

Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements

Application Number	SSI 18_9371
Proposal	Inland Rail – North Star to NSW/Queensland Border
Location	Generally, within the existing rail corridor between North Star and Whalan Creek, and north of Whalan Creek to the Macintyre River (NSW/Queensland Border)
Proponent	Australian Rail Track Corporation
Date of Issue	8 August 2018

General Standard SEARs

Desired Performance Outcome	Requirement	Current Guidelines ¹
<p>1. Environmental Impact Assessment Process</p> <p>The process for assessment of the proposal is transparent, balanced, well focussed and legal.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Environmental Impact Statement must be prepared in accordance with Part 3 of Schedule 2 of the <i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000</i> (the Regulation). 2. The project will impact matters of national environmental significance (MNES) protected under the Commonwealth <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (EPBC Act) and will be assessed under an Accredited Assessment. The Proponent must assess impacts to MNES protected under the EPBC Act. The assessment must be in accordance with the requirements listed in Attachment A. 3. The onus is on the Proponent to ensure legislative requirements relevant to the project are met. 	<p>EPBC Act Environment Assessment Process (SEWPAC, 2010)</p>
<p>2. Environmental Impact Statement</p> <p>The project is described in sufficient detail to enable clear understanding that the project has been developed through an iterative process of impact identification and assessment and project refinement to avoid, minimise or offset impacts so that the project, on balance, has the least adverse environmental, social and economic impact, including its cumulative impacts.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The EIS must include, but not necessarily be limited to, the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) executive summary; (b) a description of the project, including all components and activities (including ancillary components and activities, borrow pits, construction camps and rail sidings) required to construct and operate it; (c) a statement of the objective(s) of the project; (d) a summary of the strategic need for the project regarding its State significance and relevant State Government policy; (e) an analysis of any feasible alternatives to the project;² (f) a description of feasible options within the project;³ (g) a description of how alternatives to and options within the project were analysed to inform the selection of the preferred alternative / option. The description must contain sufficient detail to enable an understanding of why the preferred alternative to and options(s) within the project were selected; (h) a concise description of the general biophysical and socio-economic environment that is likely to be impacted by the project (including offsite impacts). Elements of the environment that are not likely to be affected by the project do not need to be described; (i) a demonstration of how the project design has been developed to avoid or minimise likely adverse impacts; (j) the identification and assessment of key issues as provided in the 'Assessment of Key Issues' 	

¹ Guidelines listed are the current list of guidelines that may be applicable to a SSI project. It is the Proponents responsibility to identify, and justify, which guidelines have been applied to a specific project.

² Alternatives to a project are different projects which would achieve the same project objective(s) including the consequences of not carrying out the project. For example, alternatives to a road project may be a rail project in the same area and alternate routes for the road.

³ Options within the project are variations of the same project. For example, options within a road project could be design of an intersection; the location or design of a bridge; locations for a vent stack.

Desired Performance Outcome	Requirement	Current Guidelines ¹
	<p>performance outcome;</p> <p>(k) a statement of the outcome(s) the Proponent will achieve for each key issue;</p> <p>(l) measures to avoid, minimise or offset impacts must be linked to the impact(s) they treat, so it is clear which measures will be applied to each impact;</p> <p>(m) consideration of the interactions between measures proposed to avoid or minimise impact(s), between impacts themselves and between measures and impacts;⁴</p> <p>(n) an assessment of the cumulative impacts of the project taking into account other projects that have been approved but where construction has not commenced, projects that have commenced construction, and projects that have recently been completed;</p> <p>(o) statutory context of the project as a whole, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – how the project meets the provisions of the EP&A Act and EP&A Regulation; and – a list of any approvals that must be obtained under any other Act or law before the project may lawfully be carried out; <p>(p) a chapter that synthesises the environmental impact assessment and provides:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – a succinct but full description of the project for which approval is sought; – a description of any uncertainties that still exist around design, construction methodologies and/or operational methodologies and how these will be resolved in the next stages of the project; – a compilation of the impacts of the project that have not been avoided; – a compilation of the proposed measures associated with each impact to avoid or minimise (through design refinements or ongoing management during construction and operation) or offset these impacts; – a compilation of the outcome(s) the Proponent will achieve; and – the reasons justifying carrying out the project as proposed, having regard to the biophysical, economic and social considerations, including ecologically sustainable development and cumulative impacts; and <p>(q) relevant project plans, drawings, diagrams in an electronic format that enables integration with mapping and other technical software.</p> <p>2. The EIS must only include data and analysis that is reasonably needed to make a decision on the proposal. Relevant information must be succinctly summarised in the EIS and included in full in appendices. Irrelevant, conflicting or duplicated information must be avoided.</p>	

⁴ Measures proposed to avoid or minimise one impact may cause an unintended impact on another issue. Therefore, these impacts and their interactions need to be analysed and resolved where possible.

