

Submission on the North Star to NSW/QLD Border Project EIS

Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy, Qld Gov.

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Detailed design, construction and operation of the North Star to Border (NS2B) project (for the 7km section of track located in Queensland) needs to reflect Border to Gowrie (B2G) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) requirements related to Department of Natural Resources Mines and Energy (DNRME) interests. This includes incorporating plans, conditions, environmental management plans and sub-plans, as well as any outstanding DNRME requirements under Queensland State legislation, relevant to this section of track into the NS2B project. It should be noted the B2G EIS is yet to be approved under Queensland's *State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971*, therefore reference to the B2G EIS in the following advice is provisional.

The NS2B EIS contains minimal reference to the 7km section of track to be located in Queensland, and it is not clear how DNRME interests in the yet to be approved B2G EIS, and outstanding legislative requirements will be progressed through to detailed design, construction and operational phases of the NS2B project. Therefore, the following advice is provided in relation to key DNRME interests to be integrated into the NS2B project:

1. Water

The proposed NS2B project includes a bridge over the Macintyre River, and access to water (surface and/or groundwater) for the project. The proponent needs to ensure that all mitigation measures/conditions in the yet to be approved B2G EIS (relevant to the above interests), are adhered to as a part of detailed design, construction and operation for the NS2B. Appropriate authorisations will also need to be secured in accordance with the *Water Act 2000* prior to accessing water for the project. Additionally, a Riverine Protection Permit will need to be obtained (for excavation and fill in the bed and banks of the Macintyre River) if the *Riverine Protection Permit Exemption requirements WSS/2013/726 Version 2.01 13/11/2019* are unable to be met. The proponent is encouraged to consult DNRME to discuss requirements under the *Water Act 2000*.

2. Stock Routes

The proposed rail alignment will intersect Queensland's stock route network at Kildonan Road, and impact a stock watering facility (located on lot 37 MH878). DNRME have provided advice to ARTC B2G Team (and the Office of the Coordinator-General) relating to mitigation measures and

expectations for the design and operation of this crossing, to inform the Draft B2G EIS. This advice needs to be incorporated into the detailed design, construction and operation of the NS2B project to ensure that Queensland's stock route network is not compromised by the proposal. DNRME seeks to be consulted regarding all aspects of the NS2B project involving Queensland's stock route network, in particular where it relates to the Kildonan Road crossing, and the stock watering facility located on lot 37 MH878.

3. State Land

The eastern strip of reserve lot 37 MH878 (including road access) is permanently impacted by the proposed project, according to the B2G Preliminary Draft EIS. This land is State land reserve, dedicated for the purpose of Camping & Water (Stock Route Reserve – Primary & Open with water facility). The proponent needs to ensure that any state land mitigation measures/conditions in the yet to be approved B2G EIS, are adhered to as a part of the project delivery for NS2B. Additionally, appropriate tenure will need to be secured in accordance with the *Land Act 1994*, prior to works taking place on State land. The proponent is encouraged to consult DNRME to discuss requirements under the *Land Act 1994*.

4. Matters of State Environmental Significance (MSES)

The proposed alignment will impact MSES vegetation. Prior to clearing of vegetation in Queensland for the NS2B project, all requirements relating to impacts to MSES (including any offset obligations) in the yet to be approved B2G EIS, need to be adhered to/obtained.

5. Key Resource Area (KRA)

DNRME adequacy review of the Preliminary Draft B2G EIS, identified no concerns with the proposed use of a KRA separation area as a temporary laydown area. Should the extent of the laydown area change, or permanent use of this area be required as a result of detailed design/construction/operation of the NS2B project, it is recommended that DNRME be consulted in relation to potential impacts to the KRA.

Note, all of the above interests have been identified in various stages of the B2G project.

DNRME seeks to be consulted throughout the relevant stages of NS2B project, to ensure DNRME interests are appropriately integrated/addressed (including any drafting of conditions as required).

Please contact DNRME in relation to the above interests, through email to planningservicessouth@dnrme.qld.gov.au or phone 07 5451 2207.