

10 September, 2020

Mr Ryan Falkenmire
Principal Development Planner
Port Stephens Council
116 Adelaide Street
Raymond Terrace NSW 2324

Dear Mr Falkenmire

Kings Hill Interchange and Drainage Channel Project – Review of Environmental Factors Status

As requested, please find the below information pertaining to the current status of the two Reviews of Environmental Factors (REF) that are currently being developed for the Kings Hill Interchange and Drainage Channel Project.

Project Background

Transport for NSW (Transport) was nominated as the delivery agency for the Kings Hill Interchange and Drainage Channel works in November 2018 by the Department of Planning Industry and Environment.

The purpose of the Interchange works is to enable suitable access from the Pacific Highway to the Kings Hill Urban Release Area (URA). The purpose of the Drainage Channel works is to ensure the Kings Hill URA development surface water runoff does not flow in to Grahamstown Dam, which is the Hunter's largest drinking water catchment.

The REFs for the Interchange and Channel are being undertaken separately due to the different determining authorities required for each. The Interchange REF will be determined by Transport and the Channel REF will be determined by Port Stephens Council.

REF Status

Interchange REF

Transport is currently working through the review of the Interchange REF and specialist studies, including a detailed Biodiversity Assessment Report. It is anticipated that this REF will be ready for public display in late 2021.

Drainage Channel REF

Transport is also progressing the Drainage Channel REF concurrently. This portion of the proposal has experienced additional challenges which have added complexity to the development and delivery of the REF. It is anticipated that this REF will be ready for public display in late 2021.

Note that the two REFs are intended to go on display at the same time and the project team is working toward achieving this.

Impact Assessment and Key Findings from REFs

Interchange REF

The Interchange REF currently does not have a completed impact assessment. The draft assessment currently indicates impacts caused by construction of the Interchange will not be significant.

Drainage Channel REF

The Channel REF currently does not have a completed impact assessment. The draft assessment currently indicates impacts caused by construction of the drainage channel will not be significant.

State Significant Development & Environmental Impact Statement Status

The Interchange and Drainage Channel are not considered to be State Significant Development and at this point in time an Environmental Impact Statement and approval from the Minister for Planning and Public Space is not required. Note that as the REFs have not yet been finalised, the status of these may change.

If you have any further questions, please contact Project Manager, Graham Nuss, on 0409 424 896. I hope this has been of assistance.

Yours sincerely



Anna Zycki

A/Director Region North