

9 Draft statement of commitments

Chapter 9 outlines the draft statement of commitments proposed by the RTA to avoid, minimise, manage, mitigate, offset and/or monitor impacts identified in the environment assessment. Any consortium or contractor involved in the planning approvals, design, construction and/or operation phases of the project would be required to undertake all works in accordance with these commitments.

Director-General's requirements

A draft **Statement of Commitments** (SoC). The SoC must incorporate or otherwise capture measures to avoid, minimise, manage, mitigate, offset and/or monitor impacts identified in the impact assessment sections of the EA and ensure that the wording of the SoC clearly articulates the desired environmental outcome of the commitment.

The SoC must be achievable, measurable (with respect to compliance), and time specific, where relevant.

From an early stage, the environmental assessment considered the project's potential environmental issues and identified the desired environmental outcomes. This influenced how the concept design was developed and highlighted the management measures required to avoid or reduce environmental impacts.

The commitments, which are listed in Table 9-1, are designed to avoid, manage, mitigate, offset and/or monitor the environmental impacts of the project during pre-construction, throughout construction and into the operational phase. The table outlines the desired environmental outcome, the actions that the RTA will undertake to achieve this environmental outcome, and the timing (that is, when the commitment would be implemented). It is presented in a format that is readily auditable and transparent.

Table 9-1 **Draft statement of commitments**

Environmental outcome	Ref #	Commitment	Timing	Reference document
General — environmental management				
Compliance and continuous improvement in environmental management	M1	The head contractor for the project will have an environmental management system.	Pre-construction and construction	ISO 14001 <i>RTA QA Specification G36 – Environmental Protection</i>
	M2	Suitably qualified and experienced personnel will develop and implement project specific environmental management plans and procedures. The environmental management plans and procedures will incorporate mitigation and management measures identified in the environmental assessment.	Pre-construction and construction	<i>RTA QA Specification G36 – Environmental Protection</i> All relevant RTA policies, specifications, guidance notes and environmental directions
Community consultation				
Informed community	CC1	The community will be provided with regular project updates, given prior notice of project activities and provided contact details for enquiries. Where required, affected individuals or groups will be consulted directly and provided with targeted notifications (eg waterway users, bicycle user groups, noise affected residents etc.)	Pre-construction and construction	<i>RTA Community Involvement Practice Notes and Resource Manual (RTA, 1998)</i> <i>AS 4269 Complaints Handling</i>
	CC2	The community will be able to make complaints using the project's 24 hour toll free complaints number or the project web page. The number will be publicised and the project specific web page will include directions on how to register a complaint. All complaints will be acknowledged within eight working hours, recorded and tracked until resolved.	Pre-construction and construction	<i>RTA Community Involvement Practice Notes and Resource Manual (RTA, 1998)</i> <i>AS 4269 Complaints Handling</i>

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Transport				
Impacts on traffic minimised	T1	Construction vehicle movements, work programs and traffic control measures will be planned to avoid or minimise impacts on traffic through the implementation of all feasible and reasonable design, and mitigation and management measures.	Pre-construction and construction	<i>RTA Traffic Control at Work Sites</i> (RTA, 2003) <i>RTA QA Specification G10 Control of Traffic</i>
	T2	Existing legal property access, and pedestrian and cycle access (including the Bay Run) will be maintained or alternative arrangements made following consultation with the affected community.	Pre-construction and construction	<i>RTA Traffic Control at Work Sites</i> (RTA, 2003) <i>RTA QA Specification G10 Control of Traffic</i> <i>RTA Community Involvement Practice Notes and Resource Manual</i> (RTA, 1998)
Impacts on waterway users minimised	T3	The new bridge piers will be configured to match the existing Iron Cove Bridge piers and the centre two spans will be no lower in height than the existing bridge to ensure navigational clearance is maintained.	Construction	Section 4.3.2 of the environmental assessment
Improved regional pedestrian and cyclist networks	T4	A regional cycleway will be developed in consultation with relevant stakeholders and assessed under a separate environmental assessment process.	Pre-construction and construction	<i>RTA Community Involvement Practice Notes and Resource Manual</i> (RTA, 1998)
Improved bus reliability and efficiency	T5	The operation of Victoria Road will be monitored following completion of the project and travel times compared to those predicted outcomes to identify the need for any further operational refinement to optimise the performance of the project.	Operation	

