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Our Ref: CMS 14380  
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Dear Mr Monaghan

**FORRESTFIELD AIRPORT LINK – ASSESSMENT ON PROPONENT INFORMATION CATEGORY A, SCOPING GUIDELINE**

The Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) has recently determined to assess the proposed Forrestfield Airport Link, Forrestfield to Bayswater, at the level of Assessment on Proponent Information (API) – Category A.

Please find attached the final Scoping Guideline prepared by the EPA for the above proposal, which outlines the preliminary key environmental factors and issues that are required to be addressed in preparing the Environmental Review (ER) document.

Please note the timeframes are based on the Public Transport Authority of Western Australia providing adequate information by 29 May 2015. Should you be unable to meet this date, the timeframes for the assessment may need to be renegotiated.

During the preparation of the ER you are encouraged to consult with Mike Pengelly, the Office of the EPA assessment officer for the project, who can be contacted on telephone number 6145 0815. Please quote the above "Our Ref" on any further correspondence.

Yours sincerely



**Dr Paul Vogel**  
CHAIRMAN

28 April 2015

Encl: Forrestfield Airport Link – Scoping Guideline

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## EPA PREPARED SCOPING GUIDELINE

**PROPOSAL:** Forrestdfield Airport Link  
**LOCALITY:** Forrestdfield - Bayswater  
**PROPONENT:** Public Transport Authority  
**DECISION:** Assessment on Proponent Information (Category A)  
(Assessment No 2048)  
**PROCEDURE:** EPA Prepared Scoping Guideline

The Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) has set the level of assessment on the above proposal as Assessment on Proponent Information (API) - Category A.

The proponent is required to consolidate existing and new information to prepare an environmental review document in accordance with this scoping guideline. All technical reports utilised which were submitted as part of the referral documentation should also be provided (as appendices).

The structure of the environmental review document is required to be prepared in accordance with EPA's Environmental Assessment Guideline No.14, *Preparation of an API-A Environmental Review Document*, January 2015 (EAG No.14).

### **Proposal**

The Public Transport Authority of Western Australia (PTA) proposes to develop a 9 kilometre extension of the rail network from Bayswater to Forrestdfield, via the Perth Airport. Approximately 8 kilometres of the rail would be constructed utilising twin bored tunnels. The proposal also involves the development of two new stations; Airport West Station, and the Forrestdfield Station as well as emergency egress shafts and cross passages.

The EPA is only assessing the environmental impacts of the proposal on State land.

The environmental review document should describe the proposal in accordance with the EPA's Environmental Assessment Guideline No.1, *Defining the Key Characteristics of a Proposal*.

### **Preliminary Key Environmental Factors**

The EPA has identified the following preliminary key environmental factors that should be addressed. In addition the environmental principles from EPA's Environmental Assessment Guideline No.8, *Environmental Principles, Factors and Objectives* will also need to be addressed in the environmental review document.

## **1. Hydrological Processes**

The EPA's environmental objective for this factor is to:

- *maintain the quantity and hydrological regimes of groundwater and surface water so that existing and potential uses, including ecosystem maintenance, are protected.*

The key aspect with regard to this environmental factor is the proposed dewatering and recharge activities during construction.

### *Specific information required*

- The EPA is aware that the proponent is preparing further detailed geotechnical hydrogeological investigative reports and modelling relating to the prediction of impacts on the hydrology of the site. This updated information shall form part of the environmental review document.

## **2. Flora and vegetation**

The EPA's environmental objective for this factor is to:

- *maintain the representation, diversity, viability and ecological functions at the species, population and community level.*

The key environmental aspects relating to this factor are from direct clearing during construction and indirect impacts from dewatering activities. Of particular note to the EPA are the predicted impacts, direct and indirect upon the Threatened Ecological Community (TEC) Swan Coastal Plain (SCP) 20c and the potential clearing of individuals the Declared Rare Flora (DRF) *Conospermum undulatum*.

### *Specific information required:*

- Describe and assess the extent of any potential direct and indirect impacts as a result of both construction and operational elements of the proposal on flora and vegetation or ecological communities including those protected under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950* and the *Environment Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).
- Identify the extent and quality of the TEC SCP 20c for which the proposal is predicted to have direct and indirect impacts.
- Describe any proposal design modifications that maximise avoidance of the TEC SCP 20c 'Community 2' impacted by the proposal.
- Identify management and mitigation measures. For potential impacts SCP 20c, the environmental review document should have regard to the *Interim Recovery Plan, Eastern Shrublands and Woodlands SCP 20c, 2000-2003*, Val English and John Blyth, January 2000, or if superseded, the latest plan.

