

7 September 2012

10/410.11235

The Director General
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
PO Box 39
Sydney NSW 2001

Attention: Michael Young

Dear Michael

PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADE – BULAHDELAH BYPASS PROJECT – OPERATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN CoA MODIFICATION

The Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) is requesting a modification to the conditions of approval for the Bulahdelah Bypass Project to allow for project-specific operational environmental management practices and procedures to be incorporated into existing environmental management systems.

Condition 6.5 of the Project Approval outlines the requirements for the preparation of an Operational Environmental Management Plan. The requirements involve the preparation of a plan detailing the description of activities, statutory and other obligations, monitoring of environmental performance during operation, roles and responsibilities and complaints handling.

It is noted that for recent Pacific Highway Upgrade project approvals, eg Tintenbar to Ewingsdale (07_0051), Oxley Highway to Kempsey (07_0090) and Warrell Creek to Urunga (07_0112), a streamlined approval process for operational environmental management was allowed by incorporating the project into existing environmental management systems.

It is requested that a similar condition be adopted for the Bulahdelah Bypass project. Such a modification would assist not only the RMS and its contractors but also the regulatory agencies. By adopting a similar condition to the one provided in recent project approvals, the workload associated with the preparation and assessment of an Operational Environmental Management Plan would be reduced, in addition to unnecessary duplication of documentation and management processes.

Please find attached the modification document that outlines all operational management measures for the project and where these issues are addressed within existing plans or management systems. Where operational requirements are not included within the existing approved plans for the project, the specific management requirements are outlined within this

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modification proposal report. Also included within the report are details of the consultation with the Environmental Review Group.

Overall, it is considered that this modification would result in consistent management measures being able to be applied to the Bulahdelah Bypass project and allow for streamlining of the regulatory approval process associated with the preparation of an Operational Environmental Management Plan. This modification is considered consistent with current best practice management and would not result in a decrease in the environmental performance of the Bulahdelah Bypass project.

Should you require any further information please contact David Ledlin, Senior Environmental Officer on (02) 4924 0281 in the first instance.

Yours sincerely



Robert (Bob) Higgins
General Manager Pacific Highway

14/9/12