

Our Ref: (2021/294249)

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Andrew Neil

24 August 2021

Re: M1 to Raymond Terrace EIS Submission

Thank you for providing Maitland City Council with the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed M1 Expansion.

Although the project is not located within the Maitland Local Government Area, it directly adjoins it, and has great strategic importance for the region.

The proposed route location and construction is **supported** by Council for the following reasons:

- The M1 extension removes a significant bottleneck, especially during holiday times, that directs traffic into the LGA as holiday makers attempt to avoid the Hexham Bridge and associated delays.
- Extension delays along the Hexham Straight are commonplace during peak hours and removing intra and inter-state traffic from this stretch of road will help mitigate this.
- Will reinforce the strategic importance of the Thornton Industrial Precinct.
- Is located in a logical location that minimises overall impacts.
- Provides a strong connection point to the Maitland local road network, strengthening the link of the LGA to the M1 corridor, providing additional opportunities for employment and housing opportunities within the LGA.

However, the following questions and areas of concerns need to be further addressed or commented upon:

- Use of local roads within Maitland for haulage of raw materials – no detail is given as to where these materials are to be sourced from, and recent Environmental Impact Statements for quarries located in proximity to the LGA boundary have raised significant concerns over the impacts of heavy vehicle movements through residential areas and the impact on the local road network.
- It is noted that the viaduct is across a floodplain downstream of Maitland, and while a flood study has been undertaken, does it consider the potential impacts of sea level rises, particularly upstream of the viaduct.
- Further consideration is needed ed on the potential impacts on coastal zone management and estuary management.

Given the overall positive nature of the proposal, it is felt that these matters can be addressed appropriately through the ongoing assessment phase of the proposal.

If you require any additional information or assistance on this matter, please contact Andrew Neil, Manager Strategic Planning on (02) 4934 9821.

Yours sincerely

Matthew Prendergast
Group Manager Planning & Environment