BASS HIGHWAY WEST OF WESTBURY DUPLICATION BETWEEN BIRRALEE ROAD OVERPASS AND EXTON

Submission to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works

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Amendments in this Release:

Section Title	Section Number	Amendment Summary
Utilities	2.6	Amended
Development Approvals	3.5	Updated to show submission of DA
Costs	4.2	Estimate updated
Appendix B		Draft Detail Design Drawings added
Appendix C		Project Estimate Summary Updated

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1 Introduction

The Department of State Growth (State Growth) is progressing through to detailed design for the duplication of the Bass Highway West of Westbury between the Birralee Road overpass and Exton. Funding has been approved under the National Highway Upgrade Programme and will be governed under the National Partnership Agreement on Land Transport Infrastructure Projects.

This report aims to provide evidence to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works in support of the project outcomes.

1.1 Background

Improvements to the Bass Highway are being delivered as part of the Australian Government's \$229 million National Highway Upgrade Programme. The programme funds upgrades such as shoulder and centreline widening, ripple strips and wire rope barriers, overtaking lanes, turning lanes and pavement improvements across Australia.

Construction of the project is planned to commence in October 2015 and be completed by the end of March 2016.

1.2 Project Objectives

The project objective is to improve driver safety and eliminate head on crashes by reducing confusion currently occurring due to changes between single and dual carriageways on a short section of highway. Other objectives to be achieved by this project include:

- Reduce severity of loss of control crashes.
- Develop a consistent road environment.
- Provide a minimum AusRAP 3 star safety standard for this section of the National Highway.

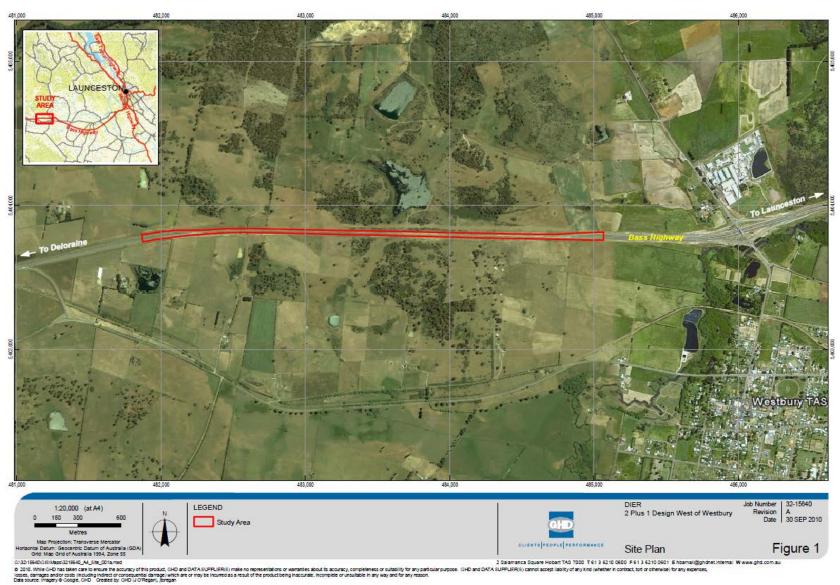
1.3 Project Location

The project site is located on the Bass Highway (A0249), west of the Birralee Main Road Overpass, between Link/Chainage 16/8.5 and Link/Chainage 16/11.7.

The project site is shown in Figure 1.

This section of the Bass Highway is a single carriageway, with a single lane in each direction. The adjacent sections of the Highway, to both east and west, are dual carriageways with two lanes in each direction. The geometry of the transitions between the existing dual and single carriageway sections suggests that the existing single carriageway has been designed to be the westbound carriageway of a future dual carriageway upgrade.

Figure 1 Project Location



1.4 Strategic Context of the Project

The Bass Highway forms part of Tasmania's National Highway network and as such provides a primary task of connecting freight and passenger movements across northern Tasmania. It connects the major northern cities of Burnie, Devonport and Launceston.

2 Project Details

2.1 Proposed Works

The project involves the conversion of 3.2km of Bass Highway single carriageway to dual carriageway and will include the installation of flexible safety barriers between two existing sections of dual carriageway.

Design plans are attached as Appendix B

2.2 Design Speed

The design speed limit is 110 km/hr.

2.3 Road Cross Section

The design elements adopted for the second carriageway is outlined below. This geometry has been selected to ensure a consistent cross-section is maintained with that of the dual carriageway each side of this section of the Bass Highway.

Second Carriageway Design Elements

Element	Dimension		
Median width (shoulder to shoulder)	13m		
Median slope	6(H): 1(V)		
Median Side Verge width	0.5m		
Median Side Shoulder width	1.0m		
Lane width	2 x 3.5m		
Outside Shoulder width	2.0m		
Outside Verge width	1.0m		
Table drain width	3.2m		
Table drain slope	3(H): 1(V)		
Cut batter slope	1.5(H): 1(V)		
Fill batter slope	2(H): 1(V)		

2.4 Safety Benefits

In the ten year period 1 January 2005 to 3 February 2015 there have been one fatal and three serious casualty crashes on this section of the Bass Highway. The fatal crash involved a head-on collision and the two serious casualty crashes involved loss-of-control.

Refer to Appendix A for the map of crashes reported to Police for the noted ten year period.

The RACT has previously advised that changing between single and dual carriageway is potentially dangerous because an inattentive driver might overtake thinking they were on a dual carriageway when in fact they were on a single carriageway.

There have also been reports of drivers heading to the wrong side of the road at the points where the single carriageway becomes dual carriageway. These locations have since been heavily signed.

2.5 Drainage

The new drainage for the dual carriageway and median is designed to drain to match existing outlets. It is intended to construct grated pits in the median and extend and upgrade existing culverts to suit.

2.6 Utilities

A review of services in this section of the Bass Highway was undertaken, with a summary provided below:

- There is no telecommunications infrastructure in the vicinity of the project site.
- There are no power or light poles in the vicinity of the project site and Tasnetworks confirmed that they do not have underground assets in the vicinity of the project.
- An existing 375 diameter asbestos cement water main crosses the Bass Highway in the vicinity of Link/Chainage 16/8.76. An additional 100 diameter also crosses the highway reserve. It is expected that neither main will impact on the road construction.
- There is a TasGas high pressure gas transmission pipeline running roughly parallel to the Bass Highway through the private property immediately north of the Highway reservation.
- TasGovNet indicated that there is a fibre optic cable running along a similar route to the TasGas pipeline.

3 Social, Environmental Impacts and Stakeholder Engagement

3.1 Property Acquisition

The design of the duplication indicates that the road reserve is sufficient for the proposed works and no further acquisition is required. However the fence line will need to relocated back to the property line. Fencing agreements will need to be obtained from the property owners in regard to the proposed fencing to be provided.