Desired Performance Outcome	Requirement	Current Guidelines ¹
<p>3. Assessment of Key Issues*</p> <p>Key issue impacts are assessed objectively and thoroughly to provide confidence that the project will be constructed and operated within acceptable levels of impact.</p> <p>* Key issues are nominated by the Proponent in the SSI project application and by the Department in the SEARs. Key issues need to be reviewed throughout the preparation of the EIS to ensure any new key issues that emerge are captured. The key issues identified in this document are not exhaustive but are key issues common to most SSI projects.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The level of assessment of likely impacts must be proportionate to the significance of, or degree of impact on, the issue, within the context of the proposal location and the surrounding environment. The level of assessment must be commensurate to the degree of impact and sufficient to ensure that the Department and other government agencies are able to understand and assess impacts. 2. For each key issue the Proponent must: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) describe the biophysical and socio-economic environment, as far as it is relevant to that issue; (b) describe the legislative and policy context, as far as it is relevant to the issue; (c) identify, describe and quantify (if possible) the impacts associated with the issue, including the likelihood and consequence (including worst case scenario) of the impact (comprehensive risk assessment), and the cumulative impacts; (d) demonstrate how potential impacts have been avoided (through design, or construction or operation methodologies); (e) detail how likely impacts that have not been avoided through design will be minimised, and the predicted effectiveness of these measures (against performance criteria where relevant); and (f) detail how any residual impacts will be managed or offset, and the approach and effectiveness of these measures. 3. Where multiple reasonable and feasible options to avoid or minimise impacts are available, they must be identified and considered and the proposed measure justified taking into account the public interest. 	
<p>4. Consultation</p> <p>The project is developed with meaningful and effective engagement during project design and delivery.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The project must be informed by consultation, including with relevant State (including Queensland) and local government agencies, infrastructure and service providers, special interest and industry groups, affected landowners, businesses and the community. The consultation process must be undertaken in accordance with the current guidelines. 2. The Proponent must document the consultation process, and demonstrate how the project has responded to the inputs received. 3. The Proponent must describe the timing and type of community consultation proposed during the design and delivery of the project, the mechanisms for community feedback, the mechanisms for keeping the community informed, and procedures for complaints handling and resolution. 4. Where the Proponent establishes a Community Consultative Committee (CCC) for the project, the establishment and operation of the CCC must be in accordance with the Department's <i>Community Consultative Guidelines State Significant Projects (2016)</i>. The CCC must not be the only or primary method of engagement with the community on the project. 	

Key Issue Standard SEARs

Key Issue and Desired Performance Outcome	Requirement (specific assessment requirements in addition to the general requirement above)	Current Guidelines
<p>5. Biodiversity</p> <p>The project design considers all feasible measures to avoid and minimise impacts on terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity.</p> <p>Offsets and/or supplementary measures are assured which are equivalent to any remaining impacts of project construction and operation.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Proponent must assess biodiversity impacts in accordance with s7.9 of the <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> (BC Act), the Biodiversity Assessment Method (BAM), and be documented in a Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR). 2. The BDAR must include information in the form detailed in s6.12 of the BC Act, cl6.8 of the <i>Biodiversity Conservation Regulation 2017</i> and the BAM. 3. The BDAR must be submitted with all digital spatial data associated with the survey and assessment as per Appendix 10 of the BAM. 4. The BDAR must be prepared by a person accredited in accordance with the Accreditation Scheme for the Application of the Biodiversity Assessment Method Order 2017 under s6.10 of the BC Act. 5. The BDAR must include details of the measures proposed to address offset obligations. 6. The Proponent must assess any impacts on biodiversity values not covered by the BAM. This includes a threatened aquatic species assessment (Part 7A <i>Fisheries Management Act 1994</i>) to address whether there are likely to be any significant impact on listed threatened species, populations or ecological communities listed under the <i>Fisheries Management Act 1994</i> (FM Act). 7. The Proponent must identify whether the project, or any component of the project, would be classified as a Key Threatening Process (KTP) in accordance with the listings in the BC Act, FM Act and the <i>Environmental Protection and the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2000</i> (EPBC Act). 	<p>Biodiversity Assessment Method (OEH, 2017)</p> <p>Policy and Guidelines for Fish Habitat Conservation and Management – Update 2013 (DPI, 2013)</p> <p>Threatened Species Survey and Assessment Guidelines</p> <p>Why do Fish Need to Cross the Road? Fish Passage Requirements for Waterway Crossings (NSW Fisheries, 2003)</p> <p>NSW Sustainable Design Guidelines Version 4.0 (TfNSW, 2017)</p> <p>Aquatic Ecology in Environmental Impact Assessment – EIA Guideline (Marcus Lincoln Smith 2003)</p> <p>Freshwater threatened species distribution maps (www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/species-protection/threatened-species-distributions-in-nsw/freshwater-threatened-species-distribution-maps)</p>
<p>6. Protected and Sensitive Lands</p> <p>The project is designed, constructed and operated to avoid or minimise impacts on</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Proponent must assess the impacts of the project on environmentally sensitive land and processes (and the impact of processes on the project) including, but not limited to: 	<p>Guidelines for developments adjoining land and water managed by the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (DECCW, 2010)</p>

