

Our ref: Armidale Water Security Project (SSI-139387988)

Ms Vicky Sisson
Armidale Regional Council
135 Rusden Street,
ARMIDALE NSW 2350

19 August 2026

Subject: Armidale Water Security Project – Request for Planning Focus Meeting

Dear Ms Sisson

I refer to the request for Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) for the Armidale Water Security Project (SSI-139387988).

To allow the Department to progress the SEARs request, a Planning Focus Meeting (PFM) is requested to be held with relevant Government agencies and councils. One purpose of the PFM is to provide the agencies and councils with a briefing on the proposal and its likely impacts such that the attendees provide advice to the Department on the scope of matters to consider in developing the SEARs.

The PFM must also outline the engagement carried out with agencies and councils to date, including what has been consulted on and how this has influenced the proposal, the identification of potential impacts and the proposed assessment scope. Advice on proposed future consultation during preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement should also be presented. The Department may attend a site visit as part of the PFM, which will be confirmed separately.

I note Armidale Regional Council has indicated its intention to hold a PFM on **Wednesday 2 September 2026** at 2:00pm, and that the PFM would be held online via Microsoft Teams. Please confirm details of the PFM with the Department at your earliest convenience.

Please note that assessment time frames will not commence until the PFM has been held. A preliminary set of draft SEARs will be issued to Armidale Regional Council once a PFM has been held and advice from agencies and councils has been received.

If you have any questions in relation to this matter, please contact Nick Hearfield on 8217-2039 or via email at nick.hearfield@dphi.nsw.gov.au.

Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure



Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nathan Heath".

Nathan Heath

A/Team Leader

Transport and Water Assessments