3.2 Flora and Fauna

An assessment of the area has been undertaken for the project. The survey found:

- No threatened vegetation communities were identified during the survey;
- Some impact upon native vegetation which provides marginal habitat for threatened (foraging) and non-threatened (foraging and possibly nesting/denning) native fauna. The available habitat is not considered to be optimal for any of the locally occurring threatened fauna and no nesting or denning for threatened species was observed;
- Three declared weed species. These were:
 - Rubus fruticosus aggregate (blackberry);
 - o Salix sp.(willow); and
 - o Ulex europaeus (gorse).

3.3 Aboriginal Heritage

Advice received from Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania confirmed that, given the area is highly disturbed and an existing highway, there is no additional Aboriginal cultural heritage required for the project to proceed. Standard practices relating to the unanticipated discovery of Aboriginal artefacts apply.

3.4 Historic Heritage Assessment

A desktop heritage assessment was undertaken for a 2+1 treatment of the Bass Highway. The desktop heritage assessment involved searches of a number of statutory and non-statutory lists.

The search revealed that there are no sites listed within the study area. The closest sites identified were in excess of 500m away from the Bass Highway, which is also clear of the extended study area for the proposed Bass Highway duplication.

3.5 Development Approvals

Consultation with Meander Valley Council's planning officers has been undertaken. A discretionary Development Application (DA) is required for submission, as well as a public display inviting representations. Lodgement of the DA was undertaken in April 2015.

3.6 Stakeholder Engagement

Representatives from GHD and the Department of State Growth met with Meander Valley Council officers on 17 March 2015 to discuss the project and the submission of a development application. Officers were shown the preliminary design plans.

Affected Landowners

Glen Avon Farms Pty Ltd – 135 Birralee Road, Westbury – Geoff Gleeson (Property Manager). The property bounds the Bass Highway and Birralee Road. The project team met with Mr Gleeson at the farm office on Tuesday 24 March 2015, and discussed the need to move the existing fence line onto the correct property boundary.

Andrew Wadley - 3480 Meander Valley Road, Westbury. The property is split by the Bass Highway and served by a stock and vehicle underpass. The project team met with Mr & Mrs Wadley at their home on Tuesday 24 March 2015. Mr & Mrs Wadley had some concerns about the impact on farming operations by the proposed construction methodology and timing for the extension of the underpass. The project team agreed to review options and report back to Mr & Mrs Wadley.

Andrew Johnston – 3630 Meander Valley Road, Westbury. Mr Johnston was contacted by phone to arrange an on-site meeting to discuss the project. His property is adjacent to the existing Bass Highway dual carriageway and he was not concerned with the new construction proposed.

Future consultation

Meander Valley Council and the affected landowners will be further consulted as the project develops and documentation is finalised.

4 Project Program and Costs

4.1 Project Program

The current program identifies a construction completion date (practical completion) of May 2016. After this date, there is the 12 month Defects Liability Period.

Key Milestones	Completion Date
Scoping PPR Approval	May 2015
Preliminary Design Approval	April 2015
Submission of Development and Delivery PPR	May 2015
Detail Design Complete	May 2015
Development Approval	June 2015
Parliamentary Standing committee for Public Works Approval	June 2015
Tender Awarded	September 2015
Construction Commence	October 2015
Construction Completion	May 2016

4.2 Costs

Strategic costs estimates have been prepared for the project. The outturn costs are provided below:

P50 \$8,293,000

P90 \$9,377,000

The cost estimate is provided in Appendix C.

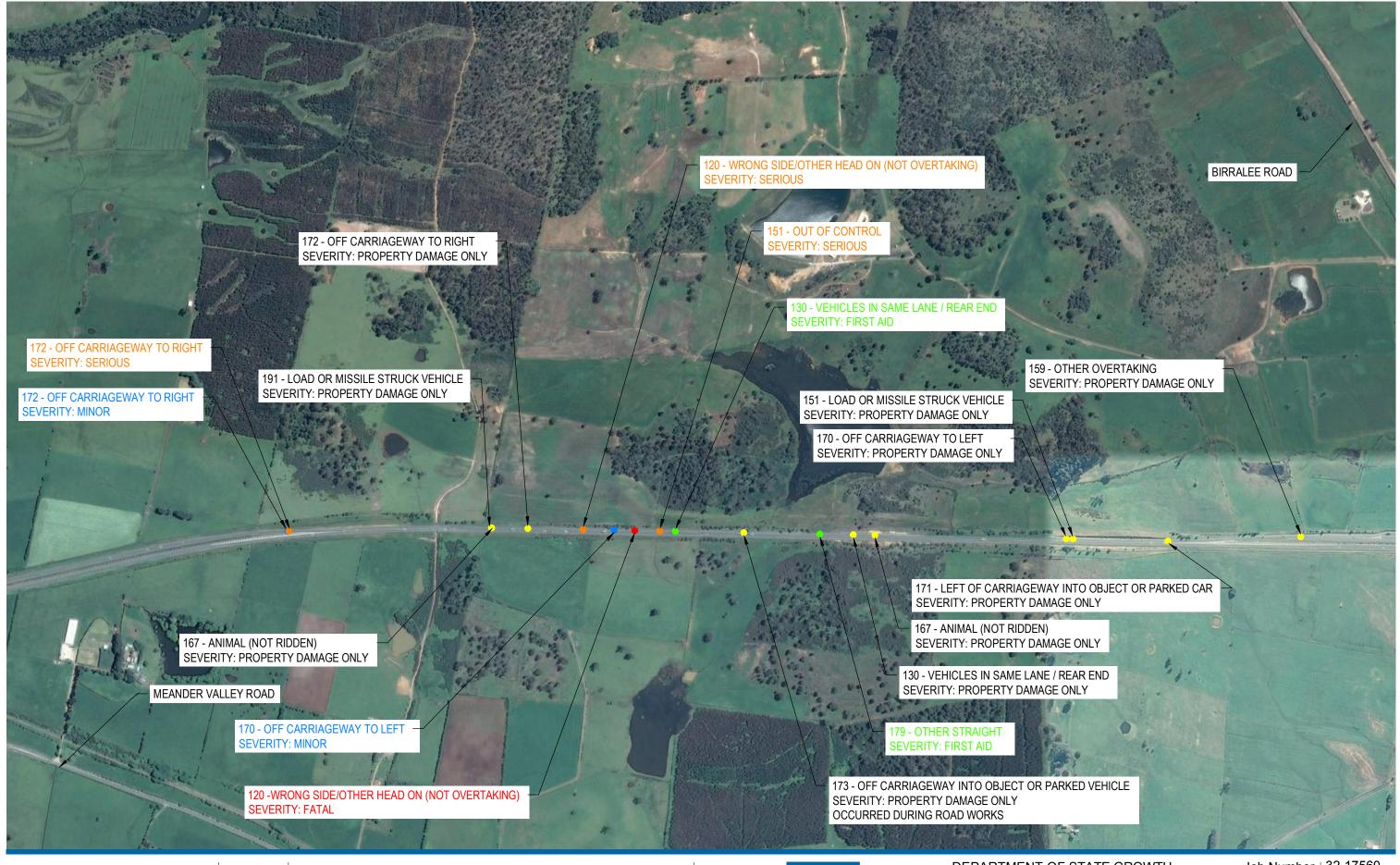
During April, the detailed design will be completed and the cost estimate refined.