Key Issue and Desired Performance Outcome	Requirement (specific assessment requirements in addition to the general requirement above)	Current Guidelines
<p>protected and sensitive lands.</p> <p>The project is designed, constructed and operated to avoid or minimise future exposure to coastal hazards and processes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) protected areas (including land and water) managed by OEH and/or DPI Fisheries under the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i> and the <i>Marine Estate Management Act 2014</i>; (b) Key Fish Habitat as mapped and defined in accordance with the FM Act; (c) waterfront land as defined in the <i>Water Management Act 2000</i>; (d) land or waters identified as Critical Habitat under the BC Act, FM Act or EPBC Act; and (e) biobank sites, private conservation lands and other lands identified as offsets. 	<p>Revocation, Re-categorisation and Road Adjustment Policy (OEH, 2012)</p> <p>Guidelines for controlled activities on waterfront land (DPI 2012)</p> <p>Policy and Guidelines for Fish Habitat Conservation and Management – Update 2013 (DPI, 2013)</p> <p>Why do Fish Need to Cross the Road? Fish Passage Requirements for Waterway Crossings (NSW Fisheries, 2003)</p>
<p>7. Transport and Traffic</p> <p>Network connectivity, safety and efficiency of the transport system in the vicinity of the project are managed to minimise impacts.</p> <p>The safety of transport system customers is maintained.</p> <p>Impacts on network capacity and the level of service are effectively managed.</p> <p>Works are compatible with existing infrastructure and future transport corridors.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Proponent must assess construction transport and traffic (vehicle, pedestrian and cyclists, bus services, and train operations) impacts, including, but not necessarily limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) a considered approach to route identification and scheduling of transport movements; (b) the number, frequency and size of construction related vehicles (passenger, commercial and heavy vehicles, including spoil management movements and track machines); (c) the nature of existing traffic (types and number of movements) on construction access routes (including consideration of peak traffic times and sensitive road users and parking arrangements) and assessment of traffic impacts on these routes including identifying traffic management measures to mitigate any impacts; (d) the closure, diversion or reconfiguration of elements of the road network associated with the construction of the project; and (e) safe access and egress to/from the classified road network. 2. The Proponent must assess (and model) the operational transport impacts of the project, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the performance of key level crossings and intersections; (b) wider transport interactions (local and regional roads, cycling, public and freight transport and the broader NSW rail network); and 	<p>Guide to Traffic Management – Part 3 Traffic Studies and Analysis (Austroads, 2007)</p> <p>Guide to Traffic Generating Developments Version 2.2 (RTA, 2002)</p> <p>Cycling Aspects of Austroads Guides (Austroads, 2014)</p> <p>NSW Bicycle Guidelines v 1.2 (RTA, 2005)</p> <p>Planning Guidelines for Walking and Cycling (DIPNR, 2004)</p> <p>Construction of New Level Crossing Policy (TfNSW, 201)</p> <p>Future Transport Strategy 2056 (TfNSW, 2018)</p> <p>NSW Draft Freight and Ports Plan (TfNSW, 2018)</p> <p>NSW Sustainable Design Guidelines Version 4.0 (TfNSW, 2017)</p> <p>Australian Level Crossing Assessment Model (ALCAM, 2016)</p> <p>Railway Crossing Safety Series 2011, Plan: Establishing a Railway Crossing Safety Management Plan (RTA, 2011)</p>

Key Issue and Desired Performance Outcome	Requirement (specific assessment requirements in addition to the general requirement above)	Current Guidelines
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (c) identification of traffic and transport measures to mitigate any impacts. 3. The Proponent must assess the feasibility of level crossings (existing and proposed), and justify the safety and operational impacts and/or benefits of the proposed crossing type, taking into account the NSW Government's Construction of New Level Crossings Policy. 4. In the assessment of level crossings, the EIS must take into account: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the NSW Government's <i>Construction of New Level Crossings Policy</i>; (b) level crossing ALCAM assessments for public crossings and site-specific risk assessments. The Proponent must demonstrate how they reduce risks identified So Far As Is Reasonably Practicable (SFAIRP); (c) consistency with any Interface Agreements and related Safety Management Plans, including draft Interface Agreements and draft Safety Management Plans; (d) the practice of upgrading active public level crossings to boom gates and flashing lights adopted by the NSW Level Crossing Improvement Program (LCIP); (e) the rationalisation of private and public level crossings in line with the NSW Government's <i>Level Crossing Closures Policy</i>; and (f) operation of level crossings with regard to road and rail travel speeds, vehicle types, train lengths, train numbers, road and rail traffic volumes, vehicle queuing and sight distance. 	
<p>8. Flooding, Hydrology and Geomorphology</p> <p>The project minimises adverse impacts on property, public safety and the environment resulting from alteration of the water flow characteristics of watercourses and overland flowpaths.</p> <p>Where feasible, the project includes remedial</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Proponent must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) describe the location and size of all existing and proposed pipes, culverts and bridges, and the locations and annual exceedance probabilities (AEPs) of flows that overtop the existing formation and rail; (b) describe the existing and proposed topography in all areas that could be potentially affected by floodwaters. This includes the spatial location, and the horizontal and vertical dimensions of all spoil mounds; 	<p>NSW Government's Floodplain Development Manual (Department of Natural Resources, 2005)</p> <p>PS 07-003 New guideline and changes to section 117 direction and EP&A Regulation on flood prone land</p> <p>Practical Consideration of Climate Change - Flood risk management guideline (DECC, 2007)</p>

Key Issue and Desired Performance Outcome	Requirement (specific assessment requirements in addition to the general requirement above)	Current Guidelines
<p>measures to mitigate any adverse water flow impacts, geomorphological impacts or flood safety risks caused by the existing rail infrastructure within the project area.</p> <p>Construction and operation of the project avoids or minimises the risk of, and adverse impacts from, infrastructure flooding, flooding hazards, geomorphological impacts or dam failure.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (c) describe and justify the proposed flood planning level (FPL) for the project including the AEP of the flood which will overtop the formation and rail. The FPL must consider adjacent infrastructure such as road crossings whose flood immunity is determined by the project's FPL; (d) assess the existing hydrology, geomorphology and flooding characteristics of all watercourses within and adjacent to the project area. This includes locating and assessing flowpaths emanating from existing culverts, pipes and bridges under the rail formation, or from overtopping of the existing formation in large storms; (e) develop and justify quantitative design limits on potential adverse flooding, hydrological and geomorphological impacts resulting from the project. These are to consider land use and include afflux, velocity, extent, duration, hazard, scour potential, etc; (f) carry out geotechnical and geomorphological investigations to assess the propensity for scour, erosion and geomorphological changes to occur within any watercourses or overland flowpaths affected by the project; (g) consider the impacts of extreme floods up to the probable maximum flood including consideration of flood risks to people and property resulting from failure of the formation or washouts of ballast; (h) prepare preliminary engineering designs of the velocity dissipation or other mitigation works that are proposed to avoid adverse offsite scouring or geomorphological impacts on the adjoining land downstream of the project area, adjacent to locations where pipes, culverts or bridges are proposed or where the rail formation may be overtopped; (i) at locations along the rail route, identify the width of land between the toe of the formation and the downstream boundary of the project area, that is available for the construction of these mitigation works; and (j) where there is insufficient width of project land available for these works, clearly identify the extent of additional land beyond the project boundary that may be required, including the locations where 	<p>Australian Disaster Resilience Handbook 7 – Managing the Floodplain: A Guide to Best Practice in Flood Risk Management in Australia. (AIDR, 2017)</p> <p>AS/NZS 3100:2009 Risk Management – Principles and Guidelines</p>

