



17 December, 2010

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Our ref : ER21325
Your ref: MP10_0007 (Mod 2)

Attention: Haley Rich

Dear Ms Rich

**MP10_0007 MOD 2 and MP10_0008 MOD 2– Len Waters Industrial Estate (Former Hoxton Park Aerodrome) - Section 75W Modification – Basin 6 modification
Environmental Assessment – Liverpool Local Government Area**

Thank you for your letter of 23 November 2010 seeking comment from the NSW Office of Water (the Office) on the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the above Modification proposal.

The Office notes that Concept Plan approval was granted for the Hoxton Park Industrial Estate Project on 3 June, 2010. Prior to the Office receiving the previous Section 75W Modification Request for the link road modification, the Office has no previous record of DoP referring the Len Waters Hoxton Park Industrial Estate Project for review and comment.

Northern basin

The Office does not support the proposed location for the northern basin (Basin 6) and recommends the Modification Application not be approved. The proposed location of Basin 6 will impact on the establishment of a naturalised functioning creek system and environmental corridor that is meant to be established to link the Western Sydney Regional Park across to Hinchinbrook Creek. The corridor linkage is meant to be provided via the Northern Creek on the Middleton Grange site and continue through the Hoxton Park Aerodrome site.

Section 5.7 of Appendix C indicates a vegetation link /riparian corridor was originally proposed in the vicinity of Basin 6 to link Hinchinbrook Creek to the Western Sydney Parklands. It notes the construction of Basin 6 and the necessity to incorporate a highly restricted outlet configuration diminishes the ability to maintain a continuous vegetation/riparian corridor. The Office recommends the basin not be constructed where it diminishes the ability to maintain a continuous vegetation/riparian corridor.

The Department has previously provided significant input into the planning process for the Middleton Grange and Hoxton Park Aerodrome sites and provided extensive comment to Liverpool Council on draft planning documents. These negotiations included the requirement for an environmental corridor to be provided to link the Regional Park across to Hinchinbrook Creek.

Originally the environmental corridor linkage on the Middleton Grange site was to be provided via the Middle Creek riparian corridor but Liverpool Council subsequently advised that the key environmental linkage was to be provided along the Northern Creek at Middleton Grange. The environmental corridor is meant to continue on the eastern side of the M7 through the Hoxton Park Aerodrome site across to Hinchinbrook Creek.

The negotiations on the Aerodrome site included the rehabilitation of the drainage line section that was piped under the now disused airport runway. A naturalised functioning creek system is meant to be provided with a Category 1 vegetated environmental corridor established either side of the creek. This corridor is the only location where an environmental corridor is now possible and is locally and regionally significant as it links two significant natural areas, namely Hinchinbrook Creek riparian corridor (which is significant at a local and regional scale) to the Western Sydney Regional Park.

It is noted the northern basin is part of Liverpool Council's detention strategy for Hinchinbrook Creek. The VMP for the basin states "*this strategy requires the development to have a permanent detention basin to capture and release the runoff from the western side of the M7 adjoining the former Hoxton Park Airport site*". The Middleton Grange site (upstream of the M7 motorway) was designed with its own water quality treatment /detention basins so it is not clear why Council's Detention Strategy requires Basin 6 to be located on the downstream side of the M7? The catchment area upstream of the Middleton Grange urban area is natural (Regional Park) and it has been further planted with native trees which would actually decrease flood impacts from the northern watercourse.

Contact Details

Should you have any queries in relation to this matter please contact Janne Grose on telephone (02) 4729 8262.

Yours sincerely



Mark Mignanelli
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