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Contamination				
Protection of the environment, workers and public	C1	All feasible and reasonable mitigation and management measures will be implemented to contain displaced contaminated sediment, and their effectiveness monitored.	Construction	<i>Contaminated Land Management Guidelines</i> (RTA, 2005) <i>SEPP 55 – Remediation of land Contaminated Land Management Act 1997</i>
	C2	Contaminated sediment, ASS and other wastes will be managed to prevent release of material and if required will be disposed of at an appropriately licensed facility. Where appropriate, contaminated fill material from foreshore areas, suitable for reuse, will be placed at depth and capped, and the location recorded for ongoing management.	Construction	<i>Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997</i> <i>Waste Classification Guidelines</i> (DECC, 2008) <i>RTA Guidelines for the Management of Acid Sulfate Materials</i> (RTA, 2005) <i>RTA QA Specification G36 Environmental Protection</i>
Noise and vibration				
Minimised construction noise and vibration impacts	N1	All feasible and reasonable mitigation and management measures to minimise construction noise at sensitive receivers will be investigated. Noise and vibration will be monitored to measure against predicted levels. Where required feasible and reasonable mitigation measures will be implemented.	Pre-construction and construction	<i>RTA Environmental Noise Management Manual (2001). Practice note VII</i> Section 7.3 of environmental assessment

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Operational noise and vibration managed	N2	Increases to operational noise of >2 dBA where the DECC base criteria are already exceeded at noise sensitive receivers exposed to noise from the new bridge (modelled for up to 10 years after project opening) will be mitigated where feasible and reasonable. The mitigation measures will be developed in consultation with a qualified and experienced acoustic specialist and the affected property owners.	Pre-construction and construction	NSW Government's <i>Environmental Criteria for Road Traffic Noise</i> RTA <i>Environmental Noise Management Manual (2001)</i>
	N3	Operational noise will be monitored within one year after construction is finalised. If monitoring indicates a clear trend that traffic noise levels exceed those predicted, all further feasible and reasonable measures will be investigated. Any additional mitigation measures will be developed in consultation with a suitably qualified and experienced acoustic specialist and the affected property owner.	Operation	Section 6.3 of the <i>environmental assessment</i> NSW Government's <i>Environmental Criteria for Road Traffic Noise</i> RTA <i>Environmental Noise Management Manual (2001)</i>
Visual amenity and urban design				
Maintained or enhanced urban character	VI	The detailed design and implementation of built elements (such as new bridge and roadside furniture) and landscapes, and the mitigation of residual impacts will be undertaken in accordance with the visual and urban design objectives and principles for the project. They will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fit sensitively with the existing built, natural and community context • Contribute to the local ecology, community functions and quality of the public domain for the community and road users. 	Pre-construction construction	Chapter 4 and Section 6.4 of the <i>environmental assessment</i> <i>Beyond the Pavement Urban and Regional Design Practice Notes'</i> RTA <i>Bridge Aesthetics</i> Landscape Guideline (RTA, 2008)
Visual impacts are mitigated over the long-term and ongoing maintenance of urban design elements and landscaping is minimised	V2	Built elements will use robust, long-lasting, replaceable and easy to maintain materials and designs. Landscaping will predominantly use native species of local provenance that will be self sustaining.	Pre-construction construction	Landscape Guideline (RTA, 2008)

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Impacts on open space minimised	V3	The relocation of the Washington palm trees, and relocation and improvements to the playground in King George Park will be undertaken in consultation with Leichhardt City Council and the community.	Pre-construction and construction	
Social and economic				
Impacts on parking minimised	S1	Opportunities to modify existing parking arrangements (reconfiguration or conversion of other areas) will be investigated to minimise the loss of parking during construction and operation of the project.	Pre-construction and construction	
Minimised impacts on residents during construction	S2	Occupation and use of compounds and work sites will minimise disturbance to adjacent residents by managing, and minimising where possible: the movement of vehicles, particularly outside of standard working hours; providing temporary noise attenuation (eg shielding); and providing screening to minimise visual intrusion.	Construction	
Non-Aboriginal heritage				
Impacts on non-Aboriginal heritage items minimised	H1	Site environmental management plans will show the locations of non-Aboriginal heritage items and areas containing items of potential archaeological significance to be protected during construction and workers made aware of obligations related to these items. Feasible and reasonable mitigation will be implemented to avoid or minimise impacts on heritage items, including vibration testing to develop safe working distances to heritage items for various construction activities.	Pre-construction and Construction	<i>Heritage Act 1977</i>
	H2	Where heritage items will be directly impacted (such as the original bridge abutments), they will be reinstated as close to pre-construction condition as possible.	Pre-construction and construction	Section 6.6 of the environmental assessment
	H3	If any material of potential archaeological significance is unearthed, work will cease until specialist heritage advice has been obtained.	Pre-construction and construction	Section 6.6 of the environmental assessment
Impacts on heritage mitigated	H4	An appropriate level of archival recording of significant heritage items	Pre-construction	<i>NSW Heritage Office – How to</i>

