SNOWY MONARO REGIONAL COUNCIL

Part 5 Environmental Assessment Template (*NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act1979*)

Assessment completed by:	Pam Vipond	**Date:**	18th June 2024
Council designation:	Environmental Technical Officer		
Qualifications:	Bachelor of Applied Science		
Assessment reviewed by: *Note:* *the primary reviewer should be a qualified planner who is not associated with the project*	Sorrell Rangiihu	**Date:**	29/10/2024
Council designation:			

Location Name:	Cowbed Bridge, Rocky Plains Road	**Asset No:**	**J/N#** **Conquest N#**
Chainage:		**Datum:**	**Segment No:**
Location Description:	Adjoining Lot 116 DP 756698, Bypass location Lot 5 DP 830794 Cowbed Bridge, Rocky Plains Road, Berridale, NSW, 2628 (Refer Map 1)		

Project Description:

Overview

Cowbed Bridge was constructed in 1950 in association with the proposed Eucumbene Dam (1956 – 1958). Remediation to the deck supports was undertaken in 2013. Despite remediation works, the structure did not meet levels of services and was assessed as being 12 tonne load limit.

A further bridge assessment report was undertaken in 2016 and it was determined the structure is failing.

The Bridge repair is funded under NSW Election funding 2024.

Works are proposed to be undertaken in two stages. Stage One will be the construction of the bypass downstream of the existing structure. Stage Two will be the construction of a new bridge.

Bridge replacement is funded under NSW Election funding commitment in 2024.

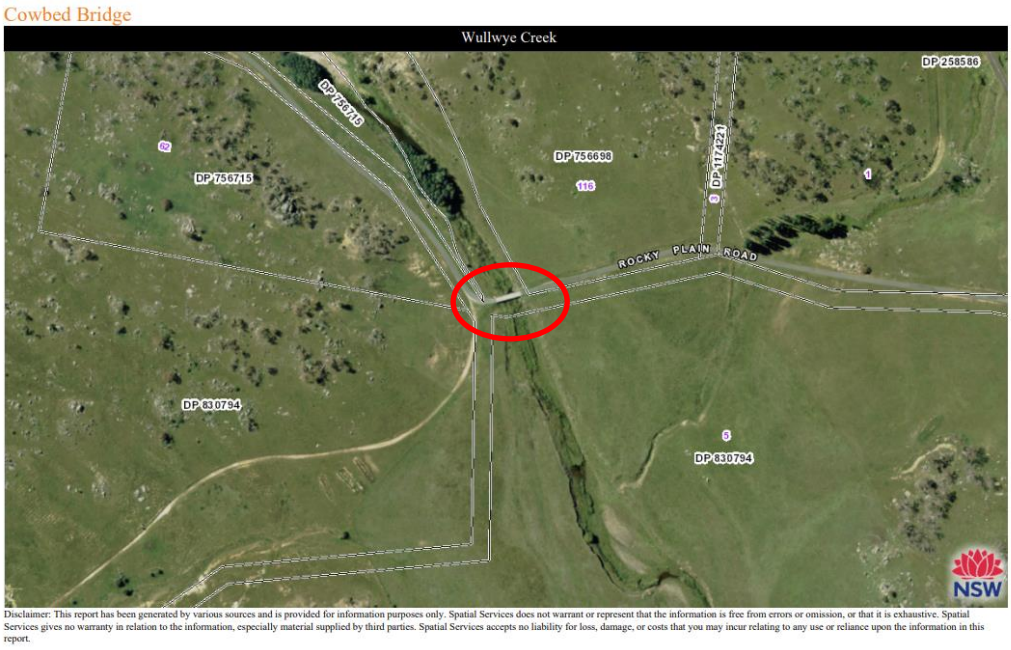
Whilst this report covers both the environmental impacts for the bypass and the bridge construction, the bridge Design Plan is at concept only. The concept Design footprint is unlikely to change. An amendment to this report will be sent through to the SMRC Planning Team and DPI Fisheries once the Final Design Plan for bridge construction is submitted.

The reason for submitting this report now is the bypass construction is a specialised activity and the contractor undertaking works has all his machinery within the area for other works currently being undertaken for Council.

