



# Review of Environmental Factors (REF) – Minor Works

CAP0092

Jewry Street Causeway  
Removal

September 2025

**TAMWORTH REGIONAL COUNCIL**

**Water & Waste**

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## 1. Introduction

The purpose of the Minor Projects review of environmental factors (REF) is to describe the proposal and the environmental factors in which it will take place, in order to identify the main environmental impacts and decide whether or not the project can proceed. For the projects that are going to proceed, the REF will be a tool for setting the mitigation measures for the work. For the purposes of this work Tamworth Regional Council (TRC) is the proponent and determining authority under Division 5.1 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act). Prior to preparing this Minor Projects REF, Appendix 1 of the Regional Services Guideline RS-GUIDE-01 Review of Environmental Factors (REFG) should have been completed. This checklist informs the report writer on the appropriate type of document to prepare.

The description of the proposed works and assessment of associated environmental impacts has been undertaken in the context of clause 228 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000, the factors in Is an EIS Required? Best Practice Guidelines for Part 5 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (Is an EIS required? guidelines) (DUAP, 1995/1996), Roads and Related Facilities EIS Guideline (DUAP, 1996) the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (BC Act), the Fisheries Management Act 1994 (FM Act) and the Australian Government's Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act).

In doing so the REF helps to fulfil the requirements of section 5.5 of the EP&A Act including that Tamworth Regional Council examine and consider to the fullest extent possible all matters affecting or likely to affect the environment by reason of the activity.

The findings of the REF would be considered when assessing:

- Whether the proposal is likely to have a significant impact on the environment and therefore the necessity for an environmental impact statement to be prepared and approval to be sought from the Minister for Planning under Division 5.2 of the EP&A Act
- The significance of any impact on threatened species as defined by the BC Act and/or FM Act, in section 1.7 of the EP&A Act and therefore the requirement for a Species Impact Statement or a Biodiversity Development Assessment Report
- The potential for the proposal to significantly impact a matter of national environmental significance, including nationally listed threatened biodiversity matters, or the environment of Commonwealth land. Where a significant impact is considered likely on nationally listed biodiversity matters, either the proposal must be reconsidered, or a REF for Major Projects must be prepared.

This REF is part of the process established in the REFG. The REFG establishes the mechanisms for deciding whether or not a REF is suitable for a Project. These mechanisms are listed below in Table 1

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## 2. Proposal

### 2.1. Proposal identification


Table 1 - Proposal identification information

| Proposal Details |                               |
|------------------|-------------------------------|
| Title            | Jewry Street Causeway Removal |
| File number      | CAP0092                       |
| REF Date         | September 2025                |

### 2.2. Description

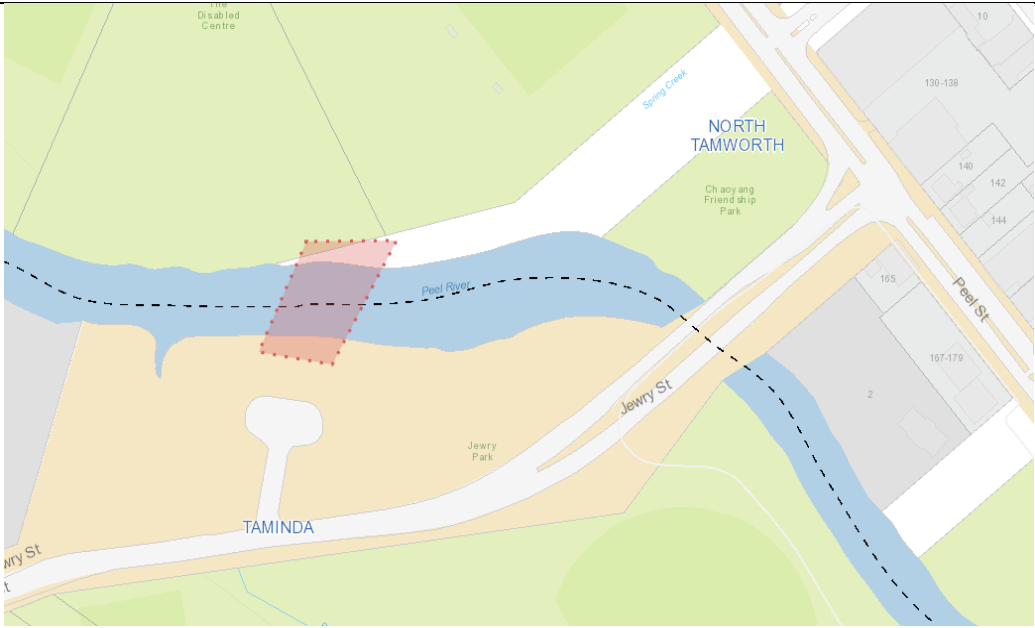
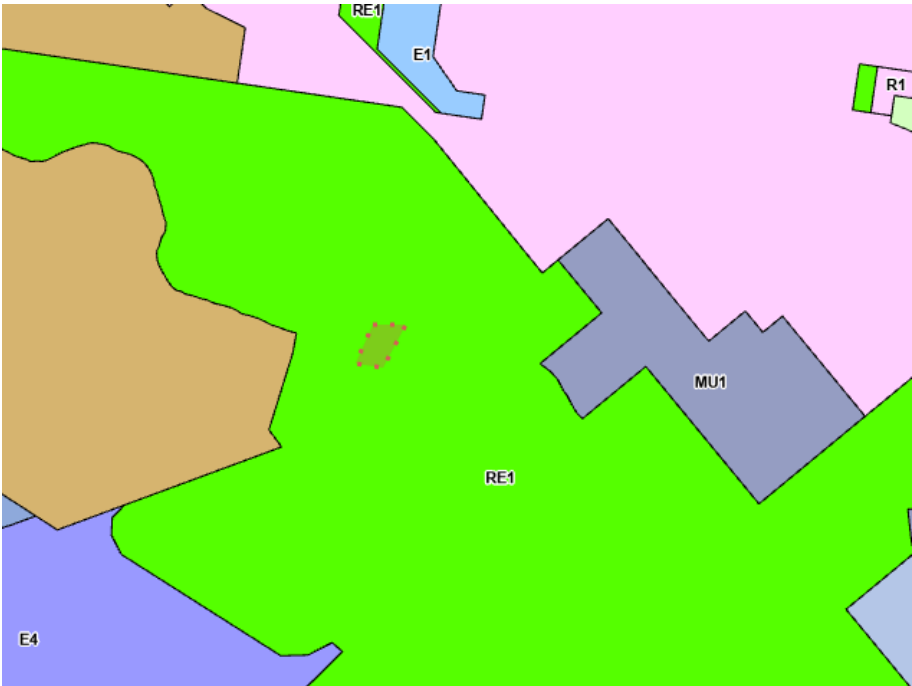
#### 2.2.1. Location

Table 2 - Proposal location information

| Location Details |  |
|------------------|--|
| Area             | Peel River – Between Jewry Street & Peel Street  |
| Map              | <p>The proposal involves the removal of the degraded causeway within the Peel River at Jewry Street, Tamworth</p>  |

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|             |  |
|-------------|--|
|             |    |
| Land zoning | <p>The proposed work would occur in zone RE1 – Public Recreation as stated in the <i>Tamworth Regional Local Environmental Plan 2010</i>. The proposal would support the objectives of this zone which include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To enable land to be used for public open space or recreational purposes</li> <li>• To provide a range of recreational settings and activities and compatible land uses</li> <li>• To protect and enhance the natural environment for recreational purposes</li> </ul>  |
| Land Owner  | <p>The proposed works will be carried out within the Peel River corridor, with the construction set up on land owned by Tamworth Regional Council</p>  |

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### 2.2.2. Description of proposed works

Tamworth Regional Council proposes to remove the Jewry Street Causeway within the Peel River of the Tamworth CBD.

Key features of the proposal include:

- Removal and disposal of the existing concrete causeway and associated culvert units.
- Temporary access to the site via an existing track, with minimal vegetation disturbance (limited bamboo removal).
- Implementation of erosion and sediment controls, including sediment booms and coir logs, to prevent turbid plumes entering the river.
- Use of a large excavator to lift, break, and remove culvert units and rock materials from the river channel.
- Stockpiling of removed materials on the northern riverbank for transport to the Forest Road Waste Management Facility.
- Rehabilitation of the riverbank with retained rock and re-establishment of native riparian vegetation following works.

The proposal is anticipated to involve the following work methodology:

- Establish site under low-flow conditions (river level at or below 1.6 m).
- Clear access track and install erosion and sediment controls, sediment boom, and safety lifeline.
- Undertake risk assessment and pre-start briefing for all personnel.
- Track excavator onto the rock shelf adjacent to the culverts, then lift and drag individual culvert units onto the bank for breaking and loading to truck.
- Investigate and remove any existing base slab beneath the culverts, if present, noting potential for temporary sediment disturbance.
- Withdraw remaining rock material from the river channel, with rock to remain along the bank for stabilisation.
- Remove sediment boom and lifeline upon completion of works, rehabilitate disturbed areas, and demobilise from site.

### 2.2.3. Objective of works

The objective of the proposed works is to remove the existing causeway on the Peel River, which is altering the natural flow of the river and obstructing the passage of fish. The removal will restore a more natural river environment, improving aquatic habitat connectivity and supporting the movement of native fish species. The works aim to achieve these environmental outcomes while maintaining safe access for construction activities and minimising impacts on surrounding vegetation and the local community. This project forms part of Tamworth Regional Council's broader program of river and waterway management, which seeks to improve ecological values, maintain critical infrastructure, and enhance the long-term resilience of waterways to flooding and environmental change.


