



Our ref: DOC20/310867  
Senders ref: SSD-10450

Ms Susan Fox

Planning and Assessment Group  
Department of Planning, Industry & Environment  
4PSQ, Level 17, 12 Darcy Street  
PARRAMATTA NSW 2150

Dear Ms Fox

**Subject:** EES comments on Request for SEARs – Stage 1 - Padstow Resource Recovery Facility - Gow Street Recycling Centre – drilling mud dewatering facility - 81-87 Gow Street Padstow – SSD-10450

Thank you for your email of 17 April 2020 requesting advice in relation to this State Significant Development.

The Environment, Energy and Science Group (EES) has reviewed the Scoping Report and provides the following comments and recommendations in Attachment A.

Biodiversity and BDAR Waiver request

EES is currently reviewing the BDAR Waiver request for this SSD. Until EES has undertaken this review it is recommended the SEARs include the attach biodiversity requirements.

Flooding

EES recommends the SEARs include the attached EES standard flooding requirements.

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage

The Scoping Report notes a search of the NSW State Heritage Inventory found no Aboriginal places or items of heritage on, or within the vicinity of the site and that the site is fully concreted with no vegetation and therefore a full Aboriginal and Cultural Heritage Assessment is not considered required (Section 6.6, page 23). EES notes however that the proposed development may require excavation work (section 5.3.1.2, page 17). If the excavation is likely to disturb the ground surface it is recommended an Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment report is prepared. EES recommends the SEARs include the attached Aboriginal cultural heritage requirements.

Urban Tree Canopy and Landscaping

The Scoping report states the proposed development will not result in the removal of existing vegetation or a change to landscaping of the site (section 6.7, pages 24-25). If a landscape plan is required for this SSD, EES recommends the SEARs require that the plan:

- includes details on the native vegetation community (or communities) and native plant species that once occurred in this locality
- specifies that any landscaping will use a diversity of local provenance species (trees, shrubs and groundcovers) from the native vegetation community (or communities) that once occurred on the site to improve biodiversity
- includes a list of local provenance species (trees, shrubs and groundcovers) to be used in the site landscaping

- uses advanced sized trees, providing sufficient area/space to allow any planted trees to grow to maturity on the site.

If you have any questions about this advice, please do not hesitate to contact Janne Grose, Senior Conservation Planning Officer via email at [janne.grose@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:janne.grose@environment.nsw.gov.au) or on 8837 6017

Yours sincerely



05/05/20

Susan Harrison  
**Senior Team Leader Planning**  
**Greater Sydney Branch**  
**Environment, Energy and Science**

## Attachment A – EES group Environmental Assessment Requirements

<p><b>Biodiversity</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Biodiversity impacts related to the proposed development are to be assessed in accordance with <a href="#">Section 7.9 of the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2017</a> the <a href="#">Biodiversity Assessment Method</a> and documented in a <a href="#">Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR)</a>. The BDAR must include information in the form detailed in the <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> (s6.12), <i>Biodiversity Conservation Regulation 2017</i> (s6.8) and <a href="#">Biodiversity Assessment Method</a>, including an assessment of the impacts of the proposal (including an assessment of impacts prescribed by the regulations).</li><li>2. The BDAR must document the application of the avoid, minimise and offset framework including assessing all direct, indirect and prescribed impacts in accordance with the <a href="#">Biodiversity Assessment Method</a>.</li><li>3. The BDAR must include details of the measures proposed to address the offset obligation as follows;<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The total number and classes of biodiversity credits required to be retired for the development/project;</li><li>• The number and classes of like-for-like biodiversity credits proposed to be retired;</li><li>• The number and classes of biodiversity credits proposed to be retired in accordance with the variation rules;</li><li>• Any proposal to fund a <a href="#">biodiversity conservation action</a>;</li><li>• Any proposal to conduct ecological rehabilitation (if a mining project);</li><li>• Any proposal to make a payment to the Biodiversity Conservation Fund.</li></ul><p>If seeking approval to use the variation rules, the BDAR must contain details of the <a href="#">reasonable steps</a> that have been taken to obtain requisite like-for-like biodiversity credits.</p></li><li>4. The BDAR must be prepared by a person accredited in accordance with the Accreditation Scheme for the Application of the Biodiversity Assessment Method Order 2017 under s6.10 of the <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i>.</li></ol>
<p><b>Aboriginal cultural heritage</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>5. The EIS must identify and describe the Aboriginal cultural heritage values that exist across the whole area that will be affected by the development and document these in an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR). This may include the need for surface survey and test excavation. The identification of cultural heritage values must be conducted in accordance with the Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigations of Aboriginal Objects in NSW (OEH</li></ol>

2010), and guided by the Guide to investigating, assessing and reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW (DECCW, 2011)

6. Consultation with Aboriginal people must be undertaken and documented in accordance with the Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010 (DECCW). The significance of cultural heritage values for Aboriginal people who have a cultural association with the land must be documented in the ACHAR.
7. Impacts on Aboriginal cultural heritage values are to be assessed and documented in the ACHAR. The ACHAR must demonstrate attempts to avoid impact upon cultural heritage values and identify any conservation outcomes. Where impacts are unavoidable, the ACHAR must outline measures proposed to mitigate impacts. Any objects recorded as part of the assessment must be documented and notified to OEH.

Please note that due diligence is not an appropriate assessment for a major project and an Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment report must be prepared.