Description of the environment
This is a fairly modified environment due to road and other infracstructure. The area has experienced increased subdivision which also impacts ecosystems. Wullwye Creek has also been impacted by the before-mentioned. Some sections of the Creek are relatively intact for example upstream in the gorge type country. There is evidence of sedimentation upstream of the bridge as the Cumbungi (Typha sp)covers the entire watercourse. Downstream is mostly absent of native species, this may be due to the fact neither upstream or downstream are fenced from stock.

The zoning at this location is RU5 Large Lot Residential to the south and RU1 Primary Production to the north.

Map 1. Project location



Scope/list of tasks
Stage 1 (Commencing ASAP once approvals given)

- Construct bypass downstream of existing bridge as per design by STREETER Civil Engineering Services Pty Ltd
- Bypass location approximately 25m downstream of the existing bridge at the narrowest section of the existing creek.

Stage 2 (Expected to commence late January early February)

- Site establishment
- Demolision of existing bridge
- Construct new bridge as per design by Tambo Constructions Pty Ltd
- Upgrade approach roads

Alternatives to undertaking the works
There are two alternatives to the Proposal.

Option One
Close the bridge and detour all traffic. The detour is approximately 50 km and would be acceptable for road users and emergency services.

Option Two
Continue maintenance as required. The load limit will continue to deteriorate without significant increased maintenance. This would also not meet required levels of community services.

Expected project time frame
Stage One
Works are expected to commence late October early November and will take up to 4 working weeks.
Stage Two
Works are expected to commence December 2024 and take up to 3 ½ working months.

Legislation
Works are 'Permitted with consent' in both R5 and RU1 zones as per the Snowy River LEP 2013.

Works are 'Development permitted without consent' under the SEPP (Infrastructure and Transport) 2021.

Under Section 71 of the *Roads Act 1993* 'a road authority may carry out work on any public road for which it is the roads authority and on any other land under its control'.

This assessment has been prepared as per Part 5 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

Location and site maps:	Included in this report
Drawing No(s):	Bypass construction (STREETER Civil Engineering Services Pty Ltd) Bridge construction (Tambo Constructions Pty Ltd)
List of photographs:	Included in this report
List of environmental assessments:	Nil required
List of environmental checks:	BVM, NVRM, SEED (BioNet, NSW Vegetation, Heritage), AHIMS database searches + Snowy Monaro LEP, SMRC DCP
List of permits:	Fisheries Permit required for works
Legislation	✓ *Fisheries Management Act 1994* (S 201, S219) ☐ *Water Management Act 2000* (S89, S90, S91) ☐ *Heritage Act 1977* (S58) (see Schedules 1 & 6 of CMSC LEP) ☐ *NPWS Act 1974* (S90) ☐ *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* (S43 which then leads you to other sections if applicable) ☐ *Roads Act 1993* (S138)
Comments/notes:	

A determining authority shall consider the effect of an activity on any conservation agreement/s entered into under any legislation.

Note: A title search should be undertaken for the land parcel on which the activity will be undertaken.

Comment: A search of the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) revealed there are no conservation agreements in place within this locality.

The Section 5.5 of the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979*, requires a duty to consider environmental impact:

(1) For the purpose of attaining the objects of this Act relating to the protection and enhancement of the environment, a determining authority in its consideration of an activity shall, notwithstanding any other provisions of this Act or the provisions of any other Act or of any instrument made under this or any other Act, examine and take into account to the fullest extent possible all matters affecting or likely to affect the environment by reason of that activity.

Comment: The existing environment is modified due to infrastructure and surrounding land management. The environmental impacts associated with The Proposal are considered to minimal however consideration has been given to all potential impacts associated with each activity under The Proposal.

The greatest impacts will be in association with the driving of the piles for both the bypass and bridge construction. The piles are 250 UC and only two will actually be within the watercourse for the bypass construction.

The Concept Plan for the bridge construction is very unlikely to change significantly. At this stage there will be x 6 piles driven into the watercourse. The piles are 457 DIA x 12.7mm. The other x 6 piles are out of the watercourse which is one of the reasons this Design was successful. Controls to manage sediment in association with driving the piles will be submitted by the contractor PRIOR to works commencing.

Mitigation for all activities will be outlined throught this report.

(3) Without limiting subsection (1), a determining authority shall consider the effect of an activity on any wilderness area (within the meaning of the Wilderness Act 1987) in the locality in which the activity is intended to be carried on.

