



NSW GOVERNMENT
Department of Planning

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Our ref: 9043171

Mr Brian Watters
A/ Director, Major Infrastructure
NSW Roads and Traffic Authority
PO Box K198
HAYMARKET NSW 1238

Dear Mr Watters

**Director-General's Requirements for the Environmental Assessment of
Proposed Hume Highway Duplication Concept Plan**

I refer to the Concept Plan submitted by the NSW Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) for the proposed Hume Highway Duplication Project on 13 November 2006 (Concept Plan Number: 06_0314).

As you would be aware, the Minister for Planning directed the RTA to lodge a Concept Plan for the Hume Highway Duplication Project in accordance with section 75M(1) of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (the Act) on 12 October 2006.

I hereby enclose a copy of the Director-General's requirements (DGRs) for the environmental assessment of the concept plan.

It should be noted that the Director-General's requirements have been prepared based on the information provided to date and with reference to the consultation undertaken by the Department for the individual project applications for the Project. Under section 75F(3) of the Act, the Director-General may alter or supplement these requirements if necessary and in light of any additional information that may be provided prior to the proponent seeking approval for the concept plan for the project.

I would appreciate it if you would contact the Department at least two weeks before you propose to submit the Environmental Assessment for the Concept Plan to determine:

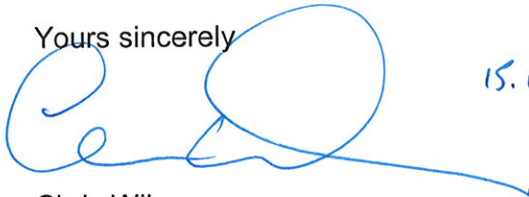
- the fees applicable to the application;
- relevant land owner notification requirements;
- consultation and public exhibition arrangements that will apply;
- options available in publishing the Environmental Assessment via the Internet; and
- number and format (hard-copy or CD-ROM) of the Environmental Assessment that will be required.

Prior to exhibiting the Environmental Assessment, the Department will review the document to determine if it adequately addresses the DGRs. The Department may consult with other relevant government agencies in making this decision. If the Director-General considers that the Environmental Assessment does not adequately address the DGRs, the Director-General may require the proponent to revise the Environmental Assessment to address the matters notified to the proponent. Following this review period the Environmental Assessment will be made publicly available for a minimum period of 30 days.

If your proposal includes any actions that could have a significant impact on matters of National Environmental Significance, it will require an additional approval under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). This approval would be in addition to any approvals required under NSW legislation. If you have any questions about the application of the EPBC Act to your proposal, you should contact the Commonwealth Department of Environment and Heritage in Canberra (6274 1111 or <http://www.deh.gov.au>).

If you have any enquiries about these requirements, please contact Caitlin Bennett, Senior Environmental Planning Officer, Major Infrastructure Assessments on 02 9228 6197.

Yours sincerely



15.12.06

Chris Wilson

Executive Director

As delegate for the Director-General

Director-General's Requirements

Section 75F of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*

Application number	06_0314
Project	Hume Highway Duplication Concept Plan. The proposed Concept involves the upgrade of five separate segments of the Hume Highway located within the Greater Hume and Wagga Wagga local government areas to achieve four lanes of dual carriageway.
Location	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sturt Highway to Tarcutta, from approximately 37 kilometres south of Gundagai to approximately 43 kilometres south of Gundagai; 2. Kyeamba Hill, from approximately 67 kilometres south of Gundagai to approximately 76 kilometres south of Gundagai; 3. Little Billabong, from approximately 85 kilometres south of Gundagai to approximately 93 kilometres south of Gundagai; 4. Yarra Yarra to Holbrook, from approximately 98 kilometres south of Gundagai to approximately 110 kilometres south of Gundagai; 5. Woomargama to Mullengandra, from approximately 131 kilometres south of Gundagai to approximately 141 kilometres south of Gundagai.
Proponent	NSW Roads and Traffic Authority
Date issued	15 December 2006
Expiry date	15 December 2008
General requirements	<p>The Environmental Assessment (EA) must include the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. an executive summary. 2. a detailed description of the concept plan including the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ need for and objectives of the project; ▪ the potential staging of the project and the components which may be subject to subsequent approval(s); ▪ the alignment and corridor width; ▪ alternatives considered and justification for the preferred option (including an assessment of the environmental costs and benefits of the project relative to alternatives); and 3. an environmental risk analysis identifying the potential environmental impacts associated with the project and taking into account issues raised during consultation (Note: where the risk analysis identifies additional key issues, an appropriately detailed impact assessment of these additional key environmental impacts must be included in the EA). 4. an assessment of the key issues specified below, with the following aspects addressed for each key issue (where relevant): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ describe the existing environment ▪ an assessment of the potential impacts of the concept plan (at both construction and operation stages); ▪ identify any planning, land use, development related assumption or modelling used in impact prediction and/ or developing management & mitigation commitments; and ▪ describe measures to be implemented to avoid, minimise, manage, mitigate, offset and/or monitor the impacts of the project and the residual impacts. In particular, details of any management and monitoring strategies that would be implemented as part of the subsequent project stages to ensure the potential cumulative impacts are mitigated and/or managed consistently across the Concept Plan corridor. 5. a draft Statement of Commitments, outlining environmental management, mitigation and monitoring measures. 6. a conclusion justifying the concept plan taking into consideration the environmental, social and economic impacts the proposal; the suitability of the site; and whether or not the concept plan is in the public interest.

Key issues	<p>Biodiversity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification and assessment of the cumulative impacts on biodiversity and ecological performance, including direct and indirect impacts on habitat, flora and fauna (including threatened and protected species, populations and Endangered Ecological Communities) and aquatic/riparian habitats. As part of this assessment, consideration is to be given to the potential cumulative impacts on important habitats and corridors within a local and regional context. • Identification of the mitigation and monitoring strategy that would be implemented if required as part of the subsequent project stages to provide a coordinated approach to minimising the potential biodiversity impacts of the total upgrade works. <p>Heritage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify areas of indigenous and non-indigenous heritage and natural areas that could be impacted directly or indirectly, including potential archaeological deposits, with an appropriate strategic assessment of any potential impacts. • Details on how any impacts on items of indigenous and non-indigenous heritage would be addressed and managed as part of the subsequent project stages. This includes how effective Aboriginal community consultation would be undertaken as part of these processes. <p>Resource Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identification of the extractive material needs of the works associated with the Concept Plan. Such activities are to be supported by a strategic impact assessment that includes the details on the broader strategy that would be implemented to manage these activities across the project corridor. ▪ Identification of the likely water demands of the total project, the intended strategy to meet these demands and the strategic framework to address and manage these activities during subsequent project stages. <p>Traffic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identification of any cumulative impacts resulting from the total project on regional and local traffic flows, and how the impacts would be mitigated and/or managed consistently across the Concept Plan corridor. This should include (but is not limited to) road behaviour, safety and performance during construction (particularly the management of regional and local passenger vehicle and freight movements).
Consultation	<p>You should undertake an appropriate and justified level of consultation with relevant parties during the preparation of the EA, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ local, State or Commonwealth government authorities and service providers; and ▪ the public (including community groups or affected landowners) - document all community consultation undertaken to date or discuss the proposed strategy for undertaking community consultation. This should include any contingencies for addressing any issues arising from the community consultation and an effective communications strategy. <p>The consultation process and the issues raised should be described in the Environmental Assessment</p>
Deemed refusal period	120 days