

# Appendix A

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Consideration of clause 228(2) factors and matters of national environmental significance

## Clause 228(2) Checklist

In addition to the requirements of the *Is an EIS required?* guideline as detailed in the REF, the following factors, listed in clause 228(2) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000, have also been considered to assess the likely impacts of the proposal on the natural and built environment.

Factor	Impact
a. Any environmental impact on a community?	
<p>The proposal would reduce travel times and congestion, improve safety for road users, remove the existing rail level crossing on the New England Highway and provide unimpeded access for emergency services to the western side of the Great Northern Railway.</p>	Long-term positive
<p>Construction of the proposal would result in negative traffic, noise and vibration impacts to the local community as discussed in section 6.5. Potential traffic impacts include an increase in the volume of heavy vehicles, disruptions to access and local traffic changes. Construction impacts would be managed by preparation of a construction environmental management plan including all mitigation measures identified in the REF.</p>	Short-term negative
<p>Operation of the proposal would result in traffic, amenity and flooding impacts to parts of western Scone, and result in the acquisition of agricultural land used for predominantly low intensive grazing. There would also be changed access arrangements for some properties along the existing New England Highway and adjacent to the proposal. The mitigation measures detailed in this REF would be implemented to manage these impacts.</p>	Long-term negative
<p>Subject to detailed design the proposal would require total acquisition of three lots and partial acquisition of 27 lots. Property acquisition will be carried out in accordance with the <i>Land Acquisition Information Guide</i> (Roads and Maritime, 2013) and the <i>Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act 1991</i>.</p>	Long-term negative
b. Any transformation of a locality?	
<p>The proposal would reduce traffic congestion and improve safety and amenity within the Scone town centre. It would also remove the existing rail level crossing on the New England Highway and provide unimpeded access for emergency services and the general community to the western side of the Great Northern Railway.</p>	Long-term positive

Factor	Impact
<p>The proposal would involve construction of four kilometres of new two lane highway to the west of Scone. The land through which the proposal passes is currently either agricultural land used for predominantly low intensive grazing or part of the Scone golf course. The proposal would result in a transformation of the locality from recreational and rural lands to a highway.</p> <p>The proposal is located on a raised embankment and includes two bridges in order to provide for the required clearances over the Great Northern Railway and local streets, and to minimise changes to existing flood patterns. Visual impacts of the proposal on the locality would be reduced through the implementation of safeguards and management measures outlined in section 6.6.</p>	Long-term negative
c. Any environmental impact on the ecosystems of the locality?	
<p>The proposal would remove and/or impact about 33.4 hectares of predominantly planted and exotic vegetation. The study area comprises a highly modified, urban environment with limited fauna habitat values.</p> <p>The proposal would have minimal impacts to flora and fauna during operation.</p> <p>Mitigation measures provided in section 6.2 would be implemented to minimise potential impacts on biodiversity.</p>	Long-term minor negative
d. Any reduction of the aesthetic, recreational, scientific or other environmental quality or value of a locality?	
<p>The proposal would reduce traffic congestion and improve safety and amenity within the Scone town centre. It would also remove the existing rail level crossing on the New England Highway and provide unimpeded access for emergency services and the general community to the western side of the Great Northern Railway.</p>	Long-term positive
<p>During construction there is potential for short term impacts associated with traffic, visual, dust, water quality, noise and vibration. These impacts would be minimised through the implementation of safeguards summarised in section 7.</p>	Short-term minor negative
<p>The proposal would pass over the western edge of the Bill Rose Sports Complex. During construction safe access to the sports complex would be retained however some of the netball courts would be closed for safety reasons. A playing field, public park and dog park would also be closed during construction. During construction there is potential for short term amenity impacts. Operation of the proposal is not expected to significantly impact on users of the sports complex, however due to the location of the overbridge an alternate site for the playing field and public park would be required in consultation with council.</p>	Short-term minor negative

Factor	Impact
<p>The proposal would involve acquisition of part of the Scone golf course. Roads and Maritime has been consulting with Upper Hunter Shire Council and the golf club throughout development of the proposal. Upper Hunter Shire Council proposes to reconfigure the golf course and provide new golf holes on the western side of the existing golf course.</p>	Short-term negative
<p>The proposal is located on a raised embankment and includes two bridges in order to provide for the required clearances over the Great Northern Railway and local streets, and to minimise changes to existing flood patterns. Visual impacts of the proposal on the locality would be reduced through the implementation of safeguards and management measures outlined in section 6.6.</p>	Long-term negative
<p>e. Any effect on a locality, place or building having aesthetic, anthropological, archaeological, architectural, cultural, historical, scientific or social significance or other special value for present or future generations?</p>	
<p>A review of the AHIMS database (6 January 2015 and 24 April 2015) and site inspection of the proposal site by the Roads and Maritime Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Officer revealed there are no registered sites near the proposal and the area is unlikely to contain any previously unrecorded sites due to the history of disturbance.</p>	Neutral
<p>The proposal would directly impact on sites recorded by the historic heritage assessment field survey. These sites have potential local heritage significance.</p> <p>Mitigation measures provided in section 6.8 would be implemented to manage impacts on historic heritage.</p>	Long-term minor negative
<p>During construction there is potential for vibration from construction activities to impact on listed heritage structures in proximity to the proposal.</p> <p>Mitigation measures provided in section 6.8 would be implemented to manage impacts on historic heritage.</p>	Short-term negative
<p>f. Any impact on the habitat of protected fauna (within the meaning of the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i>)?</p>	
<p>The proposal would remove and/or impact about 33.4 hectares of predominantly planted and exotic vegetation. The proposal would not result in a significant impact to any protected species.</p> <p>The proposal would have minimal impacts to flora and fauna during operation.</p> <p>Mitigation measures provided in section 6.2 would be implemented to minimise potential impacts on biodiversity.</p>	Long-term minor negative