Note: The only declared wilderness areas within the SMRC LGA are within Kosciusko National Park, namely Pilot Wilderness and Byadbo Wilderness.

Comment: There are no declared Wilderness areas within this locality.

The Part 7 of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* requires duty to consider whether the proposed development or activity is likely to significantly affect threatened species or ecological communities, or their habitats:

The following is to be taken into account for the purposes of determining whether a proposed development of activity is likely to significantly affect threatened species or ecological communities, or their habitats:

(a) in the case of threatened species, whether the proposed development or activity is likely to have an adverse effect on the life cycle of the species such that a viable population of the species is likely to be placed at risk of extinction,

Comment: According to the SEED database (BioNet) spatial layer there are recorded sightings of the Dusky Woodswallow and White Throated Needletail.

The Dusky Woodswallow *(Artamus cyanoperterus cyanopturs)* is listed a Vulnerable under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*.

The dusky woodswallow is a medium-sized bird 16-19.5 cm in length with a longish tail. Colouring is mostly dark grey-brown, merging to blackish on the tail, with a small black-

brown mask. The bill is bluish with a black tip. Upper-wings are a dark blue-grey with a white leading edge. Conspicuous white corners on the tail. In flight the dark grey-brown under-body contrasts with the whitish under-wing.

Juveniles may be distinguished by white streaking on the body and whitish tips on wing feathers. Immature individuals are similar to adults but retain pale-tipped wing feathers. No seasonal variation in appearance is evident, and sexes are alike. Calls consist of brassy chirps, chirups, a soft low 'vut vut' and a brisk 'peet peet'. Also known to mimic other birds, including the rufous whistler and grey shrike-thrush.

The dusky Woodswallow primarily inhabit dry, open eucalypt forests and woodlands, including mallee associations, with an open or sparse understorey of eucalypt saplings, acacias and other shrubs, and ground-cover of grasses or sedges and fallen woody debris. This species has has also been recorded in shrublands, heathlands and very occasionally in moist forest or rainforest. Also found in farmland, usually at the edges of forest or woodland.

Food source is primarily invertebrates, mainly insects, which are captured whilst hovering or sallying above the canopy or over water. Also frequently hovers, sallies and pounces under the canopy, primarily over leaf litter and dead timber. Food source can occasionally include nectar, fruit and seed.

The dusky Woodswallow can be a year round resident or migratory depending on climatic conditions, predominatnly temperature and rainfall. Migration occurs from March – May with NSW residents heading north after breeding, Tasmanian residents also head north into NSW. Mirgration south occurs in spring for the next breeding season.

Generally breeding is in solitary pairs, occasionally small flocks. Large flocks can form around good winter food sources. Large flocks can also form prior to migration. Migration often occurs with other species.

The nest is an open, cup-shape and made from twigs, grass, fibrous rootlets and occasionally casuarina needles. Nests may be lined with grass, rootlets or infrequently horsehair, occasionally unlined. Nest sites vary greatly, but generally occur in shrubs or low trees, living or dead, horizontal or upright forks in branches, spouts, hollow stumps or logs, behind loose bark or in a hollow in the top of a wooden fence post. Nest sites may be exposed or well concealed by foliage.

Although Dusky Woodswallows have large home ranges, individuals may spend most of their time in a 2 ha range and will defend an area approximately 50m around their nest.

Listed Threats to the dusky woodswallow

- Historical and ongoing loss of woodlands and dry open sclerophyll forests, including mallee because of agriculture, mining, forestry and residential development.
- Reduction in area, and increased isolation of patches of remnant woodland and open forest.
- Ongoing degradation of habitat through the loss of dead timber, removal of coarse woody debris and other disturbances of the ground layer.
- Aggressive exclusion by over abundant noisy miners.
- Reduction in the availability of food resources due to overgrazing and loss of leaf litter.
- Lack of knowledge within the community regarding the species and its habitat requirements.
- Habitat degradation from invasion by weeds including exotic grasses and woody weeds, and inappropriate land uses.

Proposed works will not involve any of the above listed threats identified with the Dusky Woodswallow. There is very limited habitat features for nest construction within the site footprint. There are no mature trees and limited shrubs within the immediate surrounds. No nests were sighted within the shrubs closer to the road (not within the site footprint). The groundcover at this locatily offers food sources and whilst there will be impacts to some groundcover for approache works (both bypass and new bridge), there is abundant 'like' groundcover in the immediate and broader surrounds which will not be impacted by proposed works.

