

## **ROADS (SCOTLAND) ACT 1984**

### **A9 TRUNK ROAD (KINCRAIG TO DALRADDY)**

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT - DECISION TO PROCEED WITH PROJECT**

The Scottish Ministers give notice that they have decided to proceed with a project for the dualling of the A9 Trunk Road (Kincraig to Dalraddy) (“the Project”) and that they have complied with their obligations under paragraph 7(1A) of Schedule 1 to the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984.

The general effect of the project is to provide for the improvement and construction of a new length of the M9/A9 Edinburgh – Stirling – Thurso Trunk Road between Kincraig and Dalraddy in the vicinity of the Alvie Estate, Highlands, by widening and reconstructing the existing single carriageway to form a new dual carriageway section.

The Ministers determined that the Project falls within Annex II to Directive 2011/92/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment. Directive 2011/92/EU repealed and recast the provisions contained in Council Directive 85/337/EEC as amended by Council Directive 97/11/EC, Directive 2003/35/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council and Directive 2009/31/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council. They have prepared an Environmental Statement which was published on 1 November 2013.

Objections to the Project and Orders required for the Project were lodged. These objections were not from a class of objectors that would make the holding of a Public Local Inquiry mandatory.

In reaching the decision to proceed with the Project the Scottish Ministers have carefully considered -

- (a) the need for the project,
- (b) the objections to the draft orders that were made and not withdrawn,
- (c) the Environmental Statement, and
- (d) all opinions on that statement expressed in writing by the consultation bodies and any other persons.

The Ministers have considered the proposal for the construction of the Project, the temporary and permanent effects on the environment, the committed mitigation measures set out in the Environmental Statement together with the written comments received from consultees. Taking these factors into account, the Ministers have determined that the measures proposed within the Environmental Statement will be sufficient to mitigate significant adverse effects on the environment. The Ministers have further determined that issues raised by consultees can be readily dealt with as the construction works proceed.

The following requirements will be adhered to during the works –

- Land take has been limited in the vicinity of important cultural heritage sites to minimise loss of existing vegetation and habitat. Further temporary land requirements for site compounds will be controlled in those areas.
- The Contractor will produce a Construction Environmental Management Plan to include best practice in the control of dust, noise and vibration, general pollution control, and minimising disturbance to watercourses and wildlife and will otherwise take all reasonable steps to minimise disturbance and nuisance.

- A Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS) will be constructed to improve the quality of road runoff.
- Construction will be phased to ensure continual access to adjacent property and businesses.
- Occupation of the existing A9 by the Contractor during the works will be minimised to minimise disruption during construction
- Improvements will be made to bridge and underpass crossings and provision made for dry culverts for safe crossing of the A9 by vehicles, pedestrians, mammals and fish.
- Planting of compensation wet woodland, other woodland and wildflower meadow will be undertaken to mitigate habitat and landscape losses.
- The programme of ecological mitigation works will be undertaken to avoid sensitive periods for wildlife.

All measures which will be taken to avoid, reduce and if possible offset any major adverse effects of the Project are as set out in the Environmental Statement published on 1 November 2013 and available on Transport Scotland's website at [www.transportscotland.gov.uk](http://www.transportscotland.gov.uk).

ANY PERSON or GROUP who desires to challenge the validity of the decision may make an application as regards that validity to the Court of Session, within such time period as that Court may in its discretion allow.



A member of the staff of the Scottish Ministers

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