



NSW GOVERNMENT
Department of Planning

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Mr Stephen Sawtell
General Manager
Coffs Harbour City Council
Locked Bag155
COFFS HARBOUR NSW 2450

Our ref: S06/00885-1
Your ref: 1491055, 31/18991/11/2190

Attention: Glenn O'Grady

Dear Mr Sawtell

**Coffs Harbour Water Treatment Plant (MP 06-0285)
Environmental Assessment Requirements**

I refer to your Project Application dated 20 October 2006 for the above project under Part 3A of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979* (EP&A Act).

The Environmental Assessment requirements for your project are attached. These requirements have been prepared based on the information provided to date including:

- preliminary Environmental Assessment contained in the Council's letter of 20 October 2006;
- the Department's draft guidelines '*Steps in the 3A Project Application Process*'; and
- subsequent consultation with other Government agencies (copies of agencies' requirements are attached).

Under section 75F (3) of the Act, the Director-General may alter or supplement these requirements if necessary and in light of any additional information that may be provided.

You should ensure that you consult with the Department prior to submission of a draft Environmental Assessment to determine:

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

Once you have lodged the draft Environmental Assessment, the Department will consult with the relevant authorities to determine the adequacy of the Environmental Assessment. You will be advised if it is necessary for you to reissue the EA to address any matters that may have not been adequately covered in the draft 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, Rebecca Newman on the above contact details, up to date with the progress of the preparation of the Environmental Assessment, and seek clarification of any issues that may be unclear or may arise during this process.

Yours sincerely

18.12.06

Chris Wilson
Executive Director, Major Project Assessments
As delegate of the Director-General

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

Project	The project involves the construction of a new Water Treatment Plant (WTP) at 140 Upper Orara Road, Karangi, associated facilities, and a transfer pipeline to Coramba. It generally includes the following components: • construction of new lime dosing facilities; • relocation of carbon dioxide dosing facilities from the Karangi Dam site to the new WTP site; • construction of a dissolved air flotation and filtration ('DAFF') treatment plant within the proposed above ground concrete water retaining structures; • provision of chemical storage and dosing facilities, ultra-violet disinfection of the filtered water, and mechanical plant for backwashing of filters; • construction of washwater recycle, sludge thickening and sludge dewatering facilities; • construction of above ground tanks for treated water storage (4 megalitres) and washwater holding tank; • construction of an earthen emergency storage containment lagoon; • construction of a combined control building, testing laboratory and meeting room; • construction of a pump station to transfer treated water to the existing Red Hill tanks for distribution into the Coffs Harbour water supply system; • installation of a kiosk-style power supply transformer to power the various plant, including the provision of a backup diesel generator; • construction of a pipeline to transport treated water to the township of Coramba; and • construction of a paved access road around the WTP site.
Site	140 Upper Orara Road (Lot 2 DP 1083920), Karangi for the new WTP; and a pipeline route from the WTP to Coramba going in a north westerly direction as shown on the attached map. The project sites are within the Coffs Harbour LGA.
Proponent	Coffs Harbour City Council
Date of Expiration	These Director-General's Requirements expire two years from the date of issue.
Special Provision	An opinion was formed that the proposal was a Major Project under Part 3A of the <i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i> (EP&A Act) by the Director-General of the Department of Planning as delegate of the Minister for Planning on 10 November 2006.
General Requirements	The Environmental Assessment must include: • An executive summary; • A description of the existing water treatment system and the proposal, including construction, operation, decommissioning of old plant, and any staging; • Details of the project location, environmental planning provisions applicable to the site and the project; and consideration of alternatives to the project; • An assessment of the environmental impacts of the project, with particular focus on the key assessment requirements specified below; • The design and layout of the proposed WTP, associated on-site and transfer facilities, and proposed construction method(s) for all proposed water crossings; • Indication of any proposed dredging or reclamation activities associated with the project; • Proposed mitigation/management measures for identified environmental impacts; • Justification for undertaking the project with consideration of the benefits/ impacts of the proposal, and proposed management/mitigation/monitoring; • A draft Statement of Commitments for environmental mitigation, management and monitoring for the project; • Certification by the author of the Environmental Assessment that the information contained in the Assessment is neither false nor misleading.

