



MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT;
LABOUR RELATIONS

Statement No.

000544

STATEMENT TO AMEND CONDITIONS APPLYING TO A PROPOSAL
(PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 46 OF THE
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT 1986)

GREAT EASTERN HIGHWAY NORTHAM BY-PASS

Proposal: The proposal is to create a Great Eastern Highway by-pass around the Town of Northam, starting at 88.90 straight line kilometres from Perth and re-joining the Highway at 102.00 straight line kilometres from Perth, as documented in schedule 1 of this statement.

Proponent: Main Roads Western Australia

Proponent Address: Wheatbelt North Region, Yilgarn Avenue, Northam WA 6401

Assessment Number: 1284

Previous Assessment Number: 756

Previous Statement Number: Statement No. 358 (published on 24 June 1994)

Report of the Environmental Protection Authority: Bulletin 968

Previous Report of the Environmental Protection Authority: Bulletin 715,
November 1993

The implementation of this proposal (Route 9 only) to which the above reports of the Environmental Protection Authority relate is now subject to the following conditions and procedures which replace all previous conditions and procedures:

Procedures

1 Proponent Commitments

- 1-1 The proponent shall implement the consolidated environmental management commitments of April 1994 documented in schedule 2 of this statement.
- 1-2 The proponent shall implement subsequent environmental management commitments which the proponent makes as part of the fulfilment of conditions and procedures in this and the previous statement issued for this proposal.

2 Implementation

- 2-1 Subject to these conditions and procedures, the proponent shall implement the proposal as documented in schedule 1 of this statement.

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- 2-2 Where the proponent seeks to change any aspect of the proposal as documented in schedule 1 of this statement in any way that the Minister for the Environment determines, on advice of the Environmental Protection Authority, is substantial, the proponent shall refer the matter to the Environmental Protection Authority.
- 2-3 Where the proponent seeks to change any aspect of the proposal as documented in schedule 1 of this statement in any way that the Minister for the Environment determines, on advice of the Environmental Protection Authority, is not substantial, those changes may be effected.

3 Proponent

- 3-1 The proponent for the time being nominated by the Minister for the Environment under section 38(6) or (7) of the Environmental Protection Act 1986 is responsible for the implementation of the proposal until such time as the Minister for the Environment has exercised the Minister's power under section 38(7) of the Act to revoke the nomination of that proponent and nominate another person in respect of the proposal.
- 3-2 Any request for the exercise of that power of the Minister referred to in condition 3-1 shall be accompanied by a copy of this statement endorsed with an undertaking by the proposed replacement proponent to carry out the proposal in accordance with the conditions and procedures set out in the statement.
- 3-3 The proponent shall notify the Department of Environmental Protection of any change of proponent contact name and address within 30 days of such change.

4 Commencement

- 4-1 The proponent shall provide evidence to the Minister for the Environment within three years of the date of this statement that the proposal has been substantially commenced.
- 4-2 Where the proposal has not been substantially commenced within three years of the date of this statement, the approval to implement the proposal as granted in Statement No. 358 (24 June 1994) shall lapse and be void. The Minister for the Environment will determine any question as to whether the proposal has been substantially commenced.
- 4-3 The proponent shall make application to the Minister for the Environment for any extension of approval for the substantial commencement of the proposal beyond three years from the date of this statement, at least six months prior to the expiration of the three year period commencing on the date of this statement.
- 4-4 Where the proponent demonstrates to the requirements of the Minister for the Environment on advice of the Environmental Protection Authority that the environmental parameters of the proposal have not changed significantly, then the Minister may grant an extension not exceeding three years for the substantial commencement of the proposal.

5 Compliance Auditing

- 5-1 The proponent shall submit periodic Compliance Reports, in accordance with an audit programme prepared in consultation between the proponent and the Department of Environmental Protection.

- 5-2 Unless otherwise specified, the Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Environmental Protection is responsible for assessing compliance with the conditions, procedures and commitments contained in this statement and for issuing formal, written advice that the requirements have been met.
- 5-3 Where compliance with any condition, procedure or commitment is in dispute, the matter will be determined by the Minister for the Environment.

Environmental conditions

6 Environmental Management System

- 6-1 In order to manage the environmental impacts of the project, and to fulfil the requirements of the conditions and procedures in this statement, prior to ground-disturbing activities, the proponent shall demonstrate to the requirements of the Environmental Protection Authority on advice of the Department of Environmental Protection that there is in place an environmental management system which includes the following elements:
- 1 An environmental policy and corporate commitment to it;
 - 2 Mechanisms and processes to ensure:
 - (1) planning to meet environmental requirements;
 - (2) implementation and operation of actions to meet environmental requirements;
 - (3) measurement and evaluation of environmental performance; and
 - 3 Review and improvement of environmental outcomes.
- 6-2 The proponent shall implement the environmental management system referred to in condition 6-1.

