



OUT20/4044

Melissa Anderson
Environmental Assessment Officer
Energy & Resource Assessments
NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

Melissa.Anderson@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Ms Anderson

**Bulga Optimisation Project Modification 3 (SSD 4960)
Response to Submissions**

I refer to your email of 8 April 2020 to the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) Water and the Natural Resources Access Regulator (NRAR) about the above matter.

The following recommendations are provided by DPIE Water and NRAR. Please note Crown Lands, the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) – Fisheries and DPI - Agriculture all now provide a separate response directly to you.

Pre-approval recommendation

- The proponent has outlined it will transfer water from other operations should the project exceed its Water Access Licence Entitlements. The proponent should provide further details on potential licences it can transfer from other operations, ensuring this project and other operations have adequate water.

Post Approval recommendation

We noted in our earlier advice that some aspects of the groundwater impact discussions are confusing or incomplete and requested that the proponent address these matters in an updated report with a view to improving internal consistency and readability.

The proponent responded to our request for this by highlighting that the Groundwater Impact Assessment had been undertaken following the required policies and guidelines. Although we still believe that an updated report would be beneficial, we recommend that:

- The proponent include any improvements identified in earlier reviews in future model and reporting updates.

Any further referrals to DPIE – NRAR & Water can be sent by email to:
landuse.enquiries@dpi.nsw.gov.au.

Any further referrals to (a) Crown Lands; (b) DPI – Fisheries; and (c) DPI – Agriculture can be sent by email to: (a) lands.ministerials@industry.nsw.gov.au;
(b) ahp.central@dpi.nsw.gov.au; and (c) landuse.ag@dpi.nsw.gov.au respectively.

Yours sincerely



Liz Rogers
Manager, Assessments
Water – Strategic Relations
27 May 2020