

Our ref: OUT22/12806

Kurtis Wathen
Planning and Assessment Group
NSW Department of Planning and Environment

Email: kurtis.wathen@dpie.nsw.gov.au

25 August 2022

Subject: **Shoalhaven Hydro Geotech Works MOD 1 - Adding 1 Borehole (SSI-9816-Mod-1)**

Dear Mr Wathen

I refer to your request for advice sent on 12 August 2022 to the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) Water about the above matter.

To assist with the design constructability of the Shoalhaven Hydro Expansion Project, the modification proposal is for geotechnical works in one new borehole location (location 9), while two investigation boreholes associated with the former cavern location (locations 4 and 5) are no longer required.

DPE Water has reviewed the Modification Report, with provision of the following recommendation:

- Should groundwater be intercepted, a Water Access Licence (WAL) under the *Water Management Act 2000* must be obtained unless an exemption under the Water Management (General) Regulation 2018 applies.

Please see Attachment A for more detail.

Please note that the licensing and approval function has now moved from NRAR to DPE Water. Should you have any further queries in relation to this submission please do not hesitate to contact DPE Water Assessments 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 that reads "Liz Rogers".

Liz Rogers
Manager, Assessments, Knowledge Division
Department of Planning and Environment: Water

Attachment A

Detailed advice to DPE Planning & Assessment regarding the Shoalhaven Hydro Geotech Works MOD 1 - Adding 1 Borehole (SSI-9816-Mod-1)

1.0 Groundwater Licencing

1.1 Recommendation – Post Approval

DPE Water notes that no information on groundwater take is provided. Should groundwater be intercepted, a Water Access Licence (WAL) under the *Water Management Act 2000* must be obtained unless 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.

Explanation

For more information visit:

[https://www.dpie.nsw.gov.au/nrar/how to apply/water licences/Groundwater](https://www.dpie.nsw.gov.au/nrar/how%20to%20apply/water%20licences/Groundwater)

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.

Should the project be approved, the relevant management plans should reference our groundwater guidelines. DPE Water does not need to be consulted during their development or approval.

2.0 Coal Seam Gas

2.1 Recommendation – Post Approval

Should there be a risk of significant Coal Seam Gas interception, consideration of the NSW Code of Practice for Coal Seam Gas Well Integrity may be warranted.

Explanation

DPE Water notes that methane monitoring will be undertaken.

End Attachment A