

Overview of consistency reviews

Batemans Bay Bridge replacement project

Roads and Maritime assessed the impacts of the original bridge design in the environmental assessment for the project, inclusive of the completion of a hydrology and coastal processes assessment that assessed the impacts of the project on hydrology and coastal processes of the Clyde River and Batemans Bay.

The environmental assessment concluded that the proposal would have minimal impacts on hydrology and coastal processes. Roads and Maritime included an environmental safeguard within the determined REF and Submissions Report to undertaken further operational flood modelling during detailed design to confirm that afflux, flood extent and scour are equivalent to or better than assessed in the REF.

The design submitted by the successful tenderer for construction includes a change in the design of the bridge that reduces the impacts of the project, including a reduction in the number of piers with less impacts to the bed of the river (including seagrass impacts), reduction in flood impacts and minimal changes in velocities.

Roads and Maritime awarded the tender for the construction of the project to John Holland, in part, on the basis of reduction in waterway impacts associated with the new bridge design. John Holland completed further flood modelling in February 2019 in accordance with the REF Environmental Safeguard, inclusive of consideration of temporary impacts of construction activities. This flood modelling confirmed that new bridge design would result in lesser impacts to the bed of the waterway (including seagrass impacts), lesser flooding impacts and minimal change to flood velocity when compared to the original bridge.

Roads and Maritime finalised an Independent Coastal Impact Assessment in March 2019 to independently evaluate the impact of the new bridge on riverbed and shoreline changes, waves, flooding, sea level rise and currents in the Clyde River compared to the existing bridge. The conclusion of this assessment is any

impacts associated with the new bridge are similar to that predicted in both the REF and subsequent flooding assessments.

Construction activities for the bridge commenced in May 2019, following completion of the additional assessment documentation referred to above.

Roads and Maritime finalised a Consistency Assessment in accordance with the *Environmental, Planning and Assessment Act, 1979* for the all design changes for the project in November 2019, inclusive of road and footpath works, other works to connect the project to the existing road network and final design of the new bridge. This assessment includes reference to the assessment work undertaken prior to the commencement of bridge construction activities.