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SSI 8989

Karen Harragon  
Director, Social and Other Infrastructure Assessments  
Department of Planning and Environment  
[karen.harragon@planning.nsw.gov.au](mailto:karen.harragon@planning.nsw.gov.au)

Dear Karen

**Input into Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements – New Catholic College – Medowie – Port Stephens LGA (SSD 8989)**

I refer to your letter dated 15 December 2017 seeking input into the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) for the new Catholic college proposal, located at 2 Kingfisher Close and 507 Medowie Road (Lot 412 and 413 in DP 1063902) in Medowie. The proposed development is within the Port Stephens local government area.

The Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) understands that the Catholic Church (Trustees of the Roman Catholic Church for the Diocese of Maitland – Newcastle) are seeking to establish a new Catholic college and associated infrastructure. OEH understands that the proposal is a State Significant Development (SSD 8989) project under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

OEH has reviewed the Preliminary Environmental Assessment documents as prepared by DeWitt Consulting (dated December 2017) and has prepared Standard SEARs which are presented in **Attachment A**. There are no project-specific SEARs provided for this project.

For biodiversity and threatened species matters, this project is to be assessed in accordance with the Biodiversity Assessment Method (BAM, dated 25 August 2017) and documented in a Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR). The BDAR must include information in the form detailed in the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (s6.12) (BC Act), *Biodiversity Conservation Regulation 2017* (s6.8) and BAM. Under this process, the BDAR must be prepared by a person accredited in accordance with the Accreditation Scheme for the Application of the Biodiversity Assessment Method Order 2017 under s6.10 of the BC Act.

The proponent will need to ensure that the BDAR is fully consistent with requirements of the BAM. Details of guidance documents to assist with this process are provided in **Attachment C**.

With respect to Aboriginal cultural heritage, OEH notes that any Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment undertaken prior to 2010 is unlikely to meet current OEH Aboriginal cultural heritage guidelines for the assessment of Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW. The OEH 2011 *Guide to investigating, assessing and reporting on Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW* should be referenced in this instance.

If you have any further questions in relation to this matter, please contact Steve Lewer, Regional Biodiversity Conservation Officer, on 02 4927 3158.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S. Cox', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**STEVEN COX**

**Senior Team Leader - Planning  
Hunter Central Coast Branch  
Regional Operations Division**

Enclosure: Attachments A, B, C

10 January 2018

## Attachment A – Standard Environmental Assessment Requirements

<p><b>Biodiversity</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Biodiversity impacts related to the proposed development (SSD 8989) are to be assessed in accordance with the <a href="#">Biodiversity Assessment Method</a> and documented in a Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR). The BDAR must include information in the form detailed in the <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> (s6.12), <i>Biodiversity Conservation Regulation 2017</i> (s6.8) and <a href="#">Biodiversity Assessment Method</a>.</li> <li>2. The BDAR must document the application of the avoid, minimise and offset framework including assessing all direct, indirect and prescribed impacts in accordance with the <a href="#">Biodiversity Assessment Method</a>.</li> <li>3. The BDAR must include details of the measures proposed to address the offset obligation as follows; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The total number and classes of biodiversity credits required to be retired for the development/project;</li> <li>• The number and classes of like-for-like biodiversity credits proposed to be retired;</li> <li>• The number and classes of biodiversity credits proposed to be retired in accordance with the variation rules;</li> <li>• Any proposal to fund a biodiversity conservation action;</li> <li>• Any proposal to conduct ecological rehabilitation (if a mining project);</li> <li>• Any proposal to make a payment to the Biodiversity Conservation Fund.</li> </ul> </li> </ol> <p>If seeking approval to use the variation rules, the BDAR must contain details of the <a href="#">reasonable steps</a> that have been taken to obtain requisite like-for-like biodiversity credits.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. The BDAR must be prepared by a person accredited in accordance with the Accreditation Scheme for the Application of the Biodiversity Assessment Method Order 2017 under s6.10 of the <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i>.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Aboriginal cultural heritage</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIS) must identify and describe the Aboriginal cultural heritage values that exist across the whole area that will be affected by the development and document these in the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR). This may include the need for surface survey and test excavation. The identification of cultural heritage values should be guided by the <a href="#">Guide to investigating, assessing and reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW (DECCW, 2011)</a> and consultation with OEH regional branch officers.</li> <li>6. Consultation with Aboriginal people must be undertaken and documented in accordance with the <a href="#">Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010 (DECCW)</a>. The significance of cultural heritage values for Aboriginal people who have a cultural association with the land must be documented in the ACHAR.</li> <li>7. Impacts on Aboriginal cultural heritage values are to be assessed and documented in the ACHAR. The ACHAR must demonstrate attempts to avoid impact upon cultural heritage values and identify any conservation outcomes. Where impacts are unavoidable, the ACHAR must outline measures proposed to mitigate impacts. Any objects recorded as part of the assessment must be documented and notified to OEH.</li> </ol>

