



OUT21/16690

Nathan Heath
Department of Planning Industry and Environment

Nathan.heath@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Mr Heath

Upper South Creek Advanced Water Recycling Centre SSI-8609189

Thank you for your correspondence dated 15 October 2021 providing the opportunity to make comment on the environmental impact statement (EIS) for State Significant Infrastructure proposal SSI-8609189 for the Upper South Creek Advanced Water Recycling Centre (AWRC).

The NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) Agriculture is committed to the protection and growth of agricultural industries, and the land and resources upon which these industries depend.

DPI Agriculture has reviewed the EIS documentation and notes that the proposal comprises an Advanced Wastewater Recycling Centre (AWRC), to service the growth of South West Sydney, a treated water pipeline, environmental flows pipeline and a brine pipeline.

DPI Agriculture is pleased to note that the EIS has included a Land Use Conflict Risk Assessment which has thoroughly explored the potential impacts of the proposed development on surrounding and affected agricultural land uses during both construction and operation of the facility.

The proposed management measure to continue consultation with affecting agricultural landowners throughout the construction process is supported as this will greatly assist in ensuring that conflict is minimised. It is anticipated that this approach will also ensure that the potential on-farm management to accommodate pipeline installation and easements can be effectively addressed from the perspective of both the landowner and Sydney Water.

The proposed mitigation measure to prepare a bird control and biosecurity strategy as part of the broader Wildlife Management Plan for the development is also supported. DPI would welcome the opportunity to review this document from a biosecurity perspective when a draft is developed.

DPI Agriculture recommends that the development of a Wildlife Management Plan, as proposed, be a condition of consent for the proposed development.

It is noted that the environmental flows pipeline will traverse land mapped as Biophysical Strategic Agricultural Land. Where this section of the environmental flows pipeline is located on privately owned land used for agricultural production it is recommended that this section of the pipeline should be laid at a depth which will not prevent the ongoing use of the land for agricultural production. The required depth should accommodate the agricultural activities conducted on the land, determined in consultation with the landowner, and be consistent with the terms of any easement proposed over the land.

Should you require clarification on any of the information contained in this response, please contact me on 0429 864 501 or by email at landuse.ag@dpi.nsw.gov.au

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Garnett', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

15 November 2021

Paul Garnett

Agricultural Land Use Planning Officer