



PORT STEPHENS
COUNCIL

Environmental Assessment

Level 4



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

East Seaham Road Stages 5 & 6, East Seaham

CHAPTER FOUR CONSULTATION



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4. CONSULTATION

4.1. State Departments or other Authorities

Table 4-1 Consultation with State Departments and other authorities

Department	Method	Issue raised	Comments received	Date	Response and planned actions
NSW NP&WS	Phone Email	Access to Wallaroo National Park Works on adjacent lands	Design requirements for access	20/08/2024	Design developed to Transgrid and NP&WS requirements
NSW DCCEEW	Email Phone Zoom meeting	Advice on planning pathway for biodiversity Biodiversity offsetting options	Unclear pathway for preparation of Species Impact Statement, preparation of BDAR recommended	June 2024	Preparation of BDAR
NSW DPHI	Email Phone	Form A and Scoping report requirements	Scoping report required	July 2024	Preparation of scoping report
NSW DPHI	Email Phone	Planning pathway and EIS triggers	EIS required	July 2024	Preparation of EIS
NSW DPIRD (Fisheries)	Phone	Confirmation of requirements for EIS and NSW Fisheries	SEARS Advice consistent with SEARS	08/10/2024	Incorporation of advice into design
NSW DCCEEW (Heritage)	Email Phone	Confirmation of heritage assessment requirements	NSW DCCEEW (Heritage) has an advisory role only Required level of assessment to be determined by consent authority	October 2024	Utilise 2010 Due Diligence Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects in NSW to determine appropriate heritage impact assessment level
DPHI NSW	Email Phone	Consent authority for EIS	Confirmation of PSC as consent authority for EIS	October 2024	Approval of EIS by PSC



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4.2. Community

Table 4-2 Community consultation

Contact Person	Address	Issue raised	Comments received	Date	Response and planned actions
Resident	775 East Seaham Road, East Seaham	Letter requiring access for biodiversity surveys	Access granted	10/10/2023	Conduct biodiversity surveys
		Site visit to provide project overview, discuss land acquisition and permit to enter for works if land acquisition not finalised, pipe extension and installation of new rural fencing (with location to be determined by registered surveyor)	Supportive of land acquisition, pipe extension and new rural fencing, relocating driveway	22/10/2024	Proceed with land acquisition, property surveying of new boundary and identify new driveway location on plans Arrange permit to enter for works if land acquisition not finalised
		Letter requiring access for service locating works on property	Access granted	12/11/2024	Conduct service locating
		Formal offer via letter for land acquisition	Negotiation of offer commenced	13 January 2025	Land acquisition
Resident	747 East Seaham Road, East Seaham	Land acquisition requirement, property surveying for new boundary and installation of new fencing on new boundary, permit to enter for works if land acquisition not finalised	Supportive of land acquisition	22/10/2024	Proceed with land acquisition and property surveying of new boundary Arrange permit to enter for works if land acquisition not finalised
		Formal offer via letter for land acquisition	Negotiation of offer commenced	13 January 2025	Land acquisition
Resident	829 East Seaham Road, East Seaham	Site visit to discuss consolidation of 3 driveways into 1, pipe extension, installation of new rural fencing where drainage works occur and service locating works on property and permit to enter for works	Supportive of driveway consolidation and requesting new fence to remain in existing location and access granted for service locating	21/11/2024	Design driveway consolidation, fence to be installed in existing location Conduct service locating Arrange permit to enter for



