NORTH EAST LINK PROJECT ENVIRONMENT EFFECTS STATEMENT
INQUIRY AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

NELP TECHNICAL NOTE

TECHNICAL NOTE NUMBER: 49

DATE: 13 August 2019

LOCATION: N/A

EES/MAP BOOK REFERENCE: N/A

SUBJECT: Responses to IAC Requests for Further Information: Days 1 – 13

NOTE: This technical note documents NELP’s responses to queries raised by the IAC during days 1 – 13 of the public hearing.

REQUEST: Various queries raised by the IAC during days 1 – 13 of the public hearing.

RESPONSE:

IAC Query

1. On Day 7 of the hearing, Ms Foley asked Mr Clough (the principal author of Technical Report O) to describe the consultation that occurred between NELP and the Department of Defence concerning potential contamination of the Simpson Barracks (including in respect of the presence of underground storage tanks at the Barracks). Mr Clough indicated that he was unaware of the precise nature of those discussions because they took place prior to his involvement in the Project.

NELP Reply

2. Discussions between NELP, GHD, and the Department of Defence concerning potential contamination of the Barracks occurred on a number of occasions between August 2018 and October 2018.

3. Those discussions informed the description of the potential contamination of the Barracks documented in Technical Report O.

4. The Department of Defence also relevantly advised, as part of those discussions, that the majority of contamination known to exist at the Barracks is situated outside of the project boundary.

5. The results of the Project-specific investigations undertaken by GHD within the Barracks in are described in Technical Report O.\(^1\)


IAC Query:

7. On Day 8 of the hearing, the IAC requested information concerning whether the realigned section of Greensborough Road south of Watsonia Road had been taken into account for the

\(^1\) At p 53.
purposes of the assessment of non-project roads under EPR NV1(b).

NELP Reply

8. The EES assessment applied EPR NV1(b) to the first 100m of Greensborough Road south of the intersection between Greensborough Road and Watsonia Road. That section of Greensborough Road was modelled to comply with EPR NV1(b).

9. Further analysis has been undertaken in respect of the balance of Greensborough Road situated between Watsonia Road and Lower Plenty Road. That section of Greensborough Road was also modelled to comply with EPR NV1(b).

IAC Query

10. On Day 11 of the hearing, the IAC raised queries at the conclusion of Mr Oxnam’s evidence concerning how the uncertainty concerning the precise nature and composition of contamination along the alignment would be ‘handled going forward’. The IAC’s queries are understood to have related, more specifically, to:
   a. how this uncertainty would be treated between the conclusion of the EES assessment process and a contractor being appointed in respect of the Project; and
   b. who would undertake the relevant investigations.

NELP Response

11. As described by Dr Nadebaum, a series of more specific investigations are presently being undertaken in respect of particular locations along the alignment that are known to contain prescribed industrial waste, or that are otherwise known or suspected to be contaminated.

12. These investigations include, but are not limited to, those described by Dr Nadebaum in his expert witness statement.²

13. Taking the site of the former Bulleen landfill as an example, the subsequent investigations being undertaken are comprehensive in nature, and are anticipated to provide a relatively high degree of certainty concerning the composition of the prescribed industrial waste contained within the former landfill. They will allow, amongst other things, a more detailed and accurate characterisation of what proportion of the prescribed industrial waste contained within the former landfill is characterised as Category A, B, and C waste.

14. The nature and extent of the additional testing to be completed along the alignment will be tailored to the specific locations and the nature of works proposed to be undertaken within those locations.

15. It is anticipated that these further investigations will be undertaken by NELP/GHD prior to the completion of the procurement process. This will inform the procurement process as well as the implementation of the EPRs going forward.

CORRESPONDENCE: N/A
ATTACHMENTS: N/A

² Document 24x at pp 3 - 5.