

Coffs Harbour Bypass – Early works

Acoustic Advisor Monthly Report

May 2023

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Glossary of terms and abbreviation

AA	Independent Acoustic Advisor approved by DPIE
CBAG	Coffs Bypass Action Group
CCC	Community Consultation Committee
CEMP	Construction Environmental Management Plan
CNVMP	Construction Noise and Vibration Management Plan
CoA	Conditions of Approval
CSSI	Critical State Significant Infrastructure
DPE	Department of Planning and Environment
Early works	Works not defined as construction under the CoA
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
ER	Independent Environmental Representative approved by DPIE
EMS	Environmental Management System
EPA	NSW Environment Protection Authority
EPL	NSW Environment Protection Licence
FGJV	Ferrovial Gamuda Joint Venture (the Contractor)
Incidents	As defined in the Conditions of Approval
OEH	Office of Environment and Heritage
(the) Project	Coffs Harbour Bypass
Proponent	Transport for NSW
Secretary	Secretary of DPIE
SPIR	Submissions and preferred infrastructure report
SSI	State Significant Infrastructure

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Transport for NSW is the Proponent for the Coffs Harbour Bypass (the Project).

The Project is Critical State Significant Infrastructure (CSSI) and was approved by the NSW Minister for Planning in 2020 (SSI 7666) following preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in 2017 and of a Submissions and Preferred Infrastructure Report (SPIR) by Transport for NSW in response to submissions from government, agencies, organisations and the public.

Transport for NSW is progressing with early works for the project, defined in the Conditions of Approval (CoA) as low impact work, which is completed prior to approval of the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP).

This Acoustic Advisor monthly report relates to the early works.

1.2 Acoustic Advisor

In accordance with CoA A28 of Approval SSI 7666, an independent, suitably qualified and experienced Acoustic Advisor (AA) was engaged for the duration of the Project. John Hutchison was approved in the AA role by the delegate to the Secretary on 1 February 2021 in accordance with CoA A28.

1.3 Environmental Representative

An independent Environmental Representative (ER) was engaged for the Project in accordance with CoA A21. Simon Williams was nominated as the ER, with Duncan Thomson the alternate, and approved by the delegate to the Secretary in July 2021.

As required in CoA A30(g), the ER works closely with the AA on noise and vibration related matters on the Project. Interactions with the AA are summarized in Section 3.10 of this report.

1.4 Scope of monthly report

As required by CoA A30(g)(iv), the AA must prepare and submit a monthly report, providing information on any actions or decisions for which the AA was responsible in the preceding month. Actions and decisions include but are not limited to:

- Communications with the Secretary
- Consideration and recommendations to Transport for NSW on improvements that may be made to avoid or minimise adverse noise and vibration impacts.
- Reviews and, where appropriate, endorsement of all noise and vibration documents required to be prepared under the Conditions of Approval.
- Any actions or decisions relating to regular monitoring of the implementation of noise and vibration documents;
- Any notifications to the Secretary of noise and vibration incidents;
- Any audits or inspections of the project and associated recommendations;
- Any action taken to help resolve conflicts between Transport for NSW and the community;
- Consideration of minor amendments to the CEMP, relevant sub-plans and monitoring programs

2. Summary of construction activities

Construction activity by the JV is currently underway with clearing, placement of barriers and signs and construction of basins.

Some remaining early works are still underway by TfNSW and Quickway with utilities installation such as watermain, sewers and electrical in the north and south of the project.

Works underway during May, or soon to commence, include the following.

- Ongoing utilities relocations in a variety of locations such as James Small Drive, Bruxner Park Road, Western Utilities Corridor, Pacific Highway, Charlesworth Bay Road and Isles Drive
- Establishment of access road for Ancillary site 1G. A second ancillary site (1C) will soon commence establishment.
- Basin installation
- Clearing
- Quickway continues to install utilities in the northern section of the project and Coastal works in the south.
- Ongoing at-house noise treatments

3. AA activity

3.1 Secretary communications

Secretary communication in May included:

- Meeting re DPE comments on Blast Management Strategy

3.2 Recommendations for improvement

Recommendations on assessment methods and documentation were provided during review, as summarised below. Recommendations provided as appropriate during site inspection (see Section 3.8).

3.3 Documentation review

3.3.1 Endorsements of project documentation

Endorsements of documentation required under the conditions in May:

- Blast Management Strategy endorsed (3/5).

3.3.2 Document reviews

Works during standard hours are addressed in the CNVMP. Other document reviews included:

- Nil

3.4 OOHW permit reviews/approvals – low risk

OOHW are being undertaken by the JV under EPL 21766, unless outside the boundary.

Quickway continues to work under the Conditions of Approval for OOH since the EPL is not applicable to these works.

Permit applications for works outside standard hours reviewed and approved in May included the following. Permits are attached as Appendix A for reference.

