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Introduction

1.1 Introduction

The Orogen team is focussed on delivering environmental planning, assessment and management outcomes across a range of industry sectors. Orogen has the core skills and experience to deliver customised solutions to clients for development and environmental approvals for projects in the following industry sectors:

- Land Subdivision;
- Residential/Industrial/Commercial Building;
- Transport Infrastructure;
- Energy Utilities Infrastructure;
- Water and Sewer Supply Infrastructure;
- Mining; and
- Extractive Industries.

We undertake projects for both private and public sector clients with a commitment to delivering our services on time and within budget.

Orogen is a vision led, purpose-orientated, values-based organisation. Our vision is being the most acclaimed environmental consultancy in Australia. Orogen's purpose is to deliver innovative solutions for the built and natural environment.

We believe that companies have to live their values. Our values of Client Focus; Talk Straight; Mutual Benefit; Empower and Trust; and Team, drive all aspects of our organisation.

Environmental Planning

2.1 Overview of Relevant Planning Instruments

Orogen's environmental planning staff have detailed working knowledge of Local, State and Commonwealth planning legislation, regulations and policies as related to a wide range of development, infrastructure, extractive industry and mining projects. We can provide detailed and informative advice on the implications of the specific legislation listed below for your project.

In NSW, the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act)* forms the statutory planning basis for all planning and environmental assessments of projects. In addition, the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000* provides the detail of the controls articulated in the legislation. From this Act, the various State Environmental Planning Policies (SEPPs), Regional Environmental Plans (REPs) and Local Environmental Plans (LEPs) are derived, which convey land use controls that are the basis for land use planning in NSW.

Other relevant legislation that may regularly affect projects, in the context of environmental and planning assessment, includes the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*, *Fisheries Management Act 1994*, *Water Management Act 2000*, *Rivers and Foreshores Improvement Act 1948*, as well as their associated regulations and SEPP's that may be relevant, depending on the nature of the project.

In Queensland, the *Integrated Planning Act 1997 (IPA Act)* forms the basis for development planning and environmental planning works. The *IPA Act* ties Local and State Government planning mechanisms together through the Integrated Development Assessment System (IDAS), aiming to provide assessment unity between State and Local regulatory agencies. The Planning Schemes of Local Government control development activities on a local scale, while state planning instruments such as the *South East Queensland Regional Plan (OUM, 2005)*, the Regional Coastal Management Plans of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the *Nature Conservation (Koala) Conservation Plan 2006 and Management Program 2006-2016 (EPA, 2006)* and the Department of Natural Resources and Water's (NRW) Concurrence Agency Policies for Material Change of Use and Reconfiguring a Lot are examples of important instruments in guiding regional and state development from an environmental assessment and management perspective.

Legislation relevant to the environmental planning of Queensland projects includes the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*, *Vegetation Management Act 1999*, *Fisheries Act 1994* and the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*. A number of State Planning Policies (SPP's) may also be relevant to a given project.

At the Commonwealth level, the main planning instrument affecting environmental planning is the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act)*. The *EPBC Act* requires that assessment must be performed to determine if approval is required for:

- Actions that have a significant impact on matters of National Environmental Significance (NES);
- Actions that have a significant impact on the environment of Commonwealth land; and
- Actions carried out by the Commonwealth Government.

In addition, this legislation covers all matters that come under Commonwealth jurisdiction, by way of obligations to international treaties, Commonwealth policy and matters that have the potential to impact across State boundaries.

2.2 Biodiversity Banking and Offsets

Biodiversity Banking legislation is currently being implemented in NSW. Biodiversity Banking is an effective tool that enables development impacts to be offset purchase by biodiversity credits.

Orogen has a detailed understanding of the current legislation in NSW and is currently working with land developers and infrastructure providers in NSW to develop strategies for the implementation and recommendation of their lands under a Biodiversity Banking scheme.

In NSW we operate as a qualified biobanking broker.

In Qld Orogen is at the forefront of Environmental Offsets policy development and changes to existing specific-issue offsets policies including vegetation management offsets and has negotiated a number of offsetting arrangements to the satisfaction of clients and authorities.

Orogen can provided detailed advice and reporting to satisfy the requirements of the legislation and work closely with clients to identify opportunities for developers and infrastructure providers to maximise the benefits of this legislation in the context of their strategic business objectives. Our services include:

- Advice on legislative controls and compliance requirements;
- Identification of offset opportunities including land provision, habitat improvement and species improvement initiatives;
- Determination of habitat value and impact;
- Liaison with regulatory authorities to reach agreement on offsetting for development impact;



- Biobanking broking; and
- Management of vegetation and property improvement as part of agreed offsetting arrangements.

Environmental Assessment

3.1 Reviews of Environmental Factors

Orogen has extensive experience in the preparation of environmental assessments for infrastructure projects in the form of Review of Environmental Factors (REF).

All REF's are prepared in accordance with relevant legislation and regulations and include all relevant aspects of Government Authorities, landholder, community and other stakeholder consultation. They have been undertaken for a broad range of infrastructure clients and project types.

