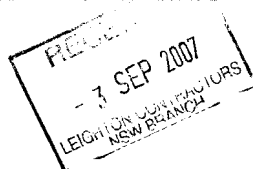




27 August 2007



David Jarred
Zone Design Coordinator
Northern Hume Alliance
PO Box 5276
West Chatswood NSW 1515

Dear Mr Jarred,

Re: Proposed Bridge Construction at Yarra Yarra Creek and bank stability works at Little Billabong Creek.

Thank you for seeking NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) comments regarding the proposed bridge construction over Yarra Yarra Creek and bank stability works on Little Billabong Creek as part of the Hume Highway up grade.

A site inspection and discussion of the planned works was undertaken with yourself and other staff from the Hume Northern Alliance on Monday 20 August 2007. During the inspection the proposed location of the bridge piers was inspected. Based on this inspection and discussions with yourself it is understood that there will be no impact on the low flow hydrology.

It was also discussed that the proposal will maintain as much as possible the existing in bank geometry and course of the creek.

Therefore I am happy to advise that the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) does not have any objections to the works being carried out in the manner proposed.

An inspection was also undertaken of Little Billabong Creek near the intersection of Westby Lane and the Hume Highway. It was observed that there are outwash areas where the creek alignment is progressing westwards towards the Hume Highway.

It is understood that NHA propose to rebuild the western bank of the creek at these outwash locations with over sized rock fill to provide scour protection and long term stability for the road embankment.

It is also understood that the proposal will not impact on the current low flow hydrology and will maintain the current in-bank geometry and course as much as possible.

I am happy to advise that DPI have no objections to the proposal be carried out in the manner proposed, provided that the following conditions are adhered too:

- The current flow area within the waterway is retained.
- Measures should be taken to ensure that fish habitat including **aquatic vegetation**, and **woody debris (snags)** are not damaged or destroyed. If such habitat is to be effected, the proponent should contact DPI.
- A revegetation plan for the works site. A minimum of at least 2 replacement trees for every tree removed should be included as part of the revegetation plan.
- Works are to be conducted during periods of low water levels, if water levels rise, work is to be suspended until levels fall again.

Since the RTA is a public authority, it is not necessary for the RTA to obtain permits for the works. The Authority is simply required to notify the Department (See Section 199 of the Fisheries Management Act 1994). You have fulfilled the notification requirements by providing a letter and a site visit outlining the works.

For further information please contact me on (02) 6947 4188

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L Pearce', written in a cursive style.

Luke Pearce
Conservation Manager, South West