

## Background

Transport for NSW is currently delivering the Albion Park Rail bypass project, at Albion Park Rail, south of Wollongong, in NSW. This project was approved as State Significant Infrastructure (infrastructure approval SSI 6878) by the Department of Planning, Industry & Environment (the Department) in January 2018.

Construction of the project is well advanced, with construction works commencing in early January 2019.

In April 2020 the NSW Government gazetted the Environmental Planning and Assessment (COVID-19 Development—Infrastructure Construction Work Days) Order 2020. The Order was accompanied by a Frequently Asked Questions information sheet from the Department which requested that all State Significant Infrastructure projects (amongst other projects) prepare a 'Response to COVID-19' plan.

The plan is to identify all necessary changes required in response to the current circumstances due to the COVID-19 pandemic and what alternative measures the project team is putting in place to achieve the same objectives as the original conditions of approval and/or commitments required under the infrastructure approval.

The plan is to be submitted to the Department for information and also be communicated to the wider public on the project website.

This Response to COVID-19 plan has been prepared for the Albion Park Rail bypass project SSI 6878.

## Scope

The post approval documents which were reviewed to develop the Response to COVID-19 plan include the following:

- Conditions of Approval (CoA)
- Revised Environmental Management Measures (REMM) from the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) as amended by the Submissions and Preferred Infrastructure Report (SPIR)
- Approved Management Plans (AMP).

## Potential Impact of COVID-19 on Project Compliance

From the review of the above post approval documents, Table 1 on the following page provides information on the specific project conditions and/or commitments that are potentially at risk of not being able to be complied with as a result of COVID-19 and what alternative strategies are being put in place.

**Table 1 Conditions and/or commitments potentially at risk of non-compliance due to COVID-19**

CoA	Requirement	Area Potentially Affected by COVID-19	Alternative Strategy
E47	<p>Operational noise mitigation measures identified in Condition E46 (such as at property architectural treatments) that will not be affected by construction works, must be implemented within six (6) months of the commencement of construction, except for the Croom Regional Sporting Complex works or at other times during construction to minimise construction noise impacts. These measures must be detailed in the Construction Noise and Vibration Management Plan for the SSI, unless otherwise agreed by the Secretary. Where early implementation of noise mitigation measures are not proposed, the Proponent must comply with the requirements as further outlined in CoA E47.</p> <p>Where early implementation of noise mitigation measures are not proposed, the Proponent must submit to the Secretary a report providing justification as to why, along with details of temporary measures that would be implemented to reduce construction noise impacts, until such time that the operational noise mitigation measures identified in Condition E46 are implemented. The report must be provided to the Secretary for approval prior to the commencement of construction which would affect the identified receivers.</p>	<p>The carrying out of noise treatment inspections and/or physical works at residential and other properties within the timeframes nominated.</p> <p>Some potential supply issues with materials and/or products impacting these timeframes.</p>	<p>Implementation of noise treatment works at properties has previously commenced and is still occurring.</p> <p>Noise treatment works at properties are contingent on landowner access agreement. Properties that have declined access due to COVID-19 are recorded with contact to be made again at a later date if/when restrictions are lifted or the situation changes.</p> <p>Alternate access arrangements for trades' people are being investigated where feasible, following social distancing requirements and post inspection cleaning regimes where reasonable or feasible.</p> <p>Product and/or material alternate supply sources will be investigated should supply of material become difficult.</p> <p>Where required the project will consult with the Department to seek agreement on extended timeframes to complete these works.</p>
B5	<p>The Community Communication Strategy, as approved by the Secretary, must be implemented for the duration of the works and for 12 months following the completion of construction.</p>	<p>The community display and drop in centre is required to be open during 9am to 5pm</p>	<p>Project website and NSW Roads Facebook page update/s on temporary changes to community communications has been posted, along with an email update to registered community members.</p>

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		<p>on weekdays for the duration of the project by the CCS and has been temporarily closed.</p> <p>Similarly community information forums / sessions are nominated to be held every 6 months by the CCS and these have been temporarily suspended.</p>	<p>Email update/s to local community groups to offer information of the progress of the project.</p> <p>Short videos on project milestones and key messages to be provided on project website.</p> <p>Alternative communications with Aboriginal Focus Group members such as video conferencing are being investigated.</p> <p>An updated Community Communication Strategy describing the changes will be provided to the Department for information and made available on the project website.</p>
D10	<p>Within 12 months of the commencement of operation of the SSI, except for the Croom Regional Sporting Complex, or as otherwise agreed by the Secretary, the Proponent must undertake monitoring of operational noise to compare actual noise performance of the SSI against the noise performance predicted in the review of noise mitigation measures required by Condition E46.</p> <p>The Proponent must prepare an Operational Noise Compliance Report to document this monitoring. The Report must include, but not necessarily be limited to:</p> <p>(a) noise monitoring to assess compliance with the operational noise levels predicted in the review of operational noise</p>	<p>Internal access to properties for noise monitoring purposes may be affected.</p>	<p>Operation of the project is not due to occur until 2022, so this requirement is not immediately at risk of non-compliance.</p> <p>Properties that decline access due to COVID-19 will be recorded and an alternate monitoring program/s will be investigated with the landowner/s where feasible and reasonable.</p> <p>Alternate access arrangements following social distancing requirements and/or post inspection cleaning regimes may be investigated where feasible and reasonable.</p>