Proposed works are highly unlikely to have impacts on any Dusky Woodswallows utilising this site for food or water sources.

The White-throated needletail *(Hirundapus caudactutus)* is listed as Vulnerable under the NSW *Biodiversity Conservation Act* and Commonwealth *Environment Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.*

The White-throated Needletail is a swift with falcon like shape and a large wingspan (approx. 50cm) and short square tail. This species is mostly dark with a white throat, thus the name. Short spines extend beyond the feathers of the tail.

This species is migratory species with arrival in Australia from October to April prior to storms. Found more commonly in eastern Australia with a preference for coastal areas.

Given this species is an aerial bird, it was thought this species did not land whilst in Australia. It has now been confirmed via radio-tracking that these birds will roost in trees.

Threats to this species are listed as vegetation clearing and strike from windfarms.

No trees will be removed in assocaiton with the construction of the bypass or the new bridge. There are some mature native tree species in the proximity of proposed works. The nearest mature tree is a Black Sallee *(Eucalyptus stellulata)* is approximately 70m upstream of the existing bridge (refer photograph 7). There are remnant patches of mature trees in the surrounding hills (refer photographs 1, 2, 9, 12).

Proposed works are highly unlikely to impact on this migratory species. Whilst proposed works are programmed for their arrival in Australia, if they do visit this locality roosting trees will not be impacted by proposed works.

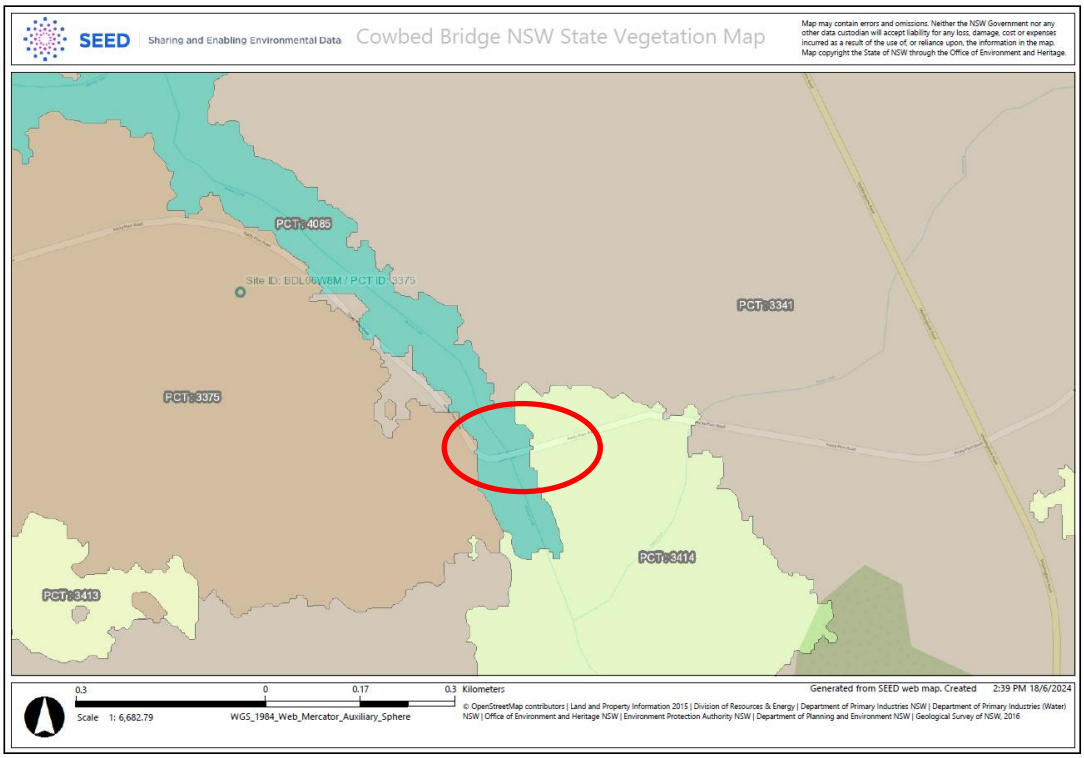
(b) in the case of endangered ecological community or critically endangered ecological community, whether the proposed development or activity:

(i) is likely to have adverse effect on the extent of the ecological community such that its local occurrence is likely to be placed at risk or extinction, or

Comment: According to the SEED NSW Vegetation spatial layer there are two listed EEC's mapped within this locality, those being PCT 3414 and PCT 3341. Refer Map 2.

