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NSW Department of Planning and Environment
Attention: Daniel Gorgioski
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Your Ref: SSI 6878
Our Ref: Z17/442770
File: DE-2015/16
Date: 27 September 2017

Dear Mr Gorgioski,

ALBION PARK RAIL BYPASS STATE SIGNIFICANT INFRASTRUCTURE PROPOSAL (SSI 6878) – PREFERRED INFRASTRUCTURE REPORT

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Preferred Infrastructure Report for the Albion Park Rail Bypass proposal. It is noted the report satisfactorily responds to some key concerns previously raised by Council.

Given the proposed bypass will be serving both existing and future populations such as at West Dapto and Calderwood, planning for effective connections is vital to the future functionality of these significant urban release areas.

Council is satisfied that the RMS revised predicted traffic volumes now accord with outputs from Council's future scenario models.

Council's submission that the M1 project is the "causative" effect necessitating the deviation of Yallah Road is now largely resolved. The practicalities of the deviation's construction have been addressed through it being constructed as part of the M1 project, and funding arrangements for the bypass and associated future bridge works have been the subject of negotiations between RMS and Council. On the basis that either a Yallah Road M1 underpass is being considered with sufficient M1 bridge spans to accommodate a future four lane Yallah Road cross section, or alternatively a bridge over the M1 with capacity for four lanes is constructed as part of the current project, Council's concerns regarding the future cost implications of expansion works are addressed.

It is understood that, due to project funding constraints, the Tallawarra Interchange implementation is proposed to be staged at a later date. The interim arrangement shows Cormack Avenue's connection to Princes Highway remaining unchanged to the current layout. It is noted that the ultimate arrangement for Cormack Avenue is a direct connection to the proposed new M1 southbound off ramp with left-left-out traffic movements only permitted. Such an arrangement accommodates the north to south travel arrangement for residents east of the Motorway but is less than satisfactory for the return trip – south to north requiring a detour of some kilometres through Mount Brown and Emerson Road. For quite some time Council has worked with the local community to address traffic and safety issues along Compton Street and Cormack Avenue. Traffic modelling has confirmed the prevalence of "through" trips on these roads with significant relief provided by deviating Cormack Avenue through the Tallawarra development plus the provision of south-facing Motorway ramps at Emerson Road. Both these initiatives are considered to be medium term in the current planning and funding environment.

Council acknowledges the current documentation indicates that the project now provides a direct cycle link north-south along the proposed M1 Motorway between Albion Park and Yallah. The inclusion of quality infrastructure (including pavement type, adequate width, safe vertical and horizontal alignment as well as appropriate lighting) to support cycling within this project is important to Council.

It should further be noted that Council has commenced a review of the Council Duck Creek flood study dated February 2012. Council would be happy to provide updated flood information relevant to this catchment and project to RMS upon completion of the review.

Please note that the Biodiversity Offset Strategy prepared by NGH Environmental dated September 2017 incorrectly states on page 28 that Site 18 (park at the end of Wollingurry Street) is Council owned land.

The final Landscape Plan should indicate all proposed tree removals, include compensatory provision for the trees required to be removed and include a more extensive list of natives grasses and groundcovers for proposed plant mix 2 (PM2)- feature planting.

If you have any enquiries or wish to discuss these matters further, please contact myself or Council's Director Planning + Environment, Mr Andrew Carfield on telephone (02) 4227 7111.

Yours faithfully



David Farmer
General Manager
Wollongong City Council
Telephone: (02) 4227 7111