

Your reference :
Our reference :
Contact : Marnie Stewart ph 9995 6861

Mr Daniel Keary
Director Government Land and Social Land Assessments
Department of Planning
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Mr Keary

Re: MP 08_0116 – Major Project application for Stage 2 Civil Works at Potts Hill Reservoir site (proposed residential precinct).

DECCW has recently received correspondence from Dr Steven Ward from Ecological Australia regarding the Potts Hill Part 3A Major Project for Stage 2 civil works at the Potts Hill Reservoir site (MP 08_0116).

It is understood that DECCW has been identified as an agency to consult under the Department of Planning (DoP) Director-General's Requirements (DGRs) for MP 08_0116. DECCW was not requested to provide details of key issues and assessment requirements for the DGRs and therefore was unaware that the proponent had been advised to consult directly with DECCW on this matter.

The correspondence from Dr Ward indicates that under MP 08_0116 the proposed works will result in the loss of additional vegetation from the site than that approved under the Potts Hill Concept Plan MP07_0099. It is unclear whether this triggers the need for a modification to the approved Concept Plan. For this reason it seemed more appropriate to provide advice to the DoP as the approval authority for the major project.

As you would be aware, the Concept Plan approval for the Potts Hill reservoir site includes a condition that requires a Conservation Agreement between Sydney Water and DECCW over part of the vegetation within the Sydney Water retained lands.

Biodiversity

The May 2008 Ecological Assessment, prepared by Ecological Australia for the Concept Plan, identifies the most southerly new area of vegetation to be affected as Cooks River Castlereagh Ironbark Forest (CRCIF) with low recovery potential. The most northerly area is identified as Cumberland Plain Woodland with moderate recovery potential. The central, largest, area is identified as CRCIF with moderate recovery potential. It is noted that the latter two condition classifications differ from the consultant's correspondence which describes these areas as all highly disturbed.

The Department of Environment and Conservation NSW is now known as
the Department of Environment and Climate Change NSW

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DECCW's view is that any vegetation losses additional to that approved under the Concept Plan will need to be addressed. It is recommended that any vegetation losses be considered by DoP in accordance with previous advice provided by DECCW on the biodiversity package for the Concept Plan which included offset requirements.

DECCW trusts that this advice will assist the DoP in undertaking its assessment of the major project. If you have any queries regarding this matter please contact Marnie Stewart, Conservation Planning Officer, on 9995 6861.

Yours sincerely

 23/11/09

Lou Ewins
Manager
Planning and Aboriginal Heritage
Environment Protection and Regulation Group

cc Dr Steven Ward
Ecological Australia