



NSW GOVERNMENT
Department of Planning

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Our Ref: S07/01293, 07_0125

Dr Judi Hansen
General Manager, Sustainability
Sydney Water Corporation
PO Box A53
SYDNEY SOUTH NSW 1232

Dear Dr Hansen

**Subject: Director General's Requirements for the Environmental Assessment of
Proposed North West Growth Centre Water Related Services for Stage One Precincts**

The Department has received your project application for the proposed North West Growth Centre Water Related Services for Stage One Precincts Project (Application Number: 07_0125).

I have attached a copy of the Director-General's requirements (DGRs) for the Environmental Assessment of the project. These requirements have been prepared following the Planning Focus Meeting held on 12 September 2007 and in consultation with the relevant government agencies.

It should be noted that the Director-General's requirements have been prepared based on the information provided to date. 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 prior to the proponent seeking approval for the project.

I would appreciate it if you could contact the Department at least two weeks before you propose to submit the Environmental Assessment for the project to determine:

- the 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 Assessment that will be required.

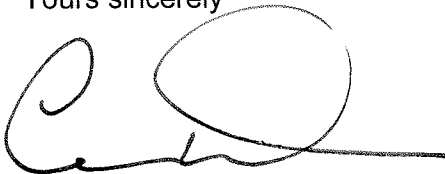
Once you have lodged the Environmental Assessment, the Department will consult with the relevant authorities to determine the adequacy of the Environmental Assessment. Following this review period the Environmental Assessment will be made publicly available for a minimum period of 30 days.

If your proposal includes any actions that could have a significant impact on matters of National Environmental Significance, it will require an additional approval under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). This approval would be in addition to any approvals required under NSW legislation and it is your responsibility to contact the Department of Environment and Water Resources to determine if an approval under the EPBC Act is required for your proposal (6274 1111 or <http://www.environment.gov.au>).

Please note that the Commonwealth Government has accredited the NSW environmental assessment process for assessing impacts on matters of National Environmental Significance. As a result, if it is determined that an approval is required under the EPBC Act, please contact the Department immediately as supplementary Director-General's requirements will need to be issued.

If you have any enquiries about these requirements, please contact Joanna Bakopanos, A/Manager – Special Projects, Major Infrastructure Assessment on 02 9228 6461 or via email, joanna.bakopanos@planning.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Chris Wilson', with a large loop at the end.

17.10.07

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

Director-General's Requirements

Section 75F of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*

Application number	07_0125
Project	North West Growth Centre Water Related Services for Stage One Precincts. In particular, the project involves the provision of recycled water, potable water and wastewater for the Stage One Precincts of the North West Growth Area (including North Kellyville, Riverstone, Alex Avenue, Riverstone West and Area 20) as well as some stormwater services within the North Kellyville precinct. Infrastructure components for the project, include: ▪ potable water and recycled water trunk mains; ▪ wastewater carriers; ▪ water pumping stations; ▪ sewage pumping stations and upgrade of an existing sewage pumping station; ▪ stormwater detention basin on Smalls Creek; ▪ amplification to Riverstone Sewage Treatment Plant; ▪ provision of recycled water facilities at Quakers Hill Sewage Treatment Plant; and ▪ water and recycled water reservoir infrastructure at Cudgegon Road, Rouse Hill.
Location	The project components are variously located throughout the North Kellyville, Riverstone, Alex Avenue, Riverstone West and Area 20 precincts of the North West Growth Area. These precincts are located within the Baulkham Hills, Blacktown and Hawkesbury local government areas.
Proponent	Sydney Water Corporation
Date issued	17 October 2007
Expiry date	17 October 2009
General requirements	The Environmental Assessment (EA) should be prepared to a high technical and scientific standard and include: ▪ an executive summary; ▪ a detailed description of the project including, construction methods, location and alignment of project components, operation details, including treatment technology and water quality standards to be applied, interfaces with existing sewage treatment infrastructure, energy requirements and any 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; and ▪ certification by the author of the Environmental Assessment that the information contained in the Assessment is neither false nor misleading.
Key issues	Strategic and Project Justification – the Environmental Assessment shall clearly outline the strategic context of the project, having regard to existing and future development of the North-West Growth area, how it meets the aims and objectives of <i>State Environmental Planning Policy (Sydney Region Growth Centres) 2006</i> and its relationship to the North West Structure Plan. The Environmental Assessment must describe the need for and objectives of the project; alternatives considered (including an assessment of the environmental costs and benefits of the project relative to alternatives) and provide justification for the preferred project taking into consideration the objects of the <i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i>. ▪ Water Quality and Hydrology – the Environmental Assessment shall include an assessment of water quality impacts arising from the construction and operation of the project. With respect to construction, risks associated with laying pipelines, including across watercourses, erosion and sedimentation controls and management of any discharges from the project to prevent impacts to nearby watercourses should be addressed. With respect to operation, details of

the quality of the recycled water should be provided particularly as it relates to salinity, and sodicity. Details on the proposed use(s) of the recycled water and how this will be managed, particularly with respect to runoff into waterways and the need for buffer zones. Details on the impacts and management of wastewater and infrastructure must be addressed, including impacts from effluent discharge from Riverstone Sewage Treatment Plant and where relevant, Rouse Hill Recycled Water Treatment Plant, identification of wet weather effluent storage requirements, location of infrastructure within riparian areas including dry and wet weather sewage overflows. Consideration should also be given to water cycle management plans for the area.