The majority of the REF's prepared have involved detailed community consultation, including both the general community and affected landholders, where the acquisition of land for easements has been required. This consultation has involved detailed negotiation surrounding easement location, size and land valuation/compensation process. Government Agency consultation is always undertaken for all projects to ensure that all issues are dealt with at the assessment phase of the project, to ensure that no 'show stopper' issues are raised at a late stage of the assessment process.

Orogen has extensive experience in consultation with all types of stakeholders on these projects. Carefully planned and managed consultation is essential to the success of any infrastructure project. Critical pathway analyses of projects indicates that on many occasions, effective and comprehensive consultation is the critical issue that can 'make or break' a project, in particular, where land acquisition for easements is required.

3.2 Ecological Assessment

Orogen has extensive expertise in the provision of ecological assessment services to a variety of clients in both the private and public sectors of Queensland and New South Wales. Orogen's team of ecological professionals work closely with other technical disciplines to ensure that an integrated approach is taken to all projects.

The focus of our ecological services is to provide innovative solutions to achieve the highest level of outcomes for our client, the environment and wider community, in accordance with Local, State and Commonwealth guidelines and regulations.

Our ecological assessment services include:

- Comprehensive terrestrial and aquatic flora and fauna surveys and monitoring;
- Targeted Threatened species surveys;
- Macro-invertebrate sampling and monitoring;

- Vegetation community and fauna mapping;
- Section 5A assessments (7 Part Tests) in accordance with the NSW *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*;
- Flora and Fauna Species Impact Statements;
- SEPP 44 Koala Habitat Protection (NSW) and The Nature Conservation (Koala) Conservation Plan 2006 and Management Program 2006-2016 (QLD) Koala assessments and Koala management plans;
- Pre-clearing surveys, vegetation clearing management plans and clearing supervision for works approved under the *Native Vegetation Act 2003* (NSW) and *Vegetation Management Act 1999* (QLD);
- Groundtruthing and correction of Remnant Regional Ecosystem mapping (QLD); and
- Ecological Site Assessments.

The majority of flora and fauna assessments and associated works undertaken are within the context of a larger reporting framework, for example Environmental Impact Statements or Review of Environmental Factors for land/urban development and infrastructure projects.

3.3 Environmental Assessments

Orogen has demonstrated an extensive experience in undertaking Environmental Impact Statements and Environmental Assessments (*NSW Part 3A Major Projects*) for a range of infrastructure, industrial, residential and natural resource management projects. In addition to drawing on comprehensive in-house expertise across a range of scientific disciplines, the company also has established working partnerships with a number of high-level professionals in specialist fields of assessment.

These capabilities and partnerships enable assessments to be completed to a standard that facilitates informed decision making by consent authorities and also withstands scrutiny from external stakeholders.

Environmental Management

4.1 Environmental Management Plans

Environmental Management Plans (EMP's) are prepared in accordance with relevant Local, State and Commonwealth legislation. These plans can include documented and computer-based protocols for managing maintenance and operational requirements, as well as links to statutory reporting requirements.

Orogen has prepared numerous Environmental Management Plans within the development and infrastructure sectors for a wide variety of projects.

4.2 Ecological Management Plans

In many instances, mitigation strategies are built into a proposed development in order to minimise the impact of the development. Formal documentation of the mitigation strategies in an Ecological Management Plan is an important part of the process, as it formalises the works, procedures and responsibilities required to undertake the mitigation. The Plans also often form part of the Conditions of Consent of the project.

Orogen has prepared numerous Ecological Management Plans for a wide variety of projects across the development, infrastructure and mining sectors. The plans vary in their content and intent depending upon project scope. Some examples of these plans include:

- Flora and fauna management plans;
- Impact amelioration, site rehabilitation, habitat enhancement and revegetation programs;
- Environmental awareness and induction training programs; and
- Feral animal management and monitoring plans/programs.

4.3 Bushfire Hazard Management

Bushfire impacts upon Australian communities is an issue of increasing importance. State Governments are proactively introducing guidelines for the protection of new development from bushfire events.

Orogen specialises in the provision of consulting advice on the management of bushfire risk for all types of development and infrastructure activities. Our understanding of policy requirements and the application of knowledge gained through field assessment enable us to deliver solutions for the protection of development and infrastructure assets from bushfire.

Our bushfire hazard assessment services include:

- Assessment of risk in accordance with NSW and QLD State Planning Policy;
- Determination of Asset Protection Zone widths;
- Determination of Construction Standards in accordance with AS 3959-1999;
- Development of fire mitigation risk strategies;
- Preliminary concept design assessment for land/urban subdivision; and
- Assessment of ecological issues if required.

4.4 Water and Soils Management

Arguably the single most important environmental management issue in Australia today, the sustainable use and management of water resources is often a critical component of land, urban, industrial and infrastructure development projects. Orogen's team of environmental specialists can provide solutions for integrated water management and sustainable water use that provide beneficial outcomes for receiving environments and cost efficiencies for the project.