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		(including the existing bridge and any uncovered items of archaeological significance) will be completed and a heritage interpretation strategy will be implemented as part of the final landscaping works.		<i>prepare archival records of heritage items</i>
Air quality				
Impacts on air quality minimised	Q1	Feasible and reasonable mitigation and management measures will be adopted to minimise windblown, traffic-generated or equipment-generated dust and emissions.	Construction	<i>Protection of the Environment and Operations Act 1997.</i>
	Q2	Dust generating activities will stop where visible dust is being emitted outside the construction corridor and when dust suppression methods are ineffective.	Construction	<i>Section 7.1 of the environmental assessment</i>
Geology and soils				
Erosion and sedimentation minimised	G1	Erosion and sedimentation management and control measures will be designed and installed with the advice of a soil conservation scientist. Controls will be inspected regularly, maintained and managed to maximise their ongoing effectiveness.	Pre-construction and construction	<i>RTA Erosion and Sedimentation Risk Assessment Procedure 2004</i> <i>RTA QA Specification G38 Soil and Water Management</i> <i>Managing Urban Stormwater: Soils and Construction, Volume 2, Book 4, Main Road Construction (Landcom, 2006)</i> <i>RTA QA Specification 40 Clearing and Grubbing</i> <i>RTA QA Specification R178 Vegetation</i> <i>RTA Stockpile Management Procedures 2001</i>

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Water				
Water quality impacts minimised	W1	Bunded areas will be used for storage of oils, chemicals, toxic substances, flammable and combustible liquids, and for potentially hazardous and contaminating activities (eg washing construction vehicles, plant and equipment, handling and pouring hazardous materials and liquids etc).	Construction	<i>RTA QA Specification G38 Soil and Water Management</i> <i>AS 1940 The storage and handling of flammable and combustible liquids</i> <i>DEC Bunding and Spill Management Guidelines (in DEC Environmental Protection Manual for Authorised Officers)</i> <i>RTA Code of Practice for Water Management (RTA, 1999)</i> <i>RTA QA Specification G36 Environmental Protection</i>
	W2	Spills will be contained immediately and will be stored in a bunded area until disposal. Spills will be disposed of at a facility that is licensed to receive the waste, or may be discharged after appropriate treatment.		

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Biodiversity				
Clearing minimised and native vegetation protected and enhanced	B1	Vegetation will be retained where possible. Revegetation and landscape planting will be undertaken on the foreshore of Iron Cove to integrate new infrastructure and to maintain and enhance habitat availability/connectivity. Preference will be for the use of locally indigenous species in plantings. Revegetation and landscaping activities will be undertaken progressively, where possible, and in consultation with the affected landowner.	Construction	<i>RTA QA Specification 40 Clearing and Grubbing</i> <i>RTA QA Specification R178 Vegetation</i>
Aquatic biota and habitat rehabilitated	B2	Opportunities for rehabilitation and enhancement of the in-water areas directly affected by the project will be investigated during detailed design. NSW Maritime will be consulted to avoid impacts on waterway operation.	Construction	<i>Fisheries Management Act 1994</i>
Maintenance of fig tree health	B3	A suitably qualified and experienced arborist will be engaged prior to and for the duration of the project to document, advise on and monitor the management of the fig tree.	Pre-construction, construction and post-construction	
Aboriginal heritage				
Protect Aboriginal heritage	A1	Should any unknown Aboriginal objects or items be located during the works, all work will cease in the vicinity of the find until specialist Aboriginal heritage advice is received.	Construction	<i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i>
Waste minimisation and management				
Waste production minimised	WMI	The 'waste hierarchy' (avoid/reuse/recycle/resource recovery/disposal) will be maximised during construction; incorporated into work programs, purchase strategies and site inductions; and will be assessed quarterly to identify opportunities for improvement.	Pre-construction and construction	<i>Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2001</i> <i>DECC (1999) Environmental guidelines — assessment, classification and management of liquid and non-liquid waste</i>

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Climate change and greenhouse gas emissions				
Greenhouse gas emissions and energy consumption minimised	EI	Energy efficient equipment and management measures will be used where feasible and reasonable to reduce greenhouse gas emissions will be adopted.	Pre-construction and construction.	<i>NSW Government's Waste Reduction and Purchasing Policy</i> <i>Waste Avoidance and Resources Recovery Strategy</i> (DECC, 2006)