

13 April 2023

231266

Johnstaff
Level 5/9 – 13
Castlereagh Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Attention: Johnstaff c/o Health Infrastructure

SHOALHAVEN HOSPITAL REDEVELOPMENT

Traffic Statement - Helipad Relocation

As requested, we have undertaken an assessment of the traffic impacts resulting from the proposal to use the existing helipad at the Shoalhaven Emergency Management Centre (EMC) to service Shoalhaven Hospital during the redevelopment of the hospital. This statement outlines the existing usage of the helipad and reports on the traffic impacts anticipated to be generated by the increased usage by the hospital.

Existing Conditions

The EMC is located at 92 Albatross Road, South Nowra. The site is situated approximately 3 kilometres to the southwest of the Nowra town centre and is surrounded predominantly by residential, national park and recreational land use. The site is also shared with the NSW State Emergency Services (NSW SES) and South Coast Branch of Surf Life Saving NSW (SLSNSW).

As shown in Figure 1, the primary site access point is located on Albatross Road, with a two-way driveway. The site has existing car parking with an overall capacity of about 169 parking spaces.



Figure 1: EMC Site

Traffic Volumes

We have been previously provided with historical traffic volume data for the Nowra region, which provides an insight to the typical vehicle volumes expected within the local network. Figure 2 and Figure 3 summarise the vehicle volumes for the morning and afternoon peak hours, respectively, based on the busiest day of the week. This data was collected between Monday 15th March to Sunday 28th March 2021. It is noted that existing vehicle volumes may have increased since 2021 due to growth in the area and the reduced impact of COVID-19. However, this data is still able to provide a reasonable estimate of the typical traffic volumes in the local network.

Of note, the survey data includes the following vehicle volumes along Albatross Road to the southwest of the site:

- AM peak (8:00 – 9:00am):
 - Northbound – 201 vehicles
 - Southbound – 265 vehicles
- PM peak (3:00 – 4:00pm):
 - Northbound – 286 vehicles
 - Southbound – 239 vehicles



Figure 2: Vehicle Volumes – AM Peak (8:00 – 9:00am)



Figure 3: Vehicle Volumes – PM Peak (3:00 – 4:00pm)

Car Park Usage

Analysing the historical usage of the car park gives an indication of the existing usage of the EMC and the typical vehicle volumes expected at the site. The car park occupancy has been assessed using Nearmap imagery collected between December 2020 to February 2023. It is noted that the car park has been recently expanded from about 122 to 169 spaces. Therefore, the data collected prior to 2023 relates to this lower parking capacity.

The results are shown in Table 1 and includes the minimum, maximum and average number of vacant and occupied spaces. The analysis indicates low usage of the existing car parking, with an average occupancy rate of 18% (and vacancy rate of 82%). Based on this, it is estimated that the traffic generation of the existing site is considerably low.

Table 1: Car Park Usage

Day	Date	Occupancy Rate	Vacancy Rate
Thursday	2/02/2023	12%	88%
Monday	12/09/2022	23%	77%
Saturday	30/07/2022	17%	83%
Friday	24/06/2022	26%	74%
Monday	14/02/2022	16%	84%
Saturday	29/01/2022	9%	91%
Wednesday	15/12/2021	20%	80%
Thursday	7/10/2021	18%	82%
Tuesday	17/08/2021	15%	85%
Tuesday	20/04/2021	26%	74%
Thursday	19/11/2020	20%	80%
Minimum		9%	74%
Maximum		26%	91%
Average		18%	82%

Proposed Works

As previously discussed, it is proposed to use the existing helipad at the EMC to allow continued operations while the Shoalhaven Hospital helipad is unavailable during the redevelopment of the hospital. The proposal is for operational changes only and does not include any physical works to the EMC or require additional on-site staff.

Traffic Impact

The only traffic generated by the usage of the EMC helipad includes the ambulance movements required to transport the crew and patients between the helipad and the hospital. This will involve four ambulance movements per helicopter retrieval event. We have been advised that there will be 10 – 15 helicopter retrieval events occurring per month, which equates to 40 – 60 ambulance movements per month.

The traffic generated by the usage of the helipad is considerably low compared to the existing traffic within the local network. As outlined above, traffic count data indicates over 200 vehicles are travelling along Albatross Road in each direction during peak hours. The additional 40 – 60 ambulance movements per month (or effectively, around 2 movements per day), will have a negligible impact to the total vehicle volumes along Albatross Road.

As demonstrated by the historical usage of the car park, the EMC does not generate high parking demands and it can therefore be assumed that the overall vehicle movements associated with the site are low. Due to this, the additional 40 – 60 ambulance movements per month will be readily accommodated by the site and will not significantly impact the usage of the EMC. Ambulances arriving to the site are not expected to require parking, but in the unlikely event that parking is required, there will be adequate provision to accommodate this.

Furthermore, approximately 50% of helicopter retrievals and the associated ambulance movements occur out of peak hours between 10pm and 6am when traffic in the local network and within the EMC site is minimal. This estimate is calculated based on data collected over the last 13 months of operation. Accordingly, the traffic impact of the additional ambulance movements will be minimal, as the use of the EMC helipad generates low traffic volumes which are widely dispersed throughout the day and night.

Should you require anything further please contact the undersigned.

Yours faithfully,
TTW (NSW) PTY LTD

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Cowdery'.

EMMA COWDERY
Traffic Engineer

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