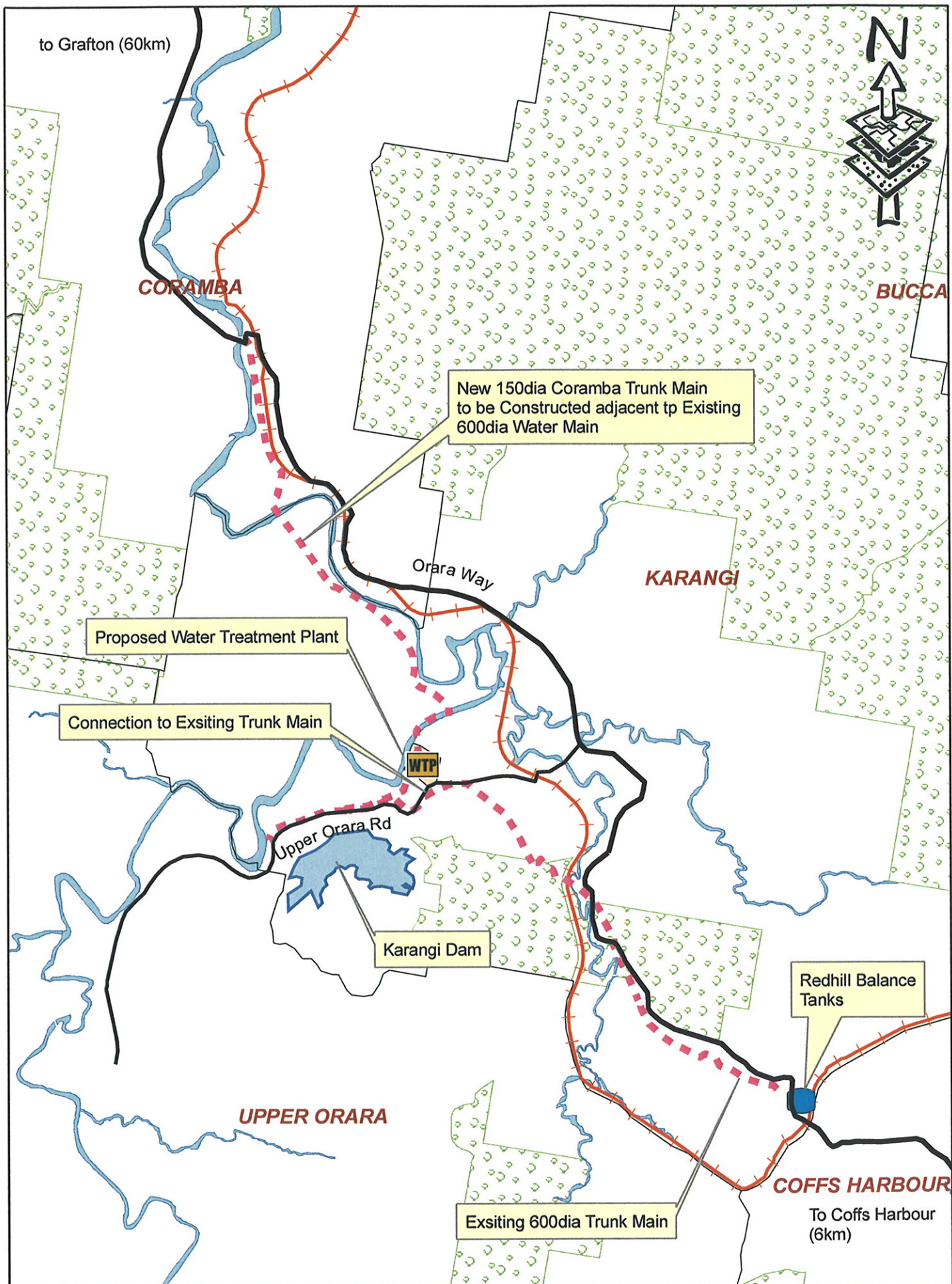
Key Assessment Requirements	The Environmental Assessment must include assessment of the following key issues: • Need and Justification - include a strategic assessment of: ◦ the need for the project, its scale and capacity in relation to predicted water demand, and proposed future expansion; ◦ the direction of the region concerning water supply and demand; and ◦ alternative water sources. • Flora and Fauna - assess any impacts to flora and fauna, particularly critical habitats, threatened species, populations, ecological communities, and their habitats listed under the Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995 and the Fisheries Management Act 1997. The assessment should be undertaken in accordance with the draft Guidelines for Threatened Species Assessment (July 2005), prepared by the Department of Environment and Conservation and the Department of Primary Industries. Reference must be made to potential impacts on threatened aquatic species, fish and macro-invertebrates and their habitats, and methods to control pest aquatic species, as well as to terrestrial species. • Water treatment – provide details on the water treatment proposed for all drinking water produced by the water treatment plant and demonstrate compliance with the National Health and Medical Research Council's Drinking Water Guidelines 2004 and subsequent guidelines. (Note: the North Coast Area Health Service encourages the Proponent to review the management of its water supplies in accordance with the Framework for Management of Drinking Water Quality in the Guidelines). • Water Quality and Water Management – provide background information, and context, on the water supply system that will feed the WTP, including any operational rules; and any implications of the WTP proposal for this system. Assess any interaction that the proposed emergency lagoon may have with groundwater and/or base flows to the Orara River and measures to prevent such interaction. (Note: Measures to protect the lagoon from public/animal access and to prevent it from becoming a mosquito breeding site should also be addressed). • Wastewater Management – it is noted that wastewater will be routinely returned to Karangi Dam or to the WTP inlet. The EA must detail wastewater management approaches, including whether other options are proposed, and fully justify any options not involving reuse, and any further treatment requirements. For wastewater discharged to receiving waters, the EA must include: ◦ assessment of the ambient water quality conditions of the receiving environment and the impact of wastewater discharges and mixing dynamics on receiving waters, with reference to the National Water Quality Management Strategy (ANZECC, 2000) and Water Quality and River Flow Objectives for the Northern Rivers Catchment; ◦ identification of discharge points with estimates of the volume and frequency of discharge; and ◦ discussion of the appropriate monitoring strategy for wastewater quality and quantity and of ambient conditions. • Water crossings – identify all watercourses that will be traversed or affected by the proposed pipelines, consider/discuss alternative construction methods for the pipeline crossings, and assess potential impacts on the water bodies resulting from the chosen construction method. • Noise Impacts – a noise assessment that identifies the construction and operational noise impacts on surrounding residential premises and other sensitive receivers and associated mitigation measures. • Air Quality - an assessment of the potential impacts of dust and odour from the site during construction and operation (as relevant), identify any sensitive receptors and outline proposed mitigation and management measures. • Cultural heritage – an assessment of potential impact of the proposal on
