

NEWCASTLE INNER CITY BYPASS: RANKIN PARK TO JESMOND (SSI-6888)
ENVIRONMENTAL REPRESENTATIVE MONTHLY REPORT
March 2024

Reporting Period: 1 to 31 March 2024.

This Environmental Representative (ER) Monthly Report is prepared in accordance with the Minister's Condition of Approval A26(k) for the Newcastle Inner City Bypass: Rankin Park to Jesmond (SSI-6888) and is consistent with the Environmental Representative Protocol (October 2018).



Photo: Aerial photo looking south

PROJECT SUMMARY

Delivery of a 3.4km section of the Newcastle Inner City Bypass (NICB) which will be built between Rankin Park to Jesmond (RP2J) and to the west of the John Hunter Hospital.

The Rankin Park to Jesmond project is the fifth section of the NICB, which forms part of the Transport for NSW long term strategy to connect the Pacific Highway between Bennetts Green and Sandgate.

The project has been broken into four stages:

- Stage 1: Detailed design investigations (geotechnical and utility investigations) and low impact works (house demolition, heritage investigations, at-house noise treatment works, access, installation of environmental controls).
- Stage 2: Shared Path Bridge.
- Stage 3: Southern Interchange Utilities relocation works.
- Stage 4: Main RP2J road construction.



PROJECT WORKS SUMMARY

- Stage 1: Low Impact Works including, House Demolition which was completed June 2021.
- Stage 2: Shared Path Bridge was completed March 2021.
- Stage 3: Southern Interchange Utility Relocation works were completed in August 2022.
- Stage 4: Main construction works underway, commenced March 2023.
At House Noise Treatment (AHNT) consultation and implementation commenced March 2022.

March 2024 Completed Works

The following is a summary of the works broken down into sub projects.

At House Noise Treatment Works

- Round 1 properties: completed.
- Round 2 properties (42 complete):
 - 3 additional properties completed.
 - Additional 7 properties progressed to installation.

Main Construction

- Review, installation and maintenance of ERSED controls throughout the site.
- Testing and dewatering sediment basins.
- Traffic and pedestrian pathway realignment, diversions and temporary closures.
- Earthworks including all interchanges along with the mainline.
- Utilities installation works, including drainage.
- Dark Creek culvert construction.
- Bridge structures including piling, excavation, concrete pours.
- Progressive revegetation/ landscaping including shotcreting, batter stabilisation, installation of final landscape design.
- Trial blasting.

OOHW works:

- Northern interchange:
 - Barrier installation, line-marking, pavement (traffic staging).
 - Concrete works.
 - Utilities including drainage.
 - Delivery and installation of precast structures.
 - Slip lane extension.
- Southern interchange:
 - Hauling material between southern interchange and mainline.
 - Utilities.
 - Concrete works.



April 2024 Upcoming Works

The following is a summary of the works broken down into sub projects:

At House Noise Treatment Work

- Round 1 properties: completed
- Round 2 properties:
 - 51 properties progressing to installation.

Main Construction

- Installation and maintenance of ERSED controls including in waterways for culvert installation.
- Traffic and pedestrian pathway realignment and diversions.
- Earthworks including all interchanges along with the mainline.
- Utilities installation works, including drainage.
- Dark Creek culvert temporary crossing and construction.
- Bridge structures including piling, excavation, concrete pours.
- Progressive revegetation/ landscaping including shotcreting, batter stabilisation, installation of final landscape design.
- Blasting

Scheduled OOHW Works:

- Northern interchange:
 - Barrier installation, line-marking, pavement (traffic staging).
 - Concrete works.
 - Utilities and drainage
 - Delivery and installation of precast structures.
- Southern interchange:
 - Hauling material between southern interchange and mainline.
 - Utilities.
 - Concrete works.

ER Activity:

Reviews/ Approvals/ Advice/ Meetings

- Updated Traffic and Transport Construction Environmental Management Sub Plan: Review and endorse.
- Compliance Monitoring Program Rev 3: Review and endorse.
- Consistency Assessment – Bridge 9: Review
- Consistency Assessment – Signage Traffic Line Marking and Carparking: Review
- Post Approval Tracking Register – February 2024: Review.
- Monthly Newsletter, Blasting Notification and Three Month Look Ahead: Review.
- Community Notices/ Out of Hours Updates: Review.
- ERG Monthly Inspection and Meeting No.17 – Tuesday 5 March: Agenda and Minutes.
- Fortnightly Environment and Sustainability Team Meeting with FHC, TfNSW and ER.
- Monthly DPHI meeting with TfNSW, FHC and ER.
- Monthly ER Meeting with DPHI (Post Approval and Compliance)



Inspections

- Site inspections were held on:
 - ERG site inspection on Tuesday 5 March.
 - ER and TfNSW inspection on Wednesday 20 March.
- Environmental Inspection Reports were prepared and issued through the TfNSW Ngara system to FHC, TfNSW and forwarded to DPHI.

