

24 January 2022

Contact: *Alison Kniha*
Telephone: *0407 088 372*
Our ref: *D2022/3801*

Sally Munk
Principal Planner
Department of Planning & Environment
GPO Box 39
Sydney NSW 2001

Dear Ms Munk

Rushes Creek Poultry Production Farm (SSD-7704-MOD-3)

Thank you for your email notification dated 18 January 2022 requesting WaterNSW's advice in relation to the Rushes Creek Mod-3 and providing the Rushes Creek SSD 7704 Mod 3 Modification Report, prepared by EME Advisory and dated January 2022.

The subject site is immediately adjacent to Lake Keepit, managed by WaterNSW for irrigation supply in the Namoi Valley and town water supply in Walgett. A licence is also being established across WaterNSW (WAMC) land to the north, on the boundary with the Namoi River flowing into Lake Keepit, for a water pump, pipeline, and electricity supply (Report Section 2.2.4).

WaterNSW has previously responded to the original SSD EIS in September 2018 (our ref: D2018/100038) and has subsequently corresponded with the proponent and their consultants regarding the aforementioned licence.

WaterNSW has reviewed the Modification Report, and makes the following comments:

- WaterNSW notes the Modification proposes an additional 45 kVA emergency standby diesel generator and 2,000 litre bunded diesel storage tank at the water supply pump near the Namoi River to 'provide backup for the rare occasion when the primary operational power supply is lost'. However, the generator is also proposed to be used for 'up to 10 months' while a 'potential alternative renewable power option is finalised' and approved (p.22).

The Report (p.19) states that the generator and storage tank would potentially be located only 40 metres from the banks of the Namoi River, with the short flow path to the river and impoundment considered to increase the risk of impacts to water quality from potential spills or during flooding. As such, WaterNSW does not support diesel storage at this location and notes that with the site permanently occupied by farm managers, refuelling of the generator is possible using diesel delivered to and stored at Farm 2 instead, appropriately sited and bunded to 110% capacity.

- WaterNSW agrees that the proposed modifications to the layout of ancillary facilities and location of additional diesel generators at Farm 2 are unlikely to have any material impact on surface water quality. Notwithstanding, bunding of the relocated dead bird freezer should be considered, as it is outside the diversion swale and therefore any contaminated runoff occurring in the event of power loss and thawing of contents would not be collected in the detention dam.

WaterNSW requests the Department continue to notify us of all SSDs on land adjacent to WaterNSW land, assets and infrastructure. All notifications should be sent via email to the address Environmental.Assessments@waternsw.com.au.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Alison Kniha at alison.kniha@waternsw.com.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Daryl Gilchrist".

DARYL GILCHRIST
Manager Catchment Protection