PCT3375 Monaro-Queanbeyan Rolling Hills Grassy Forest and PCT4085 Southwest Tableland Gorges Riparian Shrubland are mapped within this locality but are not listed as Endangered Ecological Communities (EEC).

Map 2 NSW State Vegetation Map



PCT 3414 relates to the Commonwealth Natural Temperate Grassland of the South Eastern Highlands TEC where a patch meets condition thresholds as per Section 1.5 of the Conservation Advice.

This PCT is described as a tall to very tall grassland on undulating terrain on the Monaro Tableland in south-east New South Wales. The dense ground cover is typically comprised of grasses, forbs and some twiners. Poa sieberiana is almost always present, Chrysocephalum apiculatum, Austrostipa scabra and Acaena ovina are very frequent and Elymus scaber, Themeda triandra, Enneapogon nigricans, Bothriochloa macra, Brachyscome dentata, Scleranthus diander, Vittadinia muelleri, Convolvulus angustissimus and Asperula conferta are all commonly occurring. This PCT is sometimes very weedy and has a low species richness, possibly as a result of a long history of grazing and the cold, harsh environment in which it occurs.

It occurs on heavy clay soils, usually derived from basalt, alluvium or granitoids primarily in the eastern Monaro around the Cooma, Nimmitabel and Bombala area, with smaller occurrences around Adaminaby and south of Jindabyne. The environment of this region is cold and dry with a mean annual rainfall typically below 690 mm. Climatic extremes are also a feature of this environment, ranging from warm summer days to an average of 50 frost days per annum in the colder months. It is related floristically to PCT 3415 which is a grassland occurring in a somewhat milder environment in the Canberra region in which Poa sieberiana is rare.

There is no evidence of this PCT within the site footprint. As discussed previously the site is dominated by both Phalaris and African Lovegrass. Nil of the above mentioned native grasses or forbs were found on site. Refer site photographs 1 – 12.

PCT 3341 relates to the NSW Monaro Tableland Cool Temperate Grassy Woodland TEC.
A mid-high to tall sclerophyll grassy woodland to open forest of broad valley floors, footslopes and gentle hillslopes in undulating tableland landscapes of the Monaro and Kybeyan-Gourock subregions of the South Eastern Highlands bioregion, and in lower valleys of the adjacent Australian Alps. This PCT is known from along the Victorian border near

Delegate and Craigie, north to Captains Flat and Nithsdale, and west to Grosses Plain, Providence Portal and valleys around the Boboyan area of the southern ACT.

It occurs at elevations of generally 700-1350 metres asl, with means of 500-1050 mm annual precipitation and 30-80 frost days annually, primarily on granitoids and sandstones and occasionally on basalts, acid volcanics and other sedimentary and metasedimentary rocks.

A sparse to mid-dense canopy very frequently includes Eucalyptus pauciflora, occasionally with Eucalyptus rubida or rarely Eucalyptus viminalis or Eucalyptus stellulata. The sparse to very sparse shrub layer includes occasional scattered Bossiaea buxifolia, Mirbelia oxylobioides or Acacia dealbata. The ground layer is mid-dense to dense and is dominated by grasses, very frequently with a high cover of Themeda triandra and Poa sieberiana, and commonly including Elymus scaber, Microlaena stipoides and Poa labillardierei var. labillardierei. Common forbs include Scleranthus biflorus, Hydrocotyle laxiflora, Plantago varia, Hypericum gramineum, Geranium solanderi, Gonocarpus tetragynus, Dichondra repens, Glycine clandestina, Euchiton japonicus, Oxalis perennans and Acaena echinata.

There is no evidence of this PCT within the site footprint, as such there will be no impact to this listed TEC. Refer site photogrpahs 1 – 12.