### 2.2.4. Ancillary facilities

**Table 3 - Ancillary facilities**

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| Ancillary facilities  | Yes / No |
|---|----------|
| <p>Will the proposal require the use or installation of a compound site?</p> <p>Yes – compound site to be set up at Friendship Park on northern side of the river.</p>    | Yes      |
| <p>Will the proposal require the use or installation of a stockpile site?</p> <p>Yes – the concrete slabs removed from the river will be temporarily stockpiled during the works before being transported to Forest Road Waste Management Facility. All stockpiled material will be removed prior to completion of the project.</p> | Yes      |

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| Ancillary facilities   | Yes / No                  |
|--|---------------------------|
| <p>Are any other ancillary facilities required (e.g. temporary plants, parking areas, access tracks)?</p> <p>Yes – existing access track from Friendship Park to works site will be utilised. Vegetation removal will be needed however, majority if the vegetation is bamboo and exotic species.</p>   | <p>Yes – as per above</p> |

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### 2.2.5. Proposed date of commencement

Mid - Late November 2025 – during low flow period of the Peel River.

### 2.2.6. Estimated length of construction period

Approximately one week – site set up, undertaking of works, Transport of concrete material removed to Forest Road Waste Management Facility, demobilise site, revegetation works.

### 2.2.7. Triggers for additional considerations

**Table 4 - Proposal triggers for additional considerations**

| Proposal Timing Triggers   | Yes / No |
|--|----------|
| <p>Will the proposal timing fall over or within the period of higher seasonal rainfall?</p> <p>The proposed works are likely to occur during spring/summer, which can coincide with higher rainfall events in the Tamworth region due to storm activity. The Peel River catchment is subject to variable flows, and rainfall during this period can result in elevated river levels and short-duration flood events. River flow conditions will be monitored using WaterNSW's WaterInsights web portal (<a href="#">WaterInsights - WaterNSW</a>).</p> <p>To manage this risk, works will be scheduled to avoid undertaking in-stream activities during periods of forecast heavy rainfall or any planned major releases by Water NSW from Chaffey Dam.</p> <p>Erosion and sediment controls will be installed prior to commencement, in accordance with the "Blue Book" (Managing Urban Stormwater: Soils and Construction), and will be regularly inspected and maintained. Controls will remain in place until disturbed areas are stabilised and revegetated.</p> <p>This approach will minimise the potential for sedimentation, protect water quality, and ensure safe conditions for both the workforce and the river environment</p> | Yes      |
| Will the proposal fall in or over spring flowering period of cold weather dormant vegetation?  | No       |

## 2.3. Need and options

### 2.3.1. Option considered

The options considered for the proposal included:

#### Option 1 – Removal of the Causeway

The Jewry Street Causeway is a historical low-level crossing over the Peel River that is no longer in use. The structure is deteriorating within the river and altering natural water flow, contributing to localised scour and sediment accumulation. This option involves the removal of the causeway, including demolition of the concrete element, sediment and erosion management during works, and rehabilitation of the riverbanks and riparian zone. The project aims to restore natural river processes, improve fish passage, and restore riparian habitat condition.

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## Option 2 – Do Nothing

This option involves leaving the causeway in place, with no works undertaken. The structure will continue to act as a barrier to natural water flow and fish passage, with ongoing impacts on river health.

The preferred option is:

- Option 1 – Removal of the Causeway

### 2.3.2. Justification for the proposal

The existing Jewry Street causeway has been identified as a significant barrier to fish passage along the Peel River, restricting movement of native fish species and impacting the ecological health of the waterway. Its removal will improve river connectivity, restore natural flows, and support long-term recovery of riparian zones of the Peel River. The former causeway current location is causing water flow redirection during high river flow leading to bank scouring. This has the potential to damage road and carpark infrastructure within Jewry Street Park if not addressed.

The causeway no longer provides a necessary transport function, with alternative road access available in the local network. Retaining the structure would continue to contribute to environmental degradation without offering community benefit.

## 2.4. Statutory and planning framework

### 2.4.1. State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021

The proposal has been reviewed against the provisions of the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021* (T&I SEPP). Part 2 of the T&I SEPP allows development for the purposes of roads and road infrastructure facilities to be carried out by or on behalf of a public authority without development consent.

As the proposal involves the removal of an existing causeway, which is appropriately characterised as road infrastructure, and will be undertaken by Council, it can be assessed under Division 5.1 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. Development consent from Council is not required.

The works are not located on land reserved under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* and do not require consent or approval under other relevant State Environmental Planning Policies, including the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Coastal Management) 2018*, *State Environmental Planning Policy (State Significant Precincts) 2005*, or the *State Environmental Planning Policy (State and Regional Development) 2011*.

### 2.4.2. Tamworth Local Environmental Plan (2010) (Tamworth LEP)

The Proposal is located within the Tamworth Local Government Area (LGA). Development within the Tamworth LGA is subject to the provisions of the *Tamworth Regional Local Environmental Plan 2010* (LEP).

The site is zoned RU1- Primary Production in the LEP. The proposal would support the objectives of this zone which are:

- To enable land to be used for public open space or recreational purposes.
- To provide a range of recreational settings and activities and compatible land uses.
- To protect and enhance the natural environment for recreational purposes.

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The RE1 Public Recreation zone aims to provide public open space and recreation opportunities while protecting and enhancing the natural environment. Environmental Protection Works is permitted without consent under the Tamworth Regional Local Environmental Plan 2010.

### 2.4.3. Other relevant legislation and environmental planning instruments

#### **Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016**

The *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (BC Act) and its supporting regulations commenced on 25 August 2017. The BC Act sets out the assessment framework for threatened species and ecological communities for Part 5 activities and repealed the Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995.

Section 7.3 of the BC Act requires that the significance of the impact on threatened species, populations, and endangered ecological communities be assessed using the 'test of significance'. Where a significant impact is likely to occur, the Proponent must either apply the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme (BOS) or prepare a Species Impact Statement (SIS).

Relevant database searches were performed, and the likelihood of occurrence of threatened species within the proposal footprint was assessed. Although Southern Purple Spotted Gudgeon and Eel-Tailed Catfish (listed under the *Fisheries Management Act 1994*) occur in the river, they are aquatic species managed under separate fisheries approvals. The proposal footprint contains limited native riparian vegetation, and no habitat for listed terrestrial species or ecological communities is expected to be impacted.

As such, the works are not likely to result in a significant impact on threatened species or ecological communities under the BC Act. A Biodiversity Assessment Report is not required, and the proposal can be appropriately assessed through a Review of Environmental Factors (REF). A description of the database searches is provided in **Section 3.6**.

#### **Heritage Act 1977**

The Heritage Act 1977 provides for the conservation of items of environmental heritage in NSW. The Heritage Act 1997 defines heritage as items or places that are of state and/or local heritage significance and include: places, buildings, works, relics, moveable objects and precincts. The Heritage Act 1977 establishes a register, including an inventory and list, to protect the listed items.

According to the Heritage Act 1977, a person cannot impact a heritage item listed on the State Heritage Register (SHR) or protected by an interim heritage order unless approval has been obtained under Part 4 of the Act. Construction activities cannot disturb/excavate any land known or likely to contain historic relics unless the disturbance/excavation is carried out in accordance with an excavation permit issued under Section 139 of the Act.

Database searches were performed to satisfy the requirements of the Heritage Act 1977 (refer to **Section 3.5**). There are no known items of heritage significance in the vicinity of the proposal site.

#### **National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974**

The National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 (NP&W Act) provides the basis for the legal protection and management of Aboriginal sites within NSW. Sections 84 and 90 of the NP&W Act provide statutory protection for any physical/material evidence of Aboriginal occupation of NSW and places of cultural heritage significance to the Aboriginal community.

The key principles of the NP&W Act in relation to Aboriginal heritage are the prevention of unnecessary or unwarranted destruction of Aboriginal objects, and the active protection and conservation of objects which are of high cultural significance.

It is an offence to knowingly harm or desecrate an Aboriginal object, irrespective of its nature or significance, without the prior consent of the Secretary of the Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC). It is an offence to harm or desecrate an Aboriginal object or a declared Aboriginal place (strict liability offence). An Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) under Section 90 of the NP&W Act is required from DPC if the objects/places cannot be avoided.

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An AHIMS search was performed as part of this REF. No Aboriginal objects or places were identified within the Proposal footprint (refer **Section 3.5**). With reference to the Due Diligence Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects in NSW, the project alignment is disturbed and Aboriginal objects are unlikely to be harmed by the work so an AHIP is not required for this Proposal.

However, waterways are recognised as high-potential areas for unrecorded artefacts or Aboriginal Places. Liaison with the Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC) is recommended to ensure cultural values are appropriately considered.

The State Heritage Listed Peel River Railway Viaduct is located nearby, but it is unlikely to be directly affected by the works. Appropriate safeguards, including exclusion zones and vibration controls, will be implemented to avoid indirect impacts.

There is also an opportunity to interpret the history of the former causeway and the broader cultural landscape through signage or community engagement.

### Biosecurity Act 2015

The Biosecurity Act 2015 provides control mechanisms for the prevention, elimination, management, and monitoring of listed biosecurity matters in order to reduce the negative impact of biosecurity matters on the economy, environment, and community of NSW. The Biosecurity Act 2015 specifies the duties of both public and private landholders with respect to the control of biosecurity matters.

