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Your Ref: SSI-50831979

24 June 2025

Drew Anderson
Department of Planning, Housing & Infrastructure
Locked Bag 5022
Parramatta NSW 2124

Via Major Portal

email: drew.anderson@dphie.nsw.gov.au
CC: brendon.johnson@ses.nsw.gov.au; joshua.stanbury@ses.nsw.gov.au;

Dear Drew

**Response to Submissions –State Significant Development Application for Billabong Creek
Environmental Water Regulators**

Thank you for providing the Response to Submissions on the State Significant Development Application for Billabong Creek Environmental Water Regulators including response to the NSW SES advice dated 13 November 2024. The proposal involves the replacement of two existing weirs along Billabong Creek with new regulators including fishways. The two existing weirs - the Hartwood Weir and Wanganella Weir, situated on Billabong Creek within the Yanco Creek system in south-west NSW, are to be demolished. The new environmental regulators would be fully automated and remotely operable meaning river operators could control flow remotely which would increase the efficiency of flow control in Billabong Creek.¹

It is understood that a Construction Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) will be prepared for the project which will include workers and people on site are aware of the flood risk in these areas, in a flood event secure all materials and equipment and close the site early to minimise risk to life and property. Climate change impacts were modelled for flooding impacts and therefore would be included in the CEMP considerations for flood extents.

An additional hydrology and flooding assessment has been undertaken since the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) exhibition to assist with responding to issues raised in submissions and during consultation.²

¹ 3Rivers. 2024. Flood Impact Assessment – Billabong Creek Regulators

² Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, 2025. Billabong Creek Regulators Response to Submissions – Main Report page 13

The NSW SES support the preparation of a CEMP which will detail processes, responsibilities, and measures to manage hazards, and incidents and emergency situations during construction. Section 24.2.2 of the EIS outlines the requirements of the CEMP which includes the needs for staff inductions. The need for staff and public safety is outlined as:

- Consideration of the impacts of both riverine flooding and flash flooding in the emergency management planning on the workers and the ability to quickly and safely evacuate them from the site.
- Ensure workers and people on site are aware of the flood risk, for example through site inductions and by using signage.
- Emergency planning which outlines when and how the worksite would be closed and all materials and equipment secured prior to the start of the working day if there is a risk of flooding, on receipt of advice from the BoM, or when other evidence leads to an expectation of flooding. During site works, the BoM website would be checked prior to start of the workday for any Flood Warnings.

The NSW State Emergency Service (NSW SES) is the agency responsible for dealing with floods, storms and tsunamis in NSW. This role includes, planning for, responding to and coordinating the initial recovery from floods. As such, the NSW SES has an interest in the public safety aspects of the development of flood prone land, particularly the potential for changes to land use to either exacerbate existing flood risk or create new flood risk for communities in NSW.

Please feel free to contact Gillian Webber via email at rra@ses.nsw.gov.au should you wish to discuss any of the matters raised in this correspondence. The NSW SES would also be interested in receiving future correspondence regarding the outcome of this referral via this email address.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Elspeth O'Shannessy'.

Elspeth O'Shannessy
Manager Emergency Risk Assessment
NSW State Emergency Service