

North East Link Early Works Independent Environmental Auditor Six-Monthly Summary Report: February to July 2024 for Submission to the Minister for Planning

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Glossary of Terms and Abbreviations

Table E.1: Glossary of abbreviations

Abbreviation	Expanded form
CCP	Construction Compound Plan
CEMP	Construction Environmental Management Plan
CPB	CPB Contractors Pty Ltd
EES	Environment Effects Statement
EMF	Environmental Management Framework
EPR	Environmental Performance Requirement
EW	Early Works
FTE	Full-time equivalent
IEA	Independent Environmental Auditor
MTIA	The Major Transport Infrastructure Authority
MTM	Matro Trains Melbourne
NEL	North East Link
NELEW	North East Link Early Works
NELP	North East Link Program
RAW	Rail Advance Works
UDLP	Urban Design and Landscape Plans
WEMP	Worksite Environmental Management Plan

Table E.2: Glossary of terms

Term	Description
Incorporated Document	The North East Link Project Incorporated Document, December 2019.
Independent Environmental Auditor	Independent Environmental Auditor appointed pursuant to the Environmental Management Framework (EMF) approved by the Minister for Planning. For the North East Link Early Works (NELEW), Nation Partners Pty Ltd (Nation Partners) has been engaged as the IEA.
Major Transport Infrastructure Authority	The Major Transport Infrastructure Authority (MTIA) is the proponent for the Project. The MTIA is an administrative office within the Victorian Department of Transport with responsibility for overseeing major transport projects.
Managing Contractor or contractor	Contractor managing a package of works associated with the North East Link Project. For the NELEW and Bulleen Park and Ride, the Managing Contractor is CPB Contractors Pty Ltd (CPB) (unless otherwise specified).
Program or North East Link	The North East Link Project approved under the Incorporated Document.
NELEW	North East Link Early Works (NELEW) is the first package of works for the Project, comprising the design development and potential modification, relocation and/or protection of utility services which will be impacted, or are in proximity to the main North East Link works. Unless otherwise stated, these works are being delivered by the main NELEW contractor. Additional works beyond the original scope have also been awarded to the NELEW contractor, such as delivery of the Bulleen Park and Ride (refer to Section 1.2.2 for further details of works included within the NELEW).

Non-contestable works	Non-contestable works are those works related to the Project that are controlled directly by a utility service provider and its contractors, rather than being controlled by NELP and its contractors.
North East Link Program (NELP)	North East Link Project (NELP) is an organisation within MTIA responsible for developing and delivering the Project. NELP was formerly known as the North East Link Project prior to early 2022 and before that as the North East Link Authority (NELA) prior to 1 January 2019. NELP is responsible for delivering the Project on behalf of the Victorian Government.

Executive Summary

ES1 Introduction

This report presents the Six-Monthly Summary Report for the North East Link (NEL) Project (the Project), and specifically for the North East Link Early Works (NELEW), for the period February to July 2024, inclusive (hereinafter referred to as the ‘reporting period’). It summarises audit activities during the reporting period, audit findings, the status of actions taken to address previous audit findings and the NELEW contractors' compliance status with respect to the Environmental Management Framework (EMF) and Environmental Performance Requirements (EPRs).

The Project will connect the M80 to an upgraded Eastern Freeway through twin tunnels constructed beneath the Yarra River, linking key growth areas in the north and south-east. The NELEW is the first package of works for the Project and comprises the relocation of around 100 above, and underground services (i.e. power, gas, telecommunications, water and sewerage etc) to enable major construction of the NEL and delivery of the Bulleen Park and Ride.

As a requirement of Section 2 of the EMF, approved by the Minister for Planning, an Independent Environmental Auditor (IEA) must be engaged. The role of the IEA is to review environmental documentation to verify compliance with, and undertake environmental audits of Project activities to assess compliance with the EMF, EPRs, Environmental Strategy, Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP), Worksite Environmental Management Plans (WEMPs), Construction Compound Plans (CCPs), and approval conditions collectively referred to as Project contract requirements.

It is noted that not all requirements of the EMF, nor the EPRs are applicable to delivery of the NELEW (i.e. 97 of the 110 EPRs are applicable to the NELEW and, at the time of the reporting period, one of these applicable EPRs had yet to be triggered by delivery of the NELEW). Additionally, only 50 EPRs were applicable to Metro Trains Melbourne's (MTM) activities (i.e. MTM Rail Advance Works (RAW) the remaining NELEW scope). The EMF requires that compliance with all relevant EPRs be audited at least once every 12 months. Consequently, each NELEW IEA Compliance Audit covers a sub-set of the 97 applicable EPRs (i.e. not all of the 97 EPRs applicable to the NELEW will be audited during each audit and within each six-monthly summary reporting period).

The Managing Contractor delivering the majority of the NELEW was CPB Contractors Pty Ltd (CPB), with the exception of:

- A new power substation near Blamey Road in Yallambie, for which the Managing Contractor is Jemena Electricity Networks (Vic) Ltd (Jemena).
- Rail advance works (RAW), for which the Managing Contractor is Metro Trains Melbourne (MTM).

- The M80 Optus tower relocation, for which the Managing Contractor is Service Stream Limited (Service Stream)
- Construction of the B17 Communication Hut, for which the Managing Contractor is SAGE Automation.

Audit findings summarised in this report relate to audits conducted on works being delivered by MTM, while no audits were conducted on works being delivered by CPB, Jemena, Service Stream or SAGE Automation during the reporting period.

Pursuant to the EMF, Nation Partners Pty Ltd (Nation Partners) has been engaged as the IEA for the NELEW by CPB, on behalf of NELP.

ES2 Audit activities

Across the reporting period, the IEA conducted one (1) compliance audit covering MTM's construction activities. The audits have been conducted using a risk-based approach, in accordance with AS/NZS ISO 19011: 2019 *Guidelines for auditing management systems*, which was the standard in place at the time of the NELEW. This risk-based approach has been applied to determine the scope of each audit with respect to the locations/activities subject to site inspections and criteria (e.g. EPRs) to be assessed.

Each audit assessed the compliance status of the relevant Managing Contractors' construction activities with the EMF, relevant EPRs and conditions of Project approvals, and the IEA reviewed and verified (and NELP accepted) documents including the Managing Contractors' Environmental Strategy, CEMP, WEMPs, CCPs and other plans as required by the EPRs and as relevant to the scope of the audit.

The IEA compliance audit of MTM activities was conducted in March 2024. The IEA understands that the remaining NELEW are almost complete with the final works to be completed between September to October 2024. Consequently, as no substantive NELEW were being undertaken in June 2024, the IEA did not undertake an audit.

In May 2024, the IEA also reviewed evidence associated with corrective actions undertaken by MTM to address the findings arising from the IEA compliance audit undertaken in March 2024.

Sites visited as part of the compliance audit across the reporting period included:

- Pinehills Drive (adjacent Kalparrin Gardens) former laydown area, Greensborough;
- Somers Avenue Laydown Area, Macleod;
- Wungan Street pedestrian underpass and surrounds, Macleod;
- Rail corridor adjacent tennis courts, Macleod;
- Rail corridor adjacent Devonshire Road and Daours Court intersection, Watsonia; and
- Grimshaw Street Construction Compound, Greensborough.

These sites were selected to provide a representative sample of the locations in which NELEWs' construction activities were being undertaken at the time of the audit. Additionally, the sites visited were in locations where either construction activities were considered to represent a potentially higher risk of impact to the environment, or where construction activities were being undertaken in proximity to sensitive environmental areas.