7 Bridge Structures

- 7-1 The proponent shall ensure that adverse impacts from realignment of the highway upon the hydrology and water quality of the Avon and Mortlock Rivers are minimised.
- 7-2 Prior to ground-disturbing activities, the proponent shall prepare Final Alignment and Construction Plans to meet the objectives of condition 7-1, to the requirements of the Department of Environmental Protection on advice of the Water and Rivers Commission and the Avon River Management Authority.
- These Plans shall address:
- 1 management of the Avon and Mortlock River floodplains affected by the proposal;
 - 2 management and rehabilitation of riverine vegetation affected by the proposal; and
 - 3 mitigation of the potential backwater effects of constructing bridges over the Avon and Mortlock Rivers.
- 7-3 The proponent shall implement the Final Alignment and Construction Plans required by condition 7-2.

8 Rehabilitation Plan

- 8-1 At least six months prior to the completion of construction, the proponent shall prepare a Rehabilitation Plan to the requirements of the Environmental Protection Authority on advice of the Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of Conservation and Land Management.

This Plan shall address:

- 1 removal of plant and infrastructure within three months following completion of construction;
 - 2 identification of contaminated areas, including provision of evidence of notification to relevant statutory authorities; and
 - 3 the rehabilitation of the site within twelve months following the completion of construction.
- 8-2 The proponent shall implement the Rehabilitation Plan required by condition 8-1 until such time as the Minister for the Environment determines that rehabilitation is complete.

CHERYL EDWARDES (Mrs) MLA
MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

19 APR 2000

Schedule 1

Table 1 - Summary of key proposal characteristics (Route 9) [1284]

Element	Description
General description	<p>From the starting point to the west of Northam the route traverses an arc through rural farming land passing over the Northam-Pithara Road behind the Doctor's Hill locality and north of the Northam Racecourse to link up with the existing Great Eastern Highway to the east of Northam.</p> <p>The final dual carriageway bypass including median strip and road reserve will be approximately 100 metres wide.</p>
Location	Starts at 88.9 straight line kilometres (SLK) from Perth and rejoins the existing highway at 102.00 SLK from Perth.
Bridges	Over the railway, Avon and Mortlock Rivers (to the north of the Town of Northam), Katrine Road and Irishtown Road
Staging	<p>Stage 1 - single carriageway with land acquisitions and road reserves capable of eventually accommodating the second carriageway.</p> <p>Stage 2 - second carriageway.</p>

Figure

Figure 1 - General alignment (attached).

Schedule 2

Proponent's Environmental Management Commitments

as modified on 18 April 1994

**GREAT EASTERN HIGHWAY NORTHAM BY-PASS
(756/1284)**

MAIN ROADS WESTERN AUSTRALIA

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITMENTS

Objective

The objective for the preparation of environmental commitments for the proposed Route 9 alignment of the Northam Bypass is to provide necessary guidance on the management of potential environmental impacts. The environment commitments ascertain what management strategy is required, who will implement the strategy and the timing of implementation. Where appropriate, commitments which are required to be undertaken to the satisfaction of a regulatory authority, will have the abbreviation of the approval body shown in brackets after the commitment, e.g. (EPA), Environmental Protection Authority. A list of regulatory authorities and their abbreviations is provided at the end of this section.

The environmental commitments have been categorised into :-

- Preconstruction commitments
- During construction commitments
- Post construction commitments

Preconstruction Commitments

- (1) Main Roads to negotiate with affected landowners, where land resumption is required, in order to arrange an equitable agreement and compensation for loss of property.
- (2) Main Roads to liaise with WAWA regarding the outcome of the Avon River Floodway Study and the implications of study findings with respect to the Route 9 alignment and compliance with WAWA's maximum backwater surcharge constraints (WAWA, EPA).
- (3) Main Roads to undertake public education and consultation should Route 9 be approved by all relevant authorities and pursued by Main Roads prior to the implementation of this alignment.
- (4) Main Roads to commission a UXO survey at the bypass route between its commencement north of the Northam Army Camp and the Northam/Toodyay Road.

During Construction Commitments

- (5) Main Roads to make all contractors, associated with the construction of the Route alignment, aware of environmental commitments aimed at protecting the environment during construction and built these commitments into their work contracts.

