

2026 SUSTAINABILITY UPDATE

The Monaro Highway Upgrade 1B sustainability targets were set in consultation with the project management team and has formed part of our integrated management processes for the project to deliver quality infrastructure to the territory whilst also seeking to benefit the local environment, community and economy.

Over the past two years, we have had great success in reducing material inputs to the project through innovative design solutions that allowed for the recycling of on-site materials and also the introduction of beneficial re-use materials from local construction sites; reducing the need for newly quarried materials and disposal of fill from local sites and the embodied carbon and energy waste therein. Furthermore, much of the design development has been completed for the project which included a significant climate change risk assessment, ecological and heritage assessments and the development of measures to improve the design sustainability outcomes for the site.

Although by ordinary industry standards, the project has performed very well – it has had challenges in relation to satisfying the strict criteria of the Infrastructure Sustainability Council’s rating scheme, with particular challenges in relation to the early planning phase of the project in regards to stakeholder engagement, heritage and ecology. Though we are pleased to report the landscape design for the project has incorporated a net enhancement to the site ecology and Indigenous heritage factors.

The status, and success / challenge of each of our target items are noted below:

	Theme	Focus area	Materiality score	Targets			Status
				Design	Construction	Operation	
Pla-2	Governance	Urban and Landscape Design	4	Develop an urban and landscape design plan that considers relevant aspects of the project context and is reviewed before approval. Identify measures for the successful establishment and ongoing maintenance of plantings and other landscape and public-	Implement the urban and landscape design plan.	Maintain revegetation sites.	The urban and landscape design package is in the final stages of completion at the reporting point. The published design target remains on track, with only the final review of the maintenance arrangements outstanding. Once this review is complete, achievement of the design target can be confirmed.
Res-1	Governance	Climate and Natural Hazards Risks	4	Identify the direct and indirect risks posed by climate change over the asset's useful life and complete a climate change and natural hazards risk assessment/risk management plan through a multidisciplinary team.	Implement the treatment options adopted.	Monitor and maintain the integrity of the asset, particularly during and after major weather events.	A multidisciplinary climate and natural hazards workshop has been completed, and the assessment report is being incorporated into the design and handover documentation. Final integration of the report and treatment actions, together with the required review, remains necessary before the target can be confirmed as achieved.
Env-1	Environment	Receiving Water Quality	3	Develop a Construction Water Management Plan as part of the CEMP. Complete modelling to demonstrate that construction and operational discharge water quality is equivalent to, or not adverse to, pre-development water quality and catchment	Implement measures to minimise adverse impacts and meet project water-quality goals. Monitor discharges and receiving-water quality and include ongoing operational measures in the handover documents.	Maintain the asset.	Water-quality design measures have been developed, and construction implementation is underway. The project continues to finalise the construction-phase modelling and supporting evidence required to demonstrate that discharge and receiving-water outcomes are equivalent to, or not adverse to, pre-development conditions. The remaining work focuses on completing the required modelling and evidence.
Env-2	Environment	Noise	4	Develop a Noise Management Plan as part of the CEMP. Complete construction and operational noise modelling, establish noise goals and identify corresponding controls, with no recurring or major exceedances of the goals.	Implement measures to mitigate construction and operational noise and meet the noise goals. Monitor implemented controls and include ongoing operational measures in the handover documents.	Maintain the asset.	Technical assessment of construction noise has progressed, with monitoring and modelling undertaken for nearby sensitive receivers and relevant design controls developed. Closure of the target now depends on formalising the monitoring program and obtaining the required SQP review records, technical interpretations and competency evidence. The remaining actions focus on completing the required technical verification and supporting documentation.
Env-3	Environment	Vibration	3	Develop a Vibration Management Plan as part of the CEMP. Complete construction and operational vibration modelling, establish vibration goals and identify corresponding controls, with no recurring or major exceedances of the goals.	Implement measures to mitigate construction and operational vibration and meet the vibration goals. Monitor implemented controls and include ongoing operational measures in the handover documents.	Maintain the asset.	Vibration monitoring and modelling have been undertaken for adjacent sensitive receivers and critical gas and water utilities. The available evidence package does not yet contain all baseline and operational-phase records or the required review confirmation. The outstanding work focuses on completing and verifying the evidence.
Rso-1	Environment	Resource Strategy Development	3	Develop a Resource Efficiency Strategy and Action Plan (RESAP) outlining specific actions and initiatives to reduce resource use and waste generation on MHU1B.	Implement the adopted measures to achieve the targets.	Maintain the asset.	The RESAP has been developed, and resource-efficiency risks and opportunities have been workshopped, with several measures adopted. Multidisciplinary workshop records, evidence of incorporation into design and the required review remain incomplete, so implementation against the full target has not yet been verified. Further sustainability and circular-economy opportunities are currently being investigated.
