

ASSESSMENT REPORT

Water Related Services for Stage One Precinct North West Growth Centre (MP 07_0125 MOD 5)

1. INTRODUCTION

This report is an assessment of a request to modify the Project Approval for the Water Related Services for Stage One Precinct North West Growth Centre (the project) in the Hills Shire, Blacktown, and Hawkesbury local government areas.

The request has been lodged by Sydney Water pursuant to section 75W of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act). It seeks approval to enable Sydney Water to adopt its certified systems (Environmental Management System (EMS) and Integrated Management System (IMS)) in lieu of project specific Operational Environmental Management Plans (OEMPs) for the project.

2. SUBJECT SITE

The project runs through three local government areas: The Hills Shire, Blacktown, and Hawkesbury. The site is shown in **Figure 1**.

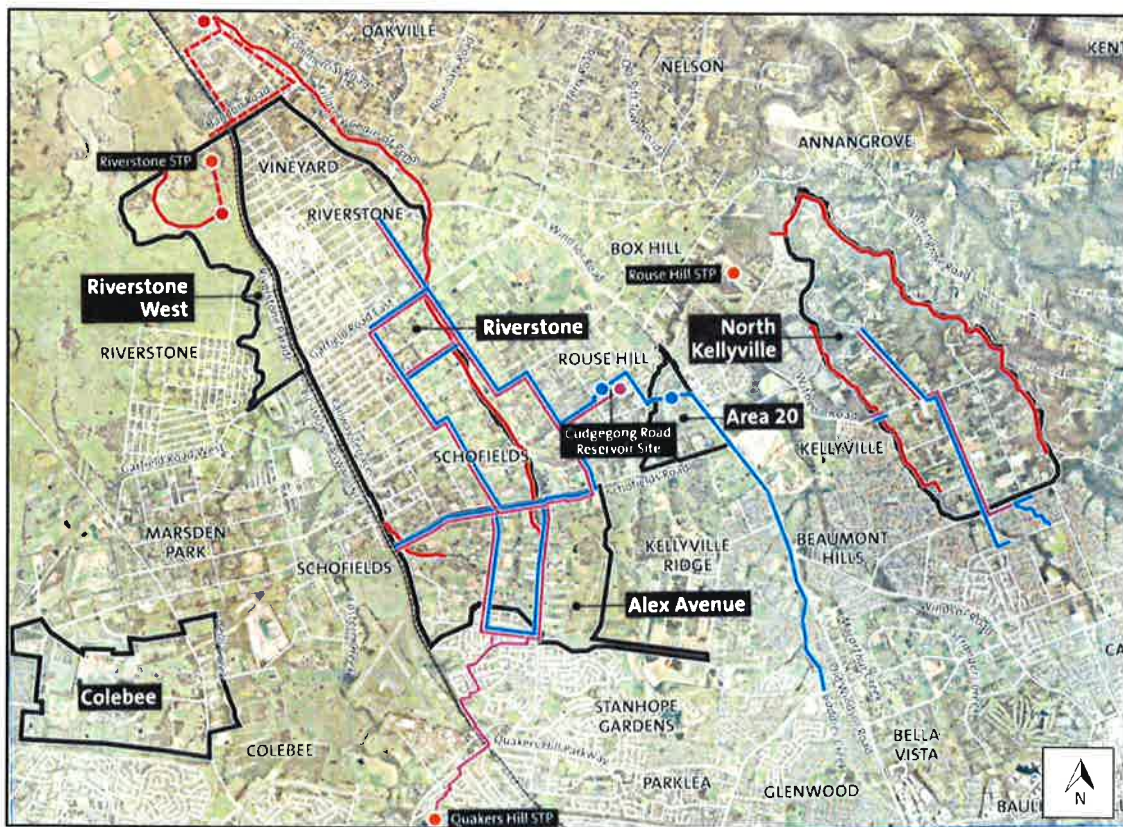


Figure 1: Site context, the red line represents the Wastewater pipeline, the purple line represents the recycled water pipeline and the blue line represents the drinking water pipeline (Source: Proponents Modification Application)

3. APPROVAL HISTORY

On 18 November 2008, the Minister for Planning granted approval under section 75J of the EP&A Act, for construction and operation of water related services for the North West Growth Centre First Release Precincts. The project has been modified on four occasions. The modifications approved amendments to conditions, changes to the alignment of pipelines and the Statement of Commitments, relocation of a sewage pumping station and construction of an emergency storage tank.