Table 1 – Site photographs

 P1. Overview of existing bridge facing east	 P2. Location for bypass downstream in private lar
 P3. Location bypass will merge back with road on western side of the watercourse.	 P4. From western side of watercourse facing upstream

Groundcover dominated by Phalaris within road reserve and private land for bypass location.	
 P5. Inidcative riparian vegetation – Phalaris dominated	 P6. Facing upstream from western side of the watercourse. Groundcover within the riparian zone is dominated by Phalaris and African lovegrass.
 P7. Long view facing upstream – note Willows upstream and dense Typha across most of the watercourse	 P8. Upstream eastern channel with flowing water, western channel very slow, low flow due to dense Typha
 P9. Downstream view from bridge Red arrow indicates bypass location, high bank to high bank	 P10. Downstream larger pool expanding from under the bridge (P4) then watercourse narrows which is where the bypass will be

P11. Downstream side view of pool

P12. Location for campsite ie. Caravan for staff working on site (Note: circle indicative only so not to scale)

(ii) is likely to substantially and adversely modify the composition of the ecological community such that its local occurrence is likely to be paces at risk of extinction,

Comment: The mapped EEC's in the surrounding landscape are of very low quality and do not meet patch condition thresholds as per Section 1.5 of the Conservation Advice.

The poor quality of the once EEC is most likely due to years of grazing, subdivisions of land and associated infrastructure. The site footprint is even more degraded than the surrounding private land. Dominant species on site are Phalaris and African lovegrass with other weed species scattered (Great Mullein, St Johns Wort). Refer site photographs. Given the before-mentioned there is no risk of local extinction in association with proposed works.

(c) in relation to the habitat of a threatened species or ecological community:

(i) the extent to which habitat is likely to be removed or modified as a result of the proposed development or activity, and

Comment: No threatened flora were identified in site visits. The nearest recorded threatened flora is over 4km to the south.
Native species will utilise non-native habitat for food source and for shelter. No native shrubs will be removed for the construction of the bypass or the bridge upgrade. Non-native ground cover will be striped back for the bypass. There is abundant 'like' groundcover in the immediate and broader surrounds meaning food source and shelter will not be in short supply.

(ii) whether an area of habitat is likely to become fragmented or isolated from other areas of habitat as a result of the proposed development or activity, and

Comment: Habitat will not become fragmented or isolated. Refer previous comments.

(iii) the importance of the habitat to be removed, modified, fragmented or isolated to the long-term survival of the species or ecological community in the locality,

Comment: Proposed works are highly unlikely to impact on the long term survival of any species or ecological community. Whilst threatened species may utilise this site for foraging and access to water, the lack of habitat features (e.g. fallen timber, shrubs, mature trees) on site make it unlikely species would complete their life cycle within the propsosed site footprint.
The ecological community on site is already highly modified and dominated by introduced species. Proposed works will not result in further degradation of the site.

(d) whether the proposed development or activity is likely to have an adverse effect on any declared area of outstanding biodiversity value (either directly or indirectly),

Comment: There are no declared areas of outstanding biodiversity value as per Part 3 of the *Biodiversity Conservation Regulation 2017,* within this locality.

(e) whether the proposed development or activity is or is part of a key threatening process or is likely to increase the impact of a key threatening process.

Comment: Stage One for the bypass construction will impact some native grasses. The bypass location is downstream approximately 25m from the existing bridge and in private land. The private land is used for grazing, there are weed and pasture species present. Nil native herbs or forbes we recorded on each site visit. The lack of native herbs and forbs is potentially due to the dominance of Phalaris. Stock also have free access to the watercourse as there is no riparian fencing.

Stage Two for the bridge construction will have minimal impact on native groundcover or riparian/aquatic vegetation. The new approaches are dominated by Phalaris groundcover which has pretty much choked out all over vegetation. The new bridge alignment will go from high bank to high bank.

Proposed works are not considered to be an activity to increase the impact of a key threatening process.

For the purposes of Part 5 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, an activity is to be regarded as an activity likely to significantly affect the environment if it is likely to significantly affect threatened species.

Comment: The proposed works are not regarded as activities that will significantly affect the environment.
The bypass will go high bank to high bank, as will the new bridge. Impacts on the environment will be from the driving of the piles for both the bypass and bridge construction. The driven piles are 250 UC so have a very small footprint. Add to this most piles will not actually go in to the water as per Design Plans.

In that case, the environmental impact statement under Part 5 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 is to include or be accompanied by:

(a) a species impact statement, or

Comment: Not required.