- **Human Health** – the Environmental Assessment should address the human health impacts arising from the application of recycled water. The assessment should be undertaken in accordance with the *Australian Guidelines for Water Recycling: Managing Health and Environmental Risks* (NRMMC, EPHC & AHMC, 2006).
- **Soils and Groundwater** – the Environmental Assessment shall include consideration of existing soil conditions, the suitability and sustainability of long-term recycled water application, including measures to avoid soil degradation and inappropriate nutrient loading. An assessment of groundwater impacts, specifically the potential for accessions to groundwater of recycled water and salinity impacts. Consideration should also be given to the impact of trenching and other underground work on groundwater and subsurface flows.
- **Flora and Fauna** - the Environmental Assessment shall include a flora and fauna impact assessment taking into consideration impacts on any threatened species, populations, ecological communities and/or critical habitat and any relevant recovery plan in accordance with the DECC's *Guidelines for Threatened Species Assessment* (2005). This assessment shall justify the need for clearing any vegetation and/ or habitat features and include an evaluation of potential impacts on waterways, aquatic ecosystems or riparian zones, including any instream stormwater basins, potential for weed infestation, impacts to fish passage, and the provision of any compensatory habitat/ biodiversity offsets. Specific consideration should be given to the significance of the impacts of the project in the context of the North-West Growth area and the consistency of the project with the objectives of broader biodiversity conservation objectives of the area (such as through any Biodiversity Certification).
- **Indigenous and Non-indigenous Cultural Heritage Impacts** – the Environmental Assessment shall include an assessment of indigenous and non-indigenous cultural heritage values that may be impacted by the project with details on subsurface archaeological investigations undertaken for potential archaeological deposits. Consideration should be given to the significance of the impacts of the project in the context of the North-West Growth area and any mitigation measures. The assessment must address the information and consultation requirements of the draft *Guidelines for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment and Community Consultation*.
- **Traffic and Transport** – the Environmental Assessment shall include an assessment of impacts to the local and regional road network and intersections, including direct impacts from traffic rerouting and any access restrictions to property, as well as details on the nature/ mode of traffic generated from the project, transport routes and traffic volumes. Consideration should also be given to the impact of the project on any existing and proposed railway infrastructure in the area.
- **Waste Generation and Management** – the Environmental Assessment shall detail the likely waste quantities and qualities generated during the construction (including spoil generation) and operation of the project. Specific focus must be placed on potential contamination of soils, and on sludges, solids and aqueous wastes produced through the operation of the project. Details of appropriate waste management and disposal options for those materials must be provided. The assessment must take into consideration the DECC's *Assessment, Classification and Management of Liquid and Non-liquid Wastes*.
- **Air Quality** – the Environmental Assessment shall include an assessment of the air quality impacts associated with the project prepared in accordance with the *Approved Methods for the Modelling and Assessment of Air Pollutants in NSW*

	(DEC, 2005), <i>Assessment and Management of Odour from Stationary Sources in NSW</i> (DEC, 2001) and <i>Technical Notes: Draft Policy: Assessment and Management of Odour from Stationary Sources in NSW</i> (DEC, 2001). This assessment must consider any potential impacts on nearby sensitive receptors ▪ Noise and Vibration – the Environmental Assessment shall include an assessment of noise and vibration impacts during construction and operation and in a cumulative context with existing development. Construction traffic noise must also be addressed. The assessment must take into account the following guidelines, as relevant: <i>Environmental Noise Control Manual</i> (EPA, 1994), <i>Environmental Criteria for Road Traffic Noise</i> (EPA, 1999), <i>Industrial Noise Policy</i> (EPA, 2000) and <i>Assessing Vibration: A Technical Guideline</i> (DECC, 2006). ▪ Hazards and Risk – the Environmental Assessment shall include an assessment of the hazards and risk associated with the project including details of hazardous materials used or kept on the premises during the construction and operation phases. The assessment must refer to the Department's Guideline <i>Applying SEPP 33</i> (DUAP, 1994). 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 Environmental Assessment. ▪ Environmental Risk Analysis – notwithstanding the above key assessment requirements, the Environmental Assessment shall include an environmental risk analysis to identify potential environmental impacts associated with the project (construction and operation), proposed mitigation measures and potentially significant residual environmental impacts after the application of proposed mitigation measures. Where additional key environmental impacts are identified through this environmental risk analysis, an appropriately detailed impact assessment of this additional key environmental impact must be included in the Environmental Assessment.
Consultation	You should undertake an appropriate and justified level of consultation with relevant parties during the preparation of the Environmental Assessment, including: ▪ local, State or Commonwealth government authorities and service providers such as the Department of Health, the Department of Water and Energy, the Department of Environment and Climate Change, the Department of Primary Industries, Hawkesbury-Nepean Catchment Management Authority, Growth Centres Commission, Roads and Traffic Authority, Blacktown City Council, Baulkham Hills Council, Hawkesbury City Council, Transport Infrastructure Development Corporation and RailCorp; ▪ specialist interest groups, including local Aboriginal land councils; and ▪ the local community, including affected landowners. The Environmental Assessment must describe the consultation process, document all community consultation undertaken to date and identify the issues raised (including where these have been addressed in the Environmental Assessment).