NSW EPA

Our Reference: DOC14/205042:SF13/3854
Contact: Scott Ensbey

Michael Young
Department of Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39
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19 SEP 2014

Dear Mr Young

Additional Crossing for the Clarence River at Grafton (SSI-6103) – EPA Comments on EIS

I refer to the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and accompanying information provided for the above proposal received by Environment Protection Authority (EPA) on 27 August 2014.

EPA has reviewed the proposal and has no objection to the proposal proceeding as described in the EIS. The EPA's comments on the EIS and recommendations are provided in **Attachment 1.**

I note that the EPA's assessment of key issues is based on the concept design provided in the EIS. The lack of a detailed design limits the EPA's ability to conduct an accurate and complete assessment of impacts and the recommended mitigation measures. The EPA understands that the detailed project design stage will provide this opportunity for a more comprehensive review, and I expect that the EPA will be consulted during this phase of the project.

Hence, the EPA's recommendations are provided to help guide detailed design works for the EPA's key interests in the projects construction and operational phases.

It is not clear in the EIS if the project will require a licence under the *Protection of the Environment Operations (POEO) Act 1997*. The proponent will need to make a separate application to EPA to obtain a licence if it is determined to be required, once development project approval is granted.

EPA requests an opportunity to review the draft conditions of consent for the proposal prior to finalisation. The EPA would also appreciate receiving a copy of relevant submissions received (or a report summarising these submissions) following exhibition of the EIS. This would assist EPA to review the draft conditions of consent and to perform its later licensing function, if relevant.

If you have any questions, or wish to discuss this matter further please contact Scott Ensbey on 66402522.

Yours sincerely

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ATTACHMENT 1: EPA COMMENTS / RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Water

I note that section 6.2.7 (bridge construction description) of the EIS discusses potential bridge design and construction methodologies. The EPA stresses the importance of conducting a comprehensive risk assessment of the potential impacts on water quality and hydrological processes posed by proposed bridge construction methods. The EPA assumes that this will be conducted during the detailed design phase of the project.

A Soil and Water Management Plan (or a group of sub-plans) should be developed which outlines all management and mitigation measures relating to stormwater management, erosion control, and water quality management during construction and operational phases.

The Plan/s should include management and mitigation measures that address the following issues for land-based construction works and bridge construction works:

- Provide detailed procedures that will be implemented to avoid any direct water quality impacts from bridge construction activities on the Clarence River. These procedures should cover:
  a) The construction, use and decommissioning of any temporary river platforms;
  b) The construction of bridge pylons;
  c) Emergency response and clean-up of any incident or spills;
  d) Detail on effective use of turbidity control devices (silt curtains etc) to ensure that the impacts of any required sediment disturbing works are contained and isolated.
- Provide detail on how stormwater runoff or other contaminants from the completed operational bridge will be contained and treated, and therefore not impact on the Clarence River.
- Detail the stormwater management to control pollutants at the source and contain them within the site. Also describe measures for maintaining and monitoring any stormwater controls.
- Detail the erosion and sediment control measures directed at minimising disturbance of land, minimising water flow through the site and filtering, trapping or detaining sediment. Also include measures to maintain and monitor controls as well as rehabilitation strategies. Details of method of storage of topsoil and associated erosion and sediment control are to be detailed.
- Detail waste water treatment measures that are appropriate to the type and volume of waste water and are based on a hierarchy of avoiding generation of waste water; capturing all contaminated water (including stormwater) on the site; reusing/recycling waste water; and treating any unavoidable discharge from the site to meet specified water quality requirements.
- Detail the size and location of any sediment basins. Basins must meet the design and operational standards of *Managing Urban Stormwater Soils and Construction: Volume 1 and Volume 2D Main road construction.*
- Detail pollution control measures relating to storage of materials, possibility of accidental spills (eg preparation of contingency plans), appropriate disposal methods, and generation of leachate.
- Detail hydrological impact mitigation measures including:
  a) site selection (avoiding sites prone to flooding and water-logging, actively eroding or affected by deposition)
  b) minimising runoff
  c) minimising reductions or modifications to flow regimes
  d) minimise afflux potential of construction works and the operational bridge
  e) avoiding modifications to groundwater.
- Detail groundwater impact mitigation measures including:
  a) site selection
  b) retention of native vegetation and revegetation
  c) artificial recharge

d) providing surface storages with impervious linings
e) monitoring program.

- Detail geomorphologic impact mitigation measures including:
  a) site selection
  b) erosion and sediment controls
  c) minimising in-stream works
  d) treating existing accelerated erosion and deposition
  e) monitoring program.

2. Noise

The EIS predicts noise impacts on numerous receivers from various sources during project construction works. The EIS also predicts noise impacts from the bridge and associated infrastructure during its operation.

These predicted noise impacts are based on information that supports the concept design of the bridge and associated works provided in the EIS. The EPA understands that once the project reaches the detailed design phase, a more accurate impact assessment can be made.

The EPA recommends that:

a) A revised Noise Impact Assessment be developed once detailed designs of the works are known and decided.

b) A Construction Noise Management Plan be developed for the project. This plan should include but not be limited to:
   - Detail all noise mitigation measures to be applied to specific plant and equipment to be used in construction works and include the expected sound power levels for each item pre and post mitigation.
   - Detail how noise mitigation works will contribute to meeting the adopted noise criteria outlined in the EIS for each noise catchment;
   - Outline all measures to be implemented to monitor the performance of noise mitigation measures and respond to complaints; and
   - Outline all measures to be implemented for community consultation including appropriate contact details.

c) Standard working hours be limited to:
   - 7am – 6pm Monday to Friday
   - 8am – 1pm Saturday
   - No work on Sundays or Public Holidays

d) Work outside standard hours will be considered only after adequate assessment, justification and consultation with community and key agencies is conducted.

3. Air

The EPA recommends that an Air Quality Management Plan be developed to manage construction air quality issues. The plan should detail the mitigation measures that will be implemented to manage dust and other air impurities generated by project plant and equipment.