

Notice of decision – Sydney Metro City & Southwest – Chatswood to Sydenham – Blues Point Acoustic Shed [SSI modification]

Section 2.22 and clause 20 of Schedule 1 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*

Application type	State significant infrastructure modification
Application number and project name	SSI 7400 MOD 5 Sydney Metro City & Southwest – Chatswood to Sydenham - Blues Point Acoustic Shed
Applicant	Sydney Metro
Approving authority	Minister for Planning

Decision

The Director under delegation from the Minister for Planning has, under s.5.25 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (**the Act**) approved the modification subject to the recommended conditions, being amended existing conditions and additional conditions.

A copy of the instrument of modification is available [here](#).

A copy of the Planning Secretary's Assessment Report is available [here](#).

Date of decision

02/11/2018

Reasons for decision

The following matters were taken into consideration in making this decision:

- the matters listed in the statutory context section of the Planning Secretary's assessment report;
- all information submitted to the Department during assessment of the application;
- the findings and recommendations in the Planning Secretary's Assessment Report; and
- the views of the community about the project (see Attachment 1).

The findings and recommendations set out in the Planning Secretary's Assessment Report were accepted and adopted as the reasons for making this decision.

The key reasons for approving the modification are as follows:

- the project would improve security, dust, water, soil and sediment control issues at the site. Additional benefits of the modification to the overall approved project include avoiding potential delays to work at new metro stations north of Sydney Harbour, potential delays to the commencement of tunnel activities such as cross passage and crossover caverns works, extension to the overall project construction program and potential fire and life safety risks for the Chatswood dive site.
- the project has been endorsed by the NSW Government by being a key component of the *Future Transport Strategy 2056*;
- the impacts on the community and the environment can be appropriately minimised and managed, consistent with applicable NSW Government policies and standards. The key impacts of the modification are noise, working outside of standard construction hours, visual impact and blasting in relation to heritage structures. Noise, in particular noise outside standard construction hours, would be managed via existing, amended and additional conditions of approval. These include determining appropriate hours of respite, offering additional mitigation when certain noise levels are exceeded, and restricting shaft excavation generally to standard construction hours. Visual impact would be managed through the Proponent's commitments outlined in the Modification Report, such as timing the installation and decommissioning to minimise impacts during key harbour viewing events and selecting a colour palette sympathetic to the surrounding environment. Blasting in relation to heritage structures would be managed using a risk management approach by requiring an investigation to be undertaken by a suitably qualified structural engineer, approved by the Secretary, with experience assessing heritage structures, demonstrating the higher criterion is appropriate;
- the issues raised by the community were addressed. The submitter queried the reasoning for the location of the ventilation louvres and associated noise impacts to Henry Lawson Avenue residents. The Proponent has

committed in the response to submissions to relocate the louvres so they are orientated away from residents;
and

- weighing all relevant considerations, the project is in the public interest as it minimises noise level impacts, reduces potential fire and life safety risks to construction workers, avoids delays, and subsequent impacts associated with the delays, to the overall Sydney Metro City and Southwest – Chatswood to Sydenham project as well as improves security, dust, water, soil and sediment control issues at the site.

Attachment 1 – Consideration of Community Views

The Department exhibited the modification request from Wednesday 5 September 2018 until Wednesday 19 September 2018 (14 days) and received one submission from a resident living within 500 metres of the project site. No objections were received.

The Department also undertook two site visits.

The key issues raised by the community (including in submissions) and considered in the Planning Secretary's Assessment Report and by the decision maker are related to noise impacts. Other issues are addressed in the Planning Secretary's Assessment Report.

<i>Issue</i>	<i>Consideration</i>
<i>Issue 1</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Location of ventilation louvres and associated noise impacts	<i>Assessment</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">The Proponent committed, within the RtS, to relocate and orientate the louvres and direct line of noise transmission away from residents. <i>Conditions/Response</i> <p>No conditions specific to this issue required.</p>