

Colin Forde  
Project Director – Parkes to Narromine  
ARTC Inland Rail  
Level 16, 180 Ann Street  
Brisbane, QLD, 4000

09/07/2020

Dear Colin

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

I refer to your submission dated 15 May 2020 requesting approval of the Biodiversity Offset Strategy (rev C, dated 14 May 2020) (BOS) in accordance with Condition E16 of SSI 7475.

The Department has reviewed the BOS and concludes it does not fully address Condition E16 because it does not contain the minimum requirements of a BOS as described in Table 22 of the Framework for Biodiversity Assessment (FBA), in relation to:

- information on actual offset sites
- evidence to validate the number of credits generated at each site, or
- justifications of the PCTs at each property.

I therefore consider the submitted document to be a 'preliminary BOS' and not a 'finalised BOS'.

I understand ARTC must submit a Biodiversity Stewardship Site Assessment Report (BSSAR) as part of the application to the Biodiversity Conservation Trust (BCT) to enter into a Biodiversity Stewardship Agreement for each biodiversity stewardship site. I understand that these BSSARs will include the required information that is currently not included in the preliminary BOS.

As nominee of the Planning Secretary and pursuant to Condition E16, I approve the preliminary BOS (rev C, dated 14 May 2020), subject to the following conditions:

- A finalised BOS must be resubmitted to the Planning Secretary for approval within 14 calendar days of the BSSARs being verified and accepted by the BCT
- The finalised BOS must include the accepted and verified BSSARs as attachments and the full Credit Calculator reports
- The finalised BOS must fully address the Department's review comments detailed in the attached comments sheet.

You are reminded that the Department's letter dated 28 April 2020 advised ARTC "*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*". You are advised that as the preliminary BOS has now been approved, the due date for the retirement of the credits is 12 months from the date of this letter. ARTC is encouraged to retire the biodiversity credits in an expedient manner within this timeframe.

If you wish to discuss the matter further, please contact Alice Pryke on [alice.pryke@planning.nsw.gov.au](mailto:alice.pryke@planning.nsw.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Evdita", followed by a long horizontal line that tapers to the right.

Director, Infrastructure Management

Infrastructure Management

As nominee of the Planning Secretary