

Mr Nick Hearfield  
Department of Planning and Environment  
C/o Major Projects Portal

Nick.hearfield@dpi.nsw.gov.au

---

Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements – Thrumster Wastewater Scheme  
SSI-56980459

Dear Mr Hearfield

Thank you for your correspondence of 31 March 2023 and the opportunity to provide comments on the environmental assessment requirements for the Thrumster Wastewater Scheme.

NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) Agriculture collaborates with our stakeholders to protect and enhance the productive and sustainable use and resilience of agricultural resources and the environment.

NSW DPI Agriculture has reviewed the scoping report for the above proposal. The issues of concern relate to the potential impacts of the environmental discharge pipeline (option 2) on agricultural land uses along the route of the pipeline and the potential use of treated effluent on nearby agricultural land.

NSW DPI Agriculture requests that the following matters be included in the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs).

- Provide details of any proposed effluent reuse on agricultural land or for agricultural production. This should include the suitability of the land or the production system to utilise the effluent without causing adverse impacts to the land, production system or the environment and without increasing biosecurity risks.
- If environmental discharge pipeline Option 2 is progressed, the EIS should identify any agricultural land uses along the route of the pipeline and detail the potential impacts on these agricultural land uses as a result of pipeline construction or any ongoing operational requirements. Issues including, but not limited to, disruption of vehicular access, acquisition of easements and restrictions on the use of land in easements for agricultural purposes should be addressed. Detail of the measures proposed to avoid or mitigate these impacts should also be provided.
- A biosecurity (pests, weeds, and disease) risk assessment outlining the likely plant, animal, and community risks to agricultural land uses that may result from the construction of the environmental discharge pipeline Option 2 or ongoing operational requirements should be prepared. The risk assessment should detail how the proposal will deal with identified biosecurity risks as well as contingency plans for any failures and should include monitoring and mitigation measures for weed and pest management. The

relevant weed or pest animals for a region are addressed in the regional plans or strategies issued by NSW Local Lands Services.

Industry guidelines and resource information (Attachment A) should also be provided to the proponent for their consideration when preparing the Environmental Impact Statement.

Should you require clarification on any of the information contained in this response, please do not hesitate to contact me on 0429 864 501 or by email at [landuse.ag@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:landuse.ag@dpi.nsw.gov.au).

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Garnett', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Paul Garnett  
Agricultural Land Use Planning Officer  
Ag Strategic Initiatives  
North Coast Region

6 April 2023

Encl: Attachment A: Industry guidelines and resource information

**Attachment A:        Industry guidelines and resource information**

Title	Website link
Land Use Conflict Risk Assessment Guide	<a href="https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/lup/development-assessment2/lucra">https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/lup/development-assessment2/lucra</a>
Infrastructure Proposals on Rural Land	<a href="https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/lup/development-assessment2/infrastructure-proposals">https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/lup/development-assessment2/infrastructure-proposals</a>
Biosecurity Risk Management in Land Use Planning and Development	<a href="https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0018/1271241/managing-biosecurity-risks-in-land-use-planning-and-development-guide.pdf">https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0018/1271241/managing-biosecurity-risks-in-land-use-planning-and-development-guide.pdf</a>