

Our ref: D2022/19365

28 February 2022

Ms Toni Power  
Coordinator-General  
Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning  
toni.power@coordinatorgeneral.qld.gov.au

Dear Ms Power

## **Cross River Rail – Request to temporarily suspend certain conditions – February 2022 flood event**

The Cross River Rail Delivery Authority (Delivery Authority), as proponent of the Cross River Rail project, requests a temporary suspension of certain Imposed Conditions of the Cross River Rail Project (the Project) to assist the Project to respond to the February 2022 flood event.

### **Description of the requested temporary suspension of certain Imposed Conditions**

#### **Discharge of Water**

To support the recommencement of Project Work in a safe and efficient manner, the Delivery Authority requests the temporary suspension of Imposed Conditions 15 and 18 (Water Quality) to temporarily discharge untreated water from Project sites.

Currently, the receiving waters (Brisbane River and tributaries) are highly turbid, with negligible environmental impact expected as a result of discharging untreated water from CRR Project operations to this receiving environment.

This also includes a request to temporarily suspend Imposed Condition 15(b) – Reporting, as conditions remain unsafe for personnel to conduct water sampling/testing of receiving waters.

The requested temporary suspension ensures water is removed as soon as possible from Project worksites to protect Project works, workers, property and equipment, and to provide capacity for the capture and controlled discharge of additional forecast rainfall over the coming weeks.

#### **Hours of Operation**

Imposed Condition 10(c) authorises the Project to undertake work outside of the hours provided at Imposed Condition 10, Table 1 if those works are associated with an emergency.

To remove any uncertainty regarding the undertaking of activities to protect project worksites and to complete response/repair/recovery works associated with the February 2022 flood event, the Delivery Authority requests the provision of a new temporary Imposed Condition.

The proposed new temporary Imposed Condition will support the Project undertake continuous activities that will include dewatering, site repair and site recovery works to protect the workforce, external parties, plant and equipment, return the project to normal, controlled operating conditions, and allow the Project to prepare and respond to future adverse weather conditions.

The February 2022 flood event has led to numerous road closures. In addition, impacts to supply chains (materials/equipment) and operation of spoil sites are yet to be assessed. To support the operation of the proposed new temporary Imposed Condition, it is requested that spoil haulage and materials/equipment delivery hours for heavy vehicles be authorised to occur continuously for the duration of the temporary Imposed Condition.

### **Noise and vibration**

Imposed Condition 11(c) establishes requirements for advanced notification and engagement of Directly Affected Persons where noise is predicted to exceed the imposed noised goals by greater than 20 dBA. Imposed Condition 11(g) restricts project activities where vibration is expected to exceed 2mm/s continuously, or 10mm/s for transient vibration.

It is requested that Imposed Conditions 11(c) and 11(g) be temporarily suspended for the duration of the response/repair/recovery works associated with the February 2022 flood event.

### **Traffic and transport**

Imposed Condition 14 (e) requires, amongst other things, that heavy vehicles to utilise approved haulage routes. It is requested that Imposed Condition 14(e) be temporarily suspended to accommodate the road closures/diversions in place during the period of the temporary suspension of this condition.

### **Construction environmental management plan**

Imposed Condition 4 establishes the requirement to develop, have endorsed, and implement a construction environmental management plan for project works.

It is requested that Imposed Condition 4 be temporarily suspended for works associated with the February 2022 response/repair/recovery works.

### **Reporting – (water quality; noise; vibration)**

In concert with the request to temporarily suspend Imposed Condition 15, the Delivery Authority requests the reporting of water quality required by Imposed Condition 6 also be suspended for the duration that the temporary suspension of Imposed Condition 15 is in effect.

This is requested as water quality reporting will not be valid during this time considering the elevated turbidity levels of the receiving environment and proposed discharge of untreated water. In addition, the safety of project personnel remains the primary utmost importance whilst sites are saturated and flooding is ongoing, meaning persons will not be entering near water bodies to test water.

In addition, it is requested that the measurement and reporting of noise and vibration associated with response/repair/recovery works associated with the February 2022 flood event be temporarily suspended.

