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Mrs Rebecca Wright
Penrith Lakes Development Corporation Ltd
Locked Bag 2000
SOUTH PENRITH NSW 2750

Our ref: 9038660
Your ref:

Dear Mrs Wright

Proposed Nepean Pump and Pipeline Project

I refer to your request for the Director-General's assessment requirements for the preparation of an Environmental Assessment in relation to the proposed Nepean Pump and Pipeline.

The Environmental Assessment Requirements are attached. The requirements have been developed in light of:

- the Department's draft guidelines "*Steps in the Part 3A Project Application Process*";
- the outcomes of the Planning Focus Meeting held on 14 April 2005; and
- subsequent consultation with government agencies and Penrith Council.

The requirements have been prepared based on the information provided by Maunsell, on behalf of Penrith Lakes Development Corporation, in respect of the proposed project.

In respect of the Environmental Assessment to be submitted by Penrith Lakes Development Corporation, the Department should be consulted at least one week prior to the lodgement of the Environmental Assessment to confirm the:

- consultation and public exhibition arrangements that will apply; and
- number and format (hard-copy or CD-ROM) of the Environmental Assessments that will be required.

The Environmental Assessment should focus on key issues associated with the likely environmental impacts of the project and highest associated mitigating measures and be compliant with the attached assessment requirements.

Once you have lodged the Environmental Assessment, the Department will consult with the relevant authorities to determine the adequacy of the Environmental Assessment. Following this review period the Environmental Assessment will be made publicly available for a minimum period of 30 days.

You should keep the contact officer for this project, Jacqueline Ingham ((02) 9228 6338, Jacqueline.Ingham@planning.nsw.gov.au), up to date with the progress of preparation of the Environmental Assessment, and seek clarification of any issues that may be unclear or may arise during this process.

Yours sincerely

Chris Wilson
A/Deputy Director General
as delegate for the Director General



NEPEAN PUMP AND PIPELINE PROPOSAL

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS UNDER PART 3A OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT ACT 1979

Project	The construction of a pump and 4.5 kilometre pipeline to extract water from the Nepean River to facilitate the initial filling and long term water supply of the Penrith Lakes.
Site	The pump and pipeline infrastructure will be located across a number of parcels of land between an uptake point immediately upstream of Penrith Weir to a temporary discharge point in the Recreation Lake A in the Penrith Lakes Scheme. The discharge point will be relocated to an extension of the existing Warm Up Lake in the Penrith Lakes Scheme, once quarrying of the western portion of the site is complete.
Proponent	Penrith Lakes Development Corporation
Date of Issue	6 December 2005
Date of Expiration	6 December 2007
General Requirements	<p>The Environmental Assessment must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an executive summary; • a description of the proposal, including construction, operation, and staging; • an assessment of the environmental impacts of the project, with particular focus on the key assessment requirements specified below; • justification for undertaking the project with consideration of the benefits and impacts of the proposal; • a draft Statement of Commitments detailing measures for environmental mitigation, management and monitoring for the project; and • certification by the author of the Environment Assessment that the information contained in the Assessment is neither false nor misleading.
Key Assessment Requirements	<p>The Environmental Assessment must include assessment of the following key issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Justification –a water balance and management program for the Lakes system, selected pumping rates and selection of location of extraction point as part of the justification of the project; • Aquatic Impacts – an aquatic ecological impact assessment that considers potential impacts on threatened aquatic species, direct and indirect impacts upon the movement of fish and macro-invertebrates in the Nepean River and the Penrith Weir, impact of different levels of water extraction on fish passage, impacts on aquatic and riparian habitats, and methods to control pest aquatic species; • Terrestrial Impacts –a terrestrial ecological impact assessment that considers potential impact on threatened species including on the local population of <i>Eucalyptus benthamii</i>, and the impact of reduced water flows on downstream Endangered Ecological communities; • Water Quality and Water Management –an assessment that considers impact on water quality and quantity in the Nepean River and the Penrith Lakes Scheme including identification of and implementation of extraction rates and the associated impacts on river flow and upstream and downstream extractors, impact and management of water quality, impact of the groundwater contamination plume from Crane Enfields Metals on the proposal and the water quality in the lake system and impact of the proposal on the plume dynamics; • Riparian Zone Impacts – an assessment that considers impact on riparian zone

	<p>vegetation, riparian zone stability, environmental protection and rehabilitation requirements;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural Heritage –a copy of the archaeological assessment and details of consultation undertaken with the local Aboriginal community and their responses; • Noise Impacts – a noise assessment that identifies the construction and operational noise impacts on residential and commercial users and associated mitigation measures; • Landscaping and Visual Impacts – a landscape and visual assessment that considers the impact of the project on the Great River Walk and public parks and mitigation methods.
Consultation Requirements	<p>You must undertake an appropriate and justified level of consultation with the following parties during the preparation of the Environmental Assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSW Department of Environment and Conservation; • NSW Department of Primary Industries; • NSW Department of Natural Resources; • Penrith City Council; • Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Management Authority; • Deerubbin Local Aboriginal Land Council; • Darug Tribal Aboriginal Corporation; • Darug Custodian Aboriginal Corporation; • Nepean Rowing Club; • Lower Hawkesbury Nepean Water Users Association; • Hawkesbury Nepean Local Government Advisory Group.
Deemed refusal period	120 days