

Our ref: OUT22/3436

Deana Burn
Planning and Assessment Group
NSW Department of Planning and Environment

Email: deana.burn@planning.nsw.gov.au

4 April 2022

Subject: Port Kembla Steelworks - Blast Furnace 6 Reline (SSI-22545215) – Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

Dear Ms Burn

I refer to your email of 23 March 2022 to the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) Water and the Natural Resources Access Regulator (NRAR) about the above matter. The project involves the relining of 6BF over a period of approximately 3 years to return it to service and commence ironmaking after 5BF ceases operation. Major construction work will be required.

DPE Water notes there is potential for groundwater interception based on current groundwater levels and the proposed excavation depth of the project. However, the specific details and extent of this (and the associated need to manage and licence groundwater take) will not be established until the detailed designs are produced. As such, DPE Water notes the following:

- A Water Access Licence (WAL) under the Water Management Act 2000 must be obtained for take unless an exemption applies, that is:
 - the take is less than or equal to 3ML of water per year for any aquifer interference activities listed in Clause 7 of Schedule 4 of the Water Management (General) Regulation 2018.

To qualify for an exemption to hold a water access licence, the proponent should:

- record the water take within 24 hours in the approved form and manner;
- provide the water take records to the Minister by no later than 28 July for the year ending 1 July during which the water was taken (e.g. included in the annual report); and
- keep the water take records for a period of five years.

For more information, please visit:

- <https://www.dpie.nsw.gov.au/nrar/how-to-apply/water-licences/Groundwater>
- Should the project be approved, the relevant management plans should reference our groundwater guidelines where applicable. These guidelines should be published shortly. Please get in contact if you require further details.
- DPE Water does not need to be consulted during the development or approval of these management plans.

Any further referrals to DPE Water and NRAR can be sent by email to water.assessments@dpie.nsw.gov.au or to the following coordinating officer within DPE Water:

Simon Francis – Senior Project Officer
E: simon.francis@dpie.nsw.gov.au
M: 0428 926 117

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Liz Rogers". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Liz Rogers
Manager Assessments, Knowledge Division
Water Group