (SSI 7475)
Biodiversity Offset Strategy**

I refer to your submission dated 25 March 2020 presenting ARTC's proposal to finalise and submit the Parkes to Narromine Biodiversity Offset Strategy (BOS), acknowledging that not all field surveys have been completed.

Following a meeting between ARTC, the Department, and Biodiversity and Conservation Division on 16 April 2020 I understand that field surveys and biodiversity credits have been finalised for five properties. I also understand that biodiversity credits for a further two properties have not been finalised due to an inability to carry out Biodiversity Assessment Method (BAM) surveys at the properties due to COVID-19.

As a result, you propose to submit a preliminary BOS by the approved extension date of 17 May 2020 which will include information on the credits generated on five of the properties, and indicative credits presented for the other two properties, acknowledging that credits from only one of these properties may be needed to meet the residual credit requirement. I understand that a Biodiversity Stewardship Site Assessment Report will be prepared and submitted for the remaining properties after BAM surveys have been completed.

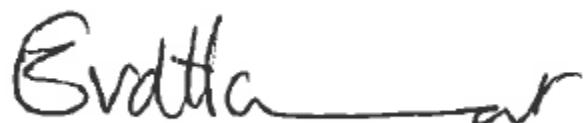
I expect the preliminary BOS proposed to be submitted by 17 May 2020 to include the following information:

- the type and quantum of the biodiversity credits associated with the five offset properties that have had field work finalised
- the status of the Biodiversity Stewardship Agreements being prepared and submitted to the Biodiversity Conservation Trust (BCT), including progression through the BCT's processes where relevant
- indicative type and quantum of biodiversity credits on the properties yet to have formal surveys completed, including commentary on the variables that may alter the final credit generation on these sites
- the proposed contingency plan to meet any shortfall in the credit obligation if social distancing and travel restrictions continue beyond the near future and BAM surveys cannot be completed at the remaining properties in a timeframe that would meet condition E20.

Any approval of the preliminary BOS will be conditional and include the requirement for ARTC to submit a final BOS once all credits are finalised. In relation to interactions of condition E20 with the submission of the BOS, the due date for retirement of the credits will be 12 months after the determination of the preliminary BOS.

If you have any questions, please contact Amy Porter, who can be contacted on 0293732853 or at amy.porter@planning.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Evdtha" followed by a surname ending in "ar".

Erica van den Honert
Director, Infrastructure Management
Infrastructure Management

As nominee of the Planning Secretary