

Our ref: OUT24/14739

Ingrid Zhu
Planning Group
NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
Email: ingrid.zhu@dpie.nsw.gov.au

24/09/2024

Subject: **Western Sydney University (WSU) Indigenous Centre of Excellence (SSD-64916225) – Environmental Impact Statement**

Dear Ms Zhu,

I refer to your request for advice sent on 30 August 2024 to the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) Water Group about the above matter.

The proposed development is for the construction of a new four storey tertiary educational facility to accommodate the new Indigenous Centre of Excellence. The Proposal will provide a series of teaching spaces and collaborative learning areas, staff and student amenities, research facilities, a cinema / lecture theatre, a gallery, art spaces, alongside a theatre and associated performance spaces. It will be complemented by a series of landscaped areas including a central landscaped open space, indoor / outdoor terraces, and a rooftop multi-purpose sports court and an astronomy garden.

NSW DCCEEW Water Group has reviewed the Environmental Impact Statement and has recommendations regarding water take and licensing. Please see **Attachment A** for more detail.

Should you have any further queries in relation to this submission please do not hesitate to contact Water Assessments water.assessments@dpie.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

CBrooke

Cherelle Brooke
Manager, Water Assessments, Knowledge Division
NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water

Attachment A

Detailed advice to DPHI Planning regarding the Western Sydney University (WSU) Indigenous Centre of Excellence (SSD-64916225) – Environmental Impact Statement

1.0 Water take and licensing

1.1 Recommendation – pre-determination

That the proponent quantifies the maximum annual volume of groundwater take due to aquifer interference activities.

Explanation

Insufficient information has been provided to confirm the potential groundwater inflow volumes. The applicant notes that there will be groundwater take due to excavations, but this is not quantified.

This project has a potential for groundwater interception with deep foundation construction and services installation. The specific depths of trenches or piling foundations have not been provided. It is recommended that further information be provided to quantify groundwater take volumes.

1.2 Recommendation – pre-determination

The proponent should ensure a water access licence (WAL) is obtained to account for the maximum predicted water take for construction and operation activities unless an exemption applies under the Water Management (General) Regulation 2018.

Explanation

Under the *Water Management Act 2000*, if groundwater is intercepted a WAL must be obtained prior to any water take occurring unless an exemption under Clause 7 of Schedule 4 of the Water Management (General) Regulation 2018 applies. An exemption may be available if water take is less than or equal to 3 ML per water year, subject to the development meeting other exemption requirements, such as:

- the water is not taken for consumption or supply;
- the person claiming the exemption keeps a record of the water taken under the exemption and provides this to the Minister within 28 days of the end of the water year; and
- the records are kept for 5 years.

Further information on these requirements and other information on licensing and approvals, exemptions, including an exemption application form and a form to report and record water taken can be found at:

<https://water.dpie.nsw.gov.au/licensing-and-trade>.

More information on this exemption can be found at:

<https://water.dpie.nsw.gov.au/our-work/licensing-and-trade/water-access-licences-and-approvals/exemptions-for-water-licences-and-works-and-or-use-approvals/groundwater-wal-exemptions>.

End Attachment A
