



Mr Colin Forde
Project Director – P2N
Inland Rail – Australian Rail Track Corporation
level 16, 180 Ann Street
Brisbane QLD 4000

16/03/2020

Dear Mr Forde

**Inland Rail – Parkes to Narromine (SSI 7475)
Extension of Time to Biodiversity Offset Strategy (BOS) - Clarification**

I refer to your correspondence dated 9 March 2020 seeking clarification on the timeframe for the retirement of biodiversity credits as required under condition E20 of SSI 7475.

I note that the Department, in its letter dated 4 March 2020, approved a 90-day extension to the submission of the Biodiversity Offset Strategy (BOS) required under condition E16. The approved deadline for the submission of the BOS is 14 May 2020. As stated in the approval letter, the extension to the submission did not apply to the timeframe for the retirement of biodiversity credits under condition E20. I understand you are requesting that the Department reconsiders its position on condition E20.

The intent of the Conditions of Approval is that the requirements of E16 are met before E20. Therefore, the Department will consider an extension of time concerning the retirement of biodiversity credits once the Biodiversity Offset Strategy is submitted to the Planning Secretary for approval.

Nevertheless, following the approval of the Biodiversity Offset Strategy, you have 12 months to retire the biodiversity credits. Any future request for an extension of time relating to the retirement of biodiversity credits would need to be agreed to by the Planning Secretary as required under condition E20.

If you wish to discuss the matter further, please contact Ms Lee McCourt at Lee.McCourt@planning.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Erica van den Honert'.

Erica van den Honert
Director, Infrastructure Management
Infrastructure Management

As nominee of the Planning Secretary