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Mr Mick Fallon  
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NSW Department of Planning and Environment

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Dear Mr Fallon

**Inland Rail Narrabri to North Star (7474)  
Comment on the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)**

I refer to your email of 14 Nov 2017 to the Department of Industry in respect to the above matter. Comment has been sought from relevant branches of Crown Lands & Water and Department of Primary Industries.

Any further referrals to Department of Industry can be sent by email to [landuse.enquiries@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:landuse.enquiries@dpi.nsw.gov.au).

The department has reviewed the EIS and provides the following recommendations:

- The [Vehicle Biosecurity Security Kit factsheet](#) should be included as a resource guide as part of the biodiversity management sub-plan within the Construction Environmental management Plan.
- While specific rehabilitation actions are to be addressed as individual agreements with landholders, the proponent should develop a consistent strategy to meet required standards and process including consideration of :
  - Baseline condition including groundcover;
  - Description of vegetation types;
  - Photo evidence;
  - Desired final land condition; and
  - Appropriate species lists.
- The EIS has estimated construction water of 150ML over a two year period will be required to meet demands for dust control, site compaction and site reinstatement. The EIS proposes to confirm the ability to access water supplies and any licensing requirements after project approval. The proponent should note that this is a commercial risk for the project. The department recommends that water supply works be confirmed to ensure an adequate water supply is available and to identify any relevant exemptions from approval requirements under the [Water management Act \(2000\)](#).
- The proponent should provide an assessment of the impacts and proposed mitigation of water extraction and where there is the potential for a loss of water supply and a new surface flow path due to redirecting surface flows.
- The proponent should provide an assessment of the consistency of the project and associated impacts with the requirements of the [Floodplain Management Plan for the Gwydir Valley Floodplain 2016](#).

- Any approval of the project should include the following as conditions of consent:
  - A Construction Environmental Management Plan must be prepared in consultation with Crown Lands & Water (water.referrals@dpi.nsw.gov.au) prior to commencing works.
  - Works within waterfront land must be carried out in accordance with the [Guidelines for Controlled Activities on Waterfront Land \(2012\)](#)

Yours sincerely



Graeme White  
**Manager, Assessment Advice**  
15 December 2017