5 Conclusion

This project has been designed using appropriate design standards and guidelines.

When complete, this project will improve safety and consistency of a 3.2km section of the Bass Highway. The Bass Highway is a critical element in Tasmania's transport network. The upgraded section will continue to provide a safer and more efficient link between the northern cities; major industrial producers and the national land transport network.







DEPARTMENT OF STATE GROWTH BASS HIGHWAY - WEST OF WESTBURY Job Number | 32-17560

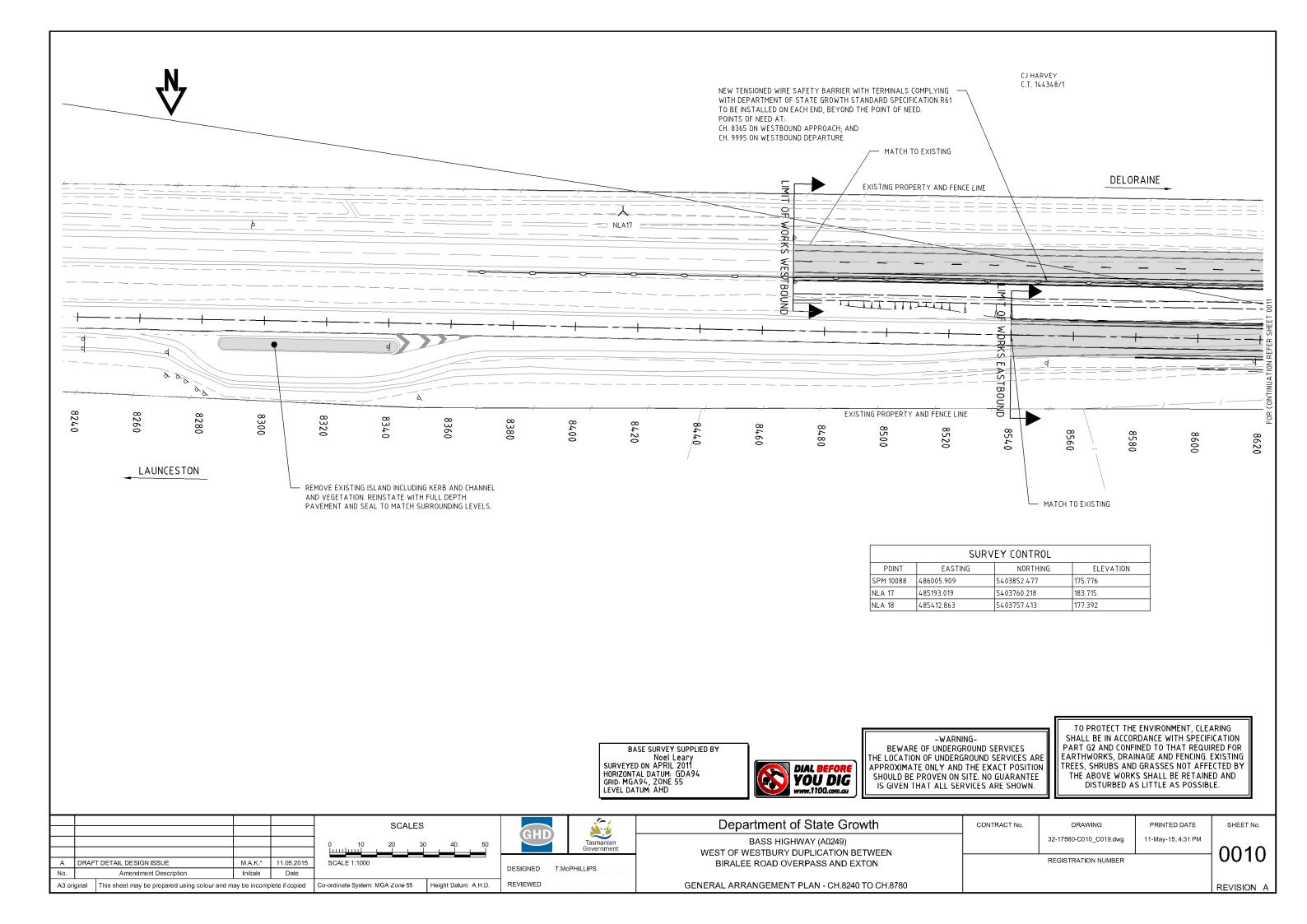
Revision A

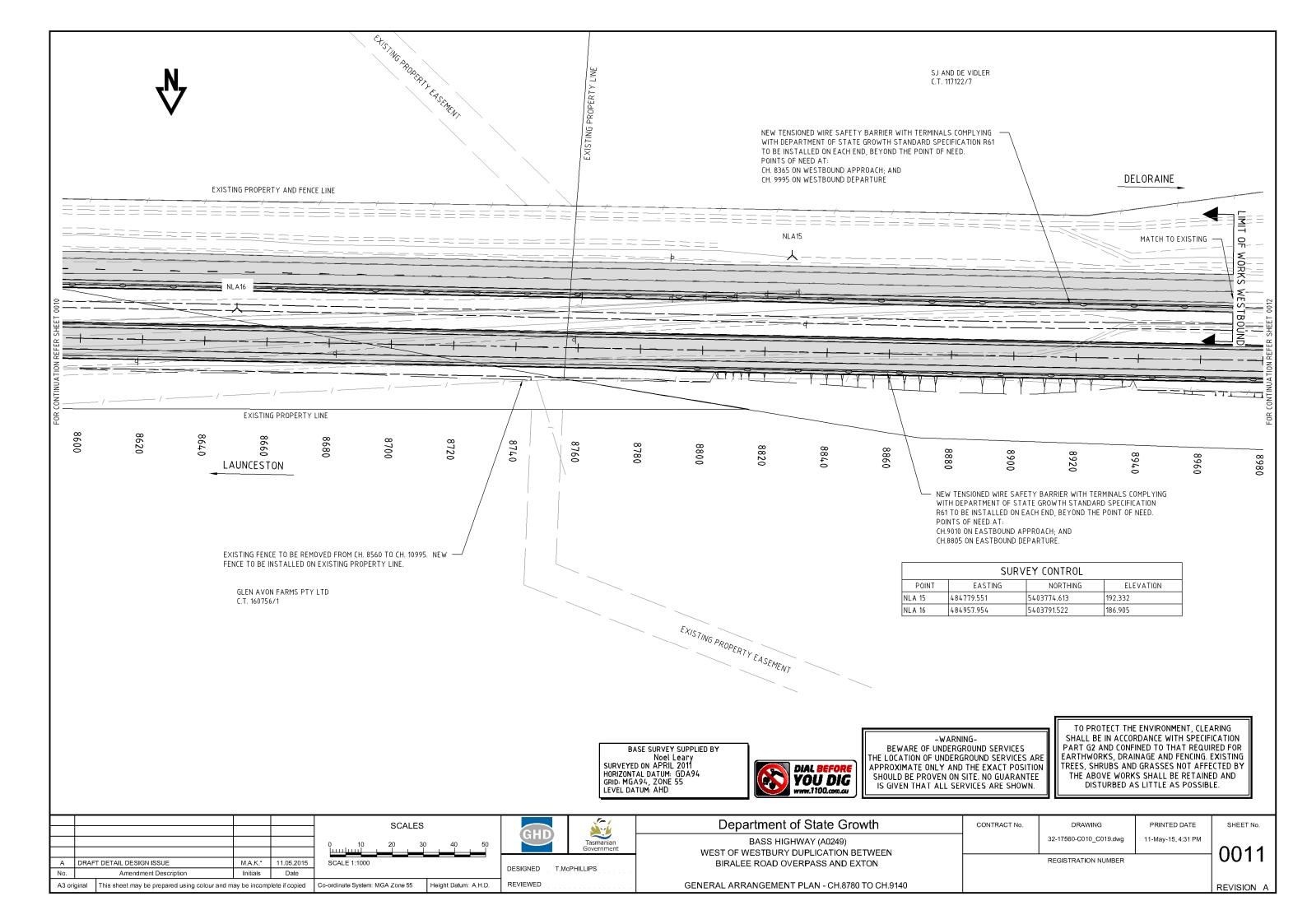
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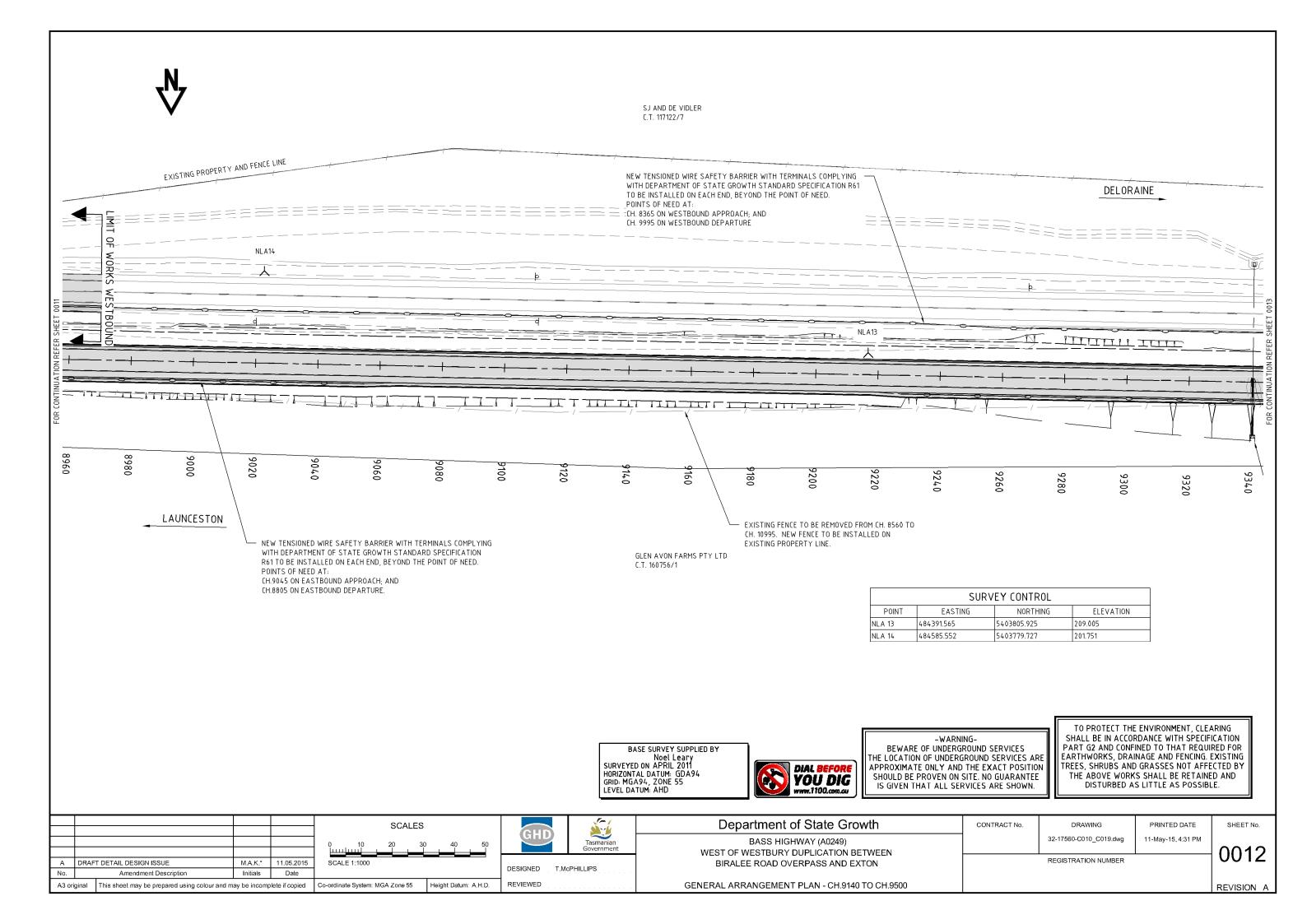
CRASH REPORTED TO TAS POLICE 01/01/2005 - 03/02/2015