The Proponent is responsible for the control of biosecurity matters within the Proposal footprint, which includes any declared noxious weeds that may be encountered during the construction phase of the Proposal. Any biosecurity matters identified within the Proposal footprint are to be dealt with in accordance with their priority.

There are no known biosecurity issues in the proposal footprint.

### Fisheries Management Act 1994

The *Fisheries Management Act 1994* (FM Act) governs the management of fish and their habitat in NSW. It aims to conserve the biodiversity of fish and aquatic vegetation and protect fish habitat through regulation of activities such as dredging, reclamation, and in-stream works, consistent with ecologically sustainable development. The FM Act lists threatened species, populations, and ecological communities under Schedules 4, 4A, and 5, and identifies key threatening processes under Schedule 6.

Permits are required under the FM Act for:

- **Section 200:** carrying out dredging or reclamation works;
- **Section 219:** works that block the passage of fish.

Blockages can be temporary or permanent and may include structures such as erosion and sediment controls across waterways, inappropriately designed drainage structures, bunding, or dewatering during construction.

For the Peel River causeway removal, the proposal involves dredging works. Threatened aquatic species, including Murray cod and eel-tailed catfish, and other threatened fish species may be present within the Peel River. As such, a Fisheries permit under the FM Act will be required.

### Water Management Act 2000

The Water Management Act 2000 (WM Act) makes provisions to provide for the sustainable and integrated management of the water sources of NSW for the benefit of both present and future generations. 'Water sources' are defined very broadly and include any river, lake, estuary, place where water occurs naturally on or below the surface on the ground and NSW coastal waters.

The WM Act controls the extraction of water, the use of water, the construction of works such as dams and weirs, and the carrying out of activities in or near water sources in New South Wales.

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If a 'controlled activity' is proposed on 'waterfront land' (being land up to 40m inland from the top of bank), a Controlled Activity Approval (CAA) is required under the WM Act. Controlled activities include the removal and deposition of material (earthworks) on waterfront land and any activity that affects the quantity or flow of water in a water source. However, under Clause 38 of the Water Management (General) Regulation 2011, public authorities are exempt from needing to obtain CAAs.

As the works are being carried out by a public authority, a Controlled Activity Approval under the Water Management Act 2000 is not required.

### **Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997**

The Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 (POEO Act) includes provisions relating to the protection of the environment. One of the objectives of the POEO Act is to protect, restore, and enhance the quality of the environment in New South Wales, having regard to the need to maintain ecologically sustainable development. There are serious offences under the POEO Act for causing pollution of air, noise, water, or land. The Proponent and any associated contractors are required to meet the waste licensing obligations of Clause 39-42 of Schedule 1 of the POEO Act on-site during the construction phase of the Proposal.

TRC and any associated contractors are obliged to notify EPA when a "pollution incident" occurs that causes or threatens "material harm" to the environment.

### **Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2001**

The purpose of the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2001 (WARR Act) is to minimise the consumption of resources and to control the management and disposal of any waste materials through waste avoidance, re-use, and recycling in accordance with the principles of Environmentally Sensitive Design (ESD). The waste hierarchy established under the WARR Act is one that ensures that resource management options are considered against the following priorities:

- Avoidance including action to reduce the amount of waste generated by households, industry, and all levels of government
- Resource recovery including reuse, recycling. Reprocessing and energy recovery, consistent with the most efficient use of the recovered resources; and
- Disposal including management of all disposal options in the most environmentally responsible manner.

The Proposal would generate waste (refer **Section 3.10**) and is therefore required to consider the waste management hierarchy.

### **Roads Act 1993**

The Roads Act 1993 is administered by Transport for NSW (TfNSW), local government, or the DPIE Crown Lands. TfNSW has jurisdiction over major roads, whilst the local government has jurisdiction over minor roads and DPIE Crown Lands over Crown roads. Under Section 138, consent from the appropriate roads authority must be received in the event that there is a need to:

- Erect a structure or carry out work in, on or over a public road;
- Dig up or disturb the surface of a public road;
- Remove or interfere with a structure, work or tree on a public road;
- Pump water into a public road from any land adjoining the road; or
- Connect a road (whether public or private) to a classified road, otherwise than with the consent of the appropriate road authority.

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Under Section 71 of the Act, TRC as the roads authority for local roads may carry out road work on any public road and any other land under its control. 'Road work' under the Act includes provisions for sewerage services across the road.

The Proposal does not involve any works within any road or road related areas. As such, no permits under the Roads Act are required.

## 2.5. Community and agency consultation

### 2.5.1. ISEPP consultation

Part 2 of the ISEPP contains provisions for public authorities to consult with local councils and other public authorities prior to the commencement of certain types of development. In the context of an internal Council REF, consultation will involve internal conversations within Council as part of the proposal development. This is detailed below:

**Table 5 - Planning consultation record**

| Planning Development Internal Communication   | Yes / No |
|---|----------|
| Are the works likely to have a substantial impact on the stormwater management services which are provided by council?  | No       |
| Are the works likely to generate traffic to an extent that will strain the capacity of the existing road system?  | No       |
| Will the works involve connection to a council owned sewerage system? If so, will this connection have a substantial impact on the capacity of the system?  | No       |
| Will the works involve connection to a council owned water supply system? If so, will this require the use of a substantial volume of water?  | No       |
| Will the works involve the installation of a temporary structure on, or the enclosing of, a public place which is under local council management or control? If so, will this cause more than a minor or inconsequential disruption to pedestrian or vehicular flow?                                  | No       |
| Will the works involve more than a minor or inconsequential excavation of a road or adjacent footpath for which council is the roads authority and responsible for maintenance?   | No       |
| Is there a local heritage item (that is not also a state heritage item) or a heritage conservation area in the study area for the works? If yes, does a heritage assessment indicate that the potential impacts to the heritage significance of the item/area are more than minor or inconsequential? | No       |

**Table 6 - Planning consultation record with respect to Clause 13-15 of the ISEPP**

| Proposal Development with Respect to Clause 13-15 of the ISEPP                                     | Yes / No |
|--|----------|
| Does the proposal include a car park intended for the use by commuters using regular bus services? | No       |

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| <b>Proposal Development with Respect to Clause 13-15 of the ISEPP</b>  | <b>Yes / No</b>      |
|--|----------------------|
| <p>Are the works located on flood liable land?<br/>If so, will the works change flooding patterns to more than a minor extent?</p> <p>Note: Flood liable land means land that is susceptible to flooding by the probable maximum flood event, identified in accordance with the principles set out in the manual entitled <i>Floodplain Development Manual: the management of flood liable land</i> published by the New South Wales Government.</p> <p>Yes, the works are located on flood liable land within the Peel River floodplain. The works will be temporary, scheduled to avoid high flows, and supported by erosion and sediment controls. Equipment and materials will be stored outside the active floodplain where possible. The proposal will not change flooding patterns to more than a minor extent.</p> | <p>Yes</p> <p>No</p> |

**Table 7 - Planning consultation record with respect to Clause 15-16 of the ISEPP**

| <b>Proposal Development with Respect to public authorities (other than Council) under Clause 15 and 16 of the ISEPP</b>  | <b>Yes / No</b>      |
|--|----------------------|
| <p>Are the works located on flood liable land? (to any extent) (ISEPP 15AA)<br/>If so, do the works comprise more than minor alterations or additions to, or the demolition of, a building, emergency works or routine maintenance?</p> <p>Note: Flood liable land means land that is susceptible to flooding by the probable maximum flood event, identified in accordance with the principles set out in the manual entitled <i>Floodplain Development Manual: the management of flood liable land</i> published by the New South Wales Government.</p> <p>The causeway is located within the Peel River floodplain. Works are temporary, and designed to not alter flood behaviour to more than a minor extent.</p> | <p>Yes</p> <p>No</p> |
| Are the works adjacent to a national park, nature reserve or other area reserved under the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i> , or on land acquired under that Act?   | No                   |
| Are the works on land in Zone E1 National Parks and Nature Reserves or in a land use zone equivalent to that zone?   | No                   |
| Are the works adjacent to an aquatic reserve or a marine park declared under the <i>Marine Estate Management Act 2014</i> ?  | No                   |
| Are the works for the purpose of residential development, an educational establishment, a health services facility, a correctional facility or group home in bush fire prone land?   | No                   |
| Would the works increase the amount of artificial light in the night sky and that is on land within the dark sky region as identified on the dark sky region map? (Note: the dark sky region is within 200 kilometres of the Siding Spring Observatory)  | No                   |

## 2.5.2. Other agency and community consultation

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Table 8 - Public authority consultation record

| Consultation Requirements with Public Authorities other than Council   | Yes / No |
|--|----------|
| Will the proposal interact or intersect a service (Telstra, Jemma, Essential Energy?)  | No       |
| Will the proposal impact on Crown Land or a Travelling stock route (TSR)?  | No       |
| Will the proposal impact or intersect a road or road structure where Transport for NSW is the Authority?                     |          |
| Local Community<br>Consultation has been initiated with relevant stakeholders to inform them of the proposal and seek input. | Yes      |
| Local Business<br>Local businesses have been notified as a courtesy. No significant impacts are anticipated.                 | Yes      |

### 3. Environmental assessment

This section provides a detailed description of the potential environmental impacts associated with the construction and operation of the proposal. All aspects of the environmental potentially impacted upon by the proposal are considered. The factors specified in clause 228(2) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000 and the matters of national environmental significance under the Federal Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 are also considered in section 5. Site-specific safeguards are provided to ameliorate the identified potential impacts.