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					works
Resident	791 East Seaham Road, East Seaham	Site visit to explain history of the project and environmental assessment process, driveway realignment and eliminating second driveway access	Driveway width concerns due to access requirements for caravan and horse float, supportive of eliminating second driveway	25/11/2024	Eliminate second driveway and new driveway moved to accommodate improved site distances and designed to accommodate required width
Resident	817 East Seaham Road, East Seaham	Site visit to explain history of the project and environmental assessment process, driveway access	Driveway access width concerns due to need for large excavator and truck access	25/11/2024	Check driveway design and contact resident
		Phone call regarding driveway design	Driveway access width concerns due to need for large excavator and truck access	3/2/2025	Design accessible turn paths over driveable headwalls
Resident	873 and 967 East Seaham Road, East Seaham	Phone call to explain history of the project and environmental assessment process, redesign of drainage outlets on property, new fenceline and service locating works on property	Requested site visit	11/12/2024	Arrange site visit
		Site visit to review plans including drainage outlets and scour protection to be installed and new fencing replacement at drainage outlets, construction of drainage outlets to be under permit to enter with no land acquisition required, explained lifting of road and consolidating drainage lines	Requested hard copy of plans	17/12/2024	Provide hard copy of plans Arrange permit to enter for works
		Phone call regarding delivery of plans and plans delivered to land owner on 6/2/2025	N/A	3/2/2025 and 6/2/2025	Follow up with phone call
		Phone call to follow up comments on plan	No answer	13/2/2025	Follow up with phone call
Resident	1027 East Seaham Road, East Seaham	Phone call to explain history of the project and environmental assessment process	Property in settlement period will advise new owners	21/11/2024	Follow up with new owner
Resident	1027 East Seaham Road, East Seaham	Phone call to explain history of the project and environmental assessment process	Uses driveway at 1029 East Seaham Road which has a cattle	31/1/2025	Follow up with owner of 1029 East Seaham Road



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			grid which is buried with gravel and request for sealing to the cattle grid		
Resident	1029 East Seaham, East Seaham	Customer request via email for regrading works and timing	Timing of regrading works	13/05/2021	Future notification of maintenance regrading works
		Customer request via email for regrading works and timing	Timing of regrading works	28/10/2021	Future notification of maintenance regrading works
		Email requesting updated on timing of road upgrade works	Sealing of East Seaham Road.	29/04/2024	Explanation of planning requirements and process and timing of works
		Phone call to discuss project progress and arrange site visit and driveway access requirements	Will invite neighbour at 1027 East Seaham Road	21/11/2024	Site visit arranged
		Site visit to discuss environmental impact assessment process, sealing of driveway access to cattle grid, drainage upgrades and scour protection with minor tree removal, replacement fencing and permit to enter for works on private property with no land acquisition required	Supportive of design	31/01/2025	Amend design as appropriate Arrange permit to enter for works
Resident	1042 East Seaham Road, East Seaham	Site visit to discuss project progress, environmental impact assessment, general design, drainage upgrades and scour protection, open roadside swale, driveway access and permit to enter for works on private property with no land acquisition required	Supportive of works proposed	25/11/2024	Arrange permit to enter for works
Resident	1022 East Seaham Road, East Seaham	Site visit to discuss project progress, environmental impact assessment, property frontage and driveway access for trucks on second driveway access and tree removal	Supportive of works proposed	25/11/2024	Advised of driveway access dimensions
Resident	1004 East Seaham Road, East Seaham	Site visit to discuss project progress, environmental impact assessment, property frontage and sealing of first 2 m of driveway	Supportive of works proposed	25/11/2024	



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		access due to kerb and gutter and swale drain interaction and need to prevent edge break			
Residents adjacent to Project Area	N/A	Resident Letters issued with project update	Not applicable	April 2024	Respond to community enquiries as required
Residents adjacent to Project Area	N/A	Resident Letters issued regarding guardrail installation works and timing	Not applicable	May 2024	Respond to community enquiries as required
Residents adjacent to Project Area	N/A	Resident Letters issued regarding service location works	Not applicable	November 2024	Respond to community enquiries as required
Community Workshop Notification	N/A	Project extent, scope of works and timing Seek feedback on concerns Project impacts on traffic, biodiversity and heritage	Not applicable	January 2025	Community workshop see Table 4-3 .
N/A – Community Workshop	N/A	Project extent, scope of works and timing Seek feedback on concerns Project impacts on traffic, biodiversity and heritage	Timing of works Concern over biodiversity impacts and fauna corridors Traffic impacts and arrangements	February 2025	Fauna signage installed Notification of works Traffic arrangements notified with notification of works