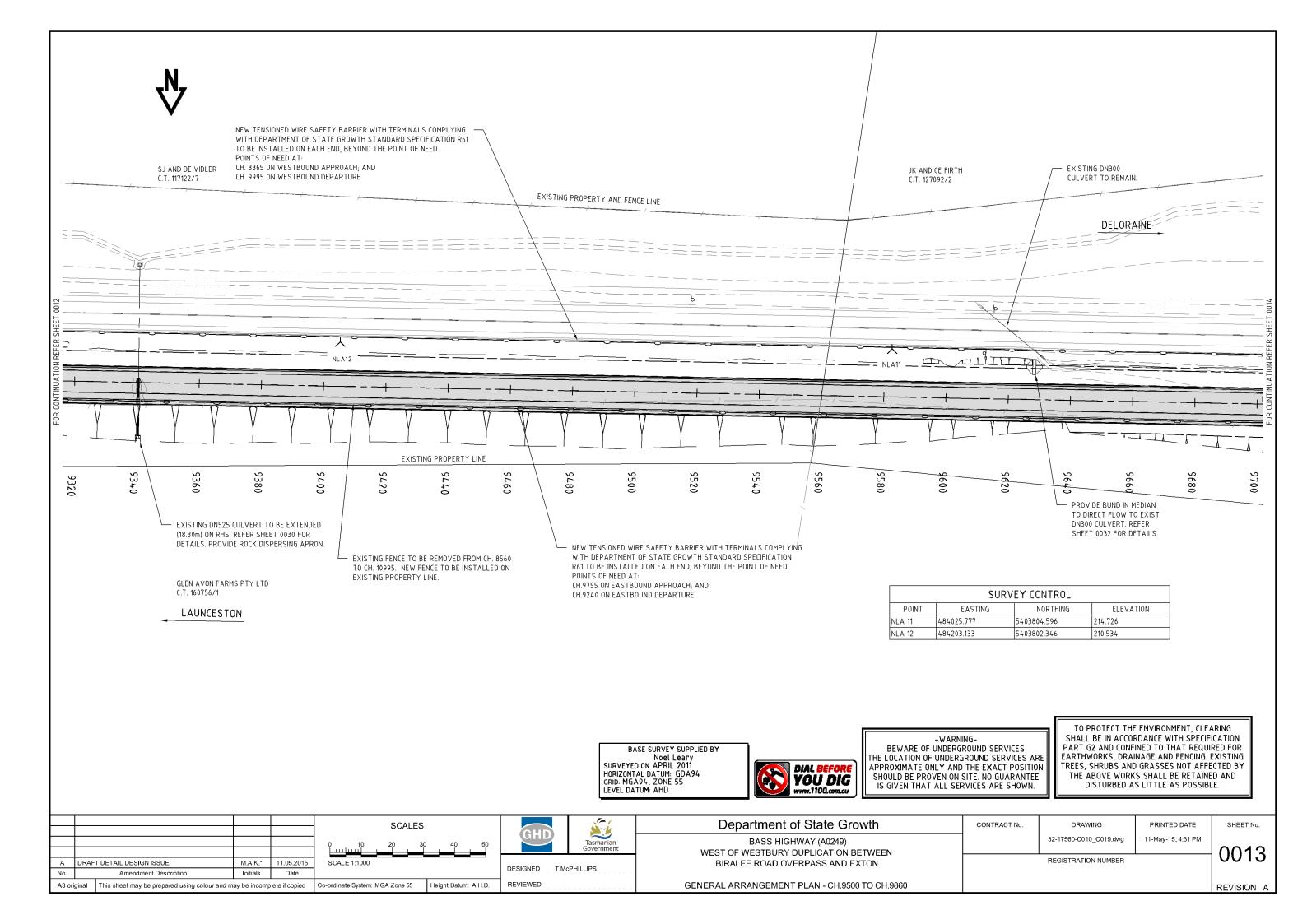
Figure 01

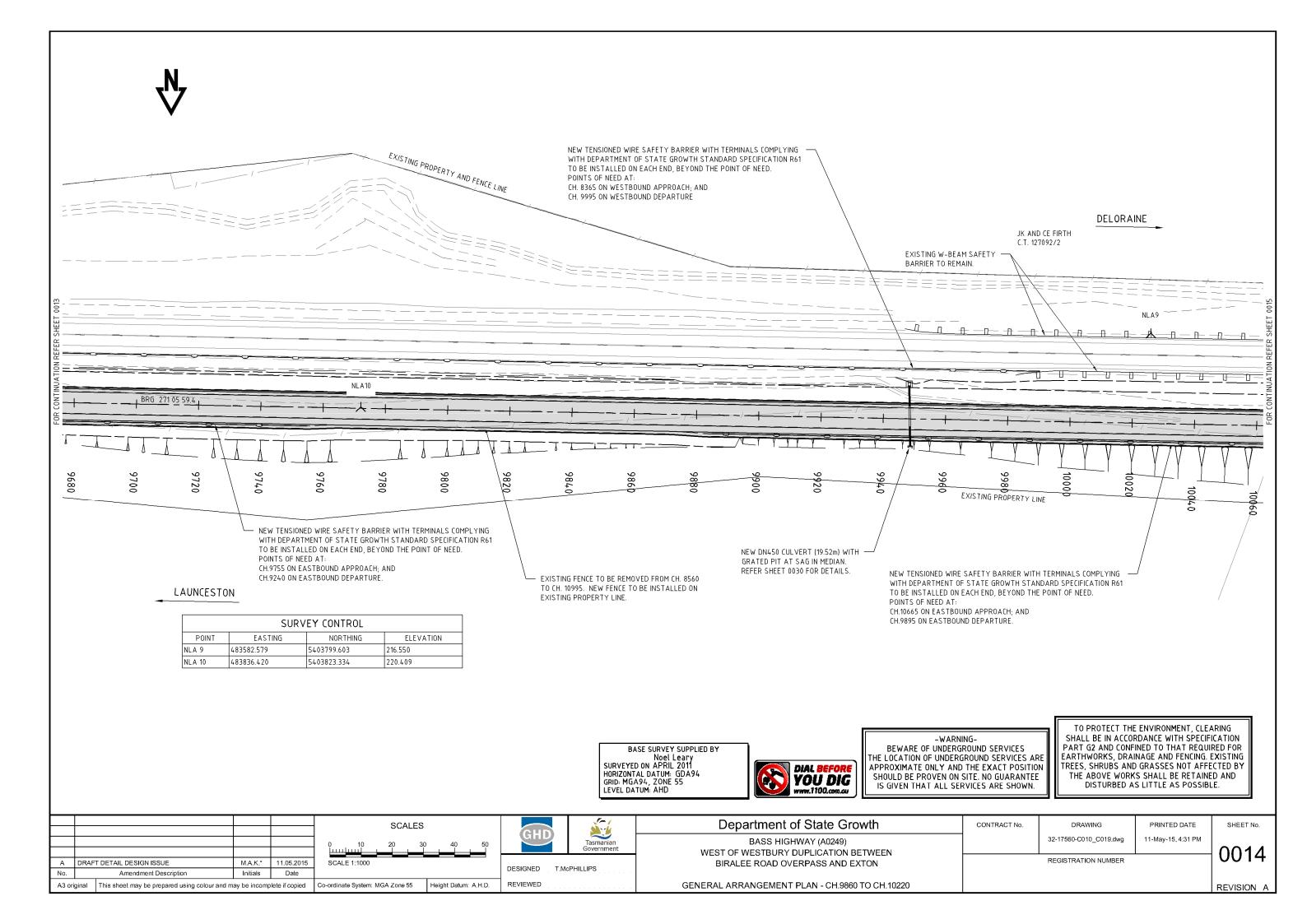
Appendix B: Drawings

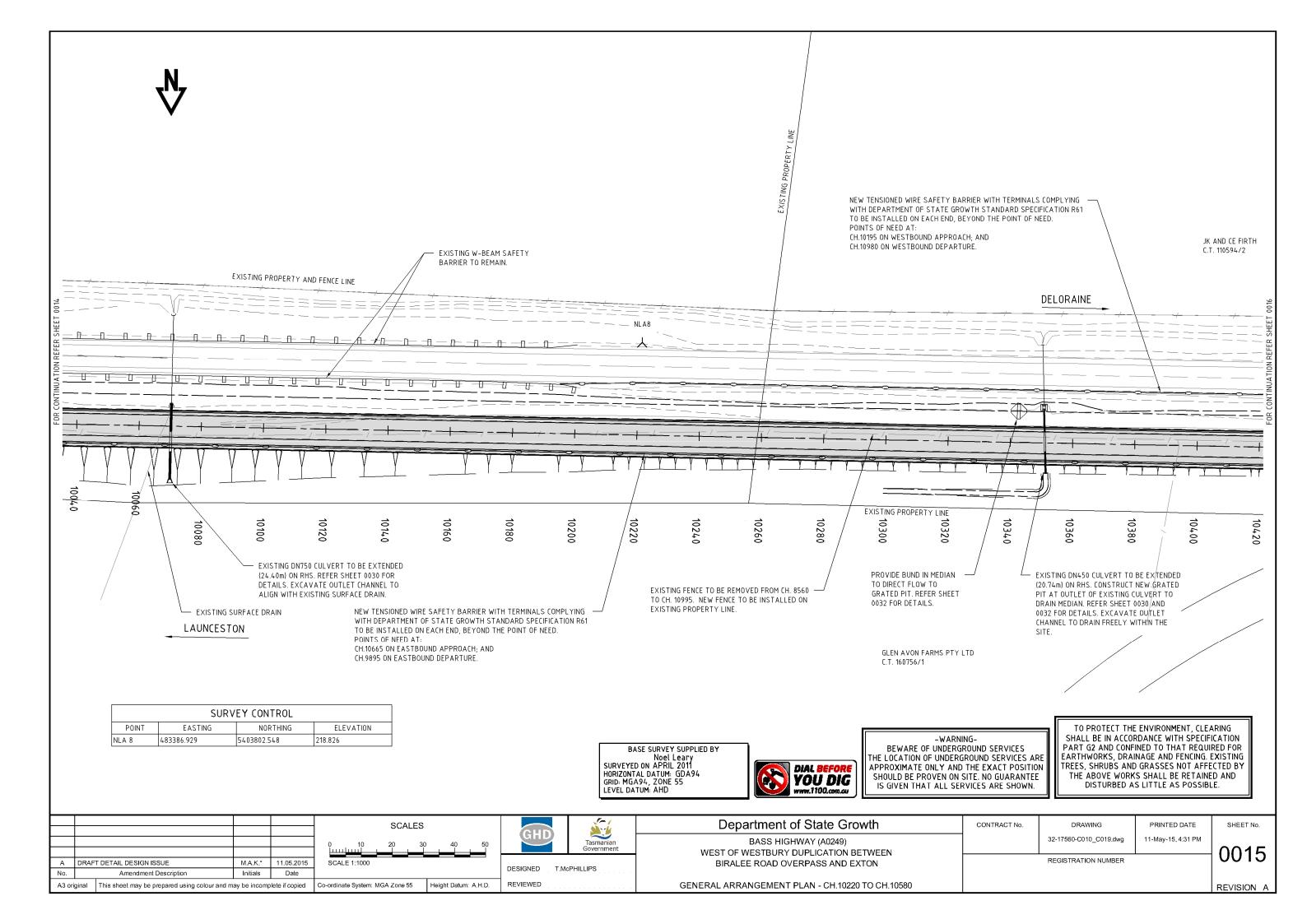


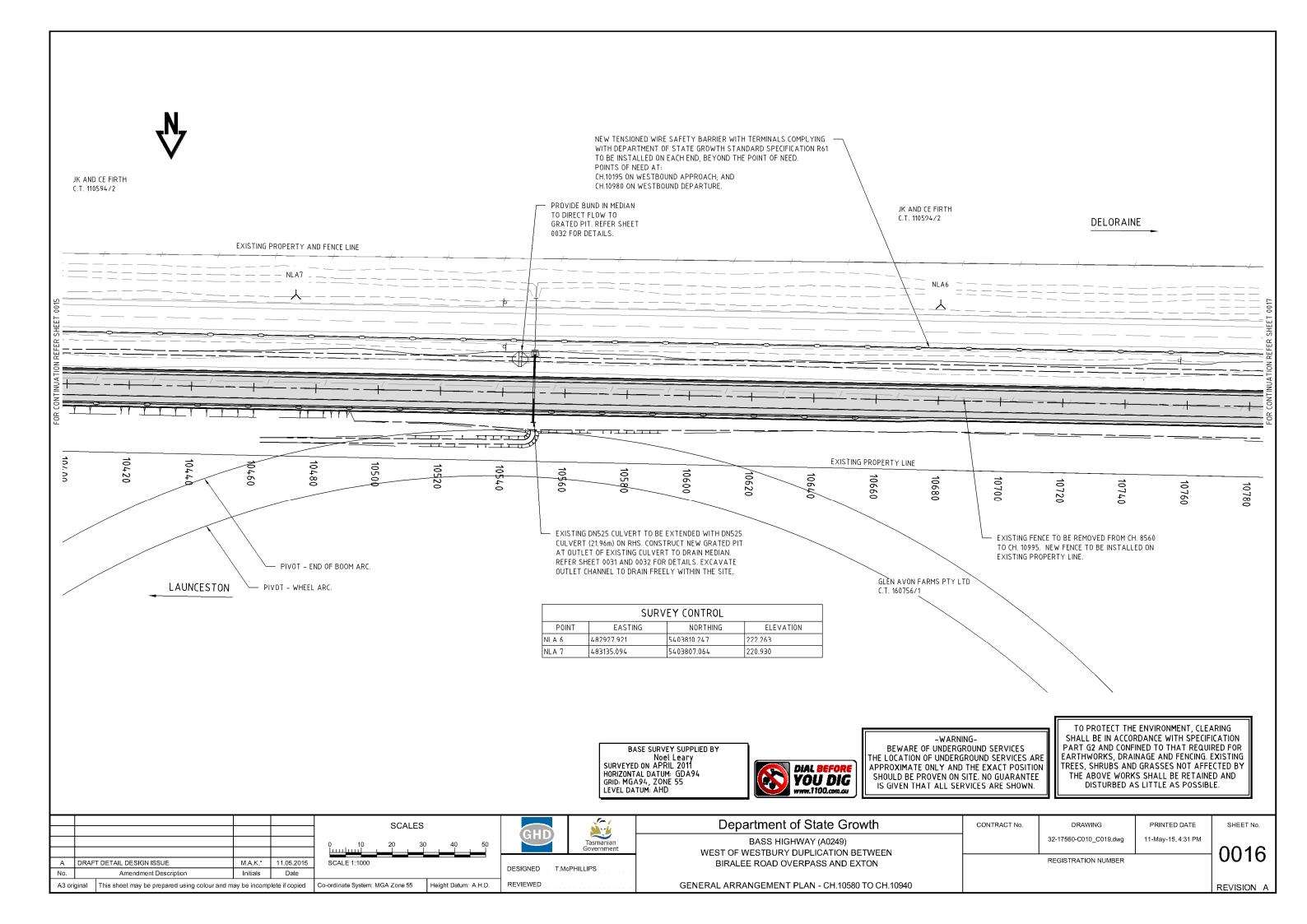


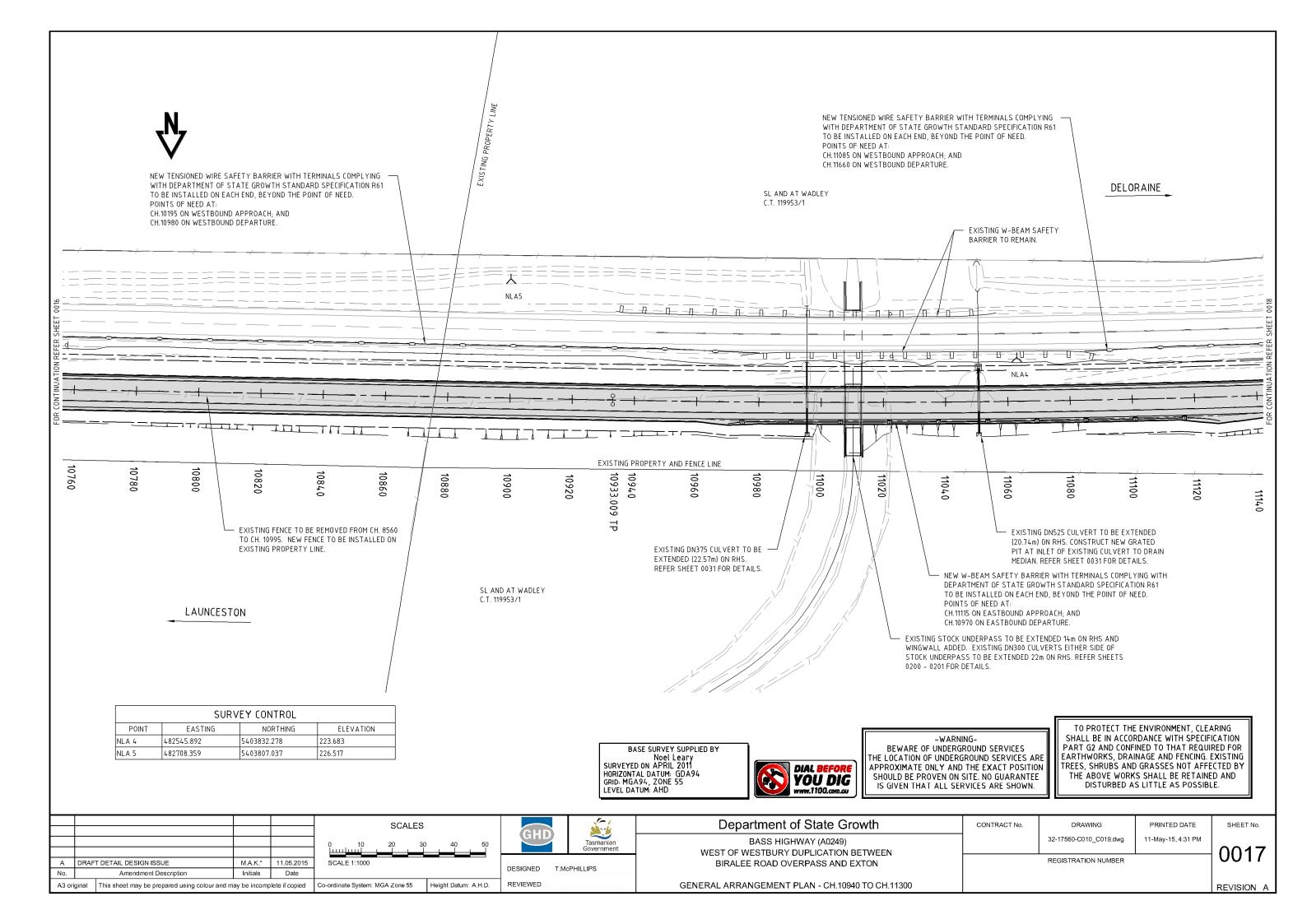


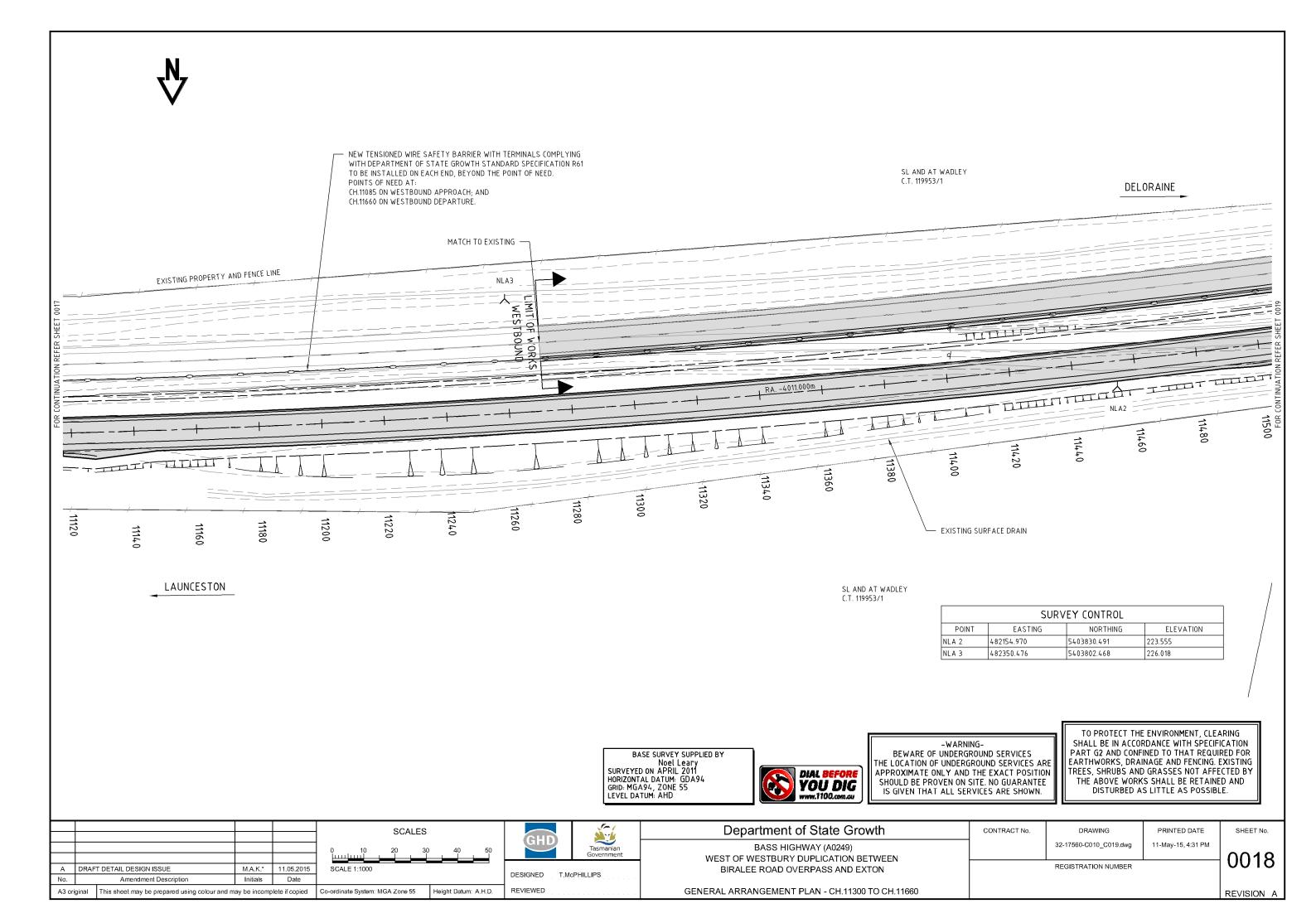


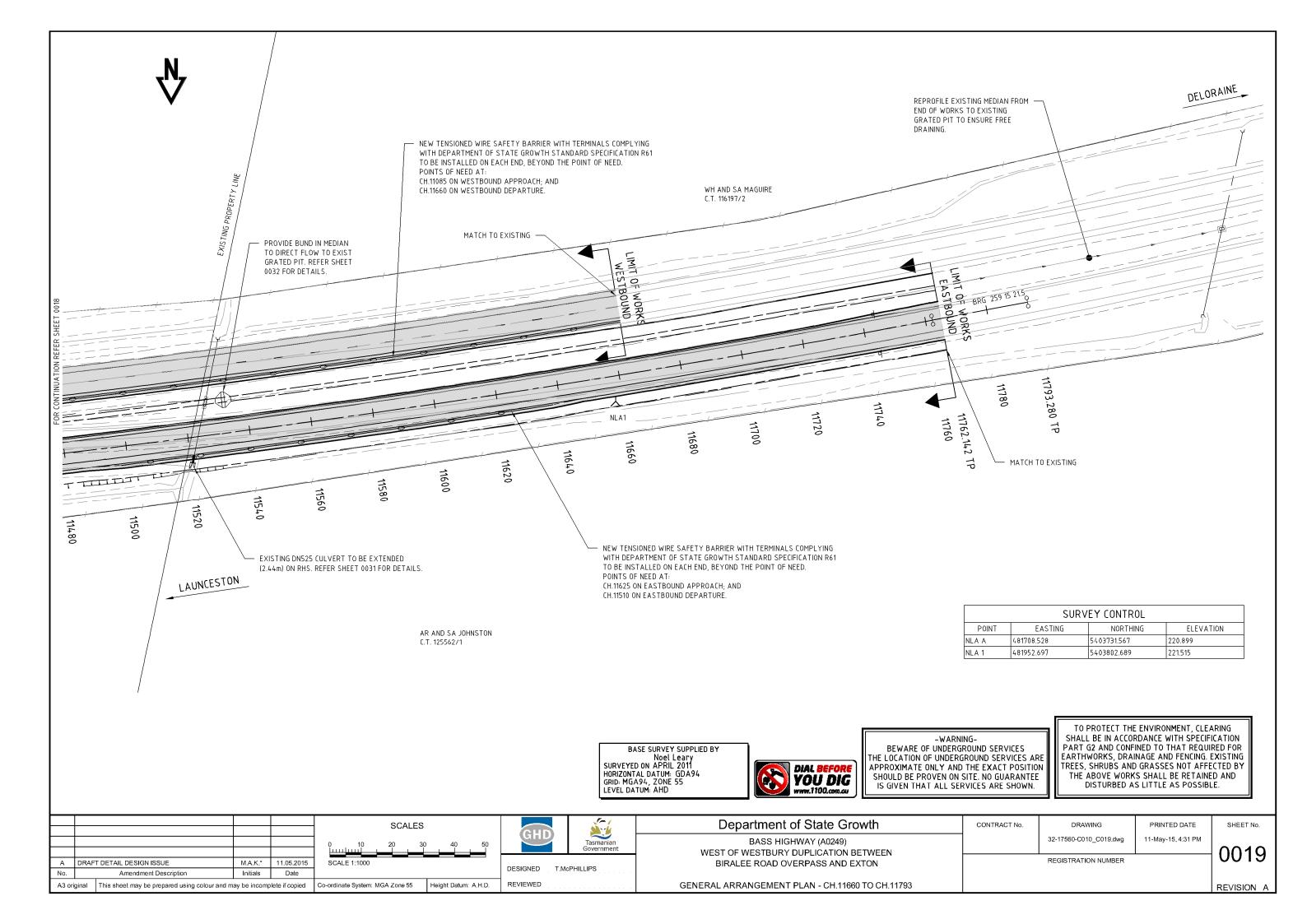












Appendix C: P50/P90 Cost Estimate

Project Element	Preliminary Cost Estimate \$ M		
Client costs	0.63		
Construction	7.20		
Contingencies	P50	P90	
	0.46	1.54	
Subtotal Project Estimate	8.29	9.37	
Escalation	0.0	0.0	
Total Project Outturn Cost, to nearest \$0.1 M	8.3	9.4	

Contract No. 2220-2-11 Bass Highway (A0249) West of Westbury Duplication