#### 3.1. Soil

**Table 9 - Soil environmental considerations**


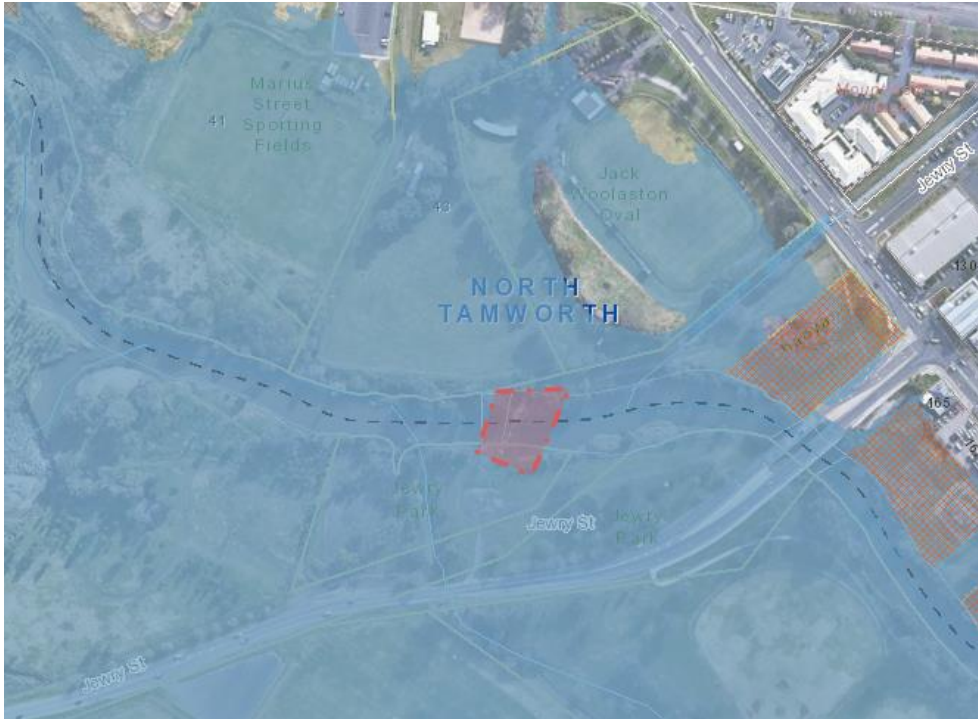
| Impact Code | Description of Existing Environmental and Potential Impacts   | Yes / No |
|-------------|---|----------|
| S.1         | Does the proposal involve the disturbance of large areas (e.g. >2 hectares) for earthworks?   | No       |
| S.2         | Does the site have constraints for erosion and sedimentation controls such as steep gradients or narrow corridors?  | No       |
| S.3         | Are there any sensitive receiving environments that are located in or nearby the likely proposal footprint or that would likely receive stormwater discharge from the project?<br><br>Sensitive receiving environments include (but are not limited to) wetlands, state forests, national parks, nature reserves, rainforests, drinking water catchments).<br><br>The works are within the Peel River. Any stockpiling of material should be >50m away from the river with appropriate erosion controls in place. | Yes      |
| S.4         | Is there any evidence within or nearby the likely footprint of potential contamination?   | No       |
| S.5         | Is there any evidence within or nearby the likely footprint of soil erosion?<br><br>Minor erosion is present along the riverbanks near the causeway, and erosion and sediment controls will be implemented during works to manage this risk   | Yes      |
| S.6         | Is the likely proposal footprint in or nearby highly sloping landform?  | No       |
| S.7         | Is the proposals likely to result in more than 2.5 hectares (area) of exposed soil?   | No       |
| S.8         | Temporary disturbance may occur during causeway removal. Works will be staged to minimise exposed soil and ensure all disturbed areas are stabilised following construction.  |          |

#### 3.2. Waterways and water quality

**Table 10 - Waterway environmental considerations**

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| Impact Code | Description of Existing Environmental and Potential Impacts   | Yes / No |
|-------------|---|----------|
| WT.1        | <p>Is the proposal located within, adjacent to or near a waterway?</p> <p>The works involved the removal of the Jewry Street causeway that lays within the Peel River. The Wallamore Anabranch is approximately 150m downstream from the work site.</p>  | Yes      |
| WT.2        | <p>Is the location known to flood or be prone to water logging?</p> <p>The works and site compound are located on flood liable land within the Peel River floodplain.</p>   | Yes      |
| WT.3        | <p>Would the proposal be undertaken on a bridge?</p>  | No       |

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| Impact Code | Description of Existing Environmental and Potential Impacts   | Yes / No |
|-------------|---|----------|
| WT.4        | Is the proposal likely to require the extraction of water from a local water course (not mains)?  | No       |
| WT.5        | Is the proposal likely to require the use of grey or black water?   | No       |
| WT.6        | Potential for minor sediment mobilisation during works. Erosion and sediment controls will be implemented to protect water quality, including staged dewatering, sediment fencing, and stabilisation of disturbed areas |          |

### 3.3. Noise and vibration

**Table 11 - Noise and vibration environmental considerations**

| Impact Code | Description of Existing Environmental and Potential Impacts   | Yes / No |
|-------------|---|----------|
| NV.1        | Are there any residential properties or other noise sensitive areas near the location of the proposal that may be affected by the work (i.e. church, school, hospital): During construction?  | No       |
| NV.2        | Are there any residential properties or other noise sensitive areas near the location of the proposal that may be affected by the work (i.e. church, school, hospital): During operation?   | No       |
| NV.3        | Is the proposal going to be undertaken only during standard working hours?<br><br>Standard working hours <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monday-Friday: 7:00am to 6.00pm</li> <li>Saturday: 8.00am to 1.00pm</li> <li>Sunday and Public Holidays: no work</li> </ul>   | Yes      |
| NV.4        | Would construction noise or vibration from the proposal affect sensitive receivers?   | No       |
| NV.5        | Would operation of the proposal alter the noise environment for sensitive receivers? This might include, but not be limited to, altering the line or level of an existing carriageway, changing traffic flow, adding extra lanes, increasing traffic volume, increasing the number of heavy vehicles, removing obstacles that provide shielding including changing the angle of view of the traffic, changing the type of pavement, increasing traffic speeds by more than 10km/hr or installing audio-tactile line markings. | No       |
| NV.6        | Would the proposal result in vibration being experienced by any surrounding properties or infrastructure during operation?  | No       |
| NV.7        | Standard construction noise management practices will be followed; no additional noise mitigation measures are required.  |          |



### 3.4. Air quality

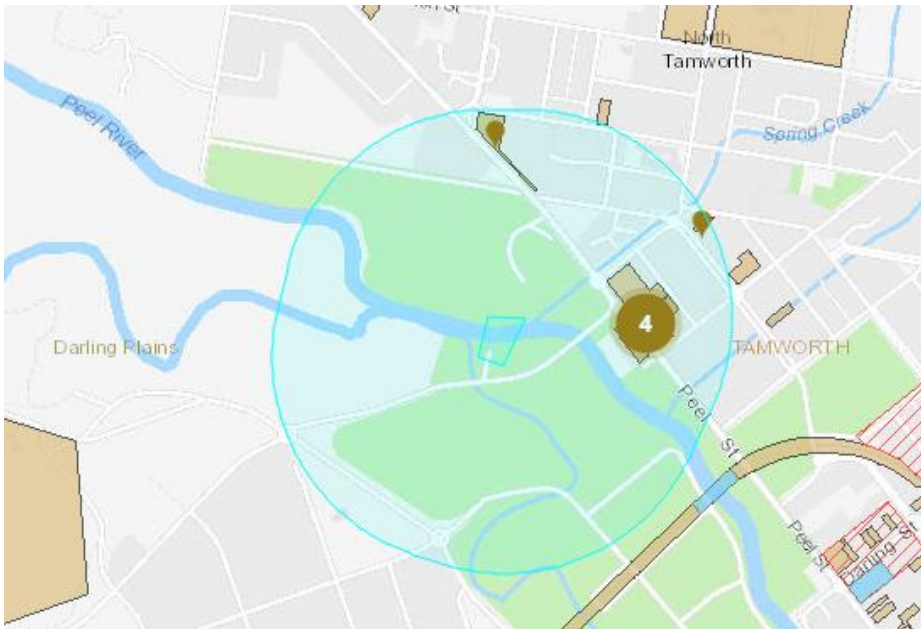
Table 12 - Air quality environmental considerations

| Impact Code | Description of Existing Environmental and Potential Impacts  | Yes / No |
|-------------|--|----------|
| A.1         | Are there any dust sensitive receivers located within the vicinity of the proposal during the construction period?   | No       |
| A.2         | Is there likely to be an emission to air during construction?<br><br>Minor dust and exhaust emissions may occur from machinery and vehicle movements. Standard dust and emission management practices, such as vehicle speed controls and watering of exposed surfaces, will be implemented. | Yes      |

### 3.5. Cultural heritage

Online heritage database searches should have been completed for the process described in REFG. Considering that, answer the following:

