

25th September 2007

Ingrid Ilias
Environmental Planning Officer
Critical Infrastructure and Special Projects
NSW Department of Planning
GPO Box 39 Sydney
NSW 2001

Northern Hume Alliance – Sturt Highway to Tarcutta - Modification Report

Dear Ingrid,

Please find enclosed herewith an *Application for Modification of the Approval – Sturt Highway to Tarcutta – Environmental Assessment* for the proposed alignment design change at Sturt Highway to Tarcutta (Project Approval 06_0245).

Following Project Approval, the Northern Hume Alliance (on behalf of the RTA) have refined the original concept design and identified a number of benefits that could be achieved by modifying the Approved Project. The proposed modifications are the subject of this environment assessment.

The proposed modifications would include the realignment of the duplication between chainages 38000 and 40400. The Approved alignment between chainage 38100 and 40300 is generally located on the eastern side of the existing carriageway however the proposed modification would change this to the other side of the carriageway. This would result in the entire Sturt Highway to Tarcutta Hume Highway duplication being located along the western side of the existing carriageway. Other changes resulting from this proposed modification to the alignment include:

- Realignment of Dellateroy Creek
- Reduced construction program
- Reduced interaction of construction vehicles with Hume Highway traffic
- Retention of the existing Hume Highway as the southbound carriageway subject to minor improvements to road surfacing, signage and protective fencing.

The proposed modifications provide for highly improved constructability with respect to:

- Traffic management
- Construction timeframe
- Worker and public safety.

Other notable benefits include:

- Improved flooding immunity.

The proposed modifications have been assessed for consistency with the Approved Project and, although the proposed modifications would not result in substantive change to the overall objectives and functions of highway duplication, the modifications are not considered to be consistent with the Approved Project due to the associated environmental impacts.

While the proposed modifications to the Approved Project would not explicitly prohibit the Proponent from satisfying any Minister's Condition of Approval (MCoA) or RTA Statement of Commitments (SoC), the additional environmental impacts, namely on biodiversity and heritage would require an amendment to the MCoA and SoC.

In response, the Northern Hume Alliance (NHA) has prepared this *Application for Modification Report*, for approval by Minister for Planning, in accordance with Section 75W of the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979*.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Ken Holmes, Environment and Community Manager, on (02) 9468 8410 or 0438 046 261.

Yours faithfully



Tony Sheppard
Alliance Project Manager
Northern Hume Alliance