Key Issue and Desired Performance Outcome	Requirement (specific assessment requirements in addition to the general requirement above)	Current Guidelines
	<p>easements over land or acquisition of land may be required.</p> <p>2. The Proponent must assess and model the pre-construction, during construction and operational impacts of the project on flood behaviour for a full range of flood events up to and including the probable maximum flood (including consideration of the impacts of climate change and differing storm durations). This will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) utilising hydrologic and hydraulic models that are consistent with current best practice and utilise topographic and infrastructure data that is of sufficient spatial coverage and accuracy to ensure the resultant models can accurately assess existing and proposed water flow characteristics; (b) having these models independently peer-reviewed with the review findings published in the EIS; (c) assessing any detrimental increases in the potential flood affectation, scouring or geomorphological changes to other properties, assets and infrastructure, over a full range of flood durations and flood frequencies; (d) where the existing rail infrastructure has an adverse flood impact on property or people, the flood assessment must consider the extent to which the project alleviates or exacerbates these existing impacts; (e) an assessment of the consistency (or inconsistency) with the applicable Council or OEH floodplain management plans. The requirements of these plans must be discussed with OEH and the Council; (f) assessing whether each component of the project is compatible with the flood hazard of the land and the hydraulic functions of flow conveyance, floodway and flood storage; (g) assessing upstream and downstream flow, level, velocity, hazard and scour potential; (h) assessing changes in upstream and downstream flowpaths (location, discharges and velocities); (i) quantifying and evaluating changes in flood safety risks on private and public land including roads and pathways; 	

Key Issue and Desired Performance Outcome	Requirement (specific assessment requirements in addition to the general requirement above)	Current Guidelines
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (j) assessing any impacts that the project may have upon existing community emergency management arrangements for flooding. These matters must be discussed with the State Emergency Service and applicable Council; and (k) evaluating any social and economic impacts that the project may have on the community as a consequence of changes to flooding, hydrology and geomorphology. 	
<p>9. Water – Hydrology</p> <p>Long term impacts on surface water and groundwater hydrology (including drawdown, flow rates and volumes) are minimised.</p> <p>The environmental values of nearby, connected and affected water sources, groundwater and dependent ecological systems including estuarine and marine water (if applicable) are maintained (where values are achieved) or improved and maintained (where values are not achieved).</p> <p>Sustainable use of water resources.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Proponent must describe (and map) the existing hydrological regime for any surface and groundwater resource (including reliance by users and for ecological purposes) likely to be impacted by the project, including stream orders, as per the BAM. 2. The Proponent must prepare a detailed water balance for ground and surface water including the proposed intake and discharge locations, volume, frequency and duration, sources, security and licensing requirements. 3. The Proponent must assess (and model if appropriate) the impact of the construction and operation of the project and any ancillary facilities (both built elements and discharges) on surface and groundwater hydrology in accordance with the current guidelines, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) natural processes within rivers, wetlands, estuaries, marine waters and floodplains that affect the health of the fluvial, riparian, estuarine or marine system and landscape health (such as modified discharge volumes, durations and velocities), aquatic connectivity and access to habitat for spawning and refuge; (b) impacts from any permanent and temporary interruption of groundwater flow, including the extent of drawdown, barriers to flows, implications for groundwater dependent surface flows, ecosystems and species, groundwater users and the potential for settlement; (c) changes to environmental water availability and flows, both regulated/licensed and unregulated/rules-based sources; (d) direct or indirect increases in erosion, siltation, destruction of riparian 	<p>Biodiversity Assessment Method (OEH, 2017)</p> <p>Managing Urban Stormwater: Soils and Construction Volume 1 (Landcom 2004) and Volume 2 (A. Installation of Services; B. Waste Landfills; C. Unsealed Roads; D. Main Roads; E. Mines and Quarries) (DECC, 2008)</p> <p>NSW Aquifer Interference Policy (DPI, 2012)</p> <p>NSW Sustainable Design Guidelines Version 4.0 (TfNSW, 2017)</p> <p>Risk assessment Guidelines for Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems (Office of Water, 2012)</p>