Table 13 - Cultural heritage considerations

| Impact Code | Description of Existing Environmental and Potential Impacts   | Yes / No |
|-------------|---|----------|
| CH.1        | <p>Are there any items of non-Aboriginal heritage or heritage conservation areas listed on relevant heritage databases/registers that are located within the vicinity of the proposal?</p> <p>There are 6 items of non-aboriginal heritage listed on the local environmental plan located within 500m of the vicinity of the proposal however proposed works should not affect these items</p>  |          |

| <b>Impact Code</b> | <b>Description of Existing Environmental and Potential Impacts</b>   | <b>Yes / No</b> |
|--------------------|--|-----------------|
| CH.2               | Are there any items of potential non-Aboriginal heritage significance which are not listed on relevant heritage databases/registers that are in the vicinity of the proposal?  | No              |
| CH.3               | Is the proposal likely to occur in or near features that indicate potential archaeological remains?  | No              |
| CH.4               | Would the proposal involve disturbance in any area that has not been subject to previous ground disturbances?<br><br>Parts of the river bank have not been disturbed and are still in their natural formation  | Yes             |
| CH.5               | Have online AHIMS search been completed?<br><br>An AHIMS search was carried out on the 15 October 2025 and there were no aboriginal sites recorded in or near the location. The site is previously disturbed and so is unlikely to impact any items of Aboriginal heritage, however, waterways are recognised as high-potential areas for unrecorded artefacts or Aboriginal Places.<br><br>Liaison with the Tamworth Local Aboriginal Lands Council will be undertaken prior to works commencing. | Yes             |
| CH.6               | Is there potential for the proposal to impact on any items of Aboriginal heritage?   | No              |
| CH.7               | Would the proposal involve the removal of mature native trees?   | No              |
| CH.8               | Would the proposals impact on any features that may indicate any potential archaeological remains?   | No              |
| CH.9               | Standard environmental management procedures will be followed to avoid inadvertent impacts   |                 |

### 3.6. Biodiversity

Online biodiversity database searches should have been completed for the process described in REFG. Considering that, answer the following:

**Table 14 - Biodiversity considerations**

| Impact Code | Description of Existing Environmental and Potential Impacts   | Yes / No |
|-------------|---|----------|
| B.1         | <p>Did the database searches identify any endangered ecological communities, threatened flora and/or threatened or protected fauna, or migratory species in or within the vicinity of the proposed works? Both Federal and State listed matters must be considered.</p> <p>BioNet and Protected Matters Search Tool (PMST) searches were undertaken, and results are provided in Appendix B.</p> <p>The BioNet search was conducted over a 10 km by 10 km block around the project site. This search identified a number of vulnerable and endangered species, however none of which have sightings near the proposed area of works</p> <p>The PMST search was conducted on a 10 km radius around the proposal site. This search found 4 listed threatened ecological communities, 45 listed threatened species, 9 listed migratory species.</p> <p>The nature of the proposal makes it unlikely that there will be any impacts to these species.</p> | Yes      |
| B.2         | Is the proposal likely to impact nationally listed threatened species, ecological communities or migratory species?   | No       |
| B.3         | <p>Would the proposal require the removal of any other vegetation?</p> <p>Some riparian vegetation will need to be removed to provide safe access for machinery to the river, however majority of the vegetation is exotic vines and bamboo. Impacts will be minimised and cleared areas will be rehabilitated post-construction.</p>   | Yes      |
| B.4         | Would the proposal affect any tree hollows or hollow logs?  | No       |
| B.5         | Would the proposal provide any additional barriers to the movement of wildlife?   | No       |
| B.6         | <p>Would the proposal disturb any natural waterways or aquatic habitat?</p> <p>Temporary disturbance within the river whilst works are being undertaken. Sediment and erosion controls will be implemented to minimise impacts.</p>   | Yes      |
| B.7         | Would the proposal disturb any crevices or other locations (such as on bridges and culverts) for potential bat habitat?   | No       |
| B.8         | <p>Does the proposal involve pruning, trimming or removal of any tree/s?</p> <p>Some juvenile River She-oaks and Acacias may require removal to provide safe access for machinery to the river, however majority of the removal will be exotic species</p>  | Yes      |
| B.9         | Do the trees form part of a streetscape, an avenue or roadside planting?  | No       |

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| Impact Code | Description of Existing Environmental and Potential Impacts   | Yes / No |
|-------------|---|----------|
| B.10        | Have the trees been planted by a community group, Landcare group or by council or is the tree a memorial or part of a memorial group e.g. has a plaque? | No       |
| B.11        | Do the trees form part of a heritage listing or have other heritage value?  | No       |
| B.12        | Will the proposal require the removal of any bush rock?   | No       |

### 3.7. Traffic and transport

**Table 15 - Traffic and transport considerations**

| Impact Code | Description of Existing Environmental and Potential Impacts  | Yes / No |
|-------------|--|----------|
| T.1         | Is the proposal likely to result in detours or disruptions to traffic flow (vehicular, cycle and pedestrian) or access during construction or operation? | No       |
| T.2         | Is the proposal likely to affect any other transport nodes or transport infrastructure (e.g. bus stops, bus routes) in the surrounding area??            | No       |

### 3.8. Socio-economic

**Table 16 - Socio-economic considerations**

| Impact Code | Description of Existing Environmental and Potential Impacts   | Yes / No |
|-------------|---|----------|
| SE.1        | Is the proposal likely to impact on local business?<br>Local businesses may experience minor visual or access changes as a courtesy. No direct operational impacts are anticipated. | Yes      |
| SE.2        | Is the proposal likely to require any property acquisition?   | No       |
| SE.3        | Is the proposal likely to alter any access for properties (either temporarily or permanently)?<br>Access to river is to be through parklands owned by Tamworth Regional Council     | Yes      |
| SE.4        | Is the proposal likely to alter any on-street parking arrangements (either temporarily or permanently)?   | No       |
| SE.5        | Is the proposal likely to change pedestrian movements or pedestrian access (either temporarily or permanently)?   | No       |
| SE.6        | Is the proposal likely to impact on any items or places of social value to the community (either temporarily or permanently)?   | No       |

| Impact Code | Description of Existing Environmental and Potential Impacts  | Yes / No |
|-------------|--|----------|
| SE.7        | Is the proposal likely to reduce or change visibility of any businesses, farms, tourist attractions or the like (either temporarily or permanently)? | No       |

### 3.9. Landscape character and visual amenity

**Table 17 - Landscape character and visual amenity considerations**

| Impact Code | Description of Existing Environmental and Potential Impacts  | Yes / No |
|-------------|--|----------|
| L.1         | Would the proposal require the removal of mature trees or stands of vegetation, either native or introduced?<br><br>Exotic vines and bamboo as well as some juvenile She-oak's will be removed for machinery access. No mature native trees will be removed. | No       |
| L.2         | Would the proposal result in large areas of shotcrete visible from the road or adjacent properties?  | No       |
| L.3         | Would the proposal involve the removal or reuse of large areas of road corridor, landscape, either verges or medians?  | No       |
| L.4         | If involving lighting, would the proposal create unwanted light spillage on residential properties at night (in construction or operation)?  | No       |
| L.5         | Would any new structures or features being constructed result in over shadowing to adjoining properties or areas?  | No       |
| L.6         | Works will be staged and managed to minimise visual disturbance from machinery and stockpiles. Riparian vegetation will be rehabilitated post-construction.  |          |

### 3.10. Waste

**Table 18 - Waste environmental considerations**

| Impact Code | Description of Existing Environmental and Potential Impacts   | Yes / No |
|-------------|---|----------|
| WS.1        | Is the proposal likely to generate >200 tonnes of waste material (contaminated and /or non-contaminated material)?  | No       |
| WS.2        | Is the proposal likely to require a licence from EPA?   | No       |
| WS.3        | Is the proposal likely to require the removal of asbestos?  | No       |
| WS.6        | Waste generated onsite will require the correct and safe disposal at Forest Road Waste Management Facility (FRWMF). Assessment of waste types that originate from the proposed construction activities must be done prior to being received at FRWMF. |          |

## 4. Consideration of State and Commonwealth environmental factors

### 4.1. Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000 checklist

In addition to the requirements of the Is an EIS required? 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. This consideration is required to comply with sections 5.5 and 5.7 of the EP&A Act.

