

Coffs Harbour Bypass – Early works

Acoustic Advisor Monthly Report

May 2022
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Mick Browne	Transport for NSW
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Duncan Thomson	Environmental Representative
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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
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

Drier conditions in May have allowed some progress on early works. The following activities were underway during May:

- Continuing demolition of vacated properties, including removal of structures and foundations.
- Ongoing utilities relocations including trenching at Coachmans Close and underboring at the southern extent of the project near Station Drive – nearly complete now.
- Minor clearing near Handybins facility

Demolition and utility works will continue over the next month and upcoming works also include:

- Commencement of horizontal direction drilling (HDD) along Bray Street for installation of power conduit
- Excavation of a rocky knoll in the south of the project
- Relocation of utilities to avoid wetter areas in project's south.

3. AA activity

3.1 Secretary communications

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

3.2 Recommendations for improvement

Recommendations for improvement made during site inspection and on review of noise and vibration documents (see below).

3.3 Documentation review

3.3.1 AA Endorsements

- No endorsements during May

3.3.2 Document reviews

Documents reviewed in consultation with the ER included the following.

- No documents reviewed in May

3.4 OOHW permit reviews

- No OOHW documentation reviewed in May

3.5 Document amendments

No amendments to approved documents necessary in May.

3.6 Monitoring of document implementation

3.6.1 CNVMP and associated documents

At this stage works are of low risk, being undertaken during standard hours and outside the framework of the CNVMP, which is yet to be approved.

Based on feedback from Transport for NSW, low risk works completed in May have been completed in line with the file notes previously reviewed by the AA for each item of work and have not resulted in any noise or vibration complaints.

3.6.2 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.

Nominally, 619 homes were identified as receiving treatment (422 of these are existing homes with the remainder (197) in estates yet to be constructed).

According to the latest statistics provided by Transport for NSW:

- 241 properties have been inspected
- 98 contracts for treatment have been prepared
- 41 properties have been completed.

3.7 Incidents

The AA is unaware of any incidents during May.

3.8 Auditing and inspection

Inspection of the project was completed on 18 May. Sites visited included:

- Compound and minor works at Spagnolos Road. Observed a generator running continuously. Not likely to be above the NML at nearest resident but audible and suggested to the team to screen this plant if reasonable to do so.
- HDD at Station Drive. Equipment is noisy but a substantial distance to nearby receivers. However, recommended when moving closer to residents, the pumps at the rear of the grout plant be oriented away or screened.
- Coachmans Close water main works. Observed plant engine running when not in use. Requested this be switched off. Apparently had only just ceased work.

3.9 Community complaints and conflict

No complaints regarding noise were received by the AA in May.

However, community meetings included:

18 May – Peter Woods. Had a range of issues to discuss regarding noise treatment, modelling practices and quiet pavements. AA explained how the modelling worked and committed to ensuring a robust process for the ONVR.

19 May – CBAG. Primarily covered the history of the project and CBAG's agenda. Discussed background noise monitoring and the issue of shoulder periods. Actions from the meeting included CBAG requesting confirmation of traffic/non-traffic noise sources in monitoring data and AA to provide assistance with software to enable CBAG to review audio recordings.

3.10 Meetings

The AA has been attending weekly meetings with Transport for NSW, 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.

3.11 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.

3.12 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 outside the framework of the CEMP. All works appear to be completed in accordance with the CoA and documentation provided for review.

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.

Engagement of a Contractor for the project will soon be complete. Documentation reviews will recommence once the relevant management plans are prepared in time for construction.