To allow for project resources to be diverted to response/recovery work, it is also requested that reporting under Imposed Condition 6 (monthly environment report) be suspended for the February 2022 period, with February 2022 and March 2022 reporting data to be consolidated, and reported 6 weeks post the end of March 2022.

### **Non-compliance events**

Imposed Condition 5 sets out the requirements associated with Non-Compliance Event identification and reporting for Project Works.

For any works associated with the Project's response/repair/recover works associated with the February 2022 flood event, it is requested that Imposed Condition 5 be temporarily suspended.

### **Commencement/duration of February 2022 flood event and response activities**

For the period 25 February 2022 to 9am Monday 28 February 2022, the Brisbane City weather station recorded a total rainfall of 676.8mm.

It is requested that the commencement of the temporary suspension of certain conditions and the new proposed addition to Condition 10 be 25 February 2022.

To support the project's response/repair/recovery works, it is requested that the temporary suspension and new Imposed Condition operation period be from 25 February 2022 through to 25 March 2022.

It is also requested that an opportunity to review extending this period be provided prior to its conclusion.

### **Potential impacts**

The Delivery Authority is of the view that any impacts associated with implementing the Project's response to the February 2022 flood event would not be additional to those already assessed for the Cross River Rail Project, as the proposed work is temporary/short term in nature and justified in terms of responding to this unprecedented rain/flood event.

### **Summary of Imposed Conditions proposed to be temporarily suspended for Cross River Rail response/repair/recovery works**

The Imposed Conditions proposed to be temporarily suspended are as follows:

1. Condition 4
2. Condition 5
3. Condition 6
4. Condition 14(e)
5. Condition 11(c)
6. Condition 11(g)
7. Condition 15
8. Condition 18

**Proposed New Condition 10D – February 2022 Flood Event response/recovery**

**Condition 10D**

- a) February 2022 flood event response/repair/recovery works including any necessary spoil haulage and materials/equipment delivery in support of these works can occur in accordance with Table 1D.
- b) Imposed Condition 10D has effect for the period 25 February 2022 through to 25 March 2022, or any longer period stated by the Coordinator-General.

**Table 1D**

Worksite	Work Hours	Spoil haulage and materials / equipment delivery
All Cross River Rail worksites	24 hours, 7 days	24 hours, 7 days

Thank you in advance for an expedited consideration of this request.

If you require further information, I encourage you to contact Mr Peter Silvester, Executive Director, Environment and Approvals, on 0418 874 471 or by email at [Peter.Silvester@crrda.org.au](mailto:Peter.Silvester@crrda.org.au).

Yours sincerely



**Graeme Newton**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Cross River Rail Delivery Authority

## Lone Hill

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**From:** Peter Silvester [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Tuesday, 1 March 2022 2:03 PM

**To:** Kate Weir [REDACTED]; Leah Parker

**Cc:** Jai Massadi [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Cross River Rail - response to request for additional information - request to temporarily suspend certain Imposed Conditions and provision of new temporary condition (response/repair/recovery works)

**Importance:** High

Hello Kate and Leah,

Thanks for the opportunity to provide more information this morning regarding the Delivery Authority's request to temporarily suspend certain Cross River Rail Imposed Conditions and to establish a new temporary condition associated with response/repair/recovery works associated with the February 2022 flood event.

Please find following a response to specific requests for clarification. This response is currently being reviewed by our executive and I'll advise if there are any changes/additions to this response:

**Further information regarding the need for the request, in particular, relevant safety matters, and a description of the types of response/repair/recovery work that may be undertaken**

The requested temporary suspension of certain Cross River Rail Imposed Conditions is required to support the three main phases of bringing the Project back to full construction (response/repair/recovery).

Phase 1 is the initial response, with a strong focus on site safety and security for personnel, equipment and the wider adjacent community. The initial response focuses all necessary activities required to ensure the sites are safe for initial access, inclusive of dewatering activities (surface water runoff/seepage) and first phase site assessments.