- (6) Main Roads to ensure all re-contouring of embankments and batter slopes to be achieved to acceptable gradients in order to minimise erosion and subsequent siltation of watercourses (EPA, ARMA).
- (7) Main Roads to revegetate cleared areas of road reserve not required for Stage 1 road purposes (EPA, CALM, ARMA).
- (8) Main Roads to revegetate embankments and batter slopes susceptible to short term erosion impacts during the construction phase of the project (EPA, CALM, ARMA).
- (9) Main Roads to provide scour protection (e.g. rock reinforcement or similar) to all bridge and road embankments within the 100 year floodplain (EPA, ARMA, WAWA).
- (10) Scour protection structures to be monitored by Main Roads to examine their stability and durability with the results to be reported as appropriate.
- (11) Main Roads to ensure all major road structures are constructed to accommodate a 100 year ARI flood event and comply with backwater constraints set by the Water Authority (WAWA).
- (12) Main Roads to ensure all minor transverse structures such as culverts will be constructed to cater for a 50 year ARI storm event (WAWA).
- (13) Should drainage flows need to be dammed temporarily, Main Roads will ensure that the ponded water is treated appropriately before it is pumped downstream (WAWA, ARMA, EPA).
- (14) Main Roads to ensure stormwater drainage structures are constructed to design specifications to achieve necessary retention times and storage capacities to collect sediments and compensate stormwater runoff (ARMA, WAWA, EPA).
- (15) Main Roads to carefully plan and manage all earthworking and construction related activities in order to minimise loss of soil material and subsequent siltation along the Avon and Mortlock rivers (WAWA, EPA, ARMA).
- (16) Main Roads to restrict vegetation clearing and machinery movements to the road reserve area along important areas such as the Northam Scout Block and Avon River bank (EAP).
- (17) Main Roads to re-contour and prepare the ground surfaces of revegetation areas to appropriate standards in order to facilitate the successful establishment of indigenous plant species (EPA, CALM, ARMA).
- (18) In road reserve areas of the Route 9 alignment where noxious weed proliferation is obvious, Main Roads are to arrange the removal and burial of affected topsoils to borrow pits.

- (19) Main Roads shall prepare a revegetation programme outlining key areas to be revegetated, selected species and timetable for revegetation.
- (20) Main Roads will monitor the establishment of revegetation annually for a period of 2 years after practical completion of the bypass proposal. Results of monitoring will be included in the Annual Monitoring Report (EPA, ARMA, CALM).
- (21) If revegetation is not progressing to the satisfaction of approval authorities, Main Roads will implement appropriate measures to remedy revegetation establishment (EPA, ARMA, CALM).
- (22) Main Roads to ensure noise and vibration levels associated with blasting activities comply with standards set by the EPA's Pollution Control Division (EPA).
- (23) Main Roads are to undertake before and after inspections of houses in the vicinity of blasting in order to assess potential vibration disturbance (EPA).
- (24) Main Roads will ensure inconvenience caused by re-routing cross roads affected during construction of the bypass alignment will be kept to a minimum and provide appropriate signage to achieve this.
- (25) During construction, Main Roads shall notify relevant agencies such as the Northam Tourist Centre, Shire of Northam and Town of Northam regarding restricted access to the foreshore areas along the Avon River.
- (26) Main Roads to ensure earthworking is undertaken during suitable ground conditions or employ dust suppression measures, such as water carts, when dust levels become problematic (EPA).
- (27) Main Roads to implement approved contingency plan during the construction of the Bypass project in order to contain and/or recover chemical or fuel spillages.
- (28) Main Roads to seek input from the local community in regard to planning and rehabilitating the foreshore areas in an effort to incorporate community needs for this important recreation/conservation area (EPA, ARMA).

Post-Construction Commitments

- (29) Main Roads to ensure the revegetation of all road reserve, embankments and batter slopes, including those areas revegetated during construction, are revegetated with appropriate indigenous plant species (EPA, ARMA).
- (30) Main Roads to periodically check all minor transverse drainage structures for possible obstructions and if it is demonstrated that road construction has exacerbated local flooding, Main Roads are to investigate remedial measures.
- (31) Main Roads to periodically maintain stormwater drainage structures and remove material that may inhibit their function (ARMA, EPA).

- (32) If the chemical control of weeds is necessary prior, during or after revegetation, Main Roads shall take care to avoid contaminated runoff entering waterways (EPA, ARMA).
- (33) Main Roads shall revegetate road reserves with the intention of creating suitable habitat areas and providing wildlife corridors that minimise fauna road kills.
- (34) Main Roads to construct the infrastructure for information bays and enlist the support of local authorities, local businesses and the Northam Tourist Centre regarding the content of accompanying signage.
- (35) Main Roads to implement approved contingency plan during the construction phase of the project. During the post-construction phase of the project, the implementation of the contingency plan will be the responsibility of the relevant authorities (e.g. Police Department, Fire brigade, Town of Northam, Shire of Northam, EPA, ARMA, State Emergency Service, etc.).
- (36) Main Roads shall undertake annual monitoring of :-

- ☐ revegetation areas
- ☐ scour protection structures within 100 year flood plain

for a 2 year period following practical construction of the Route 9 alignment.

Results of the monitoring shall be submitted to relevant agencies as appropriate (EPA, ARMA, WAWA, CALM).

- * Additional and/or modified commitments arising from submissions received during the Public Review period for the Northam Bypass CER.

Commitment Abbreviations

ARMA	Avon River Management Authority
CALM	Department of Conservation and Land Management
EPA	Environmental Protection Authority
WAWA	Water Authority Of Western Australia