Key Issue and Desired Performance Outcome	Requirement (specific assessment requirements in addition to the general requirement above)	Current Guidelines
	<p>vegetation or a reduction in the stability of river banks or watercourses;</p> <p>(e) minimising the effects of proposed stormwater and wastewater management during construction and operation on natural hydrological attributes (such as volumes, flow rates, management methods and re-use options) and on the conveyance capacity of existing stormwater systems where discharges are proposed through such systems; and</p> <p>(f) water take (direct or passive) from all surface and groundwater sources with estimates of annual volumes during construction and operation.</p> <p>4. The Proponent must identify any requirements for baseline monitoring of hydrological attributes.</p>	
<p>10. Water – Quality</p> <p>The project is designed, constructed and operated to protect the NSW Water Quality Objectives where they are currently being achieved, and contribute towards achievement of the Water Quality Objectives over time where they are currently not being achieved, including downstream of the project to the extent of the project impact including estuarine and marine waters (if applicable).</p>	<p>1. The Proponent must:</p> <p>(a) state the ambient NSW Water Quality Objectives (NSW WQO) and environmental values for the receiving waters relevant to the project, including the indicators and associated trigger values or criteria for the identified environmental values;</p> <p>(b) identify and estimate the quality and quantity of all pollutants that may be introduced into the water cycle by source and discharge point and describe the nature and degree of impact that any discharge(s) may have on the receiving environment, including consideration of all pollutants that pose a risk of non-trivial harm to human health and the environment;</p> <p>(c) identify the rainfall event that the water quality protection measures will be designed to cope with;</p> <p>(d) assess the significance of any identified impacts including consideration of the relevant ambient water quality outcomes;</p> <p>(e) demonstrate how construction and operation of the project will, to the extent that the project can influence, ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – where the NSW WQOs for receiving waters are currently being met they will continue to be protected; and 	<p>NSW Water Quality and River Flow Objectives at http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/ieo/</p> <p>Using the ANZECC Guidelines and Water Quality Objectives in NSW (DEC, 2006)</p> <p>Australian and New Zealand Guidelines for Fresh and Marine Water Quality (ANZECC/ ARMCANZ, 2000)</p> <p>Approved Methods for the Sampling and Analysis of Water Pollutants in NSW (DECC, 2008)</p> <p>Managing Urban Stormwater: Soils and Construction Volume 1 (Landcom 2004) and Volume 2 (A. Installation of Services; B. Waste Landfills; C. Unsealed Roads; D. Main Roads; E. Mines and Quarries) (DECC, 2008)</p>

Key Issue and Desired Performance Outcome	Requirement (specific assessment requirements in addition to the general requirement above)	Current Guidelines
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – where the NSW WQOs are not currently being met, activities will work toward their achievement over time; (f) justify, if required, why the WQOs cannot be maintained or achieved over time; (g) demonstrate that all practical measures to avoid or minimise water pollution and protect human health and the environment from harm are investigated and implemented; (h) identify sensitive receiving environments (which may include marine waters downstream) and develop a strategy to avoid or minimise impacts on these environments; and (i) identify proposed monitoring locations, monitoring frequency and indicators of surface and groundwater quality. 	
<p>11. Soils</p> <p>The environmental values of land, including soils, subsoils and landforms, are protected.</p> <p>Risks arising from the disturbance and excavation of land and disposal of soil are minimised, including disturbance to acid sulfate soils and site contamination.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Proponent must assess whether the land is likely to be contaminated and identify if remediation of the land is required, having regard to the ecological and human health risks posed by the contamination in the context of past, existing and future land uses. Where assessment and/or remediation is required, the Proponent must document how the assessment and/or remediation would be undertaken in accordance with current guidelines. 2. The Proponent must assess whether salinity is likely to be an issue and if so, determine the presence, extent and severity of soil salinity within the project area. 3. The Proponent must assess the impacts of the project on soil salinity and how it may affect groundwater resources and hydrology. 4. The Proponent must assess the impacts on soil and land resources (including erosion risk or hazard). Particular attention must be given to soil erosion and sediment transport consistent with the practices and principles in the current guidelines. 	<p>Managing Land Contamination: Planning Guidelines SEPP 55 –Remediation of Land, (DUAP & EPA, 1998)</p> <p>Guidelines for Consultants Reporting on Contaminated Sites (OEH, reprinted 2011)</p> <p>Guidelines for the NSW Site Auditor Scheme (DEC, 2006)</p> <p>Guidelines on the Duty to Report Contamination under the Contaminated Land Management Act 1997 (EPA, 2015)</p> <p>Urban and regional salinity – guidance given in the Local Government Salinity Initiative booklets (http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/salinity/solutions/urban.htm) which includes <i>Site Investigations for Urban Salinity</i> (DLWC, 2002)</p> <p>Landslide risk management guidelines presented in Australian Geomechanics Society (2007)</p> <p>Soil and Landscape Issues in Environmental Impact Assessment (DLWC 2000)</p>

Key Issue and Desired Performance Outcome	Requirement (specific assessment requirements in addition to the general requirement above)	Current Guidelines
		<p>Managing Urban Stormwater: Soils and Construction Volume 1 (Landcom 2004) and Volume 2 (A. Installation of Services; B. Waste Landfills; C. Unsealed Roads; D. Main Roads; E. Mines and Quarries) (DECC, 2008)</p> <p>Other guidelines made or approved under section 105 of the <i>Contaminated Land Management Act 1997</i></p>
<p>12. Heritage</p> <p>The design, construction and operation of the project facilitates, to the greatest extent possible, the long-term protection, conservation and management of the heritage significance of items of environmental heritage and Aboriginal objects and places.</p> <p>The design, construction and operation of the project avoids or minimises impacts, to the greatest extent possible, on the heritage significance of environmental heritage and Aboriginal objects and places.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Proponent must identify and assess any direct and/or indirect impacts (including cumulative impacts) to the heritage significance of: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Aboriginal places and objects, as defined under the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i> and in accordance with the principles and methods of assessment identified in the current guidelines; (b) Aboriginal places of heritage significance, as defined in the Standard Instrument – Principal Local Environmental Plan; (c) environmental heritage, as defined under the <i>Heritage Act 1977</i>; and (d) items listed on the National and World Heritage lists. 2. Where archaeological investigations of Aboriginal objects are proposed these must be conducted by a suitably qualified archaeologist, in accordance with section 1.6 of the <i>Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW</i> (DECCW 2010). 3. Impacts to Aboriginal objects and/or places must be assessed and documented in an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR). Consultation must be undertaken with Aboriginal people in accordance with the <i>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation requirements for proponents</i> (DECCW, 2010). The ACHAR must document the outcomes of consultation with Aboriginal people and outline measures proposed to mitigate impacts. The significance of cultural heritage values for Aboriginal people who have a cultural association with the land must be documented in the ACHAR. 4. Where impacts to State or locally significant heritage items are identified, the assessment must: 	<p>Guide to investigating, assessing and reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW (OEH, 2011)</p> <p>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation requirements for proponents (DECCW, 2010)</p> <p>Code of practice for archaeological investigation of Aboriginal objects in NSW (DECCW, 2010)</p> <p>NSW Skeletal Remains: Guidelines for Management of Human Remains (Heritage Office, 1998)</p> <p>Aboriginal site recording form</p> <p>Aboriginal site impact recording form</p> <p>Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System site registration form</p> <p>Care agreement application form</p> <p>Criteria for the assessment of excavation directors (NSW Heritage Council, 2011)</p> <p>NSW Heritage Manual (Heritage Office and Department of Urban Affairs and Planning, 1996)</p> <p>Assessing Heritage Significance (NSW Heritage Office, 2001)</p> <p>The Australia ICOMOS Burra Charter</p>