With reference to dewatering in particular, dewatering is typically managed via a triage approach, where areas posing a risk to people or property are to be dewatered immediately, following by areas that represent a risk to site integrity, then other site areas as required. Brief examples:

- TSD stations/caverns + tunnels –
  - Lowering of water level in site sumps, caverns and major shaft excavations to provide detention capacity to safely manage additional inflows from predicted rainfall/runoff events
- Mayne Yard –
  - dewatering low lying areas especially near existing QR rail network to restore catchment capacity near live tracks (Brisbane River is still flooding and more rain is predicted)
- RNA
  - Dewatering of waterlogged permanent infrastructure currently under construction
    - RSS wall south of BR43 - dewater RSS fill to limit water pressure on wall and restore catchment capacity near live tracks (Brisbane River is still flooding and more rain is predicted)
    - BR43 and existing substation
    - Lanham Yard open drain along Existing QR rail Network – dewatering to restore capacity near live tracks as Brisbane River is still flooding and more rain is predicted
- Clapham Yard –
  - Dewatering of low-lying areas against permanent fill zone to prevent damage to earthworks and undermining of fill zones

Phase 2 involves site repair activities informed by the site assessments, that may include additional activities to maintain stability of sites (shoring/rock anchors, additional drainage, replacement of fill that has been subject to becoming unconsolidated from the flood event – ie temporary piling pads etc), isolation and reclamation of equipment and facilities, securing and testing of project support systems (power/water/air/telecommunications).

Phase 3 involves all recovery activities necessary to bring sites back on line and into production, inclusive of site support facilities (power/water/air/telecommunications) re-energisation, reinstatement of any damaged works, site access/egress or materials/equipment workarounds required to recommence works for the period that associated supply chains recover from the flood event.

**How will safety around schools be managed for any changes to haulage routes associated with the proposed response/repair/recovery works?**

The project has well established protocols for transport operations adjacent to schools, inclusive of continuous engagement with relevant schools in proximity of the Project’s worksites. For existing schools, or any new schools identified associated with temporary changes to haulage routes, the Project will respond to any issues/concerns by consulting with the relevant schools, increase vehicle surveillance if required, and reviewing alternative routes/opportunities and timing until the Project returns to normal operations.

**Traffic/transport – request to suspend Condition 14 (e) (approved haulage routes) – what consultation will occur with BCC/DTMR?**

Project haulage routes are currently being affected by numerous road closures across South East Queensland. As these road closures are administered by the relevant road authority (DTMR or BCC), the Project will continue to consult with BCC/DTMR regarding alternative routes until the Project returns to normal operations.

**How will the Project advise the community of proposed response/repair/recovery works**

The requested suspension of Imposed Conditions 11(c) and 11(g) temporarily removes the requirement for mandatory consultation with Directly Affected Persons for impacts associated with response/repair/recovery works.

The Project has a well established works notification process, which is distributed through a number of channels to the community (email, sms, works notices etc). The Project commits to advising the community of the response/repair/recovery works and potential impacts they may experience.

**SDPWO Act – Change Request fee waiver**

The February 2022 flood event is a significant natural disaster event for South East Queensland. The works proposed to be undertaken as response/repair/recovery activities are targeted at ensuring the Project’s sites are safe for the workforce and adjacent community in the short term, with the recommencement of Project works essential to support the Project’s workforce and the region in its recovery efforts.

The Delivery Authority requests that given the circumstances described above, the Coordinator-General consider waiving any relevant *State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971* change request fees.

Regards, Peter

**Peter Silvester**  
**Executive Director**  
**Environment & Approvals | Strategy, People and Planning**

  
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*We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of this Country, and recognise the continuing connection to lands, waters and their communities.*

*We wish to pay our respects to the culture of our First Nations Peoples and to Elders past and present.*

The Delivery Authority is disclosing this information on a confidential basis whereby the party in receipt of the information will not disclose the information and otherwise agrees to treat information on a confidential basis. Where this information is being disclosed to another Queensland government agency, note the information may be of a concern to the Delivery Authority if released under the Right to Information Act 2009 (Qld) (RTI Act) and therefore triggers the consultation requirements under s.37 of the RTI Act.