

REVIEW OF ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS (REF) DECISION REPORT**Proposed NARWONAH MATERIAL DISTRIBUTION CENTRE – SHUNT NECK WORKS
(SUPPLEMENTARY)****Introduction**

I have reviewed the Supplementary Review of Environmental Factors (SREF) for the proposal known as *Narwonah Material Distribution Centre – Shunt Neck Works*. The SREF has been prepared for the proposal by *Inland Rail* to satisfy ARTC's environmental assessment requirements under Part 5, Division 5.1 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* ("EP&A Act"). The SREF is titled *Narwonah Material Distribution Centre - Supplementary Review of Environmental Factors: Shunt Neck Works* and is dated 29 February 2024 (final).

This Decision Report provides a summary of the key environmental considerations and the determination for the proposal consistent with requirements of Section 4.4 of the *ARTC Code of Practice for Environmental Impact Assessment of Development Proposals in New South Wales*.

Project Description

A Review of Environmental Factors (REF) prepared for the Narwonah Material Distribution Centre (NMDC) was approved by ARTC on 20 June 2022 (NMDC approved project). The NMDC is a key component of the Inland Rail Program, facilitating early material delivery, stockpiling and distribution of construction materials to support multiple Inland Rail projects across NSW. The NMDC is currently in construction, with the scope of the approved project including the construction and temporary operation of the NMDC.

Subsequent to NMDC REF approval, a Supplementary REF (SREF) was prepared for additional works outside the approved NMDC footprint including a southern turnout and fork. The SREF was approved by ARTC on 27 February 2023.

Additional works to the NMDC project are proposed, being the Shunt Neck Works, with the proposal assessed via a SREF.

The proposed Shunt Neck Works are located outside of the NMDC project boundary, and within the Inland Rail Narromine to Narrabri (N2N) project footprint. The shunt neck will form the first section for the approach track that will provide the necessary connecting infrastructure between the NMDC and N2N. The proposal includes the installation of 90m of track and associated signalling which will allow up to three locomotives of 22m each to detach from an inbound consist of sleeper wagons.

The proposal is scheduled to commence in March 2024 and be completed by June 2024. Works will be undertaken during standard working hours as well as out of hours works.

Note that the scope of works assessed in the NMDC REF as well as this SREF proposal do not constitute a scheduled activity therefore an EPL is not required.

Environmental Considerations	
<i>Note: this table summarises key environmental issues by exception. It does not capture routine environmental issues / management measures documented in the REF.</i>	
Biodiversity (Flora and Fauna)	
Key issues and management measures proposed	<p>Minor</p> <p>Vegetation in the area of the shunt neck works comprise crop and/or introduced grassland. The proposal requires no removal of additional native vegetation not already assessed in the approved REF.</p> <p>The proposed shunt neck works do not require the removal of PCT 88 or other threatened or endangered species to undertake the works. The closest protected vegetation of PCT 88 is located approximately 120 m west of the work zone.</p> <p>Additional management measures are detailed in the supplementary REF and include small parcels of PCT 88 (Pilliga Box) nearby the proposal footprint has been identified as 'no-go zones', temporary exclusion fencing and signage has been installed for protection, and will be inspected and maintained throughout the works.</p>
Indigenous Heritage	
Key issues and management measures proposed	<p>Minor</p> <p>The proposed shunt neck works area is not located within an area of archaeological potential. An AHIMS search undertaken as part of the SREF did not identify any known heritage sites within the proposed footprint of the shunt neck works. The closest AHIMS site is located >170 m to the west of proposed CIZ boundary.</p> <p>Note that the shunt neck proposal has been designed to avoid the gilgai features that were identified and discussed in the approved REF.</p> <p>Additional management measures are detailed in the supplementary REF and include existing flagging to be reviewed and extended (if necessary) to ensure appropriate delineation in place to control proposed extension of CIZ, and clear delineation and signage required where the gilgai boundary comes in close proximity to proposed works. This control needs to be applied to ensure work crews have a clear understanding of where ground disturbance is allowable and where it is prohibited.</p>
Noise and Vibration	
Key issues and management measures proposed	<p>Minor</p> <p>There is no change in construction scope or use of additional plant and equipment. No additional noise or vibration impacts have been identified.</p> <p>Management measures documented in the approved REF are considered appropriate, and no additional management measures are required.</p>
Non-Indigenous Heritage	
Key issues and management measures proposed	<p>Minor</p> <p>No heritage items are located within the proposal area, and no additional impacts related to non-indigenous heritage have been identified.</p> <p>Management measures documented in the approved REF are considered appropriate, and no additional management measures are required.</p>
Community and Visual Impacts	
Key issues and management measures proposed	<p>Minor</p>

