



Office of Environment & Heritage

Your reference SSI-5414
Our reference: Doc12/45371
Contact Susan Harrison 9995 6864

Ms Diane Sarkies
Senior Planning Officer – Rail
Infrastructure Projects
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Ms Sarkies

I refer to your letter received by the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) on 30th October 2012 inviting a submission on the exhibited Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the North West Rail Link, Stage 2 – Stations, Rail Infrastructure and Systems (SSI-5414), including advice on recommended conditions of approval. OEH previously provided comments on the adequacy of the draft EIS for the North West Rail Link Stage 2 on 10 October 2012 (Doc12/40686).

OEH has reviewed the EIS and has the following comments to make on Aboriginal cultural heritage, and flooding.

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage

OEH raised the following matters in its letter dated 10 October. These matters remain unaddressed.

- The EIS provides no additional assessment of the cumulative impacts of the proposal; and
- The long-term storage and curation arrangements for Aboriginal objects recovered from the investigation program and triggers for Phase 2 investigations have not been provided.

Flooding

No new information has been added to the AECOM Surface Water and Hydrology - Stations, Rail Infrastructure and Systems - EIS 2 (18 October 2012) which was on public exhibition, and therefore OEH comments remain as provided previously on the draft EIS on 10 October 2012.


OEH comments on AECOM Surface Water and Hydrology - EIS 2 (18 October 2012) are generally confined to the methodology used for the assessment. From OEH's perspective the AECOM EIS 2 report in its current form appears to follow acceptable floodplain risk management practice and is considered reasonable subject to issues of clarification indicated below:

- An increase in flood level up to 0.5 m in PMF flood events in Old Windsor Road and the Transit-way near the intersection with Samantha Riley Drive is indicated (pp.37-38). Although the overall flood extent would not increase significantly in the PMF, it should be noted that vehicle stability would be of concern in the above two locations during such larger floods. Such points of interest should be identified within an emergency response plan in consultation with the State Emergency Services.

- The vicinity of North West Growth Centre, it is recommended that a conservative precautionary approach be adopted and appropriate mitigation measures be identified to offset potential flood impacts arising from the future development.
- Although a strategy to maintain the 100 year peak discharge flows for the final development condition to existing discharge is acknowledged (pp. 40-41), more frequent floods such as a 2 year ARI flood, should be considered in the on site detention strategy.

Please note OEH's written agreement must be obtained for all conditions of approval or statement of commitments that bind the agency. If you have any queries please contact Susan Harrison, Manager Planning on 9995 6864.

Yours sincerely

 3/12/12

LOU EWINS
Manager Planning & Aboriginal Heritage
Regional Operations, Metropolitan
Office of Environment and Heritage