The criteria assessed as part of the compliance audit conducted in the reporting period covered the EMF and 32 EPRs (as relevant to the NELEW and triggered by the works completed to date). The 32 EPRs assessed included EPRs from the following EPR topics: EMF; Aboriginal heritage; air quality; business; contamination and soil; flora and fauna; landscape and visual; surface water; and sustainability and climate change. In addition, corrective actions from previous audits were also reviewed for close-out, where appropriate.

The audit findings are classified in each audit according to the following qualitative definitions in accordance with AS/NZS ISO 19011: 2019:

- **compliant** - the evidence demonstrated that the criteria under consideration had been met;
- **opportunity for improvement (OFI)** – applied where the evidence demonstrated that the criteria under consideration had been met, but in the future, there was an opportunity to provide greater clarity or provide greater demonstration that the criteria has been met;

- **minor non-compliance (Minor NC)** - applied where the evidence demonstrated that the criteria had been partially met, and at present did not fully meet the relevant Project contract requirement; and,
- **major non-compliance (Major NC)** – applied where the evidence either demonstrated that the criteria had not been met, or there was an absence of evidence demonstrating that the criteria had been met. As such the corresponding aspect of the Project contract requirement was not being met.

Qualitative environmental risk ratings for each non-compliance finding were also determined using the risk assessment methodology detailed within Chapter 4 – *EES Assessment Framework*, Section 4.4.2 *Risk Assessment* of the NEL Environmental Effects Statement (EES), to ensure a consistent approach across the Project.

Corrective actions to address compliance audit findings were decided upon, implemented and tracked to closure (where applicable) by MTM with the IEA assessing the closure of actions.

ES3 Overall compliance

In general, MTM’s activities were considered by the IEA to comply with the EMF and the 32 EPRs audited during the reporting period, with the exception of four (4) Minor NCs. Additionally, one (1) OFI was identified during the reporting period. Table E.1 summarises the reporting periods audit findings with respect to the compliance status of Project activities with the EMF and EPRs.

Table E.1: Compliance status of Project activities with EMF and EPRs during reporting period (February to July 2024)

EMF/EPR topic	MTM	MTM
	Criteria audited during reporting period	Compliance Status
EMF and EMF EPRs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EPRs EMF1 – 4 • Environment Strategy • CEMP • WEMPs – across all locations visited • CCPs – across all construction compounds visited • Complaints and incidents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compliant¹.
Aboriginal Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AH1 and the CHMP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compliant

¹ Specific EPR topics are covered separately.

EMF/EPR topic	MTM	MTM
	Criteria audited during reporting period	Compliance Status
Air Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EPRs AQ1 and AQ6 as addressed in ES/CEMP, WEMP and Dust and Air Quality Monitoring and Management Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compliant
Arboriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not audited during the reporting period 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not audited during the reporting period
Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EPRs B5 to B8 as addressed in ES/CEMP and WEMP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compliant
Contamination and Soil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EPRs CL1 and CL5 as addressed in the ES/CEMP, CCP and Spoil Management Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two (2) Minor NCs
Flora and Fauna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EPRs FF1 to FF4 as addressed in ES/CEMP, WEMP and Flora and Fauna Management Plan (FFMP) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One (1) Minor NC and One (1) OFI
Ground Movement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not audited during the reporting period 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not audited during the reporting period

EMF/EPR topic	MTM	MTM
	Criteria audited during reporting period	Compliance Status
Groundwater	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not audited during the reporting period 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not audited during the reporting period
Historical Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not audited during the reporting period 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not audited during the reporting period
Land Use Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not audited during the reporting period 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not audited during the reporting period
Landscape and visual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EPR LV1 - LV3 as addressed in ES/CEMP and WEMP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compliant
Noise and Vibration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not audited during the reporting period 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not audited during the reporting period
Social and Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not audited during the reporting period 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not audited during the reporting period
Surface Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EPRs SW1, SW3 – SW7, SW10, and SW13 as addressed in ES/CEMP, WEMP, Surface Water (including Flood Emergency) Management Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One (1) Minor NC

EMF/EPR topic	MTM	MTM
	Criteria audited during reporting period	Compliance Status
Sustainability and Climate Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EPRs SCC1, SCC4 and SCC5 as addressed in ES/CEMP, WEMP and Sustainability Management Sub-plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compliant

The Minor NCs tended to be associated with instances of non-compliance associated with fulfilling the requirements of Project-specific environmental management plans and therefore findings were assigned to the EPRs requiring the preparation and implementation of these plans.

MTM have addressed and closed out, to the satisfaction of the IEA, the Minor NCs, and OFI identified during the reporting period.

1. Introduction

This document presents the Six-Monthly Summary Report on the compliance status with the Environmental Management Framework (EMF) and Environmental Performance Requirements (EPRs) for the North East Link Project (NELP), and specifically for the North East Link Early Works (NELEW), for the period February to July 2024 inclusive (hereinafter referred to as the reporting period).

1.1 Purpose of this Report

As required by Section 2 of the EMF and specified in EPR EMF-3 as approved by the Minister for Planning, the Independent Environmental Auditor (IEA) must prepare six-monthly summary reports as to compliance with the EMF and EPRs, which NELP must provide to the Minister for Planning and which will be made publicly available.

The six-monthly summary reports must summarise:

- audit activities during the reporting period;
- audit findings;
- the status of actions taken to address previous audit findings; and,
- the contractors' compliance with the EMF and EPRs.

This Six-Monthly Summary Report has been developed to fulfil this EMF requirement and summarises the findings arising from compliance audits and activities conducted by the IEA on the NELEW across the reporting period.

Pursuant to the EMF, Nation Partners Pty Ltd (Nation Partners) has been engaged as the NELEW IEA by CPB Contractors Pty Ltd (CPB) (the Managing Contractor, or contractor of the NELEW), on behalf of NELP.

1.2 Program Overview

1.2.1 North East Link

The North East Link (NEL) will connect the M80 with the Eastern Freeway through twin tunnels constructed beneath the Yarra River, linking key growth areas in the north and south-east. NEL includes upgrades to the Eastern Freeway, a dedicated busway, more than 25 kilometres of new and upgraded cycling and walking paths, improvements to community facilities including local sports grounds and utility relocations to facilitate these works.

1.2.2 North East Link Early Works

The NELEW is the first tranche of works for the NELP and comprises the relocation of around 100 above, and underground services such that major construction of the NEL can start from 2022.

The NELEW is being undertaken across:

- the north-east of the Program area, from the M80 Ring Road and Greensborough Bypass through to Greensborough Road and Lower Plenty Road intersection; and,
- the south of the Program area from Bulleen Road and along the Eastern Freeway from Chandler Highway to Middleborough Road.

The NELEW has been split into 3 geographic zones, which generally relate to the extent of the NELP main works, as illustrated in **Figure 1.1**.

