

Ms Sarah Connelly
Program Environmental Manager
Inland Rail
Australian Rail Track Corporation
Level 16, 180 Ann Street
Brisbane QLD 4000

Attn: Andrew Skele

Dear Ms Connelly

Subject: Inland Rail Narromine to Narrabri – Preferred Infrastructure Report

The Department has reviewed the EIS and submissions received as well as the expert hydrology advice. This advice, titled the “Independent Review of Hydrology”, (Bewsher, dated 18 March 2021), identifies several issues requiring additional assessment. In addition, the Department notes that acquisition discussions with landowners has commenced, which is based on information contained in the EIS.

In consideration of this, and in accordance with Section 5.17(6)(b) of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (the Act), the Department requires you to submit a Preferred Infrastructure Report (PIR), in addition to a Response to Submissions Report (RtS). The PIR must address hydrology and flooding impacts of the project, as raised in submissions and by the “Independent Review of Hydrology”.

The PIR must also provide appropriate justification and information on the design of the project and alternative rail alignments considered, particularly in proximity to the towns of Narromine and Narrabri, where substantial residual flooding impacts are predicted, and how these alternatives were analysed to inform the selection of the preferred option. Design alternatives must also be provided demonstrating how residual flood impacts can be reduced.

The PIR may be exhibited under Section 5.17(7) of the Act when determined to be satisfactory by the Department. The Department also reminds ARTC that the Department’s assessment timeframes do not include the seeking of further information, re-exhibition (if required) and condition negotiation.

It is the proponent’s responsibility to accommodate these actions in its own timeframes and to ensure that requested documentation is of a standard to allow the Department to complete its assessment. Should you have any inquiries regarding this matter, please contact Mick Fallon on (02) 8217 2083.

Yours sincerely,



30 April 21

Glenn Snow
Director
Transport Assessments
As delegate of the Planning Secretary