

# Environment Protection Authority

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Our Ref:



10 March 2022

Ann Cunningham  
Chairperson, Development Assessment Panel  
New Bridgewater Bridge Major Project  
GPO Box 1691  
HOBART TAS 7001  
Email: [tpc@planning.tas.gov.au](mailto:tpc@planning.tas.gov.au)

Dear Ms Cunningham

## **NEW BRIDGEWATER BRIDGE MAJOR PROJECT FURTHER INFORMATION REGARDING CONSIDERATION OF AIR EMISSION MONITORING REQUIREMENTS**

I have been provided with a copy of the letter sent to the Panel by the Department of State Growth (the Proponent) on 4 March 2022 regarding air emissions monitoring for the New Bridgewater Bridge Major Project. This letter was discussed, without prejudice, at the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) Board meeting on 8 March 2022.

Following that meeting I can advise the Panel that the EPA Board, without pre-empting further discussion on the matters raised in the Proponent's submission, or what may be presented at the upcoming hearings into the Project, is mindful of the need to commence the project as soon as practicable, should the Panel grant the permit. The Board would like to indicate at this stage that it will take a pragmatic approach when considering the permit conditions associated with air emissions monitoring, the amount of time required to collect baseline data and the commencement of construction activities that will result in the potential for increases in vehicle and equipment air emissions.

The proposed pre- and post-construction monitoring serves two purposes, firstly to provide data to validate the results of the air emissions/dispersal modelling presented in the Major Project Impact Statement, and secondly to enable detection of any changes in air quality levels for nearby residents as a result of the design and use of the newly constructed bridge. Monitoring during construction provides both additional overall data, and a way of ensuring that emissions from construction activities are within acceptable criteria.

Ideally, pre-construction baseline data would be collected over a period of time to allow for seasonal variability and accuracy. However, given the length of time the bridge construction will take, it is acknowledged that some data will be collected for at least two years prior to the bridge being operational, albeit primarily during construction. While the loss of opportunity to collect comprehensive baseline data prior to the commencement of activity is not preferred, there will still be value in the data collected during the construction phase, and for the period of monitoring post construction.

I provide this advice in the context that the proponent may elect to defer the purchase of the monitoring equipment until the final conditions have been provided in the permit, which may still be at least three months away. The Board will take a pragmatic view that recognises that the sourcing, calibration and construction of the monitoring station should commence as soon as possible after the permit is granted, but should not delay the commencement of the construction.

Yours sincerely



Wes Ford

**DIRECTOR, ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY**

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