### **Water and soils**

8. The EIS must map the following features relevant to water and soils including:
  - a. Acid sulfate soils (Class 1, 2, 3 or 4 on the Acid Sulfate Soil Planning Map).
  - b. Rivers, streams, wetlands, estuaries (as described in s4.2 of the Biodiversity Assessment Method).
  - c. [Wetlands as described in s4.2 of the Biodiversity Assessment Method](#).
  - d. Groundwater.
  - e. Groundwater dependent ecosystems
  - f. Proposed intake and discharge locations
9. The EIS must describe background conditions for any water resource likely to be affected by the development, including:
  - a. Existing surface and groundwater.
  - b. Hydrology, including volume, frequency and quality of discharges at proposed intake and discharge locations.
  - c. Water Quality Objectives (as endorsed by the NSW Government <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/ieo/index.htm>) including groundwater as appropriate that represent the community's uses and values for the receiving waters.
  - d. Indicators and trigger values/criteria for the environmental values identified at (c) in accordance with the [ANZECC \(2000\) Guidelines for Fresh and Marine Water Quality](#) and/or local objectives, criteria or targets endorsed by the NSW Government.
  - e. Risk-based Framework for Considering Waterway Health Outcomes in Strategic Land-use Planning Decisions <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/research-and->

10. The EIS must assess the impacts of the development on water quality, including:

- a. The nature and degree of impact on receiving waters for both surface and groundwater, demonstrating how the development protects the Water Quality Objectives where they are currently being achieved, and contributes towards achievement of the Water Quality Objectives over time where they are currently not being achieved. This should include an assessment of the mitigating effects of proposed stormwater and wastewater management during and after construction.
- b. Identification of proposed monitoring of water quality.
- c. Consistency with any relevant certified Coastal Management Program (or Coastal Zone Management Plan)

11. The EIS must assess the impact of the development on hydrology, including:

- a. Water balance including quantity, quality and source.
- b. Effects to downstream rivers, wetlands, estuaries, marine waters and floodplain areas.
- c. Effects to downstream water-dependent fauna and flora including groundwater dependent ecosystems.
- d. Impacts to natural processes and functions within rivers, wetlands, estuaries and floodplains that affect river system and landscape health such as nutrient flow, aquatic connectivity and access to habitat for spawning and refuge (e.g. river benches).
- e. Changes to environmental water availability, both regulated/licensed and unregulated/rules-based sources of such water.
- f. Mitigating effects of proposed stormwater and wastewater management during and after construction on hydrological attributes such as volumes, flow rates, management methods and re-use options.
- g. Identification of proposed monitoring of hydrological attributes.

## **Flooding and coastal hazards**

12. The EIS must map the following features relevant to flooding as described in the Floodplain Development Manual 2005 (NSW Government 2005) including:
  - a. Flood prone land.
  - b. Flood planning area, the area below the flood planning level.
  - c. Hydraulic categorisation (floodways and flood storage areas)
  - d. Flood Hazard.
13. The EIS must describe flood assessment and modelling undertaken in determining the design flood levels for events, including a minimum of the 5% Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP), 1% AEP, flood levels and the probable maximum flood, or an equivalent extreme event.
14. The EIS must model the effect of the proposed development (including fill) on the flood behaviour under the following scenarios:
  - a. Current flood behaviour for a range of design events as identified in 14 above. This includes the 0.5% and 0.2% AEP year flood events as proxies for assessing sensitivity to an increase in rainfall intensity of flood producing rainfall events due to climate change.
15. Modelling in the EIS must consider and document:
  - a. Existing council flood studies in the area and examine consistency to the flood behaviour documented in these studies.
  - b. The impact on existing flood behaviour for a full range of flood events including up to the probable maximum flood, or an equivalent extreme flood.
  - c. Impacts of the development on flood behaviour resulting in detrimental changes in potential flood affection of other developments or land. This may include redirection of flow, flow velocities, flood levels, hazard categories and hydraulic categories
  - d. Relevant provisions of the NSW Floodplain Development Manual 2005.
16. The EIS must assess the impacts on the proposed development on flood behaviour, including:
  - a. Whether there will be detrimental increases in the potential flood affectation of other properties, assets and infrastructure.
  - b. Consistency with Council floodplain risk management plans.
  - c. Consistency with any Rural Floodplain Management Plans.
  - d. Compatibility with the flood hazard of the land.
  - e. Compatibility with the hydraulic functions of flow conveyance in floodways and storage in flood storage areas of the land.
  - f. Whether there will be adverse effect to beneficial inundation of the floodplain environment, on, adjacent to or downstream of the site.

- g. Whether there will be direct or indirect increase in erosion, siltation, destruction of riparian vegetation or a reduction in the stability of river banks or watercourses.
- h. Any impacts the development may have upon existing community emergency management arrangements for flooding. These matters are to be discussed with the NSW SES and Council.
- i. Whether the proposal incorporates specific measures to manage risk to life from flood. These matters are to be discussed with the NSW SES and Council.
- j. Emergency management, evacuation and access, and contingency measures for the development considering the full range of flood risk (based upon the probable maximum flood or an equivalent extreme flood event). These matters are to be discussed with and have the support of Council and the NSW SES
- k. Any impacts the development may have on the social and economic costs to the community as consequence of flooding.

(END OF SUBMISSION)