**Table 19 - EP&AR Regulation 2000 checklist**

| Environmental Factor   | Impact  |
|--|---|
| Any environmental impact on a community?<br>Minor short-term environmental impacts may occur during works, such as temporary noise, minor dust, and temporary traffic disruptions. Impacts will be minimised through standard safeguards outlined in Section 3, including restricted working hours, traffic management, and dust suppression. No long-term impacts are anticipated.            | Negative, short term<br>No long-term impacts        |
| Any transformation of a locality?<br>The works will temporarily alter access to the river and surrounding land for machinery and equipment. Impacts will be minimised by restoring vegetation where removed and limiting works to the construction period. No permanent transformation is anticipated.   | Negative, short term<br>No long-term impacts        |
| Any environmental impact on the ecosystems of a locality?<br>Minor disturbance to aquatic habitat and riparian vegetation is expected. Mitigation includes limiting machinery access, erosion and sediment controls, and selective vegetation removal (juvenile willows and acacias only). Long-term benefits include improved river function after causeway removal.                          | Negative, short term<br>Positive long- term impacts |
| Any reduction of the aesthetic, recreational, scientific or other environmental quality or value of a locality?<br>Temporary visual impacts from machinery and minor vegetation removal may occur. These impacts will be minimised by restricting works to the defined footprint and restoring disturbed areas. Long-term aesthetic and recreational quality is expected to improve post-works | Negative, short term<br>No long-term impacts        |

| Environmental Factor   | Impact   |
|--|--|
| <p>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>Potential impacts to Aboriginal heritage have been assessed. Consultation with Tamworth LALC and AHIMS searches will be undertaken. Any disturbance will be managed under a due diligence heritage assessment to minimise impacts.</p> | <p>Negative, short term</p> <p>No long-term impacts</p>        |
| <p>Any impact on habitat of any protected animals (within the meaning of the <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i>)?</p> <p>Limited impacts on threatened aquatic species (Murray cod, eel-tailed catfish) may occur during construction. Mitigation includes timing works for low flows, erosion and sediment controls, and exclusion zones around sensitive habitat. No long-term habitat loss is expected.</p>  | <p>Negative, short term</p> <p>Positive long- term impacts</p> |
| <p>Any endangering of any species of animal, plant or other form of life, whether living on land, in water or in the air?</p> <p>No species is expected to be endangered due to the limited scale of works and mitigation measures described in Section 3.</p>   | <p>No Impact</p>   |
| <p>Any long-term effects on the environment?</p> <p>Removal of the causeway will improve river connectivity and aquatic habitat, providing long-term environmental benefits. No negative long-term impacts are anticipated.</p>  | <p>Positive, long-term</p>                                     |
| <p>Any degradation of the quality of the environment?</p> <p>Temporary soil disturbance and minor vegetation removal may occur. These will be minimised through erosion and sediment controls, selective vegetation clearing, and site rehabilitation.</p>   | <p>Negative, short-term</p> <p>No long-term impacts</p>        |
| <p>Any risk to the safety of the environment?</p> <p>Risks are limited due to the small scale of works and standard safeguards, including erosion and sediment controls, equipment management etc.</p>   | <p>Minimal, short-term</p>                                     |

| Environmental Factor  | Impact   |
|---|--|
| Any reduction in the range of beneficial uses of the environment?<br><br>Temporary access restrictions may affect recreational use of the river during works. Long-term beneficial uses will improve with removal of the causeway.                            | Minimal, short-term<br><br>Positive long- term impacts |
| Any pollution of the environment?<br><br>Minor sediment and dust may be generated during works. Mitigation includes sediment fencing, stockpiling outside the floodplain, and dust suppression. No long-term pollution is expected.                           | Negative, short-term                                   |
| Any environmental problems associated with the disposal of waste?<br><br>Waste material (excavated soil, vegetation) will be removed to licensed landfill or reused where appropriate. Standard waste management procedures will minimise potential problems. | No Impact  |
| Any increased demands on resources, natural or otherwise which are, or are likely to become, in short supply?<br><br>Only small amounts of construction materials and fuel will be used. Safeguards in Section 3 will minimise resource use.                  | No Impact  |
| Any cumulative environmental effect with other existing or likely future activities?<br><br>Cumulative effects are unlikely due to the limited scale of the works and will be minimised through timing and mitigation measures.                               | No Impact  |
| Any impact on coastal processes and coastal hazards, including those under projected climate change conditions?   | No Impact  |

## 4.2. Matters of National Environmental Significance checklist

Under the environmental assessment provisions of the EPBC Act, the following matters of national environmental significance are required to be considered to:

- Assist in determining whether the proposal should be referred to the Australian Government Department of the Environment and Energy
- For nationally listed threatened species, ecological communities and migratory species, whether the impacts are significant and should be assessed via a Project REF.

**Table 20 - Matters of National Environmental Significance checklist**

| Factor  | Impact    |
|---|-----------|
| Any impact on a World Heritage property?<br>The proposal site is not within or near any World Heritage property.<br>No direct or indirect impacts are anticipated.  | No Impact |
| Any impact on a National Heritage place?<br>There are no National Heritage places in the vicinity of the proposal.<br>No impacts are anticipated.   | No Impact |
| Any impact on nationally threatened species, ecological communities or migratory species?<br>The works are unlikely to significantly affect any nationally listed threatened species, ecological communities, or migratory species. Mitigation measures, including timing works to avoid sensitive periods, erosion and sediment controls, and limiting vegetation removal to juvenile willows and acacias, will minimise any minor short-term impacts. | No Impact |
| Additionally, any impact (direct or indirect) on the environment of Commonwealth land?<br>The proposal does not intersect, adjoin, or affect any Commonwealth land. No direct or indirect impacts are anticipated.  | No Impact |

## 5. Summary of safeguards and environmental management measures

Table 21 – Project specific safeguards and environmental management measures

| Environmental Consideration            | Safeguards for the Proposed Work   |
|--|--|
| Soil                                   | <p>S.1 - The works are within the Peel River. Any stockpiling of material should be &gt;50m away from the river with appropriate erosion controls in place.</p> <p>S.8 - Works will be staged to minimise exposed soil and ensure all disturbed areas are stabilised following construction.</p> |
| Waterways and water quality            | WT.6 - Potential for minor sediment mobilisation during works. Erosion and sediment controls will be implemented to protect water quality, including staged dewatering, sediment fencing, and stabilisation of disturbed areas   |
| Noise and vibration                    | NV.7 - Standard construction noise management practices will be followed; no additional noise mitigation measures are required.  |
| Air quality                            | A.2 - . Standard dust and emission management practices, such as vehicle speed controls and watering of exposed surfaces, will be implemented.   |
| Non-Aboriginal Heritage                | CH.9 - Standard environmental management procedures will be followed to avoid inadvertent impacts  |
| Aboriginal Heritage                    | <p>CH.5 - Liaison with the Tamworth Local Aboriginal Lands Council will be undertaken prior to works commencing</p> <p>CH.9 - Standard environmental management procedures will be followed to avoid inadvertent impacts</p>   |
| Biodiversity                           | <p>B.3 - Impacts will be minimised and cleared areas will be rehabilitated post-construction</p> <p>B.6 - Sediment and erosion controls will be implemented to minimise impacts.</p>   |
| Trees                                  | <p>B.3 - Impacts will be minimised and cleared areas will be rehabilitated post-construction</p> <p>B.6 - Sediment and erosion controls will be implemented to minimise impacts.</p>   |
| Traffic and transport                  | No direct operational impacts are anticipated.   |
| Socio-economic                         | S.1 - Local businesses may experience minor visual or access changes as a courtesy. No direct operational impacts are anticipated.   |
| Landscape character and visual amenity | L.6 - Works will be staged and managed to minimise visual disturbance from machinery and stockpiles. Riparian vegetation will be rehabilitated post-construction.  |
| Waste                                  | WS.6 - Waste generated onsite will require the correct and safe disposal at Forest Road Waste Management Facility (FRWMF). Assessment of waste types that originate from the proposed construction activities must be done prior to being received at FRWMF.                                     |

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## 5.1. Licensing and approvals

List of licences and/or approvals required for the proposal:

**Table 22 – Applicable environmental licences and approvals**

| Instrument  | Requirement   | Timing                     |
|---|---|----------------------------|
| Fisheries Management Act 1994   | <p>Permit required to dredge, excavate, move, or remove material from the river (sand, gravel, boulders, aquatic vegetation, large woody debris) during causeway maintenance.</p> <p>Permit required for any temporary or permanent structures (causeway works) that may temporarily or permanently obstruct fish movement.</p> | Prior to start of activity |
| Waste Avoidance & Resource Recovery Act 2001  | Required. Waste generated must be classified in accordance with the Waste Classification Guidelines and disposed of using the TRC Waste Permit System   | Prior to disposal          |
| All other instruments (POEO Act, Heritage Act, Forestry Act, NPW Act, Water Management Act, etc.) | No required – the works do not interact with Heritage, Crown Land, State Forest, Contaminated Lands, environmentally hazardous chemicals, or require water supply/flood approvals.  |                            |

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## 6. Certification, review and decision

### 6.1. Certification

#### Guidance:

The certification should be signed by the primary author of the REF and certified by a senior staff member to the Minor Projects REF preparer prior to being submitted to the Tamworth Regional Council project manager. If the project manager prepares the Minor Projects REF, it should be reviewed by another Tamworth Regional Council staff member prior to being submitted to Director for review.

This minor project REF provides a true and fair review of the proposal in relation to its potential effects on the environment. It addresses to the fullest extent possible all matters affecting or likely to affect the environment as a result of the proposal.

Prepared by:



22.10.2025

Date

Kate Perryman

Environmental Scientist

Water &amp; Waste, Tamworth Regional Council

Reviewed by:



22.10.2025

Date

Dan Coe

Manager Water &amp; Environmental Operations

Water &amp; Waste, Tamworth Regional Council

Recommended by:



27/10/25

Date

Michael Hazelwood

Civil Construction Manager

Regional Services, Tamworth Regional Council

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## 6.2. Determination

### Guidance:

This section is to be completed by the relevant delegated manager determining the Minor Projects REF. The determination is to certify the recommendation made by PM on whether or not to proceed with the works described in the Minor Projects REF.

In accordance with the above recommendation and sections 5.5 and 5.7 of the EP&A Act, I determine that Tamworth Regional Council may:

- proceed with the activity

Determined by:



Peter Resch  
Director – Regional Services  
Tamworth Regional Council

28/10/2025

Date

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## 6.3. Staff review and determination

Below are some questions for the reviewer to consider when reviewing a Minor projects REF.