4. PROPOSED MODIFICATION

On 24 April 2017, the Proponent lodged a section 75W modification application seeking approval to insert a new condition allowing Sydney Water to adopt its certified management systems (EMS and IMS), in lieu of project specific OEMPs to manage environmental risks.

The proposed condition would read, as follows:

Notwithstanding Condition 6.3, if an existing environmental management system that is administered by the Proponent and prepared in accordance with the AS/NZS ISO 14000 Environmental Management System (EMS) series, or similar certified system, which addresses and is applicable to this project, then that EMS may be submitted in lieu of the OEMP. Details of the existing EMS must be provided to the Secretary demonstrating its application to this project.

5. STATUTORY CONSIDERATION

5.1 Modification of approval

The project was originally approved under Part 3A of the EP&A Act. Although Part 3A was repealed on 1 October 2011, the project remains a 'transitional Part 3A project' under Schedule 6A of the EP&A Act, and hence any modification to this approval must be made under the former section 75W of the Act.

The Department is satisfied that the proposed changes are within the scope of section 75W of the EP&A Act, and the proposal does not constitute a new application.

5.3 Approval Authority

The Minister for Planning is the approval authority for the request. However, the Director, Modification Assessments, may determine the request under delegation as:

- the relevant council has not made an objection, and
- a political disclosure statement has not been made, and
- there were no public submissions in the nature of objections.

6. CONSULTATION

6.1 Notification

The modification request was made publicly available on the Department's website and referred to The Hills, Blacktown and Hawkesbury Councils (the Councils), Office of Environment and Heritage, Environment Protection Authority, Department of Primary Industries Water and the Department of Industry for comment.

Councils and agencies raised no objections to the proposed modification.

7. ASSESSMENT

The Proponent seeks to modify the approval to allow it to adopt its EMS and IMS in lieu of implementing a specific OEMP, to manage the potential operational impacts associated with the project.

The modification is sought to remove duplication between the OEMP requirements of Condition 6.3 and Sydney Water's existing procedures and processes, improve efficiency, and provide a consistent approach to Sydney Water's operational management.

Sydney Water has prepared an OEM "Roadmap" to demonstrate how it would implement its existing procedures and processes to meet the requirements the OEMP.

The Department considers the proposed modification permitting Sydney Water to use its existing EMS and IMS systems is acceptable for the following reasons:

- the intent of Condition 6.3 would still be met as the proposed condition would require Sydney Water to demonstrate that all appropriate operational management measures have been addressed
- site specific operational issues would still need to be addressed under Sydney Water's EMS and IMS systems
- it would remove duplication of OEMP requirements and processes used by Sydney Water and provide a consistent approach to managing its assets
- the Department has imposed the condition on other Sydney Water approvals allowing it to use EMS and IMS management systems in lieu of an OEMP.

The Department's assessment, therefore, concludes the proposal to allow Sydney Water to use its EMS and IMS management systems instead of an OEMP is acceptable. Consequently, the Department is satisfied the modification is in the public interest and recommends the request be approved subject to conditions.

8. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Director, Modification Assessments, as delegate for the Minister for Planning:

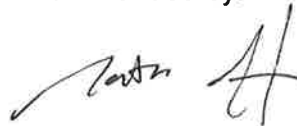
- **consider** the findings and recommendation of this report;
- **determine** that the request (MP 07_0125 MOD 5) falls within the scope of s75W of the EP&A Act;
- **modify** the approval (MP 07_0125 MOD 5); and
- **sign** the attached approval of the modification (**Appendix A**)

Recommended by:



Ingrid Berzins
Planner
Modification Assessments

Recommended by:



Natasha Harras
Team Leader
Modification Assessments

DECISION

The recommendation is approved by:



Anthony Witherdin
Director
Modification Assessments
as delegate of the Minister for Planning.

APPENDIX A: NOTICE OF MODIFICATION

A copy of the notice of modification can be found on the Department's website at:

http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au/index.pl?action=view_job&job_id=8435

APPENDIX B: SUPPORTING INFORMATION

The following supporting documents and supporting information to this assessment report can be found on the Department of Planning and Environment's website as follows:

1. Modification request

http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au/index.pl?action=view_job&job_id=8435

2. Submissions

http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au/index.pl?action=view_job&job_id=8435