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	Aboriginal cultural heritage values and actions to be implemented to avoid/mitigate impacts, including details of consultation undertaken with the local Aboriginal community and their responses. • Hazardous Materials - details of hazardous materials used or kept on the premises during the construction and operation phases. Details provided should include, but not be limited to: ◦ the maximum quantity likely to be on site, the annual throughput/usage, package size, and the dangerous goods class if a dangerous good; ◦ identification and discussion of any hazards likely to have off site impacts on people or the environment. Credible incident scenarios should be carried forward for further analysis to demonstrate that off site risks will not exceed the NSW published risk criteria as detailed in the Department's Hazardous Industry Planning Advisory Paper No.4, <i>Risk Criteria for Land Use Safety Planning</i>; and ◦ identification of properties likely to be impacted in the event of an incident. Regarding the use or storage of dangerous goods, the EA should consider the principles of State Environmental Planning Policy No.33 (SEPP 33) and refer to the Department's guideline <i>Applying SEPP 33</i>. If relevant, a <i>Preliminary Hazard Analysis</i> in accordance with the Department's Hazardous Industry Planning Advisory Paper No.6, <i>Guidelines for Hazard Analysis</i> must be included as part of the EA. • Fire risk – address the potential for the treatment plant, associated chemicals and neighbouring vegetated areas to cause/influence fire and include management strategies and measures in consultation with the Rural Fire Service. • Traffic and Transport – identify transport routes to and from the project site, including: ◦ details of any proposed upgrading or construction access to the site; ◦ assessment of the construction traffic impact of the project in terms of capacity and safety for these routes and potential damage; and ◦ future traffic movements following completion of works and during full operation such as chemical deliveries and sludge removal. • Waste Generation – consider all wastes generated during construction and upon operation, methods of recycling, treatment, storage and disposal. Particular attention should be given to sludge/biosolids handling. • Contaminated land – document the assessment and management of any land contamination. • Visual Amenity – assess the impact of the proposed development on visual amenity of the surrounding areas.
Relevant Guidelines	• Draft Guidelines for Threatened Species Assessment (Department of Environment and Conservation and Department of Primary Industries, 2005). • Australian Drinking Water Guidelines 2004 (National Health and Medical Research Council). • Water Quality and River Flow Interim environmental Objectives for the Northern Rivers Catchment. • NWQMS: Australian and New Zealand Guidelines for Fresh and Marine Water Quality (ANZECC, 2000). • NWQMS: Australian Guidelines for Water Quality Monitoring and Reporting (ANZECC, 2000). • NWQMS Guidelines for Groundwater Protection in Australia (ARMCANZ & ANZECC, 1995). • State Groundwater Policy Framework Document (DLWC, 1997), NSW State Groundwater Quality Protection Policy (DLWC, 1998), Draft NSW State Groundwater Quantity Management Policy and NSW State Groundwater Dependant Ecosystems Policy (DLWC, 2002).