### Is the Minor projects REF deficient in any aspect?

Reviewer may consider that the Minor projects REF does not provide enough information to make an informed judgement as to whether significant impacts are likely. Consultation efforts documented in the Minor Projects REF may not satisfy statutory requirements. The works proposed in the Minor Projects REF may be of potentially greater impact than usual for Tamworth Regional Council Minor projects and require the preparation of a Project REF. The proposed safeguards and management measures may not be considered adequate or sufficient in their own right. If the safeguards are not sufficient the Minor Projects REF should be amended, and the project not determined until they are adequate. Additional conditions or requirements must not be included as part of the recommendation in the decision on the Minor Projects REF. In these cases, the project manager should make amendments to the Minor Projects REF and delay endorsing the Minor Projects REF until it provides satisfactory information.

### Is the proposal likely to significantly affect the environment?

EM may consider, based on the information in the Minor projects REF and any other specific advice available, that a significant impact on the environment is likely to result from the proposal. Further assessment and consideration would be required before a conclusion can be drawn on whether the following environmental impacts are more likely to be significant (although there may be others):

- Impacts which are extensive relative to the receiving environment
- Impacts in an area where the environment has low resilience
- Impacts which cannot be predicted with any confidence
- Impacts which are not consistent with Tamworth Regional Council or other government policy or for which there are no other adequate government controls
- Impacts with irreversible health or safety implications
- Impacts which are inconsistent with community values.

### Is a referral to the Australian Government under the EPBC Act required?

If the potential for impacts is such that the proposal requires a referral to the Australian Government, the assessment of the project under a Minor Projects REF and under Division 5.1 of the EP&A Act must be reconsidered.

If the proposal is likely to have a significant impact on nationally listed threatened species, ecological communities or migratory species then it MUST either be reconsidered or assessed via a Project REF. For more information refer to the EPBC Act – Strategic Assessment Practice Note.

### Does the proposal require a concurrence, consent or approval?

Endorsement of the Minor Projects REF should include the need to receive documentary evidence of any concurrence, consent or approvals required to be received prior to deciding under Division 5.1 of the EP&A Act and compliance with any conditions from these other approvals. If necessary, approvals are not included the Minor Projects REF must include appropriate safeguards committing that these will be obtained and complied with prior to the commencement of any works.

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## 7. Appendices

### 7.1. Appendix A – Safeguards and environmental management measures

The following safeguards must be incorporated as conditions of contract in any contract or work specification for the project. They must also be incorporated into a project-specific Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) which includes a map of the project site showing key environmental features identified in this REF.

**Table 23 - Standard safeguards and environmental management measures**

| Put a 'X' if apply. | Safeguards  |
|---------------------|---|
|                     | <b>General</b>  |
| X                   | All contractors and machine operators will be inducted on the environmental sensitivities of the work site(s) and relevant safeguards.  |
|                     | <b>Topography, geology and soils</b>  |
| X                   | <p>The Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) prepared for the works will include an erosion and sediment control plan. Erosion and sediment control measures are to be implemented and maintained to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prevent sediment moving off-site and sediment laden water entering any water course, drainage lines, or drain inlets</li> <li>Reduce water velocity and capture sediment on site</li> <li>Minimise the amount of material transported from site to surrounding pavement surfaces</li> <li>Divert clean water around the site.</li> </ul> <p>(in accordance with the Landcom/Department of Housing Managing Urban Stormwater, Soils and Construction Guidelines -The Blue Book-).</p> |
| X                   | Erosion and sediment control measures will be consistent with those specified in the relevant guideline under the DECC Managing Urban Stormwater. Soils and Construction Volume 2 (DECC 2008). and where relevant Managing Urban Stormwater Soils and Construction (Landcom 2004)   |
| X                   | Erosion and sedimentation controls are to be checked and maintained on a regular basis (including clearing of sediment from behind barriers) and records kept and provided on request.  |
| X                   | All erosion and sediment control measures will be established before excavation, demolition or vegetation clearance begins and is to remain in place until all surfaces have been fully restored and stabilised.  |
| X                   | Work areas are to be stabilised progressively during the works  |
| X                   | Sediment control devices (e.g. silt fences, straw bales wrapped in geotextile etc.) will be installed parallel with the contours of the site and immediately downslope of any areas where the natural ground surface has been disturbed.  |
| X                   | Any spoil storage areas or stockpiles will have appropriate erosion control devices installed to control runoff and prevent sedimentation.  |

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| Put a 'X' if apply. | Safeguards  |
|---------------------|---|
| X                   | Sediment and erosion control devices will be inspected regularly, maintained to ensure effectiveness over the entire duration of the project, and cleaned out before 30% capacity is reached.   |
| X                   | Upslope surface runoff will be redirected around work areas by using diversion drains or other methods.   |
|                     | <b>Water quality, hydrology and drainage</b>  |
| X                   | The storage and handling of fuels and chemicals shall comply with Australian Standard AS1940.   |
| X                   | No chemicals, fuels, and/or waste will be stored or collected for disposal within or adjacent to drainage lines or unsealed surfaces.   |
| X                   | A 'spill kit' will be kept on site at all times for potential chemical or fuel spills.  |
|                     | Refuelling, fuel decanting and vehicle maintenance work will take place in a designated sealed and bunded area.   |
| X                   | An Incident Management Plan (IMP) will be prepared as part of the Contractors EMP and will include a contingency plan and emergency procedures for dealing with the potential spillage of fuel or other environmental incidents that may occur on the work site. The IMP should also contain procedures dealing with the unexpected onset of rainfall during the work period. |
|                     | Water from trench de-watering will be pumped and either collected in tanks for appropriate disposal or filtered through geotextile fabric onto grass filter areas.  |
| X                   | Drilling water and lubricating fluids will be reused wherever possible prior to disposal at an EPA licenced waste management facility.  |
| X                   | No dirty water will be released into drainage lines and/or waterways.   |
| X                   | Visual monitoring of local water quality (i.e. turbidity, hydrocarbon spills/slicks) is to be undertaken on a regular basis to identify any potential spills or deficient silt curtains or erosion and sediment controls.   |
| X                   | Measures to control pollutants from stormwater and spills would be investigated and incorporated in the pavement drainage system at locations where it discharges to the receiving drainage lines. Measures aimed at reducing flow rates during rain events and potential scour would also be incorporated in the design of the pavement drainage system.                     |
| X                   | Water quality control measures are to be used to prevent any materials (e.g. concrete, grout, sediment etc.) entering drain inlets or waterways.  |
|                     | <b>Flora, fauna and ecosystems</b>  |
| X                   | Construction activities shall be in accordance with the recommendations contained in this report.   |
| X                   | The full extent of any vegetation clearance will be clearly documented and mapped in site EMP(s).   |

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| Put a 'X' if apply. | Safeguards   |
|---------------------|--|
| X                   | Materials/equipment lay-down areas will be shown in the EMP(s) and located in cleared or degraded areas to prevent any damage to the surrounding plants or habitat.  |
| X                   | Materials, plant and equipment will not be stored within the driplines of any trees at the site(s) or near the site(s).  |
| X                   | To prevent damage to vegetation outside the boundaries of access tracks/roads, vehicles and machinery will be restricted to designated access roads and tracks.  |
|                     | Where access tracks/roads run alongside areas of natural bushland, protective fencing or paraweb fencing is to be installed along the boundaries of the track/road to prevent vehicles from inadvertently entering/damaging bushland.  |
| X                   | Degradation or disturbance to areas of waterside (riparian) vegetation or banks of watercourses will be avoided to the greatest possible extent. Any such areas will be clearly identified in the Environmental Management Plan.   |
|                     | The removal of large isolated canopy trees will be avoided - particularly those with tree-hollows.   |
| X                   | Weed removal will be undertaken in accordance with contemporary bush regeneration principles and practices.  |
| X                   | All weeds removed from a site(s) will be transported in a sealed container or bag and disposed at an EPA approved waste disposal facility.   |
| X                   | Where works are being undertaken in a weed-infested area(s), all construction vehicles will be cleaned before they leave the site to prevent the spread of weed species.   |
| X                   | Barrier Tape is to be used to designate non disturbance areas. These areas are to be clearly defined on the CEMP   |
| X                   | Works are not to create an ongoing barrier to the movement of wildlife.  |
| X                   | Pruning of mature trees is to be in accordance with Part 5 of the <i>Australian Standard 4373-2007 Pruning of amenity trees</i> .  |
| X                   | Works are not to harm threatened fauna (including where they inhabit bridges or other structures e.g. timber fence posts).   |
|                     | <b>Restoration activities</b>  |
| X                   | Disturbed areas will be stabilised as soon as possible and in a progressive manner as works are completed.   |
|                     | Mulched/shredded vegetation removed from the site may be used to assist in stabilisation of batters or disturbed surfaces (provided it does not contain weeds).  |
|                     | Where excavated soil is to be used in site restoration, it will be excavated and stockpiled in sequential layers corresponding to the existing soil profile. Topsoil and leaf litter is to be removed first and windrowed in separate stockpiles of less than 1m in height on the upslope side of excavations. Soil layers will be replaced sequentially so that the soil profile is restored as closely as possible to its pre-work status. |