(b) if the proponent so elects – a biodiversity development assessment report.

Comment: Not required.

Note. The determining authority is not required to consider the effect of an activity on biodiversity values if:

(a) the activity is to be carried out on biodiversity certified land (within the meaning of Part 1 of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*), or

(b) a biobanking statement has been issued in respect of the activity under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 and Biodiversity Regulation 2017*

***Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021*, Section 171, states:**

(1) When considering the likely impact of an activity on the environment, the determining authority must take into account the environmental factors specified in the environmental factors guidelines that apply to the activity.

(2) If there are no environmental factors guidelines in force, the determining authority must take into account the following environmental factors.

(a) any environmental impact on a community,

Comment: Traffic control will be implemented through the work site to ensure saftey to both onground workers and road users. The work site will have a reduced speed limit. The bypass will be single lane and road users may have to give way to oncoming traffic. Delays will be short i.e. less than 5 minutes. The bypass will remain insitu for duration of the new bridge construction works.

Whilst reduced speed and the potential to stop and wait for traffic will be ongoing throughout the works, the impact on community is considered to be low.

(b) any transformation of a locality,

Comment: Transformation of the locality will be minimal as the new bridge will have the same alignment. alignment.

(c) any environmental impact on the ecosystems of the locality,

Comment: As previously discussed, the proposed site footprint is within an aready highly modified environment. For Stage One only one pile will be driven into the actual watercourse. Stage Two involves driving six 457DIA x 12,7mm piles into the actual watercourse.
The contractor will be required to submit proposed sediment controls for driving of piles to both Council and DPI Fisheries PRIOR to works commencing. Works will not proceed until approval from both organisations has been given.

(d) any reduction of the aesthetic, recreational, scientific or other environmental quality or value of a locality,

Comment: Database searches have not revealed any 'significance' as listed above. As such there are no foreseen reduction in quality or value of the locality in association with proposed works.

(e) any effect on a locality, place or building having aesthetic, anthropological, archaeological, architectural, cultural, historical, scientific or social significance or other special value for present or future generations,

Note: see Aboriginal cultural heritage due diligence assessment at end

Comment: Database searches have not revealed any listings as per above.

There are no visible buildings within this location. Searches have been undertaken on the SEED portal, the AHIMS database and the Snowy River LEP with nil findings.

(f) any impact on the habitat of protected fauna (within the meaning of the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016),

Comment: Several wombat scats were found during each site visit. No wombat burrows were found within the site footprint. This would suggest wombats are accessing the watercourse at this location but potentially not permanent residents at this locality. Random macropod scats were also found but they were not as abundant as the wombat scats. Both species are highly mobile and will simply disperse if they felt threatened by plant and noise on site.

Habitat disturbance will be minimal. Several bypass options were considered and the chosen method is partly due to minimal environmental impact.

Disturbance will be to groundcover only which is dominated by Phalaris as can be seen by site photographs. Native fauna do utilise non-native groundcover for foraging and shelter. There is abundant 'like' groundcover in the immediate and broader surrounds meaning there will remain ample foraging and shelter opportunities.

(*g) any endangering of any species of animal, plant or other form of life, whether living on land, in water or in the air,*

Comment: As previously discussed the site footprint is dominated by Phalaris groundcover. There is abundant 'like' ground cover with in the surrounds. Phalaris will not recolonise the disturbed areas as disturbed areas will be replaced with new road and bridge construction.

(h) any long-term effects on the environment,

Comment: No long term effects have been identified on the environment. The existing bridge will be demolished and all materials taken from site. The bypass will be decommissioned and the site will be reshaped and sterile rye of the equivalent will be used to stabilise the disturbed areas.

The design for the new bridge construction will not impede flow events.

(i) any degradation of the quality of the environment,

Comment: As per previous comments, there should be no further degradation to the quality of the environment in association with proposed works.

The campsite and storage areas are within flat ground with non-native ground cover. Sediment controls will be implemented for pile boring (both for bypass and bridge construction). These controls will be monitored during works.

When the old bridge is to be demolished and apron of sediment fencing or geofabric will be placed under the bridge to ensure no debris falls into the watercourse.

(j) any risk to the safety of the environment,

Comment: Contractors on site will have a fully stocked spill kit on site throughout construction.

