

Andy Nixey
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via NSW Major Project Portal
Ref: SSD-71558711

Re: Advice on the Environmental Impact Statement EIS for the MIXED-USE PRECINCT WITH IN-FILL AFFORDABLE HOUSING – HUGHES AVENUE, MELROSE PARK SOUTH-WEST – SSD-71558711

Dear Andy,

Thank you for your referral of this state significant development dated 2 September 2025 to DPIRD Fisheries, a division of NSW Department of Primary Industries.

DPIRD Fisheries is responsible for ensuring that fish stocks are conserved and that there is no net loss of key fish habitats upon which they depend. To achieve this, DPIRD Fisheries ensures that developments comply with the requirements of the *Fisheries Management Act* (FM Act) (namely the aquatic habitat protection and threatened species conservation provisions in Parts 7 and 7A of the Act, respectively), and the associated *Policy and Guidelines for Fish Habitat Conservation and Management (2013)* (P&Gs). DPIRD Fisheries is also responsible for ensuring the sustainable management of commercial, recreational and Aboriginal cultural fishing, aquaculture, marine parks and aquatic reserves in NSW.

DPIRD Fisheries has reviewed the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR) for the proposed development and acknowledges its significance, particularly given its proximity to mangrove and saltmarsh communities. These ecosystems are classified as Type 1-2 Key Fish Habitat (KFH) under the relevant Policies and Guidelines (P&Gs). While the BDAR identifies saltmarsh within the development boundary, it confirms that this habitat does not fall within the proposed building footprint.

To ensure best practice in the development of this site, measures should be taken to maintain and enhance KFH values, including:

- Protection and enhancement of riparian habitat
- Safeguarding aquatic ecosystems

- Improving water quality through sensitive urban design, effective stormwater management, and robust erosion and sediment control during construction

DPIRD Fisheries is satisfied that the EIS and BDAR have appropriately addressed potential impacts on KFH, including those related to shading. The inclusion of a Vegetation Management Plan and provisions for ongoing monitoring of shading effects are noted. However, DPIRD Fisheries recommends further consultation prior to implementation to ensure alignment with habitat protection objectives.

For any further information, please contact me on peter.gibson@dpird.nsw.gov.au.

Sincerely



Peter Gibson

Fisheries Manager, Aquatic Ecosystems Assessments

DPIRD Fisheries