Environmental Review Group (ERG) Meeting

- The February ERG (No.17) meeting was held on Tuesday 5 March.
- The next ERG meeting No.18 is scheduled for Tuesday 9 April 2024.

Audits

- There were no ER audits held in March.
- No. 1 Independent Environmental Audit was undertaken in May 2023. All matters have been closed out.
- No. 2 Independent Environmental Audit will be undertaken in May 2024.

Stop Work Notices

- There were no Stop Work Notices in March.

Incidents (as per MCoA definition)

There were no incidents in March.

Non-compliances

There was no non-compliances in March.

Environmental Issues (i.e.: not classified as Incidents as per MCoA)

There were no environmental issues in March.

CEMP, CEMPP & Minister's Conditions of Approval

Reports

- MCoA A26(k): Environmental Representative Monthly Report (February 2024): submitted to DPHI (via Portal): 7 March 2024.



Monitoring

- Monthly noise monitoring as per NVMP did not exceed NML's.
- Water quality monitoring was undertaken pursuant to the SGWCMP during the month. The laboratory results were not available at the time of reporting. Field monitoring did not present any anomalies.
- Dust gauges were changed on 4 March, the rolling averages are all below the criteria of 4, noting that there is not sufficient data for the rolling average to be reported accurately.

Community Consultation and Complaints

Community consultation

There were 33 events recorded in Consultation Manager – interactions with stakeholders.

- 33 x 1800 calls, emails, meetings, and door knocks, including; door knocking for EPL requirements of identified properties High and moderately impacted from night works, low impact controlled blasting, operational noise, add to email list, parking, project information, shared user path

Regular interactions

- JHHIP, AAP, Multiplex – notification of trial blasting and upcoming production blasts
- City of Newcastle – footpath works, calls received from stakeholders about CoN works not related to RP2J
- John Hunter Hospital and NSW Health Services – monthly meeting with FH and TfNSW
- Weekly FH and TfNSW meetings.

Collateral

- Northern Interchange OOHW March notification– distributed
- Blasting Notification - distributed
- Three month look ahead March to May - distributed

Complaints x 6

- 1 x Noise from night works
- 1 x Dust on Inner City Bypass
- 2 x concerns about damage to house - from vibration of construction works
- 1 x concerns around visibility of traffic entering Jesmond roundabout from east
- 1x Robert Street shared used path condition

Trends

- Shared user path current detours and future design
- Bus stop new location on Newcastle Road
- Low impact controlled blasting questions and meetings

Summary of Issues and Events

- Site visit by Alan Pearson – Original Surveyor of Inner City Bypass
- Clontarf Mud Run attended by several FH staff

Upcoming Engagements

- Not available at the time of report preparation



Closing Remarks

The construction works for the period to end of March consisted primarily of earthworks, traffic diversions and road works, pilling and pouring bridge footings, installation of permanent landscaping, shotcreting batters, blasting and progressive ErSed control design and installation and residential property noise treatment works are also ongoing.

The key environmental risks on the site have been surface water management, traffic control and diversions and managing and communicating OOHVs with stakeholders. The month has seen periods of rain which have resulted in sediment basins being filled which demanded consistent maintenance and management especially with balancing the need to dewater the sediment basins within the required timeframes and the need to hold water for dust suppression. The month also saw significant rain affect the site with the need to attend to ErSed controls for maintenance and repairs by the project environmental staff.

A successful trial blast also occurred during the month. The vibration modelling was conservative and provided levels well below those modelled at the JHH and surrounding residential areas. The model was refined for accuracy against in situ real blast data and blasting progress.

The site environment project team continue to work hard with the difficult weather conditions and have had challenges this month with access to sediment basins, damaged ErSed controls with large amounts of storm weather to deal with.

RP2J Environmental Representative (as per MCoA A22)



Simon Williams
Principal Environmental Planner
Director
GeoLINK

Attachment: Site Images – March 2024



Site Images – March 2024



Image 1: Northern Interchange, Jesmond compound adjacent to Newcastle Road. View looking South.



Image 2: Mainline storage basin (background) and sediment basin (foreground). The sediment basin has recently been cleaned out and returned to capacity.



Image 3: Mainline at Fauna underpass. View looking South.



Image 4: Mainline looking South with JHH interchange on the left.



Image 5: Western batter on the mainline showing the formwork prior to application of shotcrete. No. 1



Image 6: Western batter on the mainline showing the formwork prior to application of shotcrete. No. 2



Image 7: Mainline near Creek 3 showing repairs to ErSed controls and remediation of surrounding area following major rain event.



Image 8: View of the Southern Interchange looking north from Lookout Road. The light green on the batter is recent revegetation using MacMat and hydromulch.