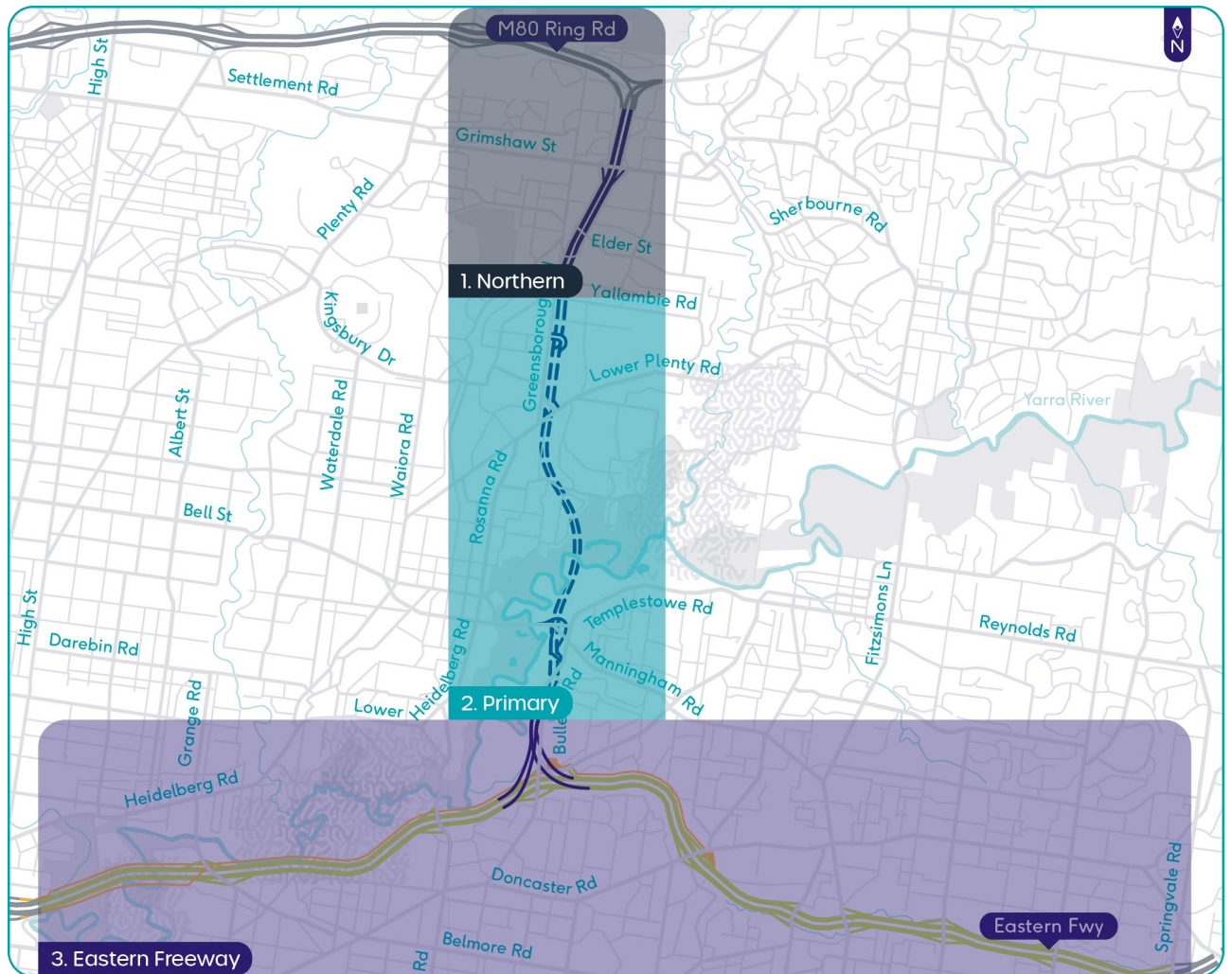


Figure 1.1 NELEW Scope and Location

Key NELEW activities include the following:

- **Borlase Reserve utilities** – above and below ground power, water, gas, sewer, and telecommunication lines will be moved;

- **Eastern Freeway service relocations** – to allow for upgrades to the Eastern Freeway, above and below ground power lines, communication assets and water mains will be moved;
- **Greensborough Road** – New gas, power and telecommunications lines will replace existing services along the length of Greensborough Road;
- **water pressure reducing station** – A water pressure reducing station (PRS) on the corner of Borlase and Drysdale Streets will be moved to ensure the continued safe supply of water to homes and businesses; and
- **sewer realignments** – underground sewer lines in Yallambie and Bulleen will be moved, including the Yarra East Main Sewer.

The following activities have been, or will be, delivered by the relevant utility service providers and their contractors, with or without management support from NELP and its contractors:

- **telecommunication towers** – 2 mobile telecommunication towers near the M80 Ring Road and the Watsonia Station car park will be moved a short distance from their current location;
- **high-voltage transmission towers** – 2 high-voltage transmission towers in Watsonia Station car park will be moved to the easement on the other side of Greensborough Road; and,

- **new power substation** – A new power substation will be built near Blamey Road to supply power to the tunnel boring machines during construction, and for operational purposes when NEL opens.

Additional works are also being incorporated within the NELEW including, but not limited to:

- **sports and recreation facilities upgrades** – sport facilities at Ford Park, Ivanhoe and Binnak Park, Watsonia North are being upgraded to include turf with drainage, new pavilions, lighting, car parking, players shelters, spectator facilities, running track, fencing, and demolition of decommissioned buildings and redundant infrastructure.
- **Bulleen Park and Ride** – the Bulleen Park and Ride will be a premium bus station including: a 5,000 m² green roof community park; parking for up to 370 cars underneath; dedicated quick drop off and pick-up bays; walking and cycling paths that connect to Koonung Creek Trail; bike storage cage; and ramps, toilets and myki services.
- **Rail advance works (RAW)** – the RAW interface with the Hurstbridge Line at the existing Greensborough Highway rail tunnel, and Grimshaw Street overbridge which will be widened to accommodate additional road lines. The Greensborough Highway rail tunnel will be extended to approximately 413 metres, with the Grimshaw Street overbridge demolished and rebuilt

The majority of the NELEW was delivered or overseen by CPB, with the exception of:

- a new power substation near Blamey Road in Yallambie, for which the Managing Contractor is Jemena Electricity Networks (Vic) Ltd (Jemena).
- RAW for which the Managing Contractor is Metro Trains Melbourne (MTM).
- M80 Optus tower relocation, for which the Managing Contractor is Service Stream Limited (Service Stream).
- B17 Communication Hut, for which the Managing Contractor is SAGE Automation.

Audit findings summarised in this report relate to audits conducted on works being delivered by MTM only, as no audits were conducted on NELEW being delivered by CPB, Service Stream, SAGE Automation and Jemena during the reporting period.

1.2.3 Planning and Environmental Approvals

NELP prepared an Environment Effects Statement (EES) for the Project under the **Environment Effects Act 1978** (Vic) and was also responsible for seeking key statutory approvals, of which the following apply to the NELEW:

- approval of the Project under the **Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999** (Cwlth) for potential impacts on Matters of National Environmental Significance and on Commonwealth land;
- a planning scheme amendment under the **Planning and Environment Act 1987**, which introduces the Incorporated Document into the relevant planning schemes to facilitate development of the Project. The delivery of the Project is facilitated by the Incorporated Document under the Banyule, Boroondara, Manningham, Nillumbik, Whitehorse, Whittlesea and Yarra Planning Schemes; and,

- an approved Cultural Heritage Management Plan under the **Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006** (Vic).

The Project contract requires a Managing Contractor to comply with legislation, the conditions of these key approvals and to identify, obtain and comply with all other approvals, licences, permits and consents that may be required.

Condition 4.5 of the Incorporated Document requires the preparation of an EMF for the Project to the satisfaction of the Minister for Planning prior to the commencement of development (excluding preparatory buildings and certain works described within the Incorporated Document).

1.2.4 Environmental Management Framework and Environmental Performance Requirements

The purpose of the EMF, which has been approved by the Minister for Planning (initially approved in January 2020 with a revision approved in July 2021), is to provide a transparent framework to manage the environmental effects of the Project in order to meet statutory requirements, protect environmental values and sustain stakeholder confidence. The EMF forms one component of the overall governance framework for delivery of the Project and, with respect to environmental management for the Project during its development and delivery, describes: roles and responsibilities; statutory approvals and consents; no-go zones; environmental management documentation required; and compliance evaluation and reporting requirements.

The EMF also contains and details the EPRs in the development and delivery (including operation) of the Project. The EPRs are a suite of 110 performance-based environmental standards and outcomes that apply to the design, construction, and operation of the Project.