Contractors will be responsible for monitoring daily weather forecast and manage the site in accordance with any predicted weather events.

Contractors will be responsible for managing safety on the site for both workers and environment.

Weekly inpsections will ensure compliance with the above.

(k) any reduction in the range of beneficial uses of the environment,

Comment: The current use of this asset is road and road reserve. Usage will remain the same post proprosed works. As such there will be no reduction of beneficial use of the environment.

(l) any pollution of the environment,

Comment: All plant on site will be required to show proof of service maintenance schedules.

All hazardous materials on site will require SDS in hard copy to be located on site with all staff on site being inducted to their location.

(m) any environmental problems associated with the disposal of waste,

Comment: Were possible all materials will be re-used on site or taken back to the closest depot for use on another project.
Materials that can not be re-used or recycled will be stockpiled or loaded straight onto trucks to be taken to landfill. Stockpiles will have appropriate sediment controls in place and will be at least 40m from the watercourse.
Domestic rubbish from workers will be removed from site each day. A secure bin with a lid will be available within the compound.

(n) any increased demands on resources (natural or otherwise) that are, or are likely to become, in short supply,

Comment: All materials required for The Proposal will be brought to site. As such there will be no increased demand on local resources.

(o) any cumulative environmental effect with other existing or likely future activities,

Comment: Council does not have any programmed future works for this locality. Any future works would have an REF (Part 5 assessment) undertaken to identify environmental impacts.

(p) any impact on coastal processes and coastal hazards, including those under projected climate change conditions,

Comment: Not applicable.

(q) applicable local strategic planning statements, regional strategic plans or district strategic plans made under the Act Division 3.1

Comment: The Proposal does not conflict with any of the before-mentioned planning documents and plans.

(r) other relevant environmental factors

Comment: Nil identified.

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Aboriginal cultural heritage due diligence assessment – refer to the document
Due Diligence Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales
http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/cultureheritage/ddcop/10798ddcop.pdf

criteria	***comment***
1. Will the activity disturb the ground surface or culturally modified trees	There are no culturally modified trees on site. As previously discussed, groundcover will be disturbed. The site footprint has been heavily disturbed over the years due to infrastructure, subdivisions and land use such as grazing.
2. AHIMS database result and any other sources of information (previous studies, reports or surveys)	An AHIMS database search was undertaken for all lot/DP's adjoining the Proposal site. There are no recorded sites identified on the database.
3. Are there landscape features that are likely to indicate the presence of Aboriginal objects? - proposed activity within 200m of waters - located within a sand dune - located on a ridge top, ridge line or headland - located within 200m below or above a cliff face - within 20 m of or in a cave, rock shelter, or cave mouth Examples include but are not limited to: mountains, rock shelters, sand dunes, waterways, waterholes and wetlands.	The Proposal is within 200m of a watercourse. Bridge replacement works will occur within the watercourse. There are deep pools and gorge country approximately 1km upstream. These are well out of the scope of works footprint and will not be impacted by the Proposal.
4. Can you avoid harm to the object or disturbance to the landscape feature?	If any objects were found during construction, work will cease immediately. NSW Heritage will be contacted as will the Project Manager. Works will not recommence until the relevant expert from NSW Heritage has advised in writing works can recommence.

criteria	*comment*
5. If the activity is on land that is not disturbed or contains known Aboriginal objects, has a desktop assessment and visual inspection confirmed that there are Aboriginal objects or that they are likely?	AHIMS database searches of surrounding lot/DP revealed there are no recorded sites within this locality. Refer previous comments.

Chapter 3, Section 8 (1) of the *Local Government Act 1993* lists a set of principles that guide council in the carrying out of its functions. One of those principles is "to properly manage, develop, protect, restore, enhance and conserve the environment of the area for which it is responsible, in a manner that is consistent with and promotes the principles of ecologically sustainable development"

Does the proposed project comply with these principles?
Comment:

This proposal will result in upgrading the exiting bridge to a two land standard bridge which will be compliant with SM1600 Standards.

The Proposal will be cost effective for Council as ongoing maintenance will no longer be required.

The Proposal is cost effective for Council as works are predominantly funded by the NSW Government. The budget for the Proposal has been managed so efficiently that there was available funding for a high level bypass which will have minimal impact on the watercourse. If a bypass were to be constructed environmental impacts are often greater than for the actual construction project.