Key Issue and Desired Performance Outcome	Requirement (specific assessment requirements in addition to the general requirement above)	Current Guidelines
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) include a statement of heritage impact for all heritage items (including significance assessment); (b) consider impacts to the item of significance caused by, but not limited to, vibration, demolition, archaeological disturbance, altered historical arrangements and access, visual amenity, landscape and vistas, curtilage, subsidence and architectural noise treatment (as relevant); (c) outline measures to avoid and minimise those impacts in accordance with the current guidelines; and (d) be undertaken by a suitably qualified heritage consultant(s) (note: where archaeological excavations are proposed the relevant consultant must meet the NSW Heritage Council's Excavation Director criteria). 	
<p>13. Noise and Vibration - Amenity</p> <p>Construction noise and vibration (including airborne noise, ground-borne noise and blasting) are effectively managed to minimise adverse impacts on acoustic amenity.</p> <p>Increases in noise emissions and vibration affecting nearby properties and other sensitive receivers during operation of the project are effectively managed to protect the amenity and well-being of the community.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Proponent must assess construction and operational noise and vibration impacts in accordance with relevant NSW noise and vibration guidelines. The assessment must include consideration of impacts to sensitive receivers including small businesses, and include consideration of sleep disturbance and, as relevant, the characteristics of noise and vibration (for example, low frequency noise). 2. The Proponent must demonstrate that blast impacts are capable of complying with the current guidelines, if blasting is required. 	<p>Technical Basis for Guidelines to Minimise Annoyance due to Blasting Overpressure and Ground Vibration (ANZECC, 1990)</p> <p>Assessing Vibration: a technical guideline (DEC, 2006)</p> <p>Interim Construction Noise Guideline (DECCW, 2009)</p> <p>Noise Policy for Industry (EPA, 2017)</p> <p>Construction Noise Strategy (TfNSW, 2012)</p> <p>Rail Infrastructure Noise Guideline (EPA, 2013)</p> <p>NSW Road Noise Policy (DECCW, 2011)</p> <p>Development Near Rail Corridors and Busy Roads – Interim guideline (DoP, 2008)</p> <p>Noise Mitigation Guideline (RMS, 2015)</p> <p>Noise Criteria Guideline (RMS, 2015)</p> <p>NSW Sustainable Design Guidelines Version 4.0 (TfNSW, 2017)</p>

Key Issue and Desired Performance Outcome	Requirement (specific assessment requirements in addition to the general requirement above)	Current Guidelines
<p>14. Noise and Vibration - Structural</p> <p>Construction noise and vibration (including airborne noise, ground-borne noise and blasting) are effectively managed to minimise adverse impacts on the structural integrity of buildings and items including Aboriginal places and environmental heritage.</p> <p>Increases in noise emissions and vibration affecting environmental heritage as defined in the <i>Heritage Act 1977</i> during operation of the project are effectively managed.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Proponent must assess construction and operation noise and vibration impacts in accordance with relevant NSW noise and vibration guidelines. The assessment must include consideration of impacts to the structural integrity and heritage significance of items (including Aboriginal places and items of environmental heritage). 2. The Proponent must demonstrate that blast impacts are capable of complying with the current guidelines, if blasting is required. 	<p>German Standard DIN 4150-3: Structural Vibration - effects of vibration on structures</p>
<p>15. Socio-economic, Land Use and Property</p> <p>The project minimises adverse social and economic impacts and capitalises on opportunities potentially available to affected communities.</p> <p>The project minimises impacts to property and business and achieves appropriate integration with adjoining land uses, including maintenance of appropriate access to properties and community facilities, and minimisation of displacement of existing land use activities, dwellings and infrastructure.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Proponent must assess social and economic impacts in accordance with the current guidelines. 2. The Proponent must assess agricultural land use impacts in accordance with the current guidelines, including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) current and potential Important Agricultural Land within the project and surrounding locality, including land capability and agricultural productivity; (b) division or fragmentation of property and changes to property management which could lead to the loss of viability; (c) property access and the efficient and safe crossing of the rail corridor by machinery and livestock (d) connectivity of property infrastructure severed by the rail corridor; and (e) livestock exclusion/management to minimise harm and losses. 3. The Proponent must undertake an assessment of biosecurity risks and management measures relating to the potential for spread of pests, diseases or weeds along the length of the project alignment, in accordance with the 'general biosecurity duty' under the <i>Biosecurity Act 2015</i>. 	<p>Environmental Planning and Impact Assessment Practice Note: Socio-economic Assessment (RMS, 2013)</p> <p>Social Impact Assessment Guideline for State significant mining, petroleum production and extractive industry development (DPE, 2017)</p> <p>Social Impact Assessment Scoping Tool (DPE, 2017)</p> <p>Infrastructure Proposals on Rural Land Primefact 1063, second edition (DPI, 2013)</p> <p>NSW Invasive Species Plan 2018-202 (DPI, 2018)</p> <p>Land Use Conflict Risk Assessment (LUCRA) Guide (DPI, 2011)</p> <p>New England North West Regional Plan 2036 (DPE, 2017)</p>