It is noted that not all requirements of the EMF, nor the EPRs are applicable to delivery of the NELEW. EPRs that are not applicable include, but are not limited to, those associated with operation of the Project or, in general terms, associated with design and delivery of the twin tunnels and/or freeway. Taking this into consideration, 97 EPRs in total are applicable to the NELEW and, at the time of the reporting period, one EPR had yet to be triggered by delivery of the NELEW, and only 50 EPRs were applicable to MTM's activities (i.e. the remaining NELEW scope). Consequently, during the reporting period, 50 EPRs were applicable to the remaining NELEW scope.

The Managing Contractors have prepared environmental management and design documentation as required by the EMF and EPRs, which has been reviewed and verified by the IEA (refer to Section 1.3), and accepted by NELP, prior to commencement of contractor works.

1.3 Role of the IEA

As required by Section 2 of the EMF, an IEA has been engaged for the NELEW to:

- review and verify that the contractors' environmental management and design documentation, Environmental Strategy, Urban Design and Landscape Plans (UDLPs), Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP), Worksite Environmental Management Plans (WEMPs), Construction Compound Plans (CCPs), and other plans as required by the EPRs, comply with the Project contract including the EMF and EPRs, conditions of Project approvals, and are in general accordance with the approved Urban Design Strategy; and,
- conduct audits of contractor works to assess compliance with the EMF, relevant EPRs, Environmental Strategy, CEMP, WEMPs, CCPs, other plans as required by the EPRs and conditions of Project approvals.

The IEA is also responsible for preparing a six-monthly report (i.e. this report) summarising audit activities during the reporting period, audit findings, the status of corrective actions taken to address previous audit findings and the contractors' compliance with the EMF and EPRs; and providing it to NELP and the contractor. In turn, it is NELP's responsibility to provide six-monthly summary reports to the Minister for Planning.

An overview of the IEA's role within the framework of environmental documentation developed and implemented to control and manage the Project is presented in **Figure 1.2**.

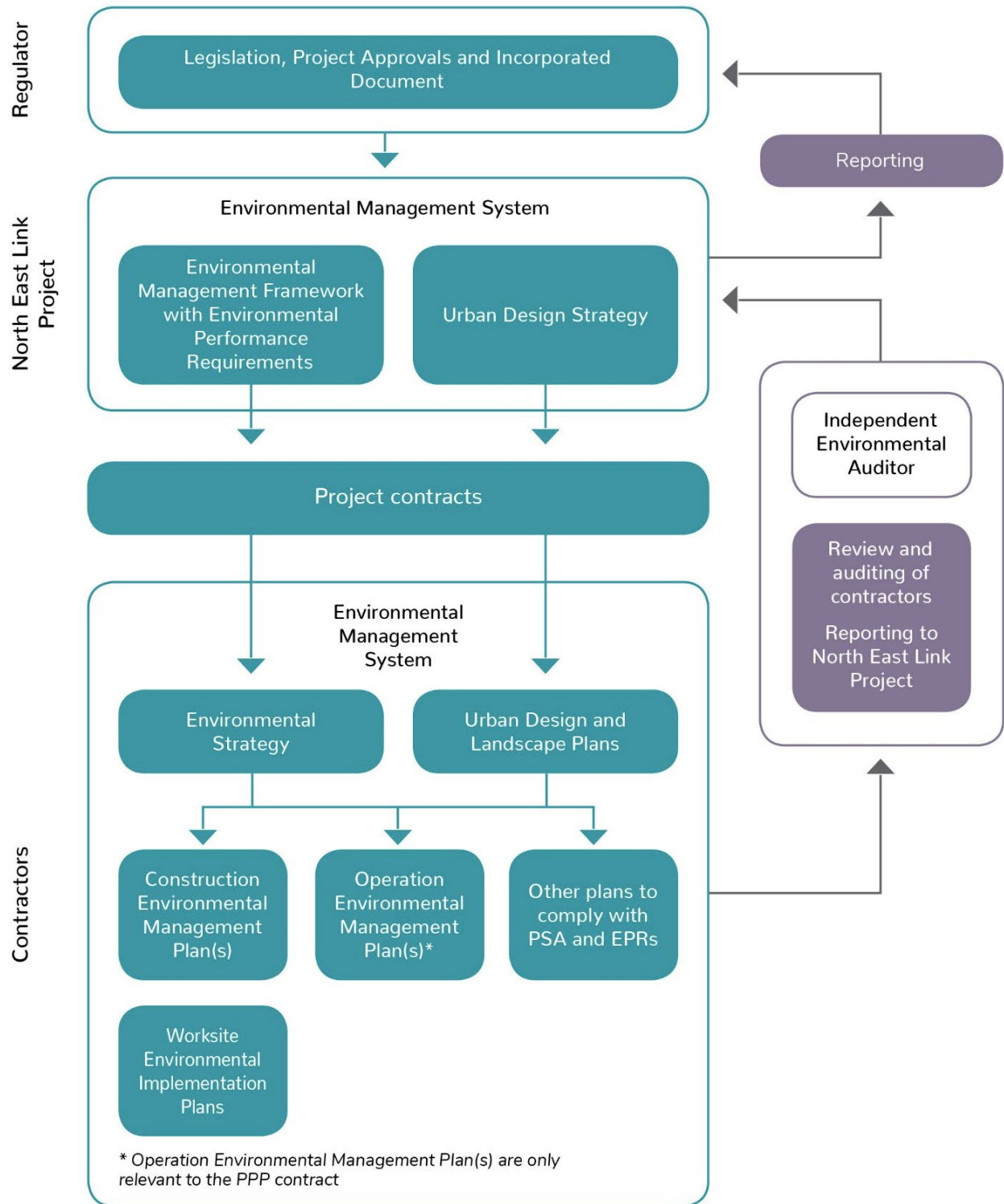


Figure 1.2 Key environmental management documentation (extract from Environmental Management Framework, July 2021)

1.4 Report Structure

The structure of this report has been developed in accordance with the EMF and summarises:

- Section 2 Audit Activities – provides a summary of the audit activities conducted during the reporting period;
- Section 3 Audit Findings – summarises the compliance audit findings during the reporting period in accordance with the EPR topics;
- Section 4 Corrective Actions – summarises the status of actions taken by the contractor to address previous audit findings; and,
- Section 5 Overall Compliance – provides the IEA's conclusions with respect to the contractor's overall compliance with the EMF and EPRs.

2. Audit Activities

The audit activities conducted during the reporting period, the IEA Compliance Audit Program methodology, and details of the compliance audits conducted across the reporting period, are summarised in the following sections.

2.1 IEA Compliance Audit Program

To meet the auditing requirements of the EMF, the IEA has developed and implemented a Program involving the conduct of compliance audits on a quarterly basis across Project activities associated with the NELEW. This Compliance Audit Program has been developed, and the audits conducted, in accordance with AS/NZS ISO 19011:2019 **Guidelines for auditing management systems**, which was the standard in place at the time of the NELEW.

The following sub-sections describe the methodology applied to the Compliance Audit Program and its component compliance audits.

2.1.1 Objective

The objective of the Compliance Audit Program was to assess Project activities, associated with the NELEW, for compliance with the EMF, relevant EPRs, Environmental Strategy, CEMP, WEMPs, CCPs, other plans as required by the EPRs and conditions of Project approvals (referred to as the Project contract requirements).

2.1.2 Scope

Compliance audits were conducted on a quarterly basis (i.e. every 3 months) for the RAW being undertaken by MTM². Audits were not conducted on works being delivered by CPB, Service Stream, SAGE Automation and Jemena during the reporting period.

