

# 6 Health and safety programme

The basis of the NT Government's commitment to road safety matters is presented in The Northern Territory Road Safety Strategy (DIPE 2004a). The four key objectives of this strategy are:

- safer road network
- safer road users
- safer vehicles
- effective emergency response.

The contractor undertaking the works described in this proposal will be required to accept and practice each of these objectives in its health and safety program during the upgrade of the Victoria Highway.

Completing the roadworks will also assist the Government to achieve two of its strategic objectives for this section of the Highway, namely, improving the safety of this component of the road network and providing for effective responses in emergencies.

In addition, there is a wider range of health and safety requirements that a contractor must establish to comply with all statutory responsibilities. These are discussed in the following sections.

The contractor and any subcontractors will at all times identify and exercise all necessary OH&S precautions for all persons, including the contractor and subcontractor employees, DPI employees and members of the public including adjacent landholders and people using the Highway.

The contractor will comply with all relevant statutory matters, especially requirements in legislation, including their amendments and Regulations such as:

- Work Health Act
- Control of Roads Act
- Construction Safety Act
- Dangerous Goods Act
- Fire and Emergency Act
- Food Act
- Public Health Act.

Other issues of compliance will include:

- relevant Australian Standards and Codes of Practice and NT Guidelines.
- Austroads requirements
- National Code of Practice for the Construction Industry (Australian Procurement and Construction Council Inc [APCC] 1997)
- the Building Code of Australia, for buildings and building works undertaken.

The contractor, not DPI, will ensure that all necessary permits, licences and approvals relevant to health and safety matters for the project are obtained.

The contractor must also ensure that it complies with responsibilities under its obligations to due diligence, duty-of-care and common law.

In addition, the contractor must consult and actively liaise with all relevant NT health and safety authorities. Until the contractor is appointed and its draft HSP and environmental management planning is reviewed it is difficult to predict some issues. However, it is expected that this would include NT groups such as the Katherine West Health Board—Environmental Health, DPI Director of Building Control, NT Police, NTPWS and the Department of Health and Community Services. The contractor will ensure that an up-to-date Contacts Register is maintained for the project.

## **6.1 HEALTH AND SAFETY PLAN**

The contractor will submit a copy of its OH&S management system to DPI and will comply with the requirements of the system. Only contractors accredited under AS4801 will be considered for this project, consequently it is expected that the HSP will comply with all statutory, Standards, guidance and best practice requirements.

The contractor will prepare and implement a HSP specific to the work under this Contract. The HSP will reference sections of the contractor's OH&S system and include a Hazard Management Plan.

The HSP will address all relevant elements of the NT Work Health Regulations, the National Code of Practice for the Construction Industry (APCC 1977) and Procedure 03—Safety Management of the Civil Contractors Federation Integrated Management System.

An ERP will be prepared by the contractor, either as a stand-alone plan or an integral part of the HSP. All linkages to local and regional emergency management and counter-disaster plans will be included in the ERP, including a register of emergency agencies and their contact details.

The DPI Superintendent owes no duty to the contractor to review any HSP submitted by the contractor for compliance with the contract or legislation. The DPI Superintendent will advise the contractor of suggestions to change the plan.

Information regarding any known hazard associated with the work environment that could be reasonably anticipated by the contractor is to be listed under Specific Risks and Hazards.

The contractor will, prior to commencement of work, prepare a Risk Assessment following the methodology of NT Work Health regulations, the National Code of Practice for the Construction Industry (APCC 1977), or Procedure 03—Safety Management of the Civil Contractors Federation Integrated Management System.

The contractor will reassess the risks in the event of any change to the work environment or methods of work.

The contractor will immediately notify the Superintendent of the occurrence of any conditions or events that make, or threaten to make, the working environment hazardous, dangerous or unsafe.

## **6.2 AUDITS AND REVIEW**

The contractor's HSP will include an audit schedule and reference a relevant audit procedure.

In addition to audits arranged by the contractor, the contractor will allow external audits of the contractor and any subcontractor to be undertaken. This may be by DPI, another NT Government group or a third-party auditor.

Audits may be undertaken of the contractor's compliance with any matter relating to the safety requirements of the contract or legislation. The audits may be undertaken without notice at any time.

Where a non-conformance is detected during an audit, the contractor will take immediate action to rectify the non-conformance.

## **6.3 PERFORMANCE REPORTING**

At each Site Meeting and on request, the contractor will provide evidence of ongoing performance of the contractor's OH&S management system, including the following information:

- number of lost time injuries
- working days lost due to injury
- property damage
- current status of any injured personnel and damaged property
- status of the implementation and outcomes of corrective actions undertaken as a result of OH&S inspections and hazard identification
- evidence of OH&S management system audits undertaken.

When requested, the contractor will provide reports on OH&S inspections, audits or assessments undertaken during the course of the contract.

#### **6.4 INCIDENT NOTIFICATION**

In the event of a dangerous occurrence requiring notification to the Workplace Services Inspectorate, the contractor will at the same time inform the Superintendent.

The contractor will immediately notify the Superintendent of any accident or injury that occurs during the contract. The contractor will, within three days of any such incident, provide a report giving complete details of the incident, including results of investigations into its cause, and any recommendations or strategies for prevention in the future.

#### **6.5 NON-COMPLIANCE**

If the DPI Superintendent considers that suspension of the whole or part of the work under the contract is necessary for the protection or safety of any person or property, the Superintendent will direct the contractor to suspend the progress of the work under the contract for such time as the Superintendent thinks fit.

#### **6.6 SPECIFIC RISKS AND HAZARDS**

This section will include a list of specific OH&S risks and hazards and mitigation and management measures for each risk and hazard that could be reasonably anticipated by the contractor in the execution of the works; for example, management of mosquitoes, other insects and biting pests, vertebrate fauna and precautions required when working in and adjacent to water.

These risk matters are discussed in more detail in Chapter 7.