

25 November 2015

SF2012/015953 CR2015/005282 DC

NSW Department of Planning & Environment Resource Assessments GPO Box 39 SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Hamish Aiken,

NEW ENGLAND HIGHWAY (A15): RIX'S CREEK MINE EXTENSION PROJECT (SSD 6300), RIX'S CREEK

Reference is made to your email dated 2 November 2015, regarding the abovementioned project which was referred to Roads and Maritime Services (Roads and Maritime) for comment on the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

Roads and Maritime understands the proposal is for the continuation of the existing mining activities and seeks approval to increase extraction from 1.5M tonnes per annum (Mtpa) to 4.5 (Mtpa). The project will include a new cut and cover tunnel crossing under the New England Highway north of the existing tunnel. Vehicular access to the mine will be from Rixs Creek Road.

Roads and Maritime Response

Roads and Maritime has reviewed the information provided, including the Traffic Impact Assessment (TIA) prepared by AECOM dated 15 October 2015 and has no objections to the proposal provided the following matters are addressed and included in the Department's Project Approval conditions:

Traffic Impacts

 A comprehensive Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) shall be provided to identify measures to minimise the impacts of construction traffic on the road network. The CTMP shall be submitted to Roads and Maritime for review and acceptance prior to the commencement of any construction activity on the New England Highway and must include:

Roads and Maritime Services

- o A risk assessment to identify hazards to traffic control associated with the site, the level of risk posed and control measures to be implemented.
- o A Vehicle Movement Plan for the management of construction traffic.
- o A Traffic Control Plan in accordance with the RTA's Traffic Control at Work Sites manual

Comment: Roads and Maritime reserves the right to review the CTMP at any stage and make changes in the interest of maintaining road safety and network efficiency.

Cut and Cover tunnel

- All structures on the Roads and Maritime network, especially on highways, shall be designed in accordance with the AS5100 Bridge Design code, as well as RMS specifications, Bridge Technical Directions, and standard drawings.
- The Cut and Cover Tunnel Concept Design included in Appendix E of the EIS shall be amended to incorporate comments provided by Roads and Maritime, as per the marked-up plans attached.

Side Track Road Concept Design

- The design of the Side Track Road shall comply with current Austroads Guidelines and RMS supplements for the posted design speed.
- The design review will be an ongoing process as the plans are developed to Construction stage.
- All the works associated with the subject development shall be undertaken at full cost to the developer and no cost to Roads and Maritime or Council.

Works Authorisation Deed

 As road works are required on the New England Highway, Roads and Maritime will require the developer to enter into a Works Authorisation Deed (WAD) with Roads and Maritime. Roads and Maritime would exercise its powers and functions of the road authority, to undertake roads works in accordance with Sections 64 and 71 of the Roads Act, as applicable, for all works under the WAD.

Comment: It is requested that the Department advise the developer that the conditions of consent set by the Department do not guarantee Roads and Maritime's final consent to the specific road work, traffic control facilities and other structures or works, for which it is responsible, on the road network. Roads and Maritime must provide a final consent for each specific change to the classified (State) road network prior to the commencement of any work.

The WAD process, including acceptance of design documentation and construction, can take a considerable amount of time. The developer should be aware of this and allow sufficient lead time within the project development program to accommodate this process.

It is therefore suggested that the developer work through this process as soon as possible with Roads and Maritime.

 All the works associated with the subject development shall be undertaken at full cost to the developer and no cost to Roads and Maritime or Council and to Council requirements.

Further advice regarding the WAD process is provided in Attachment B.

On the Minister's determination of this Project, please forward a copy of the Project Approval to Roads and Maritime for record and / or action purposes. Should you require further information please contact David Collaguazo on 4924 0334 or by email at development.hunter@rms.nsw.gov.au

Yours sincerely

Kellee McGilvray

Manager Land Use Assessment

Hunter Region

Enc. Attachment A: Mark-up of Bridge design drawings by SKM

Enc. Attachment B: WAD Advice to Consent Authority and Developer

Attachment B: WAD Advice to Consent Authority and Developer

Advice to the Consent Authority

- On the Minister's determination a copy of the Project Approval should be forwarded to Roads and Maritime within the appellant period for advice / consideration and action where required.
- Conditions of development consent do not guarantee Roads and Maritime consent to the specific road works, traffic control signals and /or other structures or works for which it is responsible. The developer must obtain Roads and Maritime authorisation in writing prior to the commencement of any road works on New England Highway, including traffic management, temporary or permanent road works associated with the proposed development.

Advice to the Developer

- Following development consent, early discussion with the Roads and Maritime Project Manager is recommended. Roads and Maritime will initiate the WAD process by sending out a letter and information pack on receipt of the Project Approval, including the name and contact details of the Project Manager.
- As the WAD process, including acceptance of design documentation and construction can take considerable time, you should allow sufficient lead time within the project development program to ensure that all documentation and works are completed in advance of occupation. Roads and Maritime will not consider granting concurrence to occupation until it is satisfied all documentation and works under the WAD have been completed.
- Authorisation to commence construction will only be granted when Roads and Maritime is satisfied that all requirements under the WAD have been met by the developer, including Roads and Maritime fees and charges, an unconditional bank guarantee for the full value of the works, detailed design documentation, environmental assessment, road occupancy license, among other matters. Roads and Maritime will issue a letter to the developer advising of this authorisation.
- Any property acquisition / dedication required to accommodate the State road works / traffic
 control signals associated with the proposed development shall be at full cost to the developer,
 including all legal and survey costs. This land shall be dedicated by the developer as public
 road reserve in favour of the Council, as the owner.
- Part of the developers' timeline should make provision for Roads and Maritime to satisfy its
 obligations under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act) to assess
 the environmental impacts of the works within the road reserve. Further investigation and
 assessment to that undertaken for the development consent may be required to the
 satisfaction of Roads and Maritime, under Part 5 of the EP&A Act.
- It is recommended that the developer use design consultants with the experience and knowledge of Roads and Maritime design requirements, in particular the Austroads *Guide to Road Design 2010* (with Roads and Maritime supplements) and relevant Australian Standards.
- A fact sheet providing further information on the WAD process can be obtained from the Roads and Maritime Private Developments Website at: http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/roadprojects/community_environment/private_developments.html
- Construction on a State road and / or traffic control signals requires the engagement of a Roads and Maritime pre-qualified contractor. A list of pre-qualified contractors can be found on the Roads and Maritime website below.
 - http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/doingbusinesswithus/tenderscontracts/pregualifiedcontractors.html

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