

# Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania

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Ms Ann Cunningham  
Chairperson  
Development Assessment Panel  
Tasmanian Planning Commission

Via email: [tpc@planning.tas.gov.au](mailto:tpc@planning.tas.gov.au)

Dear Ms Cunningham

## **Referral of initial assessment report and public exhibition NEW BRIDGEWATER BRIDGE MAJOR PROJECT**

Thank you for your letter of 18 January 2022 seeking a representation from the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania (the Department) on the initial assessment report and giving notice of the public exhibition of the major project, in accordance with section 60ZZB and 60ZZC of the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993* (the Act).

As a participating regulator, the Department offers the following advice based on the assessment criteria, publicly exhibited major project impact statement (MPIS), and initial assessment report.

Further to our preliminary advice provided to the Panel, under section 60ZY(1) of the Act, the Department would like to clarify the conditions that pertain to the potential impact on the relevant Assessment Criteria as determined by the Development Assessment Panel for the Project and outlined in the sub-headings below.

### **5.5.1.2.1 Terrestrial flora**

In regard to clause 5.5.1 of the assessment criteria, the Department recommends the following amended conditions for terrestrial flora:

62. The proponent (and any employees or subcontractors of a person named in this permit acting on that person's behalf on their written authority) is authorised to take the following specified terrestrial threatened flora species:

(a) *Austrostipa bigeniculata* (double jointed speargrass) – up to 300 individual plants (100m<sup>2</sup>),  
and

(b) *Vittadinea gracilis* (woolly new-holland-daisy) – up to 28 individual plants,

from the Bridgewater Bridge direct Project footprint, contained within the Project Land identified in Figure 3.2 of the New Bridgewater Bridge MPIS (November 2021).

This action is subject to the following conditions:

1. All identified terrestrial threatened flora locations in the Project Land outside of, but

adjacent to, the direct Project footprint must be taped or fenced off by a suitably qualified person to the extent necessary to prevent incursion by machinery or personnel.

2. Mechanical disturbance, dumping of fill, alteration of drainage patterns, and soil compaction on sites known or likely to support the specified threatened flora must be avoided.
3. Topsoil from areas known to contain the specified threatened flora must be stockpiled and used for rehabilitation on site.
4. Measures to control the introduction, spread, and movement of disease and weeds by equipment or by on ground operations must be undertaken in accordance with the Department's (2015) [Weed and Disease Planning and Hygiene Guidelines - Preventing the spread of weeds and diseases in Tasmania](#) as relevant.
5. A report must be provided to the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania within 30 days of the completion of the activity authorised under this permit, or expiration of the permit, whichever is the sooner. The report must detail the numbers of individual plants taken, or the area of the population taken of the specified threatened species, along with the date and location of the works undertaken.

#### **5.5.1.2.2 Aquatic flora**

In regard to clause 5.5.1 of the assessment criteria, the Department recommends the following amended conditions for aquatic flora:

(63) The proponent (and any employees or subcontractors of a person named in this permit acting on that person's behalf on their written authority) is authorised to take the following specified aquatic threatened flora:

- (a) *Ruppia megacarpa* (largefruit seatassel) – up to 1.5 hectares from the Bridgewater Bridge direct Project footprint, contained within the Project Land identified in Figure 3.2 of the New Bridgewater Bridge MPIS (November 2021).

Subject to the following amended conditions, and removing conditions 2 and 3:

1. All identified threatened aquatic flora locations in the Project Land outside of, but adjacent to, the direct Project footprint must be clearly marked on construction diagrams and maps by a suitably qualified person. All motorised vessels associated with the Project, operating in the vicinity of known threatened flora locations outside of, but adjacent to, the permitted works area, must not be used in water shallower than 0.7 metres depth, and must have a shallow draft and use short-shaft motors when operating in water between 0.7 and 1.2 metres depth.
2. *Remove*
3. *Remove*
4. Sedimentation of all identified threatened flora locations outside of, but adjacent to, the permitted works area must be managed through the use of silt barriers (such as cofferdams, silt screens, and/or silt curtains). Upon removal, silt barriers must be cleaned/washed ashore in an area where runoff to nearby aquatic threatened flora can be managed appropriately.
5. A report must be provided to the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania within 30 days of the completion of the activity authorised under this permit or expiration of the permit, whichever is the sooner. The report must detail the numbers of individual plants taken, or the area of the population taken of the specified threatened



species, along with the date and location of the works undertaken.

#### **5.5.3.1.1 Terrestrial Fauna**

The Department recommends the following amended permit conditions for waterbird nests:

(64) The proponent (and any employees or subcontractors of a person named in this permit acting on that person's behalf on their written authority) is authorised to take nests, eggs and nestlings of Protected and Partly Protected bird species listed under Schedules 1 and 8 of the *Nature Conservation (Wildlife) Regulations 2021* (the Regulations).

These may be taken from the Bridgewater Bridge direct Project footprint, contained within the Project Land in Figure 3.2 of the New Bridgewater Bridge MPIS (November 2021).

This action is subject to the following conditions, including the addition of two new conditions, those being conditions 6 and 7:

1. This permit does not permit the taking of, or impacts to; nests, eggs and nestlings of birds listed as Specially Protected under Schedule 5 of the Regulations. If any nests identified, in accordance with condition 6, as belonging to birds listed under Schedule 5 of the Regulations are identified as occurring within the construction footprint of the bridge and will be impacted directly by the construction, works must cease immediately and further advice sought from the regulator.
2. Surveys and clearance of nests, eggs and nestlings of Protected and Partly Protected bird species located within the Project Land must take place as close to the commencement of the waterbird breeding season as possible (August).
3. Nests and associated nesting habitat from the bird species authorised to be taken under this permit, located within the Project Land, must be removed and/or destroyed. Any eggs found within nests must be removed from the nests and destroyed. Any nestlings must be removed from the nests and humanely destroyed.
4. All bird nests outside of, but adjacent to, the works area must be taped or fenced off by a suitably qualified person to the extent necessary to prevent incursion by machinery or personnel.
5. A report must be provided to the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania within 30 days of the completion of the activity authorised under this permit, or expiration of the permit, whichever is the sooner. The report must detail the number of individual bird nests, eggs, and/or nestlings taken, along with the date and location of the works undertaken.
6. A suitably qualified and experienced person must be engaged to identify the nests as not belonging to bird species listed under Schedule 5 of the Regulations.
7. Any nestlings found within the construction footprint directly prior to construction works must be euthanased in accordance with the Methods of Euthanasia set out in the [Best Practice Guidelines for Wildlife Rehabilitation July 2021](#) published on the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania website.

#### **5.5.4 Aboriginal heritage**

In regard to clause 5.5.4 of the assessment criteria, the Department is satisfied that the permit conditions and commitments previously provided in the Preliminary Advice have been accurately portrayed in the initial Assessment Report in clauses 65 – 68 inclusive.

If you have any questions on this matter, please contact Sonia Mellor, Policy Analyst, Strategic Projects and Policy Branch, Strategy and Business Services Division, on mobile: 0436 636 279 or via email at [sonia.mellor@nre.tas.gov.au](mailto:sonia.mellor@nre.tas.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



Jason Jacobi  
**A/SECRETARY**

17 February 2021