Works under the CoA:

- OOHW Barrier Removal Night (2 May)

- OOHW Electrical Gosling Spagnolos Bennets Rd (8 May)
- OOHW 032 Telstra cutover (11 May)
- OOHW 029 Generator BPR (15 May)
- OOHW 030 Trenching BPR (16 May)
- OOHW 033 Optus cut over (16 May)
- OOHW 034 Vocus cut over (26 May)

Works under EPL 21766 include works approved by the AA and ER (Condition L6.4) and those works undertaken under Condition L6.5 which does not require AA or ER approval. However, these works are notified to the AA for any comment.

Works under L6.4

- OOHW Barrier Signline Installation South (2 May)
- OOHW Clearing Zone 1 (18 May)

Works under L6.5

- Nil

These works represented low risk of adverse impact due to NML compliance and/or short timeframes with few receivers likely to be affected. OOH works are generally programmed around one to two weeks after the approval date, pending weather conditions and notification logistics. All appropriate mitigation measures are to be applied to maintain any impacts at practical minimums and monitoring to be conducted in line with CNVMP requirements.

3.5 OOHW permit reviews/approvals – community agreement

A previous community agreement has been requested by Quickway to be extended for works along the western boundary corridor and Bruxner Park Road. A meeting was held to discuss this extension and further information was requested on the scope of works being proposed.

The works have since been modified to be NML compliant at a receiver at 15 BPR. All other affected receivers have agreed to the works. Approval of this extension will be provided in June.

3.6 OOHW permit reviews/approvals – high risk (DPE approval required)

No high risk works submitted to DPE in May

3.7 Emergency works

None in May

3.8 Document amendments

No updates in May

3.9 Monitoring of document implementation

3.9.1 CNVMP and associated documents

Monitoring of the CNVMP has been undertaken through review of assessments, mitigation measures (including EWMS) and approval of OOHW. Site inspections are undertaken largely to gain context for approvals and to establish measures proposed in applications are implemented appropriately.

Monitoring results are issued to the AA for review and information.

3.9.2 At-receiver noise treatments

Transport for NSW is undertaking a program of at-receiver noise treatments (ARNT) to qualifying homes identified within the EIS. The program aims to ensure early mitigation is provided, where possible, prior to construction commencement. The Operational Noise Review (ONR) required under CoA E47 may result in a change in the number of properties and/or the scope of treatment. A delay in finalising the ONR has resulted from the decision to change the Year of Opening and Design Year to align with project opening in 2027 (was formerly 2024)

Nominally, 605 homes eligible to receive treatment (comprising 440 residential homes, 11 non-residential receivers and 154 unbuilt residential receivers).

All treatments are expected to be completed within 6 months of commencement of construction (where construction noise affects that receiver). This will be around November.

3.10 Incidents

No incidents notified to the AA in May.

3.11 Auditing and inspection

Site inspection was undertaken on 10 May together with TfNSW, DPE and FGJV representatives. Sites and works inspected included:

- Ancillary site 1G
- Clearing site north of 1G
- Bridge works south of 1G
- Cleared area near Cut 16 (BPR)
- Cleared area and basin at Shepherds Lane
- Works near Bruxner Park Road and Western Utility corridor

The team is managing noise with reasonable and feasible measures in place.

3.12 Community complaints and enquiries

No noise-related complaints in May.

A community member requested a meeting with the AA regarding at-house noise treatments. This was held on 10 May by phone. This resident will be reviewed as part of the updated ONR.

3.13 Meetings

The AA has been attending weekly meetings with Transport for NSW, FGJV members, DPE representatives, the ER and Project consultation team members. Within these meetings, upcoming works are discussed as well as any complaints related to noise and vibration and the status of document preparation and approval.

The AA also attended a monthly meeting with DPE and the project team for an update (10/5).

The AA attended the noise working group on 23 May. Topics of discussion included OOH works coordination, 6 month look ahead for OOH works, complaints and issues needing addressing, at-house noise treatment update and discussion of compliance with CoA E47-50. I suggested we complete noise monitoring pre- and post-clearing to allow a site-specific response to community concern that vegetation provides substantial attenuation. This was to be actioned in June for the southern section alongside the Pacific Highway.

Other meetings addressed specific matters such as approval of OOH and the Blast Management Strategy.

3.14 Interactions with the ER

The ER and the AA have worked together in reviewing noise and vibration documents and providing comments to Transport for NSW in a coordinated manner. The AA will continue to work with the ER throughout the project.

3.15 Other AA Activities

The AA continues to review Project-related correspondence as and when received, responding accordingly.

4. Closing comments

Construction now includes clearing and earthworks. All activities are being undertaken in line with the CNVMP including assessment procedures, implementation of mitigation and consultation.

OOHW continue to be requested largely when working near the Pacific Highway. This is being done under the Conditions of Approval for Quickway activities and under the EPL for the JV. The AA and ER have visibility of the EPL activities and this allows better coordination of respite and consistency of assessment/application of mitigation.

Interaction with FGJV, Transport for NSW and the ER has been positive, and the AA has maintained a good relationship between all parties to achieve best practice proactive noise and vibration management and ongoing compliance with the Conditions of Approval.

With FGJV, Quickway and TfNSW each programming works during standard and outside standard hours, good communication and awareness of all programmed works across the project is being achieved and works are managed consistently across the team.