	• Acid Sulphate Soil Manual (ASSMAC, 1998). • NSW Industrial Noise Policy (EPA, 1999). • Chapter 171 Noise Control Guidelines, <i>Construction Site Noise, Environmental Noise Control Manual</i>, 1994. • Assessment and Management of Odour from Stationary Sources in NSW (EPA, 2001 or its latest version). • Guideline for the Use and Disposal of Biosolids Products (NSW EPA, 1997). • Draft Guidelines for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment and Community Consultation (DEC, 2005).
Consultation Requirements	You must undertake an appropriate and justified level of consultation with the following parties during the preparation of the Environmental Assessment: • NSW Department of Environment and Conservation; • NSW Department of Natural Resources; • NSW Department of Primary Industries (Fisheries); • North Coast Area Health Service; • Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority; • Local Aboriginal community; • relevant community groups; • Affected residents; and • Commonwealth Department of Environment and Heritage regarding the application of the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act</i> 1999 (EPBC Act). Under this Act, approval of the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment is required for actions that may have a significant impact on matters of National Environmental Significance, except in circumstances which are set out in the EPBC Act¹. Approval from the Commonwealth is in addition to any approvals under NSW legislation. If you have any questions about the application of the EPBC Act to your proposal, you should contact the Commonwealth Department of Environment and Heritage in Canberra (ph 6274 1111 or http://www.deh.gov.au).
Landowners Information	When submitting the EA for an adequacy check under Sec.75H(2): (a) The consent of the landowner should be provided, if required under Sec. 8F of the Regulations. (b) The proponent is to provide details of adjoining landowners and occupiers which require formal notification.
Exhibition of EA and notification requirements	Pursuant to Sec.75H (3) of the EP&A Act, the EA must be exhibited for a minimum of 30 days.
Deemed refusal period	Not applicable

¹ Matters of National Environmental Significance under the EPBC Act are:

- i) World Heritage properties;
- ii) RAMSAR wetlands;
- iii) Threatened species or ecological communities listed in the EPBC Act;
- iv) Migratory species listed in the EPBC Act;
- v) The environment in a Commonwealth marine area;
- vi) Nuclear actions; and
- vii) National heritage.



**COFFS HARBOUR CITY COUNCIL
PROPOSED WATER TREATMENT PLANT**