To determine the scope and criteria of each compliance audit (i.e. Project contract requirements to be audited and locations to be subject to site visits), the IEA applied a risk-based approach, which aligns with the requirements of AS/NZS ISO 19011:2019 and which is informed by (but not limited to):

- discussions with NELP and the Managing Contractor with respect to potential risks associated with the Project at the time the audit was due to be conducted;
- current activities and operations;
- those locations where either construction activities were considered to represent a higher risk of impact to the environment or where construction activities were being undertaken in proximity to sensitive environmental areas (e.g. residential areas, watercourses, areas of Aboriginal or historical heritage, sensitive ecological areas);
- ensuring a representative sample of the locations in which NELEW construction activities were being undertaken at the time of the audit;

² The IEA understands that the remaining NELEW are almost complete with the final works to be completed between September to October 2024. Consequently, as no substantive NELEW were being undertaken in June 2024, the IEA did not undertake an audit.

- selection of relevant audit criteria through adoption of a risk-based approach, ensuring that each EPR was audited at least once every 12 months, and higher risk EPRs were audited more frequently; and,
- findings arising from previous compliance audits, including confirmation and completion of the close-out of corrective actions to address findings identified during previous audits.

The scope of each compliance audit was determined and agreed, considering the above, during quarterly progress meetings involving NELP, the Managing Contractor and the IEA. These meetings were typically convened approximately two months following the previous audit, and one month prior to the subsequent compliance audit.

Each compliance audit did not involve an exhaustive assessment against all requirements but represented an audited sample. This approach aligned with a risk-based audit methodology and was adopted in accordance with the risk management guidance. Additionally, the overall audit program was developed to ensure that potentially higher risk activities were audited more frequently, and that compliance with all relevant EPRs (as applicable to the NELEW) was audited at least once every 12 months as required by the EMF (refer to Appendix B for details of the relevant EPRs audited within the rolling 12 months).

The scope of each compliance audit was developed to the satisfaction of NELP.

2.1.3 Audit duration and team

The March 2024 compliance audit of MTM's activities comprised one (1) day on-site and involved an audit team consisting of a minimum of two (2) FTEs full-time equivalents (FTEs).

Each audit team comprised a Lead Auditor, Auditor and (where necessary) Specialist Auditors (i.e. specialists in arboriculture). In accordance with AS/NZS ISO 19011:2019, the team for each compliance audit was selected based on the prerequisite competencies to achieve the audit objectives, accounting for the audit scope and documentation to be reviewed.

2.1.4 Approach

The approach undertaken for each compliance audit comprised:

- **audit plan** – development of a Compliance Audit Plan to guide the audit. As per AS/NZS ISO 19011:2019, the audit plan defines and communicates the objectives, scope, and criteria for each audit. Each audit plan was developed to the satisfaction of NELP and provided to the Managing Contractor to enable logistics for the audit to be arranged;

- **inception meeting** – at the start of each compliance audit, a formal inception meeting was undertaken with the contractor personnel to outline the objectives, purpose, scope, and logistics of the audit. This meeting was typically attended by a wider NELP and Managing Contractor audience and included an introduction to those involved in the audit, including both the IEA audit team and the Managing Contractors' personnel (i.e. auditees);
- **document review** - a key part of each compliance audit involved review of appropriate documentation to determine if those Project activities subject to the assessment met the Project contract requirements;
- **personnel interviews** - interviews with appropriate personnel was also an integral component of each compliance audit. Informal interviews were undertaken throughout each compliance audit (e.g. concurrently with document review and site walkovers) to collect information and anecdotal evidence with respect to the Project activities being assessed;
- **site visits/walkovers** – information and evidence was also gathered during comprehensive visits to Project sites, which involved observations made during site walkovers; and,

- **exit briefing** – at the completion of each compliance audit, the audit team provided feedback to NELP and the Managing Contractor at a closing meeting, summarising the outcomes of the audit. To ensure that all issues of potential concern had been identified and raised appropriately with contractor management, a summary of major findings was presented at this time, noting that, “audit opinions may be subject to change during reporting and further to the exit briefing”. This ensured that personnel were aware of auditors’ likely conclusions in advance of report preparation and provided an open forum for discussion of these issues.

2.1.5 Audit finding categories and reporting

The main output from each compliance audit comprised a detailed report, including information on:

- the scope and approach of the audit, including a list of the documents reviewed by the IEA during the audit;
- activities and operations subject to the audit; and,
- audit findings including compliance status against the audit criteria. In accordance with AS/NZS ISO 19011:2019, audit findings were characterised qualitatively in accordance with categories defined in **Table 2.1**.

Table 2.1 Audit Finding Categories

Categories	Definition
Compliant	The evidence demonstrated that the criteria under consideration had been met.
Opportunity for Improvement (OFI)	The evidence demonstrated that the criteria under consideration had been met, but in the future, there was an opportunity to provide greater clarity or provide greater demonstration that the criteria has been met.

Minor Non-compliance (Minor NC)	The evidence demonstrated that the criteria had been partially met, and at present did not fully meet the relevant Project Contract requirement.
Major Non-compliance (Major NC)	The evidence either demonstrated that the criteria had not been met, or there was an absence of evidence demonstrating that the criteria had been met. As such the corresponding aspect of the Project Contract requirement is not being met.

Qualitative environmental risk ratings for each non-compliance finding were also determined by the IEA using the risk assessment methodology detailed within Chapter 4 – **EES Assessment Framework, Section 4.4.2 Risk Assessment** of the NEL Environmental Effects Statement (EES), to ensure a consistent approach across the Project (i.e. risk ratings for OFIs were not determined).

The risk assessment for each finding considered the likelihood (i.e. the chance of an event happening and the maximum credible consequence occurring from that event) and consequence (i.e. the maximum credible outcome of an event affecting an asset, value, or use) of an event occurring. Risk ratings for non-compliances can be found at the end of each subject area in Section 3.2 of this report where applicable.

Corrective actions were determined, implemented and tracked to closure by the Managing Contractor, with the IEA assessing the closure of actions:

- either upon the next compliance audit; or,

- through desk-based review of evidence provided by the Managing Contractor (including document review and personnel interviews via conferencing facilities) where a reporting period closed prior to the next compliance audit.

2.2 Audit activities – February to July 2024

During the reporting period, the IEA conducted one (1) quarterly compliance audit of MTM's Project activities, assessing compliance of with the EMF, EPRs, Environmental Strategy, CEMP, WEMPs, CCPs, and approval conditions. The compliance audit was conducted from 18 to 19 March 2024.

The IEA understands that the remaining NELEW are almost complete with the final works to be completed between September to October 2024. Consequently, as no substantive NELEW were being undertaken in June 2024, the IEA did not undertake an audit.

Subsequently, the IEA reviewed evidence associated with corrective actions undertaken by MTM to address the findings arising from the IEA compliance audits during the reporting period, in May 2024.

The scope of each compliance audit, with respect to the locations subject to site visits and the criteria assessed during each audit are detailed in Sections 2.2.1 and 2.2.2 respectively.

2.2.1. Site Visits

The locations subject to site visits as part of the compliance audits conducted in the reporting period are detailed in **Table 2.2**.

Table 2.2 Compliance audit site visits during reporting period

Date of audit	Site visits
18 to 19 March 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pinehills Drive (adjacent Kalparrin Gardens) former laydown area, Greensborough• Somers Avenue Laydown Area, Macleod;• Wungan Street pedestrian underpass and surrounds, Macleod;• Rail corridor adjacent tennis courts, Macleod;• Rail corridor adjacent Devonshire Road and Daours Court intersection, Watsonia; and• Grimshaw Street Construction Compound, Greensborough.

2.3 Audit Criteria

The criteria assessed as part of the compliance audit conducted in the reporting period covered EMF Sections 2 to 7 and 32 EPRs, as relevant to the NELEW (refer to **Table 2.3**).