Project Estimate Summary

Base Date of Estimate: May 2015
Phase Detail

Item		Amo Totals have b	ount Deen rounde	d
1 Scoping Phase				
Not used				
Subtotal: Scoping Phase 2 Development Phase				Nil
Design - Concept	\$			-
Design - Preliminary	\$			-
Design - Detailed	\$			181,700.00
Design Applications, Permits, Fees, Advertising etc. State Growth - Project Management	\$ \$			9,700.00 108,050.00
State Growth - Public Consultation	\$			21,700.00
Subtotal: Development Phase	\$			321,150.00
3 Property Acquisition				
Subtotal: Property Acquisition	\$			-
4 Delivery Phase State Growth - Project Management	\$			108,050.00
State Growth - Project Management	\$			169,300.00
State Growth - Miscellaneous	\$			-
Insurances Subtatal Polivery Phase	\$			32,400.00
Subtotal: Delivery Phase 5 Total Client Costs	\$			309,750.00 630,900.00
J Total Gliefit Gosts	Ψ			030,700.00
Construction				
Project Specific	\$			324,903.00
Earthworks Drainage	\$ \$			3,003,437.00 285,492.40
Pavement	\$			2,066,412.00
Bituminous Surfacing	\$			590,868.00
Traffic Facilities Landscaping	\$ \$			605,194.00 146,361.50
Miscellaneous	\$			179,500.00
Precast Units	\$			-
Note: Direct & indirect costs factored into rates Subtotal: Contractor's Costs	\$			7,202,167.90
8 Client Supplied Materials or Services	Ф			7,202,107.90
Services	\$			-
Service Track	\$			-
Street Lighting Reseal	\$ \$			-
Subtotal: Client Supplied Materials or Services	\$			-
9 Total Construction Cost (TCC)				7,202,167.90
10 Base Estimate (Lines 5 + 9)	\$			7,833,068
12 Total Contingency	P5 \$ 4	59,434.84	\$	P90 1,543,622.58
sta. sommysnoj	Ψ Τ	6%	*	20%
Total Contingency	\$	459,434.84	\$	1,543,622.58
13 Project Estimate (Lines 10 + 12)		292,502.74	\$	9,376,690.48
Cash Flow: Start Escalation 8/05/2015	Start Cons	truction	30/09/2	015
Lead Escalation (applied to Project Estimate excl. Development Phase)	\$		\$	
15 Total Outturn Cost (rounded to nearest \$1000)	\$	8,293,000	\$	9,377,000
To Total Outlant Cost (Founded to ficul est \$1000)	- 	0,270,000	Ψ	