Rso-4	Environment	Resource Recovery and Management	3	Investigate measures to achieve: - More than 85% diversion of clean/inert excavation spoil from landfill. - More than 60% diversion of office and kitchen resource outputs from landfill. - More than 70% diversion of other inert and non-hazardous resource outputs from landfill. - Reduced creek-water use and reduced sediment and erosion-control material use through early batter stabilisation. - 90% of materials sourced within 100 km of the project.	Implement the adopted measures to achieve the targets.	Maintain the asset.	Significant design work has been undertaken to balance the earthworks to divert spoil from landfill. Recycling has been undertaken on site to reduce landfill inputs from office and kitchen facilities. Significant recycling of waste products has been undertaken including concrete demolition waste from bridge 4. Early stabilisation of the southern abutment of Bridge 1 was completed. Significant proportion of material inputs have all been sourced locally. Total figures tracking closely to 90% target.
Rso-6	Environment	Material Life Cycle Impact Measurement and Management	3	Investigate a 15% reduction in material life-cycle impacts compared with the base case.	Implement the reduction measures to achieve the target.	Maintain the asset.	Material-reduction initiatives have been incorporated into pavements, concrete structures and other design elements. The Base Case and detailed-design Actual Case material footprints are being finalised in the IS Materials Calculator to quantify these benefits across the infrastructure life cycle. The outcome remains to be confirmed following completion of the modelling, quantity substantiation and required sign-off.
Wat-1	Environment	Avoiding Water Use	3	Investigate a 20% reduction in total non-potable water use across the infrastructure life cycle compared with the base case.	Implement the reduction measures to achieve the target.	Maintain the asset.	This target remains ongoing, with water use being tracked on site. However, the verified base-case and actual or forecast water-use comparison is incomplete, so performance against the 20% reduction target cannot yet be calculated.
Wat-2	Environment	Appropriate Use of Water Sources	3	Investigate a 30% reduction in total potable water use across the infrastructure life cycle compared with the base case.	Implement the reduction measures to achieve the target.	Maintain the asset.	Potable water use is being tracked. However, the verified actual or forecast water-use comparison is incomplete. Actions are underway to complete the formal options assessment, whole-of-life payback analysis and SQP review, and to model the percentage of residual water demand being substituted by alternative sources. The outcome of Wat-2 is in progress.
Sta-1	Social	Stakeholder Engagement Strategy	4	Develop a stakeholder engagement strategy informed by local context and stakeholder characteristics. Involve stakeholders early enough to make meaningful impacts on design.	Implement construction-phase actions from the stakeholder engagement strategy.	Not applicable.	A stakeholder engagement strategy has been developed, and construction communications are ongoing, particularly public notification of traffic changes to the Monaro Highway and adjacent works at the Emergency Services Agency. The project team is working with iCBR to obtain and review pre-contract consultation records demonstrating how early stakeholder input informs material design decisions for the project. Additional evidence of the project's engagement governance, feedback and complaints processes, risk management and implementation arrangements is also being sought. Evidence recovery and review are actively progressing.
Sta-2	Social	Stakeholder Engagement and Impacts	4	Identify and confirm high-priority stakeholder issues and achieve stakeholder-informed outcomes for at least three high-priority issues.	Document stakeholder input on high-priority issues, communicate the actions addressing those issues and obtain stakeholder acknowledgement.	Not applicable.	The project has consulted the adjacent ESA and Alexander Maconochie Centre on noise and vibration issues, and control measures are incorporated into the onsite construction methodology. Evidence relating to stakeholder involvement in landscape and tree-protection measures, endorsement of Indigenous artwork, stakeholder-related design changes and construction traffic monitoring is under review against the credit criteria. Additional records supplied by iCBR are also being assessed to verify the connection between each priority issue, stakeholder input, project response and stakeholder acknowledgement.
Her-1	Social	Heritage Protection and Enhancement	4	Undertake a heritage assessment that includes community and key stakeholder values. Consult on potential heritage impacts, establish an unexpected-finds monitoring system, provide heritage training and investigate design that maintains tangible and intangible heritage assets and values.	Implement measures to minimise adverse heritage impacts, implement the monitoring system and provide site-specific heritage awareness training.	Maintain the asset.	Heritage assessments and pre-construction archaeological investigations within the project site have been completed in consultation with relevant stakeholders. Potential Archaeological Deposit investigations have been endorsed by the ACT Heritage Council, and heritage requirements are incorporated into project inductions and implemented through the CEMP. Consultation with relevant stakeholders also informs the development of Indigenous heritage enhancement elements within the project design. Based on this progress and the supporting evidence, the project's target has been increased to a Level 3.