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Director Resource Assessments  
Department of Planning and Environment  
GPO Box 39  
Sydney NSW 2001

Attention: Lauren Evans

By email: [Lauren.Evans@planning.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Lauren.Evans@planning.nsw.gov.au)

Dear Lauren

## **SSD 7332 EIS – PROPOSED HARD ROCK QUARRY – BARLEIGH RANCH WAY, EAGLETON – RESPONSE TO SUBMISSIONS**

Thank you for providing Hunter Water with the opportunity to provide comment on the Proponent's Response to Submissions for the proposed hard rock quarry at Lot 2 DP 1108702 Barleigh Ranch Way, Eagleton.

While Hunter Water retains some concerns about potential impacts from the proposed development on water quality in Seven Mile Creek and, consequently, Grahamstown Dam, it is considered that these concerns can be addressed following the determination of the development through consent and licence conditions if the development is approved.

Hunter Water understands that, if approved, the conditions of consent for the development would include the requirement to prepare a comprehensive Water Management Plan in consultation with the relevant agencies prior to commencement of operations, and the requirement for annual reviews of operations. We request that Hunter Water be considered as a relevant agency for the purpose of operational planning and annual reviews regarding water management.

The Water Management Plan should clearly outline the water management measures for the site, operational procedures, and maintenance and mitigation measures to ensure that the dams have the capacity to store water up to the 1 in 500 year event. As indicated in our submission dated 9 March 2017, inadequate maintenance during the operational phase is considered to be a key risk to water quality for this development. The Water Management Plan should, therefore, include suitable procedures for managing this risk, such as planned discharges or reuse prior to or between large storm events, and/or removal of accumulated sediment from the dams in order to maintain capacity or water quality.

As maintenance and operational practices are key factors in determining whether the development will adversely affect water quality, Hunter Water recommends that the Department of Planning and Environment considers including a condition in the approval for the proponent to commission independent reviews of its operations at suitable regular intervals, such as four or five years, to determine whether the facility is being operated in accordance with the conditions of approval and associated plans and licences.

Hunter Water understands that the Environment Protection Authority is likely to adopt the discharge criteria proposed by the Proponent as discharge limits in the EPL if the development is approved. While Hunter Water considers the proposed discharge limits to be acceptable, it is noted that the criteria relate to concentrations rather than loads, and that they do not apply to uncontrolled discharges. While uncontrolled discharges from the site should rarely occur, such events could result in large sediment loads being deposited into Grahamstown Dam, which poses a risk to the drinking water supply.

In order to demonstrate that the development is not adversely affecting water quality during uncontrolled discharges, Hunter Water recommends that approval conditions include the requirement to monitor water quality (total nitrogen, total phosphorus, total suspended solids, electrical conductivity, pH and oil and grease) at suitable locations (to be determined in consultation with Hunter Water) upstream and downstream of the discharge point during all uncontrolled discharges, and that the monitoring results be forwarded to Hunter Water (and other relevant agencies if desired) within seven days of the discharge event. Further, it is recommended that monitoring also be required at the upstream site during controlled discharges whenever the creek is flowing.

If you require further advice or clarification regarding this submission, or questions regarding the application of NorBE, please contact me on (02) 4979 9545.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Withers', is positioned above the typed name.

**Malcolm Withers**  
**Senior Developer Services Engineer**