

Our ref: OUT22/20238

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NSW Department of Planning and Environment  
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16 November 2022

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**Subject: Moomba to Wilton Pipeline Mod 3 (SSI-15548591-Mod3) – Modification Report**

Dear Gen Lucas

I refer to your request for advice sent on 17 October 2022 to the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) Water about the above matter.

MOD 3 proposes to increase the construction footprint for the MW433 compressor site and to drill and use a bore to extract groundwater for construction water demands.

DPE Water has reviewed the modification report and provides the following key recommendations.

- Extraction from the proposed bore must be restricted to no more than 40ML over a single 12 month period, and the bore must be constructed with a minimum 60m grout seal and decommissioned on completion of project construction. These recommendations are to mitigate potential impacts to a groundwater dependent ecosystem and to ensure water take is restricted to the targeted water source. It is recommended these be included in a consent condition for the project.
- The proponent will need to ensure sufficient water entitlement is held in a Water Access Licence to account for the maximum predicted water take and a dealing application is completed to nominate the relevant work prior to take occurring.

Please see Attachment A for more detail.

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](mailto:water.assessments@dpie.nsw.gov.au) or to the following coordinating officer within DPE Water:

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Yours sincerely



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**Department of Planning and Environment: Water**

## Attachment A

### Detailed advice to DPE Planning & Assessment regarding the Moomba to Wilton Mod 3 (SSI-15548591) – Modification Report

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#### 1.0 Groundwater impacts and management

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##### 1.1 Recommendation

That consent conditions be developed to incorporate the following to mitigate impacts due to the proposed bore construction and operation:

- Extraction from the bore must not exceed 40ML over a single 12 month period.
- The bore must be constructed with a minimum 60m grout seal (seal to be constructed from surface to 60m below ground level).
- The bore must be decommissioned on completion of project construction.

##### 1.2 Explanation

The proposed bore is located approximately 8 km from the Peery Mound Springs which is a listed groundwater dependant ecosystem complex in the Water Sharing Plan for the NSW Great Artesian Basin Groundwater Water Sources 2020. The Peery Mound Springs are also identified under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 and listed as a matter of national and environmental significance. Potential impacts to the spring site must be considered.

The department has reviewed the data provided by the proponent and estimates that no more than minimal impact will occur to third-party bores or groundwater dependant ecosystems from pumping 40 ML over a single 12-month period only. A longer extraction period is unlikely to be supported due to potential impacts on the Peery Mound Springs. Accordingly, the bore must be used for no more than a one off 12-month period and decommissioned on completion of the project.

The 60m grout seal is to ensure water take is to occur from the targeted water source as specified in the Water Sharing Plan for the NSW Great Artesian Basin Groundwater Sources 2020 (WSP). The WSP also specifies the requirement to decommission a bore that is no longer in use and to relevant standards which are detailed in the guideline, “*Minimum Construction Requirements for Water Bores in Australia*”.

It is noted that the department does not agree with the value for storativity (S) applied in the groundwater assessment. This is due to the departments view that the value applied is unjustifiably high which has a consequence that the assessment would likely underpredict drawdown impacts.

#### 2.0 Water take and licensing

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##### 2.1 Recommendation Post Approval

- That the proponent ensures sufficient water entitlement is held in a Water Access Licence and a dealing application is completed to nominate the relevant work prior to water extraction occurring.

##### 2.2 Explanation

The proponent has identified the water demands of approximately 40ML over a 9 month period and has indicated sufficient water entitlement/allocation has been secured on a temporary arrangement. The proponent however still needs to complete an application to DPE Water for a zero-share access licence and an application to WaterNSW to change the Water Access Licence to nominate the relevant work. These applications will need to be completed prior to water extraction commencing.