



RE: Proposed Modification of Condition (B54A) Woolgoolga to Ballina, Pacific Highway Upgrade Project

The OEH has reviewed the wording provided by the RMS detailing the proposed variation to the Minister's Condition of Approval specifically with regards to Aboriginal cultural heritage. We note the proposed variation is to allow archaeological investigations to be undertaken outside the approved project boundary to inform the placement of not only ancillary facilities that do not meet the set criterion, but also utilities and services, access and service roads and driveways or similar works required for the highway upgrade project.

The OEH acknowledges that the variation wording proposed by the RMS aims to minimise the buffer distance for the proposed similar works other than drainage line works on flat terrain. We support the intention of the variation to capture a range of activities necessary for the construction of the project. We also support in principle the inclusion of *utilities*, *services* and *access restoration* to premises affected, *drainage* and *fencing* mitigation measures required to protect the environment and heritage, with *ancillary facilities* so that archaeological investigation to inform placement within the buffer distances identified applies to all such activities.

The OEH's concerns regarding references to conditions of approval that are listed under the heading *Ancillary Facilities* for the proposed works that do not relate to ancillary facilities have been alleviated by the wording for proposed condition B54A including the current wording for condition B78 and limiting references to conditions B73, B74 and B75 just to ancillary facilities.

Based on the wording proposed the OEH supports the proposed amendment to Condition B54A the deletion of Condition B78 and the amendment of the wording of Condition B54 to refer instead to Condition B54A instead of B78.

For more information on this matter please contact Ms Rosalie Neve, Aboriginal Heritage Planning Officer, on 6659 8221.