Key Issue and Desired Performance Outcome	Requirement (specific assessment requirements in addition to the general requirement above)	Current Guidelines
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. The Proponent must assess the social and economic impact of temporary accommodation for construction workers (construction camps) on communities near the project site. 5. The Proponent must assess impacts from construction and operation on potentially affected properties, businesses, recreational users and land and water users (for example, recreational and commercial fishers, including property acquisitions/adjustments, access, amenity and relevant statutory rights. 6. Where the project may impact on significant mineral resources, the Proponent must assess the impact of the project on these resources, including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) any operating mines, extractive industries or known mineral or petroleum resources; (b) exploration activities in the vicinity of the proposed development; and (c) access for future exploration in the area. 7. The Proponent must identify encroachments into adjoining road reserves, travelling stock routes and Crown land and roads affected by the project. 	
<p>16. Visual Amenity</p> <p>The project minimises adverse impacts on the visual amenity of the built and natural environment (including public open space) and capitalises on opportunities to improve visual amenity.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Proponent must assess the visual impact of the project and any ancillary infrastructure on: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) views and vistas; (b) streetscapes, key sites and buildings; (c) heritage items including Aboriginal places and environmental heritage; and (d) the local community. 2. The Proponent must provide artist impressions and perspective drawings of the project to illustrate how the project has responded to the visual impact through urban design and landscaping. 	<p>AS4282-1997 Control of the obtrusive effects of outdoor lighting</p> <p>Bridge Aesthetics: Design guidelines to improve the appearance of bridges in NSW (RMS, 2012)</p> <p>NSW Sustainable Design Guidelines Version 4.0 (TfNSW, 2017)</p> <p>Technical guideline for Urban Green Cover in NSW (OEH, 2015)</p>
<p>17. Waste</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Proponent must assess predicted waste generated from the project during construction and operation, including: 	<p>NSW Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2014-21 (EPA 2014)</p>

Key Issue and Desired Performance Outcome	Requirement (specific assessment requirements in addition to the general requirement above)	Current Guidelines
All wastes generated during the construction and operation of the project are effectively stored, handled, treated, reused, recycled and/or disposed of lawfully and in a manner that protects environmental values.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) classification of the waste in accordance with the current guidelines; b) estimates / details of the quantity of each classification of waste to be generated during the construction of the project, including bulk earthworks and spoil balance; c) handling of waste including measures to facilitate segregation and prevent cross contamination; d) management of waste including estimated location and volume of stockpiles; e) waste minimisation and reuse; f) lawful disposal or recycling locations for each type of waste; and g) contingencies for the above, including managing unexpected waste volumes. <p>2. The Proponent must assess potential environmental impacts from the excavation, handling, storage on site and transport of the waste particularly with relation to sediment/leachate control, noise and dust.</p>	<p><i>Waste Classification Guidelines – Part 1: Classification of Waste</i> (EPA 2014)</p> <p>NSW Sustainable Design Guidelines Version 4.0 (TfNSW, 2017)</p> <p>Managing Urban Stormwater: Soils and Construction Volume 1 (Landcom 2004) and Volume 2 (A. Installation of Services; B. Waste Landfills; C. Unsealed Roads; D. Main Roads; E. Mines and Quarries) (DECC, 2008)</p>
<p>18. Climate Change Risk</p> <p>The project is designed, constructed and operated to be resilient to the future impacts of climate change.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Proponent must assess the risk and vulnerability of the project to climate change in accordance with the current guidelines. 2. The Proponent must quantify specific climate change risks with reference to the NSW Government’s climate projections at 10km resolution (or lesser resolution if 10km projections are not available) and incorporate specific adaptation actions in the design. 	<p>Australian Government’s Climate Change Impacts and Risk Management – A Guide for Business and Government (2006)</p> <p>AS/NZS 3100:2009 Risk Management – Principles and Guidelines</p> <p>Technical Guide for Climate Change Adaptation for the State Road Network (RMS, in draft)</p>
<p>19. Sustainability</p> <p>The project reduces the NSW Government’s operating costs and ensures the effective and efficient use of resources.</p> <p>Conservation of natural resources is maximised.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Proponent must assess the sustainability of the project in accordance with the Infrastructure Sustainability Council of Australia (ISCA) <i>Infrastructure Sustainability Rating Tool</i> and recommend an appropriate target rating for the project, including targets and strategies to improve Government efficiency in use of water, energy and transport. 	<p>NSW Sustainable Design Guidelines Version 4.0 (TfNSW, 2017)</p> <p>Infrastructure Sustainability Rating Tool Scorecard relating to energy and carbon for large infrastructure projects, ISCA</p> <p>NSW Infrastructure Skills Legacy Programs’ training and employment targets (DOI, 2017)</p>

ATTACHMENT A – EPBC Act Requirements



Inland Rail – North Star to NSW/QLD border (EPBC 2018/8222, SSI 18_9371)

The proposed action is being assessed for the purposes of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) under Part 5 Division 5.2 of the *NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act). This document is intended to assist NSW Department of Planning and Environment (NSW DPE) to manage the environmental impact assessment process. It is not legally binding and does not replace the requirements of the EPBC Act.