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	<p>mitigation</p> <p>measures required under Condition E46;</p> <p>(b) a review of the operational noise levels in terms of criteria and noise goals established in the NSW Road Noise Policy 2011;</p> <p>(c) methodology, location and frequency of noise monitoring undertaken, including monitoring sites at which SSI noise levels are ascertained, with specific reference to locations indicative of impacts on sensitive receivers;</p> <p>(d) details of any complaints and enquiries received in relation to operational noise generated by the SSI between the date of commencement of operation and the date the report was prepared;</p> <p>(e) any required recalibrations of the noise model taking into consideration factors such as noise monitoring and actual traffic numbers and proportions;</p> <p>(f) an assessment of the performance and effectiveness of applied noise mitigation measures together with a review and if necessary, reassessment of mitigation measures; and</p> <p>(g) identification of additional measures to those identified in the review of noise mitigation measures required by Condition E46, that would be implemented with the objective of meeting the</p>		

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	<p>criteria outlined in the NSW Road Noise Policy 2011, when these measures would be implemented and how their effectiveness would be measured and reported to the Secretary and the EPA.</p> <p>The Operational Noise Report must be submitted to the Secretary and the EPA within 60 days of completing the operational noise monitoring or as otherwise agreed by the Secretary, and made publicly available.</p>		
E28	<p>The Proponent must implement the mitigation measures described in:</p> <p>(a) Tables 11 and 12 of the Albion Park Rail Bypass SPIR, Appendix G Addendum Statement of Heritage Impact, September 2017; and</p> <p>(b) Table 6 and section 7.0 of the Albion Park Rail Bypass Project PACHCI Stage 3, Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report, Report to HCJV, October 2015</p> <p>except as required by this approval.</p>	<p>Two mitigation measures from CoA E28 (b) described as HMM30 and HMM31 in the Heritage Management Plan refer to the development of a booklet and interpretive signage in consultation with Aboriginal knowledge holders for a specific cultural heritage site at Macquarie Rivulet.</p> <p>Aboriginal Focus Group meetings have been temporarily suspended therefore consultation for the preparation of the Macquarie Rivulet booklet and</p>	<p>Alternative communications with Aboriginal focus Group members such as video and teleconferencing are being investigated.</p>

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		interpretative signage has been affected.	
E31	Following completion of all salvage works required under Condition E30, the Proponent must prepare a Heritage Report in accordance with any guidelines and standards required by the Heritage Council of NSW, OEH or Registered Aboriginal Parties (as relevant). The Report must provide details of any archival recording, further historical research either undertaken or to be carried out, and archaeological excavations (with artefact analysis and identification of a final repository for finds) carried out for the SSI.	Aboriginal Focus Group meetings have been temporarily suspended therefore consultation on repatriation and ongoing management of salvaged cultural and heritage items has been affected.	Alternative communications with Aboriginal focus Group members such as video teleconferencing are being investigated.
E52	After completion of the works, condition surveys of all building and structures for which pre-construction condition surveys were undertaken in accordance with Condition E51 must be undertaken by a suitably qualified person. The results of the surveys must be documented in a Building and Structure Condition Survey Report for each building and structure surveyed. Copies of Building and Structure Condition Survey Reports must be provided to the landowners of the buildings and structures surveyed, and if agreed by the landowner, the Relevant Council(s), within three weeks of completing the surveys and no later than three (3) months following the completion of the works.	Internal access to properties for inspection purposes may be affected.	<p>Completion of works for the project is not due to occur until 2022, so this requirement is not immediately at risk of non-compliance.</p> <p>Properties that decline access due to COVID-19 will be recorded and an alternate inspection/survey program may be investigated with the landowner/s where feasible and reasonable.</p> <p>Alternate access arrangements following social distancing requirements and/or post inspection cleaning regimes may be investigated where feasible and reasonable.</p>

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E53	Any damage caused to property as a result of the SSI must be rectified or the landowner compensated, within a reasonable timeframe, with the costs borne by the Proponent. This condition does not limit any claims that the landowner may have against the Proponent.	Internal access to properties for carrying out of repair works may be affected.	<p>Any damage to properties reported to the project team is being assessed based on its merits.</p> <p>Properties that decline access due to COVID-19 will be recorded and an alternate arrangement for assessment and if required rectification of any potential damage such as compensation may be investigated with the landowner/s where feasible and reasonable.</p> <p>Alternate access arrangements following social distancing requirements and/or post inspection cleaning regimes may be investigated where feasible and reasonable.</p>

All other conditions and/or commitments have been assessed as not being at risk of non-compliance as a result of COVID-19 at this stage. This will continue to be monitored as the situation changes.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding the measures the project is taking, please contact the project team using the details below.

## Contact us

If you have any questions or would like more information on the Albion Park Rail bypass project please contact our project team on:



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[rms.nsw.gov.au/projects/albion-park-rail-bypass/index.html](https://rms.nsw.gov.au/projects/albion-park-rail-bypass/index.html)



Albion Park Rail bypass

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