Combined with the 32 EPRs against MTM;s activities that were audited during the previous reporting period (August 2023 to January 2023), the EPRs audited during this reporting period ensured that 50 of the relevant EPRs (i.e. both applicable to the NELEW works undertaken by MTM and triggered by works completed to date) have been audited at least once during the past 12 months, as required by the EMF (refer to Appendix B for further details).

Table 2.3 Criteria assessed during reporting period (refer to Appendix B for EPR titles/subjects)

Date of audit	EMF/EPRs	Criteria
18 to 19 March 2024	EMF and EMF EPRs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EPRs EMF1 – 4, Environment Strategy, CEMP, WEMPs – across all locations visited, CCPs – across all construction compounds visited, Complaints and incidents
18 to 19 March 2024	Aboriginal Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AH1 and the CHMP
18 to 19 March 2024	Air Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EPRs AQ1 and AQ6 as addressed in ES/CEMP, WEMP and Dust and Air Quality Monitoring and Management Plan
18 to 19 March 2024	Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EPRs B5 to B8 as addressed in ES/CEMP and WEMP

Date of audit	EMF/EPRs	Criteria
18 to 19 March 2024	Contamination and Soil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EPRs CL1 and CL5 as addressed in the ES/CEMP, CCP and Spoil Management Plan
18 to 19 March 2024	Flora and Fauna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EPRs FF1 to FF4 as addressed in ES/CEMP, WEMP and Flora and Fauna Management Plan
18 to 19 March 2024	Landscape and visual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EPR LV1 - LV3 as addressed in ES/CEMP and WEMP
18 to 19 March 2024	Surface water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EPRs SW1, SW3 – SW7, SW10, and SW13 as addressed in EES/CEMP, WEMP, Surface Water (including Flood Emergency) Management Plan
18 to 19 March 2024	Sustainability and climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EPRs SCC1, SCC4 and SCC5 as addressed in ES/CEMP, WEMP and Sustainability Management Sub-plan

3. Audit Findings

Project activities were considered to be compliant with the EMF and EPRs audited across the reporting period, with the exception of four (4) Minor NCs identified, which were assessed as either medium or low risk. In addition, one (1) OFIs was identified during the compliance audit conducted during the reporting period. **Table 3.1** summarises the audit findings during the reporting period with respect to the compliance status of Project activities with the EMF and EPRs.

Table 3.1 Compliance status of Program activities with EMF and EPRs during reporting period – CPB and MTM

EMF/EPR topic	MTM	MTM
	Criteria audited during reporting period	Compliance Status
EMF and EMF EPRs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EPRs EMF1 – 4 • Environment Strategy • CEMP • WEMPs – across all locations visited • CCPs – across all construction compounds visited • Complaints and incidents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compliant³.
Aboriginal Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AH1 and the CHMP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compliant

³ Specific EPR topics are covered separately.

EMF/EPR topic	MTM	MTM
	Criteria audited during reporting period	Compliance Status
Air Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EPRs AQ1 and AQ6 as addressed in ES/CEMP, WEMP and Dust and Air Quality Monitoring and Management Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compliant
Arboriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not audited during the reporting period 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not audited during the reporting period
Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EPRs B5 to B8 as addressed in ES/CEMP and WEMP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compliant
Contamination and Soil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EPRs CL1 and CL5 as addressed in the ES/CEMP, CCP and Spoil Management Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two (2) Minor NCs
Flora and Fauna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EPRs FF1 to FF4 as addressed in ES/CEMP, WEMP and Flora and Fauna Management Plan (FFMP) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One (1) Minor NC and One (1) OFI
Ground Movement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not audited during the reporting period 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not audited during the reporting period

EMF/EPR topic	MTM	MTM
	Criteria audited during reporting period	Compliance Status
Groundwater	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not audited during the reporting period 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not audited during the reporting period
Historical Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not audited during the reporting period 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not audited during the reporting period
Land Use Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not audited during the reporting period 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not audited during the reporting period
Landscape and visual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EPR LV1 - LV3 as addressed in ES/CEMP and WEMP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compliant
Noise and Vibration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not audited during the reporting period 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not audited during the reporting period
Social and Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not audited during the reporting period 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not audited during the reporting period
Surface Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EPRs SW1, SW3 – SW7, SW10, and SW13 as addressed in ES/CEMP, WEMP, Surface Water (including Flood Emergency) Management Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One (1) Minor NC

EMF/EPR topic	MTM	MTM
	Criteria audited during reporting period	Compliance Status
Sustainability and Climate Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EPRs SCC1, SCC4 and SCC5 as addressed in ES/CEMP, WEMP and Sustainability Management Sub-plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compliant

3.1 Environmental Management Framework

The requirements of the EMF have been implemented by the Managing Contractor (i.e. MTM) through the preparation and implementation of Project-specific environmental management plans (specified within the EMF and its associated EPRs), as outlined in **Figure 1.2**. These plans have been reviewed and verified by the IEA and accepted by the NELP and, in some cases, approved by the Minister for Planning (i.e. CCPs) where this was required by the EMF and the terms of the Incorporated Document.

IEA auditing of the EMF requirements during the reporting period focussed on assessment of compliance with the Managing Contractors Project-specific environmental management plans, including against the Environmental Strategy, CEMP, WEMPs, CCPs and other plans required by the EPRs.

Non-compliances with the EMF were not identified during the reporting period other than those identified against the specific EPR topics in Section 3.2, including against the environmental management EPRs.

3.2 Environmental Performance Requirements

3.2.1 Environmental Management (EMF)

Project activities were audited against all Environmental Management EPRs (EPRs EMF1 to EMF4) during the reporting period, and were considered by the IEA to be compliant, with no non-compliances or OFIs identified.

3.2.2 Aboriginal Heritage (AH)

Project activities were audited against the Aboriginal Heritage EPR (EPR AH1) during the reporting period and were considered by the IEA to be compliant, with no non-compliances or OFIs identified.

3.2.3 Air Quality (AQ)

Project activities were audited against two (2) of the Air Quality EPRs (EPRs AQ1 and AQ6) during the reporting period and were considered by the IEA to be compliant, with no non-compliances or OFIs identified.

3.2.4 Arboriculture (AR)

Project activities were not audited against Arboriculture EPRs during the reporting period.

3.2.5 Business (B)

Project activities were audited against four (4) of the Business EPRs (EPRs B5 to B8) during the reporting period and were considered by the IEA to be compliant, with no non-compliances or OFIs identified.

3.2.6 Contamination and Soil (CL)

Project activities were audited against two (2) of the Contamination and Soil EPRs applicable to the NELEW (EPR CL1 and CL5) during the reporting period. Two (2) Minor NCs were identified during the audit of MTM's activities. These were associated with:

- Waste tracking. The risk associated with this finding was assessed as medium.
- Contaminated soil stockpiling within the Grimshaw Street Construction Compound. The risk associated with this finding was assessed as low.

3.2.7 Flora and Fauna (FF)

Project activities were audited against four (4) of the Flora and Fauna EPRs (EPRs FF1 to FF4) during the reporting period. One (1) Minor NC was identified during the audit of MTM's activities. This was associated with provision of the current FFMP Council. The risk associated with this finding was assessed as low.

One (1) OFI was also identified during the audit of MTM's activities.

3.2.8 Ground Movement (GM)

Project activities were not audited against Ground Movement EPRs during the reporting period.

3.2.9 Groundwater (GW)

Project activities were not audited against Groundwater EPRs during the reporting period.

3.2.10 Historical Heritage (HH)

Project activities were not audited against Historical Heritage EPRs during the reporting period.

3.2.11 Land Use Planning (LP)

Project activities were not audited against Land Use Planning EPRs during the reporting period.