	<p>No additional community or visual impacts have been identified.</p> <p>Management measures documented in the approved REF are considered appropriate, and no additional management measures are required.</p>
Soil and Water	
Key issues and management measures proposed	<p>Minor</p> <p>No additional impacts related to soil or water have been identified.</p> <p>Management measures documented in the approved REF are considered appropriate, and no additional management measures are required.</p>
Contamination and Waste	
Key issues and management measures proposed	<p>Minor</p> <p>No sites listed on NSW EPA's contaminated land record or ARTC ContamMap have been identified.</p> <p>No additional impacts related to contamination or waste have been identified.</p> <p>Management measures documented in the approved REF are considered appropriate, and no additional management measures are required.</p>
Other	
Key issues and management measures proposed	<p>A cumulative impact assessment has been undertaken, which determined that potential cumulative impacts are not anticipated to be significant.</p>

Review of Environmental Factors (EP&A Regulation 2021 - section 171) and Matters of National Environmental Significance (EPBC Act 1999)

Have the section 171 Environmental Factors and Matters of National Environmental Significance been considered?	Yes
--	-----

REF Exhibition and Public Submissions

Was the REF publicly exhibited, and were community or stakeholder submissions received?	The supplementary REF was not publicly exhibited.
---	---

Environmental Approvals and Licences Required

Approval requirements	<p>The proposal can be assessed under Part 5, Division 5.1 of the EP&A Act and determined by ARTC.</p> <p>EPL 3142 does not apply to the proposal.</p>
-----------------------	--

Operational Requirements	
Are there any operational requirements that apply to the proposal post-construction?	No

Reviewer notes	
N/A	

Conclusion

I have considered the requirements of Part 5, Division 5.1 of the EP&A Act and the ARTC *Code of Practice for Environmental Impact Assessment of Development Proposals in NSW*.

On behalf of ARTC I have determined that:

- The Proposal is subject to Part 5, Division 5.1 of the EP&A Act;
- The environmental impact assessment for the Proposal complies with the requirements of Part 5 of the EP&A Act and the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021;
- An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required for the Proposal;
- A Species Impact Statement (SIS) is not required for the Proposal; and
- The Proposal should / ~~should not~~ proceed subject to the environmental conditions as set out in Schedule 1.

I make these determinations in reliance on the documents I have reviewed and the advice I have received in relation to the Proposal as summarised above.

I note that I did not prepare the REF and that I am authorised by ARTC to make the determination set out in this Decision Report.

Approval Recommended by:

Name and position: Stuart Ross, Corporate Environment Manager

Date: 5 March 2024

Signature



Endorsed by: Applicable / ~~Not applicable~~

Name and position: Stephen Jones, Director Health, Safety and Environment, Inland Rail

Signature



Date: Mar 6, 2024

Stephen Jones (Mar 6, 2024 15:19 GMT+10)

Approved by:

Name and position: Stephen Jones, Director Health, Safety and Environment, Inland Rail

Signature



Date: Mar 6, 2024

Stephen Jones (Mar 6, 2024 15:17 GMT+10)

Note: Refer Schedule 1 for environmental conditions.



SCHEDULE 1 - ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

REFERENCE	ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS
1.	GENERAL
1.1	The proposal must be carried out in accordance with the terms of this approval and generally in accordance with the proposal as described in the REF documents.
1.2	All works within the rail corridor must be undertaken in compliance with ARTCs Environment Protection Licence (EPL 3142).
1.3	All mitigation measures recommended in the REF and this Schedule (Schedule 1 Environmental Conditions) shall be applied to the proposal. These Schedule 1 Environmental Conditions will prevail where there is any inconsistency.
1.4	All necessary licences, permits and approvals required by legislation shall be obtained prior to the works commencing. Copies of these licences permits, and approvals shall be kept on site and complied with during works.
1.5	Where proposal construction has not commenced within twenty-four months of REF determination, a Consistency Review will be undertaken.
2.	CONSTRUCTION ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN
2.1	A construction environmental management plan (CEMP) shall be prepared addressing all REF mitigation measures, these Schedule 1 Environmental Conditions, and other environmental requirements as applicable.
3.	TRAINING
3.1	A site-specific environmental induction must be prepared and delivered to site personnel and is to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- environmentally sensitive areas and 'no go' zones;- emergency procedures,- complaints handling,- environmental incident recording and reporting, and- site specific environmental controls.
4.	INCIDENT NOTIFICATION
4.1	Environmental incidents shall be reported to ARTC Project Manager (and as applicable to the ARTC Network Controller) as soon as practicable.
5.	COMMUNITY COMPLAINTS

REFERENCE	ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS
5.1	Details of all complaints are to be forwarded to ARTC Enviroline (1300 550 402 or enviroline@artc.com.au) for logging into the ARTC complaints database, unless a project specific contact number has been provided to the community.
6.	OTHER
6.1	ARTC documents ENV-GL-010 and ENV-GL-011 provide guidance on the compliant management of waste spoil and timber.