



Mr Chris Gilmore
Project Manager – Water Resilience
Hunter Water Corporation
36 Honeysuckle Drive
Newcastle NSW 2300

19/10/2020

Dear Mr Gilmore

**Belmont Drought Response Desalination Plant (SSI-8896)
Preferred Infrastructure Report — Response to Submissions**

The exhibition of the development application including the Preferred Infrastructure Report and Response to Submissions ended on 7 October 2020. All submissions received by the Department during the exhibition of the proposal are available on the Department's website at www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/projects.

The Department requires that you provide a response to the issues raised in those submissions. You are also requested to respond to the issues presented within Attachment 1 of this letter. Please provide a response to the issues raised in these submissions within two months / by Friday 18 December 2020.

If you have any questions, please contact Rebecca Sommer, who can be contacted on 9274 6184 or at Rebecca.Sommer@planning.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'KH' followed by a flourish.

Karen Harragon
Director, Social And Infrastructure Assessments
Social & Infrastructure Assessments

as delegate for the Planning Secretary

Attached: Attachment 1

Attachment 1: Key Issues

The Department requests additional information and/or clarification on the following:

Consistency and relevance across documentation

There are inconsistencies across the supplementary technical reports provided to support the preferred project (i.e. some reports provide a comprehensive list of mitigation measures that apply to the whole preferred project, some provide the measures that apply to the amended sections only, some provide a full revised report and some provide an addendum report).

The Department requests that the reports are made consistent or that a comprehensive summary document be provided that clearly stipulates all sections of the EIS and associated appendices that remain relevant and applicable to the preferred project as a whole.

Buildings and hardstand

A summary of the areas of hardstand areas, buildings (height, area, materials) and roof areas of the desalination plant are to be provided. This should also include detail of the management of surface water/stormwater flows and flows associated with any overtopping during king tide events and 1 in 100 rainfall events.

Mitigation Measures

The Department requests a table of detailed mitigation measures that will be implemented as part of the preferred project. It is not considered sufficient to refer to the measures provided within technical reports. Mitigation measures must be clearly consolidated and committed to by the Applicant.

Additional Information

The Department also requests the following information:

- Detail of the decommissioning of the evaporation ponds, including year and detail of any approvals obtained.
- Consideration of stormwater flows during construction and operation.
- Details of car parking to be provided during construction and operation.
- Confirmation of the depth of the sea water shaft - there are conflicting depths in documentation provided.
- Detail of the 'groundwater treatment system' that will be utilised during shaft installation.
- Detail of the 'liner type storage tanks' that would be established during construction (i.e. number, size, location).

Confirmation that the entirety of the brine pipeline would be contained within Hunter Water owned land. This should consider the submission/s received from Crown Lands.