3.2.12 Landscape and Visual (LV)

Project activities were audited against three (3) of the Landscape and Visual EPRs (EPRs LV1 to LV3) during the reporting period and were considered by the IEA to be compliant, with no non-compliances or OFIs identified.

3.2.13 Noise and Vibration (NV)

Project activities were not audited against Noise and Vibration EPRs during the reporting period.

3.2.14 Social and Community (SC)

Project activities were not audited against Social and Community EPRs during the reporting period.

3.2.15 Surface Water (SW)

Project activities were audited against seven (7) of the Surface Water EPRs (EPRs SW3 to SW7, SW10 and SW13) during the reporting period. One (1) Minor NC was identified during the audit of MTM's activities. This was associated with discharging of water. The risk associated with this finding was assessed as low.

3.2.16 Sustainability and Climate Change (SCC)

Project activities were audited against three (3) of the Sustainability and Climate Change EPRs (EPRs SCC1, SCC4 and SCC5) during the reporting period and were considered by the IEA to be compliant, with no non-compliances or OFIs identified.

3.2.17 Traffic and Transport (TT)

Project activities were not audited against Traffic and Transport EPRs during the reporting period.

4. Corrective Actions

Corrective actions have been undertaken by MTM to close all findings identified by the compliance audit conducted during the reporting period.

The status of corrective actions undertaken by MTM to address the findings arising from the IEA compliance audits is summarised in **Table 4.1**.

Table 4.1 Status of corrective actions

Previous audit	Corrective actions assessed	Status of corrective actions
18 to 19 March 2024	May 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Upon review of evidence provided by MTM in May 2024, the IEA considered that all of the findings identified in the March 2024 compliance audit had been closed.

5. Overall Compliance

Over the reporting period, compliance with the EMF and 32 EPRs (out of the 50 EPRs applicable to the remaining NELEW works (i.e. MTM RAW activities) during the reporting period and that have been triggered by works completed to date) have been assessed by the IEA through conducting one (1) compliance audit (covering MTM's activities in March 2024) and review of evidence provided by MTM and NELP to close-out findings arising from these audits.

The Managing Contractor for the rail advance works of NELEW (MTM) has addressed the requirements of the EMF through the preparation and implementation of Project-specific environmental management plans (specified within the EMF and its associated EPRs).

MTM's activities were considered by the IEA to comply with the EMF and the 32 EPRs audited during the reporting period, with the exception of four (4) Minor NCs identified.

The Minor NCs tended to be associated with instances of non-compliance associated with fulfilling the requirements of Project-specific environmental management plans and therefore findings were assigned to the EPRs requiring the preparation and implementation of these plans. In addition, one (1) OFI were identified across the reporting period.

MTM has closed all findings associated with the IEA audits of its project activities.

6. Appendices

A Audit Limitations

Nation Partners produces technical and advisory documents in the course of providing its services, which includes this document.

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B EPRs Audited

1. Environmental Management (EMF)

EPR Code	Environmental Performance Requirement	Relevant to NELEW	Reporting period audited (in Year 3 to 4 of audit program)
EMF1	Deliver project in general accordance with an Environmental Management System		Aug 23 – Jan 24 Feb 24 – Jul 24
EMF2	Deliver project in accordance with an Environmental Strategy and Management Plans		Aug 23 – Jan 24 Feb 24 – Jul 24
EMF3	Audit and report on environmental compliance		Aug 23 – Jan 24 Feb 24 – Jul 24
EMF4	Complaints Management System		Aug 23 – Jan 24 Feb 24 – Jul 24

2. Aboriginal heritage (AH)

EPR Code	Environmental Performance Requirement	Relevant to NELEW	Reporting period audited (in Year 3 to 4 of audit program)
AH1	Comply with the Cultural Heritage Management Plan		Aug 23 – Jan 24 Feb 24 – Jul 24

3. Air Quality (AQ)

EPR Code	Environmental Performance Requirement	Relevant to NELEW	Reporting period audited (in Year 3 to 4 of audit program)
AQ1	Implement a Dust and Air Quality Management and Monitoring Plan to minimise air quality impacts during construction		Aug 23 – Jan 24 Feb 24 – Jul 24
AQ2	Design tunnel ventilation system to meet EPA requirements for air quality	N/A	
AQ3	In-tunnel air quality performance standards	N/A	
AQ4	Monitor ambient air quality	N/A	
AQ5	Monitor compliance of in-tunnel air quality and ventilation structure emissions	N/A	
AQ6	Construction Haulage Vehicle Fleet		Feb 24 – Jul 24

4. Arboriculture (AR)

EPR Code	Environmental Performance Requirement	Relevant to NELEW	Reporting period audited (in Year 3 to 4 of audit program)
AR1	Develop and implement a Tree Removal Plan		Aug 23 – Jan 24
AR2	Implement a Tree Protection Plan(s) to protect trees to be retained		Aug 23 – Jan 24
AR3	Implement a Tree Canopy Replacement Plan	#	

5. Business (B)

EPR Code	Environmental Performance Requirement	Relevant to NELEW	Reporting period audited (in Year 3 to 4 of audit program)
B1	Business disruption mitigation plan	#	
B2	Business Relocation Strategy	#	
B3	Employee Assistance Strategy	#	
B4	Minimise disruption to businesses from land acquisition and temporary occupation	#	
B5	Minimise and remedy damage or impacts on third party property and infrastructure		Feb 24 – Jul 24

EPR Code	Environmental Performance Requirement	Relevant to NELEW	Reporting period audited (in Year 3 to 4 of audit program)
B6	Minimise access and amenity impacts on businesses		Feb 24 – Jul 24
B7	Protect utility assets		Feb 24 – Jul 24
B8	Business liaison groups		Feb 24 – Jul 24

6. Contamination and soil (CL)

EPR Code	Environmental Performance Requirement	Relevant to NELEW	Reporting period audited (in Year 3 to 4 of audit program)
CL1	Implement a Spoil Management Plan		Aug 23 – Jan 24 Feb 24 – Jul 24
CL2	Minimise impacts from disturbance of acid sulfate soil		Aug 23 – Jan 24 Feb 24 – Jul 24
CL3	Minimise odour impacts during spoil management		Aug 23 – Jan 24 Feb 24 – Jul 24
CL4	Minimise risks from vapour and ground gas intrusion		Aug 23 – Jan 24 Feb 24 – Jul 24
CL5	Manage chemicals, fuels and hazardous materials		Aug 23 – Jan 24 Feb 24 – Jul 24
CL6	Minimise contamination risks during operation	N/A	

7. Flora and Fauna (FF)

EPR Code	Environmental Performance Requirement	Relevant to NELEW	Reporting period audited (in Year 3 to 4 of audit program)
FF1	Avoid and minimise impacts on fauna and flora		Aug 23 – Jan 24 Feb 24 – Jul 24
FF2	Minimise and offset native vegetation removal		Aug 23 – Jan 24 Feb 24 – Jul 24
FF3	Avoid introduction or spread of weeds and pathogens		Aug 23 – Jan 24 Feb 24 – Jul 24
FF4	Protect aquatic habitat		Feb 24 – Jul 24
FF5	Obtain Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 permits		Aug 23 – Jan 24
FF6	Implement a Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem Monitoring and Mitigation Plan	#	
FF7	Implement a salvage and translocation plan for Matted Flax-lily		Aug 23 – Jan 24
FF8	Minimise intense noise and vibration impacts on Australian Grayling	#	
FF9	Protect fauna habitat values in existing waterbodies that are modified for drainage purposes	#	
FF10	Studley Park Gum Mitigation	#	