Factor	Impact
g. Any endangering of any species of animal, plant or other form of life, whether living on land, in water or in the air?	
<p>The proposal would remove and/or impact about 33.4 hectares of predominantly planted and exotic vegetation. The proposal would not result in a significant impact to any protected species.</p> <p>The proposal would have minimal impacts to flora and fauna during operation.</p> <p>Mitigation measures provided in section 6.2 would be implemented to minimise potential impacts on biodiversity.</p>	Long-term minor negative
h. Any long-term effects on the environment?	
<p>The proposal would reduce travel times and congestion, improve safety for road users, remove the existing rail level crossing on the New England Highway and provide unimpeded access for emergency services to the western side of the Great Northern Railway.</p>	Long-term positive
<p>The proposal would remove and/or impact about 33.4 hectares of predominantly planted and exotic vegetation. The proposal would not result in a significant impact to any protected species.</p>	Long-term minor negative
<p>The proposal would involve construction of four kilometres of new two lane highway to the west of Scone. The land through which the proposal passes is currently either agricultural land used for predominantly low intensive grazing or part of the Scone golf course. Some of these lands would be subject to acquisition. The proposal would also result in altered traffic movements in the vicinity of St Aubins and Aberdeen streets, and would result in changed flooding patterns and increased road traffic noise for parts of western Scone.</p>	Long-term negative
i. Any degradation of the quality of the environment?	
<p>The proposal would reduce traffic congestion and improve safety and amenity within the Scone town centre. It would also remove the existing rail level crossing on the New England Highway and provide unimpeded access for emergency services and the general community to the western side of the Great Northern Railway.</p>	Long-term positive
<p>During construction there is potential for short term impacts associated with traffic, visual, dust, water quality, noise and vibration. These impacts would be minimised through the implementation of safeguards summarised in section 7.</p>	Short-term minor negative
j. Any risk to the safety of the environment?	
<p>The proposal would reduce travel times and congestion, improve safety for road users, remove the existing rail level crossing on the New England Highway and provide unimpeded access for emergency services to the western side of the Great Northern Railway.</p>	Long-term positive

Factor	Impact
<p>There is potential for road safety to be decreased during construction due to altered traffic conditions and increased heavy vehicle movements. Traffic management safeguards including the preparation of a traffic management plan, would address safety risks.</p>	<p>Short-term potential negative</p>
<p>k. Any reduction in the range of beneficial uses of the environment?</p>	
<p>The proposal would reduce travel times and congestion, improve safety for road users, remove the existing rail level crossing on the New England Highway and provide unimpeded access for emergency services to the western side of the Great Northern Railway. These benefits could result in opportunities for beneficial uses of areas within and surrounding Scone.</p>	<p>Long-term positive</p>
<p>During construction, minor traffic impacts due to an increase in heavy vehicle movements and potential interruptions to traffic flow would temporarily reduce the beneficial use of the local road network.</p> <p>The proposal would pass over the western edge of the Bill Rose Sports Complex. During construction safe access to the sports complex would be retained however some of the netball courts would be closed for safety reasons. A playing field, public park and dog park would also be closed during construction. During construction there is potential for short term amenity impacts. Operation of the proposal is not expected to significantly impact on users of the sports complex, however due to the location of the overbridge an alternate site for the playing field and public park would be required in consultation with council.</p>	<p>Short-term minor negative</p>
<p>The proposal would involve construction of four kilometres of new two lane highway to the west of Scone. The land through which the proposal passes is currently either agricultural land used for predominantly low intensive grazing or part of the Scone golf course. Some of these lands would be subject to acquisition. As a result the proposal would result in a reduction in the range of beneficial uses of the parcels of land that it impacts.</p>	<p>Long-term negative</p>
<p>l. Any pollution of the environment?</p>	
<p>The proposal would reduce travel times and congestion and improve safety for road users. This would result improvements to the amenity (including noise and air pollution) within the centre of Scone and improve traffic efficiency on the new section of New England Highway.</p>	<p>Long-term positive</p>