### **3. Inland Waters Environmental Quality**

The EPA's environmental objective for this factor is to:

- *maintain the quality of groundwater and surface water, sediment and biota so that the environmental values, both ecological and social, are protected.*

The key environmental aspect relating to this factor is the potential impacts to water quality during construction through the disturbance/oxidation of acid sulphate soils or re-mobilisation contaminants through groundwater dewatering or recharge activities.

*Specific information required:*

- The EPA is aware that the proponent is preparing further detailed geotechnical hydrogeological investigative reports and modelling relating to the prediction of impacts on water quality. This updated information shall form part of the environmental review document.

### **4. Offsets**

The EPA's environmental objective for this factor is to:

- *counterbalance any significant residual environmental impacts or uncertainty through the application of offsets.*

The proposal has the potential for significant residual impacts upon Flora and vegetation.

*Specific information required:*

- Formulate an appropriate offset strategy for significant residual impacts that would satisfy both the requirements of the State under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* and the Department of the Environment (DotE) under the EPBC Act.
- Prepare the offset strategy with regard to the *WA Environmental Offsets Guidelines, August 2014* in accordance the principles of the EPBC Act Environmental Offsets Policy.

### **Matters of National Environmental Significance**

The DotE made a decision that the proposed action of implementing the proposal is likely to have a significant impact on the following matters protected by the EPBC Act;

- Listed threatened species and communities (sections 18 & 18A).

The EPA has advised that the Bilateral Agreement between the Commonwealth and Western Australia (*Agreement between the Commonwealth of Australia and Western Australia under section 45 of the EPBC Act Relating to Environmental Impact Assessment*) is applicable and that the component of the proposed action on State

land will be assessed by the EPA in a manner consistent with the Agreement. The DotE must consider environmental impacts on the Commonwealth Airport land component of the proposed action separately through the Major Development Plan process under the Commonwealth *Airports Act 1996*.

For assessments under the Bilateral Agreement, Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) must be addressed in the assessment table of the environmental review document under the relevant preliminary key environmental factors, in the context of the relevant EPA factors and objectives.

The Bilateral Agreement also requires that the proponent release their draft "assessment documentation" providing information on the likely significant impacts of the proposal on MNES for public comment for at least 14 calendar days. In the context of an EPA assessment, draft "assessment documentation" is the relevant extract or section in the draft Environmental Review document that considers issues that either directly or indirectly have the potential to impact on MNES.

For the purpose of advertising for a 14-day public comment period, this section is to be prepared as a 'stand-alone' section in accordance with Section 6 of the EPA's EAG No.14. This section must consider all of the relevant Commonwealth guidelines, policies and plans in addition to those of the State.

*Specific information required:*

- A description of the action that has been referred to the Commonwealth under the EPBC Act.
- To the extent practicable, any feasible alternatives to the proposed action.
- A concise description and assessment of the likely significant impacts of the action on MNES in the same format as Section 5 from the EPA's EAG No.14.
- Confirmation that the part of the environmental review document relating to MNES only is the same as was advertised for public comment for the purpose of an assessment under the Bilateral Agreement.
- A written response in the form of a table to any submissions received during the public comment period that summarises and describes how the issues raised (if any) during submissions have been taken into account.
- A summary of the outcome of consultation undertaken regarding MNES.

**Other Environmental Factors**

In addition to the key preliminary environmental factors listed above, the following other environmental factors are to be addressed in the environmental review document consistent with the guidance in Section 7 of EAG No.14;

- Amenity (noise, vibration & light);
- Heritage; and
- Terrestrial fauna (conservation significant).

## Consultation

As a minimum, the following government agencies are to be consulted during the preparation of the draft environmental review document;

- Department of Water
- Department of Environmental Regulation
- Department of Parks and Wildlife

The outcomes of this consultation should be presented in the final environmental review document as outlined in EPA's EAG No.14.

## Target Timeframe for the Assessment

Level of Assessment set as API:	13 April 2015
API Scoping Guideline issued:	28 April 2015
Proponent submits MNES document for advertising	07 May 2015
Advertising of MNES document	11 - 25 May 2015
Proponent submits draft environmental review:	15 May 2015
Proponent submits final environmental review	29 May 2015
EPA considers draft report (within 7 weeks from receipt of <u>acceptable</u> information):	18 June 2015
EPA finalises report for Minister (including consultations on conditions) (4 weeks)*:	15 July 2015
Appeal period closes (2 weeks):	3 August 2015

\* Should the EPA require additional information, the report would be finalised 4 weeks from receipt of that information.