



NSW GOVERNMENT
Department of Planning

Contact: Glenn Snow
Phone: (02) 9228 6352
Fax: (02) 9228 6555
Email: glenn.snow@planning.nsw.gov.au

Our ref: 9036929

Mr Les Wielinga
Chief Executive
NSW Roads and Traffic Authority
PO Box K198
HAYMARKET NSW 1238

Dear Mr Wielinga

**Director General's Requirements for the Environmental Assessment of
Proposed Pacific Highway Upgrade - Kempsey to Eungai**

The Department has received your application for the proposed Pacific Highway Upgrade - Kempsey to Eungai (Application Number: 06_0224).

I have attached a copy of the Director-General's requirements (DGRs) for the environmental assessment of the project. These requirements have been prepared following the Planning Focus Meeting held on Wednesday, 30 August 2006 and in consultation with the relevant government agencies including councils.

It should be noted that the Director-General's requirements have been prepared based on the information provided to date. Under section 75F(3) of the Act, the Director-General may alter or supplement these requirements if necessary and in light of any additional information that may be provided prior to the proponent seeking approval for the project.

I would appreciate it if you would contact the Department at least two weeks before you propose to submit the Environmental Assessment for the project to determine:

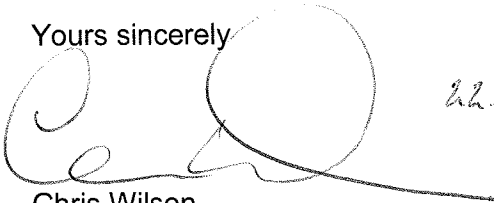
- the fees applicable to the application;
- relevant land owner notification requirements;
- consultation and public exhibition arrangements that will apply;
- options available in publishing the Environmental Assessment via the Internet; and
- number and format (hard-copy or CD-ROM) of the Environmental Assessment that will be required.

Prior to exhibiting the Environmental Assessment, the Department will review the document to determine if it adequately addresses the DGRs. The Department will consult with other relevant government agencies in making this decision. If the Director-General considers that the Environmental Assessment does not adequately address the DGRs, the Director-General may require the proponent to revise the Environmental Assessment to address the matters notified to the proponent. Following this review period the Environmental Assessment will be made publicly available for a minimum period of 30 days.

If your proposal includes any actions that could have a significant impact on matters of National Environmental Significance, it will require an additional approval under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). This approval would be in addition to any approvals required under NSW legislation. If you have any questions about the application of the EPBC Act to your proposal, you should contact the Commonwealth Department of Environment and Heritage in Canberra (6274 1111 or <http://www.deh.gov.au>).

If you have any enquiries about these requirements, please contact Lisa Mitchell, A/Director, Major Infrastructure Assessments on 02 9228 6354.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Chris Wilson', with a large circular flourish at the end.

22.9.08

Chris Wilson

Executive Director
as delegate for the Director-General

Director-General's Requirements

Section 75F of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*

Application number	06_0224
Project	Pacific Highway Upgrade - Kempsey to Eungai The proposed Upgrade involves the construction of approximately 40 kilometres of four-lane divided carriageway (capable of being upgraded to six lanes), from the existing Pacific Highway dual carriageway south of Kempsey, to the existing Pacific Highway dual carriageway north of Eungai Rail.
Location	The proposed upgrade would diverge in an easterly direction from the existing Pacific Highway south of Kempsey, pass over the Macleay River floodplain and cross the Macleay River north-east of Frederickton. From Frederickton, the proposed upgrade would move to the west of the existing Pacific Highway through Collombatti and the edge of the Tambar State Forest, and north through Barraganyatti and Eungai Rail to join the existing highway.
Proponent	NSW Roads and Traffic Authority
Date issued	22 September 2006
Expiry date	22 September 2008
General requirements	The Environmental Assessment (EA) must include the following: 1. an executive summary. 2. a detailed description of the project including the: ▪ need for and objectives of the project; ▪ alternatives considered and justification for the preferred option (including an assessment of the environmental costs and benefits of the project relative to alternatives); and ▪ various components and potential staging of the project. 3. an environmental risk analysis identifying the potential environmental impacts associated with the project and taking into account issues raised during consultation (Note: where the risk analysis identifies additional key issues, an appropriately detailed impact assessment of these additional key environmental impacts must be included in the EA). 4. an assessment of the key issues specified below, with the following aspects addressed for each key issue (where relevant): ▪ describe the existing environment ▪ an assessment of the potential impacts of the proposal (at both construction and operation stages); ▪ identify any planning, land use, development related assumption or modelling used in impact prediction and/ or developing management & mitigation commitments; and ▪ describe measures to be implemented to avoid, minimise, manage, mitigate, offset and/or monitor the impacts of the project and the residual impacts. 5. a draft Statement of Commitments, outlining environmental management, mitigation and monitoring measures. 6. a conclusion justifying the project taking into consideration the environmental, social and economic impacts the proposal; the suitability of the site; and whether or not the project is in the public interest.