Factor	Impact
<p>The proposal could potentially result in minor short-term water pollution from sediments, soil nutrients, waste, and spilt fuels and chemicals. Management of water quality impacts would be undertaken in accordance with the mitigation measures summarised in section 7.</p> <p>The proposal would result in minor short-term air pollution from plant and machinery and the generation of dust during construction. Management of air quality impacts would be undertaken in accordance with the mitigation measures outlined in section 6.9.</p>	Short-term minor negative
m. Any environmental problems associated with the disposal of waste?	
<p>The proposal could involve the removal and disposal of asbestos waste which would be adequately managed in accordance with safeguards provided in section 6.13. All other waste streams generated during construction are common and would pose no difficulty in their disposal. Waste would be recycled wherever possible.</p>	Short-term minor negative
n. Any increased demands on resources (natural or otherwise) that are, or are likely to become, in short supply?	
<p>All resources required for the proposal are readily available and are not in short supply.</p>	nil
o. Any cumulative environmental effect with other existing or likely future activities?	
<p>The long-term effect of the proposal would have a positive cumulative impact on travel times, road safety and efficiency, facilitating the anticipated increase in traffic volumes as a result of future traffic predictions and population growth. The proposal would result in improved safety for Scone with the removal of the existing rail level crossing and an improved transport corridor for through traffic in the Upper Hunter area.</p>	Long-term positive
<p>Temporary potential cumulative impacts may occur as a result of construction activities occurring simultaneously with other projects in the local area. Cumulative impacts are not expected to be significant and would be minimised through the application of individual project specific environmental safeguards and management measures.</p>	Short-term minor negative
p. Any impact on coastal processes and coastal hazards, including those under projected climate change conditions?	
<p>The proposal is not located in proximity to the coast.</p>	nil

## Matters of National Environmental Significance

Under the environmental assessment provisions of the EPBC Act, the following matters of national environmental significance and impacts on Commonwealth land are required to be considered to assist in determining whether the proposal should be referred to the Australian Government Department of the Environment.

Factor	Impact
<p>Any impact on a World Heritage property?</p> <p>No world heritage listed properties are located within a ten kilometre radius of the proposal site.</p>	nil
<p>Any impact on a National Heritage place?</p> <p>No national heritage places are located within a ten kilometre radius of the proposal site.</p>	nil
<p>Any impact on a wetland of international importance?</p> <p>No wetlands of international importance are located within a ten kilometre radius of the proposal site.</p>	nil
<p>Any impact on a listed threatened species or communities?</p> <p>The proposal would not result in significant impacts on any threatened species or communities. The proposal would remove and/or impact about 33.4 hectares of predominantly planted and exotic vegetation including about 6.5 hectares of potential foraging habitat for the Grey-headed Flying-fox. An assessment of significance (Appendix E) concluded that the proposal is unlikely to have a significant impact on this species given that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vegetation to be removed is likely to be outside the species home range (as it about 60 kilometres from the nearest roost camp) and comprises a negligible proportion of potential foraging habitat present in surrounding areas and the broader locality</li> <li>• The proposal would not result in the isolation of potential foraging habitat could affect the foraging or dispersive movements of this species.</li> </ul>	nil

Factor	Impact
<p>Any impacts on listed migratory species?</p> <p>An assessment of the likelihood of occurrence of migratory species was undertaken for the proposal (Appendix C). This assessment found that based on the nature and condition of habitat and recent local records (including the results of the field survey for the proposal) there are three migratory species listed under the EPBC Act that may utilise the proposal site on an opportunistic or seasonal basis. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cattle Egret (<i>Ardea ibis</i>)</li> <li>• Great Egret (<i>Ardea alba</i>)</li> <li>• Rainbow Bee-eater (<i>Merops ornatus</i>).</li> </ul> <p>An assessment of significance using the <i>Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1: Matters of National Environmental Significance</i> (DSEWPaC 2013) have been prepared for migratory species listed under the EPBC Act with a moderate likelihood of occurrence in the study area.</p> <p>This assessment concluded that the proposal would be unlikely to result in a significant impact on any of these migratory species. The full assessment of significance is provided in Appendix E.</p>	nil
<p>Any impact on a Commonwealth marine area?</p> <p>The proposal would not have any impact on a Commonwealth marine area.</p>	nil
<p>Any impact on the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park?</p> <p>The proposal would not impact on the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.</p>	nil
<p>Does the proposal involve a nuclear action (including uranium mining)?</p> <p>The proposal does not involve a nuclear action.</p>	Not applicable
<p>Any impact on a water resource, in relation to coal seam gas development and large coal mining development?</p> <p>The proposal is not a coal seam gas development or large coal mining development.</p>	Not applicable
<p>Any impact (direct or indirect) on Commonwealth land?</p> <p>The proposal would not impact Commonwealth land.</p>	nil