



NSW GOVERNMENT  
**Department of Planning**

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Mr Colin Doolan  
Senior Project Manager  
NSW Roads and Traffic Authority  
PO Box 484  
WAGGA WAGGA NSW 2650

Dear Mr Doolan

**Hume Highway Upgrade – Woomargama to Mullengandra (06\_0249) – Out of Hours Request Early Start Works (6am – 7am, Monday to Friday)**

I refer to correspondence from the Hume Highway Southern Alliance (the Alliance) requesting an extension to the construction hours specified in the Minister's Conditions of Approval for the Hume Highway Upgrade (Woomargama to Mullengandra) to enable certain work to commence from 6am, Monday to Friday (Early Works Start).

The justification for the Early Start Works request presented by the Alliance is principally focussed on reducing the length of the construction schedule for the Hume Highway Duplication project. The Alliance has suggested that a more expeditious, albeit more intensive, construction program would provide opportunity to reinstate amenity sooner for the benefit of the local community. Relevantly, the Alliance has not suggested that extension of construction hours is a result of any technical or practical impediment to completing works within the hours stipulated in the Minister's approval.

As you are aware, the Environmental Assessment for the project foreshadowed that an extension of construction hours beyond those typically applied to other construction projects would be necessary in order to achieve the 2009 delivery date for the Duplication Project. In granting approval to the project, the Minister recognised the importance of timely delivery of the duplication works, and permitted extended construction hours accordingly. It is within this context that the Department now considers the Alliance's request to further extend construction hours, despite the issue of construction hours having been considered and resolved some time ago as part of the public environmental assessment process.

The principal intent of condition 2.13 of the Minister's project approval is to enable the Proponent to accommodate externalities that restrict the ability for certain construction activities to occur (for example, rail possessions, engineering requirements and road safety). The Alliance request clearly does not fall within these parameters. Furthermore, the Alliance has not provided conclusive arguments to support its assertion that the benefits to the community from a shortened construction timeframe would offset the amenity impacts of more intensive, early morning works.

The Department notes, however, that the Alliance has undertaken community consultation on this issue, and there would appear to be support from those community members who have been contacted by the Alliance. It is only on this basis that the Director-General therefore agrees to conditional approval of a strict two month trial of the Early Start and subject to conditions provided in Attachment A. Following the conclusion of the trial, the Alliance is to submit a report to the Director-General:

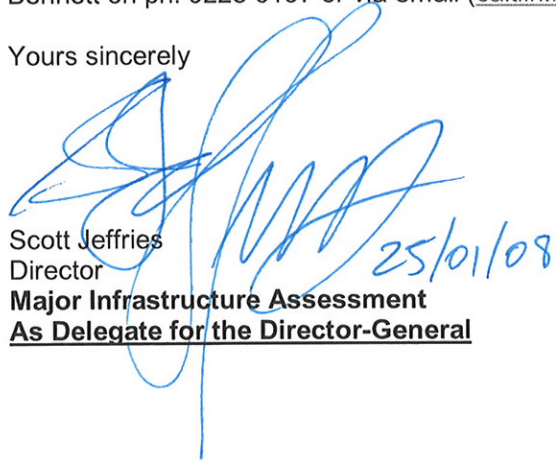
- detailing the performance of the works against the agreed performance and environmental criteria;
- justification for instances where the criteria has not been met, the reasons why and the corrective actions that has been taken to ensure future compliance; and
- the results of the community consultation conducted during this period, including the nature of any complaints received and the action taken to respond to these complaints.

Upon receipt of this report, the Director-General will determine whether or not the Early Start Works should continue and if so, the circumstances under which these works can occur.

The Director-General reserves the right to revoke this approval at any time, in response to community complaints, identified or suspected unacceptable amenity impacts, and/or if the conditions of the Minister's approval are not fully complied with at all times.

Should you require any additional information or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact Caitlin Bennett on ph. 9228 6197 or via email ([caitlin.bennett@planning.nsw.gov.au](mailto:caitlin.bennett@planning.nsw.gov.au)).

Yours sincerely



25/01/08

Scott Jeffries  
Director  
**Major Infrastructure Assessment**  
**As Delegate for the Director-General**

## **ATTACHMENT A – CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL FOR THE EARLY START WORKS – 6AM TO 7AM, MONDAY TO FRIDAY**

### ***Two Month Trial***

Within one week from the date of this letter, the Proponent must submit for the Director-General's agreement, the performance criteria for the Early Works Start activities which shall measure the benefits gained to the construction schedule by undertaking works from 6am, Monday to Friday. This includes (but not necessarily be limited to) performance criteria for:

- efficiencies gained by the longer working week;
- reductions in the level of works or the frequency of works undertaken on Saturdays; and
- the level of complaints received from the local community and the satisfaction of complainants on the Alliance response.

Within one week of concluding the two month trial, the Proponent shall submit a report to the Director-General detailing:

- the performance of the Early Start Works against the agreed performance criteria, and the environmental criteria set out in the Early Start Works request and the Minister's project approval;
- if the criteria has not been met, the reasons why and the corrective actions that have been taken to ensure future compliance; and
- the results of the community consultation conducted during this period, including the nature of any complaints received and the action taken to respond to these complaints.

### ***Construction Work Conditions***

The following conditions relate to the management of activities undertaken during the two month trial. The Proponent must:

- only undertake those construction activities described within *Hume Highway Duplication Project Southern Alliance – Woomargama to Mullengandra – Review and Assessment of Requirements for Out of Hours Work (Early Start)*, prepared by Hume Highway Southern Alliance and dated 11 January 2008;
- implement the community consultation procedures and noise mitigation measures detailed within the Construction Noise and Vibration Environmental Management Plan, the Community Involvement Plan and *Hume Highway Duplication Project Southern Alliance – Woomargama to Mullengandra – Review and Assessment of Requirements for Out of Hours Work (Early Start)*, prepared by Hume Highway Southern Alliance and dated 11 January 2008;
- not undertake Early Start Works within 500 metres of any residence without first consulting with and obtaining the resident's agreement to those works during the extended construction hours;
- forward to the Department the details of any noise or vibration complaints received during extended working hours by close-of-business on the next business day;
- implement all reasonable and feasible options in response to complaints; and
- conduct noise monitoring and auditing of the works to verify compliance with the noise impact assessment, and implement corrective action immediately if any non-compliance is detected. Monitoring, auditing and reporting mechanisms detailed within the Construction Noise and Vibration Environmental Management Plan shall apply to these works.