A community consultation workshop was held on Wednesday 5 February 2025 between 4pm to 6pm at the Seaham School of Arts at 10 Warren Street, Seaham. **Table 4-3** provides a summary of the issues raised and responses provided during the community workshop. The workshop was attended by 6 people in 4 groups. General feedback was positive during the workshop, with all attendees being residents that align the Project Area.

Table 4-3 Community consultation

Issue raised	Response
What is happening with the project? Why all of the sudden is the works going ahead now?	The project has been identified by PSC's works program for several years. Previous stages have had a cumulative impact on local heritage and biodiversity values which during Stages 1 to 4 were found not to be significant. Stages 5 and 6 however, have the largest impact on heritage and biodiversity and considering the cumulative impacts of the previous stages have resulted in impacts which triggered additional heritage investigations



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	and biodiversity surveys. This stage is requiring a higher level of impacts assessment which has delayed implementation of the works. These investigations however, have largely been completed and the works are expected to commence at the end of this financial year.
Is there plans for future development?	There are no future development that has triggered the project. Grant funds are being used to fund the works which come with additional requirements. The main project driver is road safety due previous accidents along East Seaham Road funds. The Project will help provide a safer road and also help reduce future maintenance by Council due to eliminating the need for constant regrading.
How much tree removal will be required?	Council has adopted a 3 m clearzone which is a slight compromise of Austroads Standards due to the complexity of balancing road safety and environmental impacts. Approximately 1.6 to 2.3ha of vegetation will be removed, however, this exists along the road edge only and the remaining vegetation with the road alignment will be retained.
Were any Koalas seen during studies?	There were no Koalas spotted however claw marks were seen on trees and koalas were considered to utilise the vegetation onsite as habitat.
When will the work start?	Pending approval of the EIS, works will commence onsite at the end of this financial year. Council will provide an update when construction is planned to commence.
What will the driveway widths be?	Discussion around driveway widths with general indication provided that the primary driveways would be a maximum of 4 m wide and secondary driveway a maximum of 3 m wide.
Will the road sealing increase traffic volumes and result in more roadkill?	By sealing the road traffic volumes, vehicles may be encouraged to utilise East Seaham Road, however no additional development is proposed in the locality and the road will retain the existing 70 km per hour speed limit. Increased clearzones may help with fauna sighting on roadside.
Fauna crossing East Seaham Road, particularly and could there be fauna crossing signage added up towards the end of Stage 6 as this is a common crossing point particularly for kangaroos?	Discussed with residents where key fauna points have been that they have observed and identified that these points generally aligned with the findings of our biodiversity impact assessment. Advised that considerations such as canopy distances for arboreal fauna such as gliders and key crossing points for fauna were considered during the biodiversity impact assessment. Action: Install koala warning signage at commencement of Stage 5 and install fauna crossing signage outside 1004 East Seaham Road, East Seaham.
What are the environmental impacts of the project?	Threatened biodiversity exists within the road corridor and beyond, clearing was limited as much as practically possible to help minimise potential impacts. Road redesign for example was undertaken to preserve populations of the threatened orchid <i>Pterostylis chaetophora</i> which is present within the road reserve. Explained the amount and types of surveys conducted as part of the biodiversity survey and mitigation measures to be adopted as part of the Project activities.



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4.4. Other Stakeholders or Interested Parties

Table 4-4 Other stakeholders and interested parties

Organisation	Correspondence method	Issue raised	Comments received	Date	Planned actions
Busways	Phone Email	Works timing	N/A	February 2025	Further consultation for future traffic diversions
Transgrid	Phone Email	Works timing Access requirements	Design requirements	August to September 2024	Design developed to Transgrid requirements