Proposed Action

To upgrade and construct a rail line between North Star in NSW and the NSW/QLD border, spanning approximately 30 km, as part of the Inland Rail Programme.

Matters of National Environmental Significance

The EPBC Act controlling provisions for the proposed action are:

- listed threatened species and communities (sections 18 and 18A)

All matters of national environmental significance (MNES) protected under the triggered controlling provisions are potentially relevant. The Department considers that the proposed action has the potential to significantly impact the following:

- Brigalow (*Acacia harpophylla* dominant and co-dominant) – endangered
- Coolibah - Black Box Woodlands of the Darling Riverine Plains and the Brigalow Belt South Bioregions – endangered
- Natural grasslands on basalt and fine-textured alluvial plains of northern New South Wales and southern Queensland – critically endangered
- Weeping Myall Woodlands – endangered
- White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland – critically endangered
- Squatter Pigeon (southern) (*Geophaps scripta scripta*) – vulnerable
- Painted Honeyeater (*Grantiella picta*) – vulnerable
- Murray Cod (*Maccullochella peelii*) – vulnerable
- Large-eared Pied Bat, Large Pied Bat (*Chalinolobus dwyeri*) – vulnerable
- Corben's Long-eared Bat, South-eastern Long-eared Bat (*Nyctophilus corbeni*) – vulnerable
- Koala (combined populations of Queensland, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory) (*Phascolarctos cinereus*) – vulnerable
- Ooline (*Cadellia pentastylis*) – vulnerable
- Bluegrass (*Dichanthium setosum*) – vulnerable
- Belson's Panic (*Homopholis belsonii*) – vulnerable
- *Tylophora linearis* – endangered
- Five-clawed Worm-skink (*Anomalopus mackayi*) – vulnerable



- Adorned Delma (*Delma torquata*) – vulnerable
- Dunmall's Snake (*Furina dunmalli*) – vulnerable

Note that this may not be a complete list and it is the responsibility of the proponent to ensure any protected matters under this controlling provision are assessed for the Commonwealth decision-maker's consideration.

Key Issues

- The proponent submitted a referral based on preliminary desktop and rapid assessments, and identified the action was a controlled action due to potential significant impacts on the Murray Cod, Squatter Pigeon and Belson's Panic. The Department has identified a longer list of species and communities that may be impacted, for which the referral does not contain sufficient information to determine significance, as no detailed flora and fauna surveys have been completed. Consequently, the Department recommends engagement in Stage 2, before the draft EIS is exhibited, to consider the assessments of significance and determine which species are relevant to assessment of the action for EPBC Act purposes.
- Mapped grasslands have been excluded from remnant vegetation and habitat considerations by the proponent as it considers that field surveys and observations indicate the majority of the mapped grasslands are likely to be non-remnant exotic grasses and weeds and not significant remnant grasslands. The Department considers that all areas of mapped grasslands must be surveyed in accordance with the minimum requirements of the Biodiversity Assessment Methodology (BAM) to identify the full extent of native vegetation in the corridor.

General Assessment Requirements

The EIS must address the matters outlined in Schedule 4 of the EPBC Regulations and the matters outlined below in relation to the controlling provisions.

1. For each of the EPBC Act-listed species and ecological communities impacted by the proposed action, the EIS must provide:
 - a. Survey results, including details of the scope, timing and methodology for studies or surveys used and how they are consistent with (or justification for divergence from) published Commonwealth guidelines and policy statements.
 - b. A description of the habitat and habits (including identification and mapping of suitable breeding habitat, suitable foraging habitat, important populations and habitat critical for survival), with consideration of, and reference to, any relevant Commonwealth guidelines and policy statements including listing advice, conservation advice and recovery plans, threat abatement plans and wildlife conservation plans; and
- Maps displaying the above information (specific to EPBC matters) overlaid with the proposed action

Note - It is acceptable, where possible, to use the mapping and assessment of Plant Community Types (PCTs) and the species surveys prescribed by the BAM as the basis for identifying EPBC Act-listed species and communities. The EIS must clearly identify which PCTs are considered to align with habitat for the relevant EPBC Act-listed species or community, and provided individual maps for each species or community.

2. The EIS must describe the nature, geographic extent, magnitude, timing and duration of any likely direct, indirect and consequential impacts on any relevant EPBC Act-listed species and communities. It must clearly identify the location and quantify the extent of all impact areas to each relevant EPBC Act-listed species or community.



3. For each of the EPBC Act-listed species and communities that are likely to be impacted by the development, the EIS must provide information on proposed avoidance and mitigation measures to deal with the impacts of the action, and a description of the predicted effectiveness and outcomes that the avoidance and mitigation measures will achieve.
4. The EIS must identify each EPBC Act-listed species and community likely to be significantly impacted by the proposed action. Where a significant impact is likely, the EIS must provide information on the proposed offset strategy, including discussion of the conservation benefit, how offsets will be secured, and timing of protection.

Note - A number of offsets options under the NSW *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* will be acceptable for EPBC Act approval purposes. It is a requirement that offsets directly contribute to the ongoing viability of the specific protected matter impacted by a proposed action i.e. 'like for like'. Like-for-like includes protection of native vegetation that is the same EEC or habitat being impacted, or funding to provide a direct benefit to the matter being impacted i.e. threat abatement, breeding and propagation programs or other relevant conservation measures.