

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

Reporting Period: 1 to 30 April 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.

April 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:
 - 48/100 properties completed
 - 17 properties in the process of completion
 - 35 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 construction.
- Bridge structures including piling, excavation, concrete pours.
- Progressive revegetation/ landscaping including shotcreting, batter stabilisation, installation of final landscape design.
- Blasting

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.



May 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:
 - 17 properties in the process of completion
 - 35 properties progressing to installation.
 - 8 additional properties expected to be completed

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 and superstructure.
- Progressive revegetation/ landscaping including shotcreting, batter stabilisation, installation of final landscape design.
- Blasting
- Installation of bridge girders

Scheduled OOHW Works:

- Northern interchange:
 - Barrier installation, line-marking, pavement (traffic staging).
 - Concrete works.
 - Utilities and drainage
 - Delivery and installation of precast structures including bridge girders.
- Southern interchange:
 - Hauling material between southern interchange and mainline.
 - Utilities.
 - Bridge 1 concrete works.

ER Activity:

Reviews/ Approvals/ Advice/ Meetings

- Incident Notification pursuant to MCoA 37: Rainfall event.
- Updated Traffic and Transport Construction Environmental Management Sub Plan: Review.
- Consistency Assessment – Bridge 9: Review.
- Post Approval Tracking Register – March 2024: Review.
- Monthly Newsletter and Three Month Look Ahead: Review.
- Community Notices / Out of Hours Updates: Review.
- ERG Monthly Inspection and Meeting No.18 – Tuesday 9 April: 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 9 April.
 - ER and TfNSW inspection on Tuesday 23 April.
- 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 April ERG (No.18) meeting was held on Tuesday 9.
- The next ERG meeting No.19 is scheduled for Tuesday 7 May.

Audits

- There were no ER audits held in April 2024.
- 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 with the site inspection scheduled for Tuesday 21.

Stop Work Notices

- There were no Stop Work Notices in April.

Incidents (as per MCoA definition)

There was one event in April which triggered notification under MCoA A37.

- The 5-day rainfall event from Tuesday 2 April 2024 to Sunday 7 April 2024 was 123.0mm at the Northern Interchange (Jesmond) and 129.2mm at the Southern Interchange (Rankin Park). As a result of this rain, site controls were overwhelmed, including all sediment basins.

Non-compliances

There were no non-compliances in April.

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

There was one environmental issue in April.

On Tuesday 16, during scraper servicing works in Fill 4 a member of the site team noticed diesel dripping from a section of the scraper. The spill was contained using absorbent material and booms, as well as a bucket to catch any further spill. The spill and surrounding material were scraped up using an excavator and covered in plastic ready for disposal.

CEMP, CEMPP & Minister's Conditions of Approval

Reports

- MCoA A26(k): Environmental Representative Monthly Report (March 2024): submitted to DPHI (via Portal): 5 April 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 51 events recorded in Consultation Manager – interactions with stakeholders.

- 51 x 1800 calls, emails, meetings, and door knocks, including; noise, traffic project information, vibration, dust, fauna, property damage, property access, dirt and request to be added to the emailing list

Regular interactions

- JHHIP, AAP, Multiplex – notification of 3 x upcoming production blasts, SMS messages at commencement, during and on completion of the blasting
- City of Newcastle and Lake Macquarie Council– production blasts, detours for asphalt works and Super T Girder lift
- Keilos Downer – detours for asphalt works and Super T Girder
- John Hunter Hospital and NSW Health Services – monthly meeting with FH and TfNSW
- Weekly FH and TfNSW meetings.

Collateral

- OOHW notification and three month look ahead April to June – printing and currently being distributed
- 3 x low impact controlled blasting slip notes distributed

Complaints x 11

- 4 x Noise from night works and day works
- 2 x Dust on Inner City Bypass
- 4 x property damage reports - roadway, house, vehicle window
- 1 x weeds

Trends

- Low impact controlled blasting questions
- Temporary detours of Newcastle Road north and east bound, and Super T Girder Lift
- Bus stop – Newcastle Road future location (in front of McDonalds)

Summary of Issues and Events

- 3 x low impact controlled production blasts
- 1 x site Toolbox



Upcoming Engagements

- Reconciliation Week – 27 May to 3 June
- Super T Girder Lift – 27 May
- Callaghan Junior School presentation – Term 2

Closing Remarks

Construction works for the month of April consisted primarily of earthworks, traffic diversions and road works, pilling and pouring bridge footings, installation of permanent landscaping, shotcreting batters, blasting, progressive ErSed control design and installation and residential property noise treatment works.

The key environmental risk on the site has been surface water management during the month due to a number of high rainfall events. Other ongoing matters include traffic controls and diversions and managing and communicating OOHWs with stakeholders. During April, the site has experienced two very high rainfall periods with monitoring indicating both events were well above 100mm over 5 days. Consequently, water management has been a focus for the site team with sediment basins being filled and emptied pursuant to the license conditions.

Blasting has continued without issue being noted at surrounding sensitive receivers including the John Hunter Hospital. Project blasting is scheduled to be completed by the end of May.

Given the amount of rainfall on the site, the environment team have been focusing on managing and restoring ErSed controls following the rainfall events, and preparing the site for the next potential storm event. There appears to be a concerted effort to manage the environmental risks on the site by the project environment team.

RP2J Environmental Representative (as per MCoA A22)



Simon Williams
Principal Environmental Planner
Director
GeoLINK

Attachment: Site Images – April 2024



Site Images – April 2024



Image 1: Northern Interchange, looking northeast from the Jesmond compound across to the Newcastle roundabout.



Image 2: Northern Interchange, looking east from the Jesmond Compound at the entrance to the Mainline. Shared Path Bridge can be seen in the foreground and the Newcastle Road bridge abutment in the background.



Image 3: Earthworks at Cut 5. Looking South down the mainline from Northern Interchange.



Image 4: Clean water drains at the Northern Interchange on the Southern side of Newcastle Road.



Image 5: View looking north along the mainline. The finished road height has almost been reached.



Image 6: View looking south along the mainline. shotcrete carbonaceous batter can be seen in the background and the clean water shotcrete drain the foreground.



Image 7: Mainline near Creek 3 showing sediment basin and clean water drain on the western side of the corridor.



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, which has held up well during the April storms.