Key issues	Planning and Land Use • Identification of impacts on existing and future land use, infrastructure, commercial resources, services and rehabilitation works, including: • property acquisition, changes to access and land configuration, • heavy vehicle service centre locations and future industrial land in South Kempsey, • existing and known future residential development and access to surrounding communities, and • impacts on the operation of Churchill Quarry and pits on Quarry Rd, Frederickton. Traffic and Access • Identification of traffic impacts (construction), changes to regional and local road network and access management, changes in usage characteristics, safety and performance. • Identification of provisions relating to truck movements, freight efficiency, pedestrians, cyclists and public transport services. Biodiversity • Identification of biodiversity impacts and ecological performance, including direct and indirect impacts on habitat and flora and fauna (including threatened and protected species, populations and Endangered Ecological Communities, including the identification of Yellow-bellied Glider populations). • Advice should be given on landscape scale impacts, cumulative impacts on communities in the region, identification and protection of key habitats and corridors, key isolated habitat features, remnant floodplain vegetation, riparian zone impacts and impacts on river flows and creek regimes, and likely edge effects of the project (including Glossy Black-Cockatoo foraging and nesting habitat). • Identification of mitigation and monitoring measures, including a plan for the translocation of <i>Maundia triglochinos</i> and the provision of suitable habitat for Green-thighed Frogs. Water • Identification of changed flood behaviour through flood modelling, including: • hydraulic modelling for a range of flood events, and • description, justification and assessment of design objectives (including bridge and embankment design). • Impacts of afflux and flood duration on land, infrastructure, assets, housing and business operations (including stock movement); and hazard and emergency service impacts within the affected area. • Review of stormwater management and impacts on drainage lines and infrastructure. • Identification of impacts on surface water, flows and quantity, with particular reference to any likely direct or indirect impacts on surrounding waterbodies, wetlands and their habitats. • Identification of impacts on groundwater. Air Quality • Identification of air quality impacts including the identification and quantification of emission sources, and the significance of impacts on local receivers (eg Frederickton Primary School). • Describe the impacts on the regional air shed including the identification of greenhouse gas emissions.
-------------------	--

Noise and Vibration

- Assessment of noise and vibration impacts including an assessment of the existing environment, assessment criteria and methodologies (including predicted noise impacts at opening and 10 years after opening), and a description of project impacts and affected receivers.

Resources

- Identify and assess the impacts related to construction material needs and spoil disposal, and the consumption of energy and natural resources.

Hazards and Risks

- Assessment and quantification of risks, including use, storage, disposal and transporting of hazardous and dangerous materials. Consideration should be given to exposure to natural events during construction and potential impacts to surrounding land uses associated with transporting "Dangerous Goods".
- Description and quantification of existing waste or chemical operations, and of liquid and non-liquid waste generated, handled, processed or disposed of during construction or operation of the proposal

Heritage

- Identify and assess the significance of indigenous and non-indigenous heritage and natural areas impacted directly or indirectly, including potential archaeological deposits. The State Heritage Inventory and other applicable heritage listings should be consulted. Affected items are to be identified by field survey.
- Assess potential impacts on identified items and natural areas of heritage significance, and where necessary include a Statement of Heritage Impact Assessment.
- Demonstrate that effective Aboriginal community consultation has been undertaken in determining and assessing impacts, developing options and making final recommendations.

Soils and Geology

- Identify and assess surface, geological and soil characteristics and properties that may impact or be impacted on by the proposal.
- Consideration should be given to the potential for soft soils, soil contamination, acid sulfate soils and erosion and sedimentation control.

Economic and Social impacts

- Assess the economic and social impacts on local and regional communities and on existing and future development.
- Consideration should be given to impacts on:
 - agribusiness and management, including fragmentation and potential loss of agricultural land and farm viability, stock movement to flood refuges and evacuation availability, and stock diseases and the impact on quarantined properties of a revised road network, and on travelling stock reserves.
 - social and economic outcomes for bypassed towns and surrounding communities and loss of trade for highway-based business

Urban Design and Landscaping

- Describe the visual significance of the affected landscape (including district views across the floodplain and other local views),
- Identification of sources of visual impacts (including bridges, embankments, interchanges, Frederickton Levee and alterations to natural landscape features) and their visual impact on affected landscapes.

Consultation	You should undertake an appropriate and justified level of consultation with relevant parties during the preparation of the EA, including: • local, State or Commonwealth government authorities and service providers; and • the public (including community groups or affected landowners) - document all community consultation undertaken to date or discuss the proposed strategy for undertaking community consultation. This should include any contingencies for addressing any issues arising from the community consultation and an effective communications strategy. The consultation process and the issues raised should be described in the Environmental Assessment
Deemed refusal period	• 120 days