

Our ref: OUT26/2804

Daniel Gorgioski
Planning Group
NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
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10 March 2026

Subject: Greater Parramatta, Olympic Peninsula Water Cycle (SSD-74258485) - Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Daniel Gorgioski,

I refer to your request for advice sent on 12 February 2026 to the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) Water Group about the above matter.

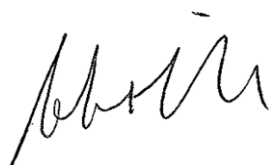
The NSW DCCEEW Water Group has reviewed the Environmental Impact Statement and makes recommendations to:

- Identify and assess all water supply works.
- Quantify water take required for construction and operation of the coffer dam.
- Address requirements for works on waterfront land, dewatering and water licensing.

Please see Attachment A for further detail.

Should you have any further queries in relation to this submission please do not hesitate to contact the DCCEEW Water Assessments team at water.assessments@dcceew.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rob Brownbill".

Rob Brownbill,
Manager, Water Assessments, Planning and Knowledge Division
NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water

Attachment A

Detailed advice to DPHI Planning & Assessment regarding the Greater Parramatta, Olympic Peninsula Water Cycle Project (SSD-74258485) – EIS

1.0 Water supply, take and licensing

1.1 Recommendation – pre-determination

The Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) requests the proponent to identify all water supply works required for the project and assess the impacts of their construction and operation.

Explanation

The EIS refers to necessary water supply works, such as for managing groundwater inflows and the coffer dam, but does not specify the exact methods (e.g., pumps, spearpoints). If additional water supply works are required, these need to be identified and their impacts assessed. This is also required to enable exemptions to water legislation approval requirements under section 5.23 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* to apply.

1.2 Recommendation - pre-determination

DPHI requests the proponent to quantify the water take volumes associated with the coffer dam.

Explanation

The EIS indicates a coffer dam will be used to connect the pipelines to the river release structure in the Parramatta River. This would include a sealed coffer dam in the Parramatta River. Any water removed from the coffer dam is considered to be water take and may be considered for an exemption under Section 4 or 6 of Schedule 4 of the Water Management (General) Regulation 2025.

1.3 Recommendation – post-approval

That DPHI requests the proponent to obtain a water access licence (WAL) to account for the maximum predicted water take for construction and operation activities unless an exemption applies under the Water Management (General) Regulation 2025 (WM Reg).

Explanation

Groundwater dewatering of 5.2 ML/yr is required for the construction of the project and water take may also be required from the coffer dam and other sources for construction, testing and commissioning of the project. Under the *Water Management Act 2000*, the proponent must hold sufficient entitlement to account for maximum potential water take unless an exemption applies. An exemption may be available for water take for public authorities for essential infrastructure construction under section 4 of Schedule 4 of the WM

Reg, or for infrastructure construction activities in coastal water sources under Clause 6 of Schedule 4 of the WM Reg. To claim either of these exemptions certain requirements must be met, such as

- the person claiming the exemption keeps a record of the water taken under the exemption and provides this to the Minister within 28 days of the end of the water year; and
- the records are kept for 5 years.

Further information on these requirements and other information on licensing and approvals and exemptions, including a form to report and record water taken can be found at: <https://water.dpie.nsw.gov.au/licensing-and-trade> and [Groundwater access licence exemptions | NSW Government Water](#).

2.0 Works on waterfront land

2.1 Recommendation - post approval

DPHI requests the proponent to:

- Ensure works on waterfront land are designed and constructed in accordance with the Guidelines for Controlled Activities on Waterfront Land (DCCEEW 2025).
- Prepare a Soil and Water Management Plan in accordance with industry standards, including the guideline, Managing Urban Stormwater: Soils and Construction (Landcom 2004).

Explanation

All works within waterfront land need to be designed and constructed in accordance with relevant guidelines. This is to include activities such as stormwater outlet design and scour protection, and locating significant works such as the pipe installation launch areas outside of riparian zones.

3.0 Dewatering management

3.1 Recommendation - post approval

DPHI requests the proponent to prepare a Dewatering Management Plan in consultation with NSW DCCEEW Water Group.

Explanation

The EIS provided an assessment of impacts to groundwater due to construction of the project and found no Category 2 Impacts under the NSW Aquifer Interference Policy. NSW DCCEEW Water Group notes that groundwater inflow volumes are likely to exceed 3 ML per year. Therefore, a Dewatering Management Plan (DMP) must be prepared and provided to NSW DCCEEW Water Group.

The DMP should consider the Guidelines for Groundwater Documentation for SSD/SSI Projects (2022) and the Minimum Requirements for Building Site Groundwater Investigations

and Reporting (2022) to ensure the documentation required is fit for purpose. These documents are available at:

- https://publications.water.nsw.gov.au/watergroupjspui/bitstream/100/792/1/Minimum_requirements_for_building_site_groundwater_investigations_and_reporting.pdf

https://water.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0020/507611/Guidelines-for-Groundwater-Documentation-for-SSD-SSI-Projects.pdf

End Attachment A