



Our ref: DOC25/353880-3

27 May 2025

Mr Nick Hearfield
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By email: nick.hearfield@dpie.nsw.gov.au

EPA Review of Submissions Report – Thrumster Wastewater Scheme (SSI-56980459)

Dear Nick

I am writing in response to your request for the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) to comment on the Submissions Report for the proposed Thrumster Wastewater Scheme (SSI-56980459) at 433 Fernbank Road, Fernbank Creek (the proposal).

Thank you for allowing the NSW EPA to review and provide input into the proposal.

As part of this request the EPA has considered:

- report titled *Thrumster Wastewater Scheme - Response to Submissions - Port Macquarie-Hastings Council* prepared by GHD on behalf of Port Macquarie-Hastings Council and dated 9 April 2025.
- report titled *Amendment Report Thrumster Wastewater Scheme Port Macquarie-Hastings Council* prepared by GHD on behalf of Port Macquarie Hastings Council and 28 April 2025.
- previous discussions between the NSW EPA and Port Macquarie Hastings Council, particularly focussed on potential risk mitigation measures that can be adopted as part of the proposal.
- previously provided documents as part of the proposed STP design and performance

The EPA acknowledges the following mitigation measures that have been adopted by Council to reduce the impact of the proposal:

- Future upgrade of Port Macquarie Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP): Council has committed to upgrade the Port Macquarie WWTP, which discharges into Kooloonbung Creek, to improve the quality of effluent discharged.
- Production and reuse of recycled water: Up to 4.7 ML/day of recycled water will be produced and reused to reduce the nutrient and contamination load entering Kooloonbung Creek. This initiative is planned for implementation between 2028 and 2029.
- Leachate management solution: Construction and commissioning of a leachate management system at the Cairncross facility by 2028-2030 to help reduce the biological load and contamination discharged into Kooloonbung Creek.

NSW Environment Protection Authority

As the environmental steward and regulator of our State we are committed to a sustainable future. Join us on our mission to protect tomorrow together.

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- Septage receival facilities at Thrumster WWTP: The establishment of septage receival facilities at the Thrumster WWTP (2028-2029) to reduce the load at the Port Macquarie WWTP's septage receival facility and provide the required redundancy.

Considering the above, the EPA believes the design is appropriate, with many of the objectives and targets being previously discussed and agreed upon by the NSW EPA and Port Macquarie Council. The EPA is satisfied with the information provided and has no additional comment which will affect your consideration of the application currently under assessment.

If you have any questions about this request, please contact Emma Coombs via email at info@epa.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Emma Coombs
A/Unit Head Operations
Environment Protection Authority