The gradual development of coastal lowland for urban and industrial uses has presented new challenges for the sustainable management of soil resources, in particular the management of acid sulfate soils. Orogen can provide expert soils management advice in the planning and development phases of all projects, provide field testing and prepare management plans that meet all statutory and regulatory requirements, which contain and manage the risk to receiving waters posed by acid sulphate soils.

Orogen is also a member of the Australian Water Association and accredited in Queensland to carry out water efficiency assessments for industry.

Our water and soils assessment services include:

- Conceptual integrated water management planning;
- Preparation of soil and water management plans for land subdivisions and industrial development applications;
- Provision of advice on water savings initiatives;
- Water demand analysis and efficiency evaluation;
- Comprehensive site soils assessment; and
- Acid sulfate soils identification and management plans.

Company Details

5.1 Management Philosophy

Underpinning our organisational purpose is a solid business platform designed to deliver excellence across technical capabilities, work flow systems and stakeholder relationships. The key elements of the business platform are summarised below.

Customer Focus

Orogen is committed to building partnerships with our clients that help them achieve success by delivering outcomes that meet their business needs now and in the future. We do this by developing and understanding of our clients' needs and working together with them to develop solutions that will help them to achieve their goals.

Technical Support

Orogen has implemented technology-enabled project management and business management systems that enable staff to work remotely while being able to call on the support of Orogen organisational resources.

Employer of Choice

Orogen is committed to building motivated and empowered teams who work with our clients to deliver exceptional project outcomes. To attract and retain people who are committed to our purpose and values, we focus on creating a work environment that offers achievement, responsibility and personal growth.

Orogen has comprehensive OH&S policy and procedures in place for all our works. A copy of our OH&S Policy Statement and Table of Contents from our OH&S Manual can be provided upon request.

5.2 Total Quality Management

Quality certified to AS/NZS ISO 9001, Orogen has in place a continuous improvement program to ensure that our services are relevant and practical.

Orogen Pty Ltd currently holds third party certification to the level of AS/NZS ISO 9001:2000, provision of environmental consultancy services.

The Orogen Quality System is a digital system. All documentation is available to staff within our corporate intranet and all Quality Systems records are maintained in an interactive, rather than static, digital format.

5.3 Company Insurances

The following relevant insurance policies are currently held by Orogen:

- Public and Products Liability
- Workers Compensation Insurance
- Professional Indemnity Insurance

Copies of each of the abovementioned policies can be provided upon request.

5.4 Contact Information

Mid North Coast

Tony Fish

Suite 4, 11 Manning Street
Tuncurry NSW 2428

tel: 02 6555 3577

fax: 02 6555 3599

email: mnc@orogen.com.au

Gold Coast

Nelson Wills

Shop 3,
2190 Gold Coast Highway
Miami QLD 4220

tel: 07 5575 2665

fax: 07 5575 3565

email: gc@orogen.com.au

Toowoomba

Des Wheeler

Suite 10, 123 Margaret Street
Toowoomba QLD 4350

tel: 07 4638 5021

fax: 07 4638 5026

email: twmba@orogen.com.au

Project Management

6.1 Client Focus

Orogen recognises the critical needs of our clients for the delivery of projects on time and within budget. Competent project management enables these objectives to be met.

Orogen has adopted a project management system that defines the way our people manage projects. Our project management principles are aligned with the National Competency Standards for Project Management as endorsed by the Australian Institute of Project Management.

Orogen has adopted a project management system that defines the way our people will manage projects. In all projects, Orogen develops a close working relationship with the client and sets agreed aims and objectives early in the project. Early client involvement ensures that shared agreement is established around project objectives and critical success factors; risks are properly assessed, and responsibilities and resource requirements are agreed. For some projects sub-consultants will be assembled to provide specialist project input with the view of providing a better service to the client. Sub-consultants are required to meet the requirements of our Quality System.

Through our commitment to service and sustainability-based outcomes, we have created ongoing relationships with a number of Government and private organisations. These relationships demonstrate our commitment to client service and the outcomes in terms of approvals.

6.2 Cost and Time Management through the Project Plan

The following methodology is used on all Orogen projects, which ensures that our services are delivered to the client on cost and within time constraints.

At the commencement of each project a Project Plan is prepared. The Project Plan outlines the project objectives and expected outcomes and puts the methodology into a working program which details the tasks, resources, timeframe and budget required to complete the project.

Orogen is a team based organisation. On project commencement, the Project Director briefs the Orogen project team members so that they understand the project and their contribution towards the achievement of outcomes. The Project Director allocates the task to the various team members and is then directly responsible for monitoring the progress of the work.

The Project Director provides regular progress reports to our client so that any problems that may affect the project will be identified and resolved early. On project completion the Project Director will seek feedback from the client. Client feedback is then shared with the Project Team for the purpose of acknowledgement of project outcomes and continuous improvement.