8. Ground Movement (GM)

EPR Code	Environmental Performance Requirement	Relevant to NELEW	Reporting period audited (in Year 3 to 4 of audit program)
GM1	Design and construction to be informed by a geotechnical model and assessment	#	
GM2	Implement a Ground Movement Plan to manage ground movement impacts	#	
GM3	Carry out Condition surveys for potentially affected property and infrastructure	#	
GM4	Rectify damage to properties and assets impacted by ground movement or settlement	#	

9. Groundwater (GW)

EPR Code	Environmental Performance Requirement	Relevant to NELEW	Reporting period audited (in Year 3 to 4 of audit program)
GW1	Design and construction to be informed by a groundwater model	#	
GW2	Monitor groundwater	#	

EPR Code	Environmental Performance Requirement	Relevant to NELEW	Reporting period audited (in Year 3 to 4 of audit program)
GW3	Minimise changes to groundwater levels through tunnel and trench drainage design and construction methods	#	
GW4	Implement a Groundwater Management Plan to Protect groundwater quality and manage groundwater interception	#	
GW5	Manage groundwater during operation	N/A	

10. Historical Heritage (HH)

EPR Code	Environmental Performance Requirement	Relevant to NELEW	Reporting period audited (in Year 3 to 4 of audit program)
HH1	Design and construct to minimise impacts on heritage	#	
HH2	Implement an Archaeological Management Plan to avoid and minimise impacts on historic archaeological sites and values		Aug 23 – Jan 24
HH3	Monitor condition of heritage sites	#	

EPR Code	Environmental Performance Requirement	Relevant to NELEW	Reporting period audited (in Year 3 to 4 of audit program)
HH4	Undertake archival photographic recording	#	
HH5	Minimise impacts on heritage trees	#	

11. Land Use Planning (LP)

EPR Code	Environmental Performance Requirement	Relevant to NELEW	Reporting period audited (in Year 3 to 4 of audit program)
LP1	Minimise land use impacts	#	
LP2	Minimise impacts from location of new services and utilities	#	
LP3	Minimise inconsistency with strategic land use plans	#	
LP4	Minimise overshadowing from noise walls and elevated structures and overlooking from elevated structures	#	
LP5	Open Space Replacement	N/A	

12. Landscape and Visual (LV)

EPR Code	Environmental Performance Requirement	Relevant to NELEW	Reporting period audited (in Year 3 of audit program)
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LV1	Design to be in accordance with the Urban Design Strategy		Feb 24 – Jul 24
LV2	Minimise landscape impacts during construction		Aug 23 – Jan 24 Feb 24 – Jul 24
LV3	Minimise construction lighting impacts		Aug 23 – Jan 24 Feb 24 – Jul 24
LV4	Minimise operation lighting impacts	#	

13. Noise and Vibration (NV)

EPR Code	Environmental Performance Requirement	Relevant to NELEW	Reporting period audited (in Year 3 to 4 of audit program)
NV1	Achieve traffic noise objectives	*see note	*see note
NV2	Monitor traffic noise	N/A	
NV3	Minimise construction noise impacts to sensitive receptors		Aug 23 – Jan 24
NV4	Implement a Construction Noise and Vibration Management Plan (CNVMP) to manage noise and vibration impacts		Aug 23 – Jan 24
NV5	Establish vibration guidelines to protect utility assets		Aug 23 – Jan 24

EPR Code	Environmental Performance Requirement	Relevant to NELEW	Reporting period audited (in Year 3 to 4 of audit program)
NV6	Design permanent tunnel ventilation system and relevant fixed infrastructure to meet EPA requirements for noise	N/A	
NV7	Monitor noise from tunnel ventilation system and relevant fixed infrastructure	N/A	
NV8	Minimise construction vibration impacts on amenity		Aug 23 – Jan 24
NV9	Minimise construction vibration impacts on structures		Aug 23 – Jan 24
NV10	Minimise impacts from ground-borne (internal) noise	#	
NV11	Minimise amenity impacts from blast vibration	#	
NV12	Minimise amenity impacts from blast overpressure	#	
NV13	Noise mitigation – noise walls	#	
NV14	Reduce impacts from engine brake noise	#	
NV15	Noise at public open space and school recreation grounds	#	
NV16	Monitoring of Ongoing performance of operational traffic noise mitigation measures	N/A	

14. Social and Community (SC)

EPR Code	Environmental Performance Requirement	Relevant to NELEW	Reporting period audited (in Year 3 to 4 of audit program)
SC1	Reduce community disruption and adverse amenity impacts		Aug 23 – Jan 24
SC2	Manage impacts of land acquisition and occupation	#	
SC3	Implement a Communications and Community Engagement Plan		Aug 23 – Jan 24
SC4	Participate in the Community Liaison Group		Aug 23 – Jan 24
SC5	Minimise impacts of displacement of formal active recreation facilities	#	
SC6	Minimise impacts on formal active recreation and other facilities	#	
SC7	Implement a Community Involvement and Participation Plan (CIPP)	#	
SC8	Implement a voluntary purchase scheme for residential properties	#	

15. Surface Water (SW)

EPR Code	Environmental Performance Requirement	Relevant to NELEW	Reporting period audited (in Year 3 to 4 of audit program)
SW 1	Discharges and runoff to meet State Environment Protection Policy (Waters)		Feb 24 – Jul 24
SW 2	Design and implement spill containment	N/A ^	
SW 3	Wastewater discharges to be minimised and approved		Feb 24 – Jul 24
SW 4	Monitor water quality		Feb 24 – Jul 24
SW 5	Implement a Surface Water Management Plan during construction		Aug 23 – Jan 24 Feb 24 – Jul 24
SW 6	Minimise risk from changes to flood levels, flows and velocities		Feb 24 – Jul 24
SW 7	Develop flood emergency management plans		Feb 24 – Jul 24
SW 8	Minimise impacts from waterway modifications	#	
SW 9	Maintain bank stability	#	
SW 10	Provide for access to Melbourne Water and other drainage assets		Feb 24 – Jul 24
SW 11	Adopt Water Sensitive Urban and Road Design	#	
SW 12	Minimise impacts on irrigation of sporting fields	#	

EPR Code	Environmental Performance Requirement	Relevant to NELEW	Reporting period audited (in Year 3 to 4 of audit program)
SW 13	Consider climate change effects		Feb 24 – Jul 24
SW 14	Meet existing water quality treatment performance	#	
SW 15	Water Sensitive Urban Design asset transfer strategy	#	

16. Sustainability and Climate Change (SCC)

EPR Code	Environmental Performance Requirement	Relevant to NELEW	Reporting period audited (in Year 3 to 4 of audit program)
SCC1	Implement a Sustainability Management Plan		Feb 24 – Jul 24
SCC2	Minimise greenhouse gas emissions		Feb 24 – Jul 24
SCC3	Apply best practice measures for energy usage for tunnel ventilation and lighting systems	N/A	
SCC4	Minimise and appropriately manage waste		Feb 24 – Jul 24
SCC5	Minimise potable water consumption		Feb 24 – Jul 24

17. Traffic and Transport (TT)

EPR Code	Environmental Performance Requirement	Relevant to NELEW	Reporting period audited (in Year 3 to 4 of audit program)
T1	Optimise design performance	#	
T2	Transport Management Plan(s) (TMP)		Aug 23 – Jan 24
T3	Transport Management Liaison Group		Aug 23 – Jan 24
T4	Road safety design	N/A ⁺	
T5	Traffic monitoring	N/A	

* Note: these EPRs are relevant to NELEW but have not yet been triggered by the works completed to date.

[^] It was determined during the November 2021 CPB compliance audit that SW2 was not relevant to NELEW as it relates to freeway pavements.

These EPRs were not audited during the past 12 months were considered to be no longer relevant to the current scope of works (i.e. not relevant to MTM activities).

⁺ It was determined during the March 2024 MTM compliance audit that T4 was not applicable to MTM RAW.