

Coffs Harbour Bypass – Early works

Acoustic Advisor Monthly Report

October 2021
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Simon Williams	Environmental Representative
Jake Shackelton	NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
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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
DPIE	Department of Planning, Industry 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
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

Early works over the preceding month involved the following:

- Continuing demolition of vacated properties, including removal of structures and foundations,
- Utilities relocations including water mains at Station Road, North Boambee Road and Coramba Road
- Contaminated site investigations
- Geotechnical investigations
- Vegetation clearing to facilitate investigations and services work

Works have all been undertaken during standard construction hours. These activities will be ongoing through October.

Out-of-hours geotechnical investigations are proposed for around a 4 week period in November. These works involve drilling and test pitting on the Pacific Highway and require Road Occupancy Licence to minimise impacts on motorists. Impacts have been assessed as low.

An upgrade to the fire suppression system at the tip is proposed and likely to involve low risk activity during standard hours. An assessment of noise and vibration impacts will be prepared by TfNSW for review.

3. AA activity

3.1 Secretary communications

Except for submission of the monthly report, no communications with the Secretary were made during October.

3.2 Recommendations for improvement

Recommendations for improvement made for noise and vibration documentation (see below).

3.3 Documentation review

3.3.1 AA Endorsements

- 6 October - Out-of-hours work application form for geotechnical works, revision 2
- 14 October - file note on acoustic modelling parameters

3.3.2 Document reviews

Documents reviewed in consultation with the ER included the following.

- Review of file note on acoustic modelling parameters, which provides instructions to tenderers to prepare operational traffic noise models in a consistent way and meet the requirements of condition E45
- Review of noise monitoring data to assess if shoulder periods should be considered in traffic noise modelling. Review found shoulder period at Coramba Road should be considered and advice provided to TfNSW for additional analysis.
- 8 October - review of community notification for OOHW works (Geotech) to establish document in line with the OOHW protocol

3.3.3 OOHW permit reviews

- 6 October - Out-of-hours work application for geotechnical works, revision 2 (drilling and test pitting on the Pacific Highway).

3.4 Monitoring of document implementation

3.4.1 CNVMP and associated documents

At this stage all works are day works and low risk, being undertaken outside the framework of the CNVMP, which is yet to be approved. Based on feedback from Transport for NSW, low risk works completed in October have been completed in line with the file notes reviewed by the AA for each item of work and have not resulted in any noise or vibration complaints.

3.4.2 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 CoAE47 may result in a change in the number of properties and/or the scope of treatment. Nominally, 619 homes were identified as receiving treatment (344 of these are existing homes and the remainder in estates yet to be constructed) and Table 1 summarises the program’s progress to the end of October.

Table 1 At-receiver noise treatment program progress

No. houses to treat (including those yet to be built)	619
Existing properties	344
Properties on hold until design is finalised	42
Initial letters issued	344
Responses received	344
Scoping inspections completed	128
Offers of treatment issued	67
Treatment commenced	Commencing 15 November
Treatment complete	0

3.5 Incidents

The AA is not aware of any noise and vibration incidents notified to the Secretary in October.

3.6 Auditing and inspection

No audits or inspections completed in October. The works are currently low risk and COVID restrictions have limited travel from Sydney to the regions.

Now current lockdowns have eased, inspections will be scheduled in the coming months.

3.7 Community complaints and conflict

No complaints were raised to the AA and Transport for NSW reports no noise or vibration complaints in October.

3.8 Document amendments

No amendments to approved documents necessary in October.

3.9 Meetings

The AA has been attending weekly meetings with Transport for NSW and the ER. 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 attended a meeting on 20 October with the community group *Coffs Bypass Action Group* to discuss monitoring, modelling and other noise matters.

3.10 Interactions with the ER

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

3.11 Other AA Activities

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

4. Closing comments

Appropriate planning and management of noise and vibration impacts has been carried out to date with early works being completed during standard hours outside the framework of the CEMP. All works appear to be completed in accordance with the CoA and documentation provided for review.

Inspections of the site should recommence in the coming weeks now COVI-19 restrictions have eased.

Interaction with 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.