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| Put a 'X' if apply. | Safeguards  |
|---------------------|---|
| X                   | The natural landform of the site(s) will be restored as closely as possible to the pre-works condition.   |
| X                   | All temporary erosion and sediment control devices such as silt-stop fencing will be removed from the site at the completion of the works or when the site(s) are fully revegetated/stabilised.   |
| X                   | Rehabilitation of native vegetation areas will use brush matting or mulching or planting of appropriate local native tubestock.   |
| X                   | Where practical retain timber debris from clearing and demolition to provide ground habitat, all existing debris is to be retained.   |
|                     | <b>Air quality &amp; energy</b>   |
| X                   | Machinery and vehicles will not be left running or idling when not in use.  |
| X                   | Odour or air pollutant emission complaints will be dealt with promptly and the source will be eliminated wherever practicable.  |
| X                   | All loads of excavated material, soil, fill and other erodible matter that are transported to or from the work site will be kept covered at all times during transportation and will remain covered until they are unloaded either for use at the work site, reuse or disposal at an EPA licensed waste disposal facility |
| X                   | All work sites, general work areas and stockpiles will be closely monitored for dust generation and watered down (with clean water) or covered (via seeding or tarpaulins) in the event of dry and/or windy conditions.   |
| X                   | Works are to occur only during standard hours   |
| X                   | Works (including the spraying of paint and other materials) are not to be carried out during strong winds or in weather conditions where high levels of dust or air borne particulates are likely.  |
| X                   | Vegetation or other materials are not to be burnt on site.  |
| X                   | Vehicles transporting waste or other materials that may produce odours or dust are to be covered during transportation.   |
|                     | <b>Heritage</b>   |
| X                   | If Aboriginal objects are discovered during operations, all work will cease in the area and the Contractor will inform the Tamworth Regional Council Contract Manager as soon as possible. TRC will advise the preferred course of action & liaise with OEH and the relevant local Aboriginal stakeholders if required.   |
| X                   | If Non-Aboriginal heritage items are discovered during the course of the project, the TRC heritage officer and/or NSW Heritage Office will be notified. Heritage Council of New South Wales. 02 9873 8500 and <a href="mailto:heritagemailbox@environment.nsw.gov.au">heritagemailbox@environment.nsw.gov.au</a>          |
| X                   | All due care will be taken to ensure that heritage items listed in this report are not adversely affected by any works.   |

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| Put a 'X' if apply. | Safeguards  |
|---------------------|---|
| X                   | Hand digging or small machinery will be used in the close proximity of any heritage items to minimise impacts and preserve heritage values.   |
| X                   | Protective barriers will be installed to prevent damage to heritage items either located within the site or adjacent to it.   |
|                     | <b>Visual environment</b>   |
| X                   | The site(s) will be maintained in an orderly manner.  |
| X                   | On completion of the works, all vehicles, construction equipment, materials, and refuse relating to the works will be removed from the work site(s) and any adjacent affected areas   |
| X                   | Work sites will be restored as close to their original condition as possible following the completion of the proposed works.  |
|                     | <b>Noise and vibration</b>  |
| X                   | Work and deliveries will only occur during the following times: Monday to Friday 7am to 6pm, Saturday 7am to 2pm (if inaudible at residential premises) or 8am to 1pm (if audible at residential premises). No construction work or deliveries will occur on Sundays or public holidays |
| X                   | All stationary and mobile equipment will be fitted with residential type silencers.   |
| X                   | DECC Interim Construction Noise Guidelines includes examples of mitigation measures that can be considered for application for construction works.  |
| X                   | Measures, including allowing adequate distance from vibration producing equipment to adjacent buildings, will be considered to minimise or prevent vibration impacts  |
|                     | <b>Traffic and access</b>   |
|                     | The contractor will prepare a Traffic Management Plan in consultation with the relevant traffic authority(s).   |
|                     | Appropriate exclusion barriers, signage and site supervision will be employed at all times to ensure that the work site is controlled, and that unauthorised vehicles and pedestrians are excluded from the works area.   |
|                     | All traffic control devices will be in accordance with AS 1742.3-2019 "Traffic control devices for works on roads".   |
|                     | Pedestrian and vehicle access will be maintained to buildings by alternate means, such as ramps, if the proposed works obstruct access to the buildings for an extended period of time. Residents/ occupiers to be notified in advance if obstruction to access is likely to occur.     |
|                     | Where possible, current traffic movements and property accesses are to be maintained during the works. Any disturbance is to be minimised to prevent unnecessary traffic delays.  |
|                     | In case traffic movements need to be altered, alternative ways are to be provided   |

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| Put a 'X' if apply. | Safeguards   |
|---------------------|--|
|                     | <b>Land use, services and public amenity</b>   |
| X                   | Surrounding residences directly affected by the works will be notified at least 14 days in advance of the proposed commencement of works, work methods and the duration of the construction period.  |
|                     | Where entry to private properties is required, a notice of entry letter will be provided at least 24 hours in advance.   |
| X                   | TRC or the contractor will personally contact the occupant when they enter a private property to notify of their presence and what works are intended.   |
| X                   | Any accidental damage to property occurred by the works must be repaired in consultation with the owner.   |
| X                   | The Contractor will maintain a complaint register. Any complaints received will be responded to as soon as possible.   |
|                     | All services in the vicinity of the works will be located in the field and 'pegged-out' and noted in the Environmental Management Plan and/or work plans prior to excavation works - "dial 1100 before you dig".   |
| X                   | Work sites will be restored as close to their original condition as possible following the completion of the proposed works.   |
| X                   | Accurate public information signs will be displayed while work is in progress and maintained in presentable manner.  |
|                     | If tree removal has been approved in a residential area, all local residents in the immediate vicinity of the tree(s) will be notified via letter/notice   |
|                     | <b>Waste generation</b>  |
| X                   | A Waste Management Plan must be prepared for management of road construction and maintenance waste.  |
| X                   | Resource management hierarchy principles are to be followed:<br>Avoid unnecessary resource consumption as a priority<br>Avoidance is followed by resource recovery (including reuse of materials, reprocessing, recycling and energy recovery)<br>Disposal is undertaken as a last resort (in accordance with the <i>Waste Avoidance &amp; Resource Recovery Act 2001</i> ). |
| X                   | All waste generated during the course of the works will be reused or removed from the work areas as soon as practicable and disposed of at a licenced waste disposal facility  |
| X                   | All vessels used for contaminated or hazardous waste should be sealed, labelled according to their contents, and stored within bunded areas until their removal from the work site.  |
| X                   | Any fuel, lubricant or hydraulic fluid spillages will be collected using absorbent material and the contaminated material disposed of at an EPA licensed waste depot.  |

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| Put a 'X' if apply. | Safeguards   |
|---------------------|--|
| X                   | The work site(s) will be left clean and free of weeds, debris and other rubbish at the end of works. Waste material, other than vegetation and tree mulch, is not to be left on site once the works have been completed.   |
|                     | All hazardous wastes on site will be removed and disposed of in accordance with the state and national regulations and guidelines and best practice for the removal of these materials.  |
| X                   | The Contractor's recycling and reuse proposal will be detailed in the EMP.   |
| X                   | Excess spoil material that cannot be reused or recycled will be removed from the site and disposed of at an EPA licensed facility  |
| X                   | If vegetation is to be mulched and transported off site for beneficial reuse, it is to be assessed for the presence of weeds, pest, and other disease and a Mulch Management Plan.   |
| X                   | Working areas are to be maintained, kept free of rubbish and cleaned up at the end of each working day.  |
| X                   | Asbestos removal must be by a licensed asbestos remover who holds a Class A or Class B licence administered by SafeWork Australia.   |
|                     | <b>Hazard and risk</b>   |
| x                   | <p>All fuels, chemicals and liquids are to be stored in an impervious bunded area a minimum of 50 metres away from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rivers, creeks or any areas of concentrated water flow</li> <li>• Flooded or poorly drained areas</li> <li>• Slopes above 10%.</li> </ul> |
| x                   | Refuelling of plant and equipment and storage of hazardous materials on barges is to occur within a double-bunded area.  |
| x                   | Cleaning of spray bars (or equivalent equipment) is to occur in suitable areas (e.g. not table drains) and not cause water pollution.  |
| x                   | Vehicle wash down and/or cement truck washout is to occur in a designated bunded area.   |
| x                   | An emergency spill kit is to be kept on site at all times and maintained throughout the construction work. The spill kit must be appropriately sized for the volume of substances at the work site.  |
| x                   | Emergency contacts will be kept in an easily accessible location on vehicles, plant and site office. All workers will be advised of these contact details and procedures.  |
| x                   | All workers will be advised of the location of the spill kit and trained in its use.   |
| x                   | Vehicles, vessels and plant must be properly maintained and regularly inspected for fluid leaks.   |

| Put a 'X' if apply. | Safeguards   |
|---------------------|--|
|                     | <b>Community consultation</b>  |
| x                   | <p>Notification is to be given to affected community members prior to the works taking place. The notification is to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Details of the proposal</li> <li>• The duration of works and working hours</li> <li>• Any changed traffic or access arrangements</li> <li>• How to lodge a complaint or obtain more information</li> <li>• Contact name and details.</li> </ul> |
| x                   | All complaints are to be recorded on a complaints register and attended to promptly.   |
| x                   | Existing access for nearby and adjoining properties is to be maintained at all times during the works unless otherwise agreed to by the affected property owner.   |
| x                   | The community must be notified of all work outside standard hours which have the potential to impact noise sensitive receivers.  |

**7.2. Appendix B – ATLAS & BIONET RESULTS**

**7.3. Appendix B – Protected Matters Search**

**7.4. Appendix B – State Heritage Inventory - Map**

**7.5. Appendix B - AHIMS SEARCH**

**7.6. Appendix C- Fisheries Permit**

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## END OF REPORT

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