<b>Historic heritage</b>
<p>8. The EIS must provide a heritage assessment including but not limited to an assessment of impacts to State and local heritage including conservation areas, natural heritage areas, places of Aboriginal heritage value, buildings, works, relics, gardens, landscapes, views, trees should be assessed. Where impacts to State or locally significant heritage items are identified, the assessment shall:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. outline the proposed mitigation and management measures (including measures to avoid significant impacts and an evaluation of the effectiveness of the mitigation measures) generally consistent with the NSW Heritage Manual (1996),</li> <li>b. be undertaken by a suitably qualified heritage consultant(s) (note: where archaeological excavations are proposed the relevant consultant must meet the NSW Heritage Council's Excavation Director criteria),</li> <li>c. include a statement of heritage impact for all heritage items (including significance assessment),</li> <li>d. consider impacts including, but not limited to, vibration, demolition, archaeological disturbance, altered historical arrangements and access, landscape and vistas, and architectural noise treatment (as relevant), and</li> <li>e. where potential archaeological impacts have been identified develop an appropriate archaeological assessment methodology, including research design, to guide physical archaeological test excavations (terrestrial and maritime as relevant) and include the results of these test excavations.</li> </ol>
<b>Water and soils</b>
<p>9. The EIS must map the following features relevant to water and soils including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Acid sulfate soils (Class 1, 2, 3 or 4 on the Acid Sulfate Soil Planning Map).</li> <li>b. Rivers, streams, wetlands, estuaries (as described in s4.2 of the Biodiversity Assessment Method).</li> <li>c. Wetlands as described in s4.2 of the Biodiversity Assessment Method.</li> <li>d. Groundwater.</li> <li>e. Groundwater dependent ecosystems.</li> <li>f. Proposed intake and discharge locations.</li> </ol>
<p>10. The EIS must describe background conditions for any water resource likely to be affected by the development, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Existing surface and groundwater.</li> <li>b. Hydrology, including volume, frequency and quality of discharges at proposed intake and discharge locations.</li> <li>c. Water Quality Objectives (as endorsed by the NSW Government <a href="http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/ieo/index.htm">http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/ieo/index.htm</a>) including groundwater as appropriate that represent the community's uses and values for the receiving waters.</li> <li>d. Indicators and trigger values/criteria for the environmental values identified at (c) in accordance with the <a href="#">ANZECC (2000) Guidelines for Fresh and Marine Water Quality</a> and/or local objectives, criteria or targets endorsed by the NSW Government.</li> </ol>

11. The EIS must assess the impacts of the development on water quality, including:
- a. The nature and degree of impact on receiving waters for both surface and groundwater, demonstrating how the development protects the Water Quality Objectives where they are currently being achieved, and contributes towards achievement of the Water Quality Objectives over time where they are currently not being achieved. This should include an assessment of the mitigating effects of proposed stormwater and wastewater management during and after construction.
  - b. Identification of proposed monitoring of water quality.

12. The EIS must assess the impact of the development on hydrology, including:
- a. Water balance including quantity, quality and source.
  - b. Effects to downstream rivers, wetlands, estuaries, marine waters and floodplain areas.
  - c. Effects to downstream water-dependent fauna and flora including groundwater dependent ecosystems.
  - d. Impacts to natural processes and functions within rivers, wetlands, estuaries and floodplains that affect river system and landscape health such as nutrient flow, aquatic connectivity and access to habitat for spawning and refuge (e.g. river benches).
  - e. Changes to environmental water availability, both regulated/licensed and unregulated/rules-based sources of such water.
  - f. Mitigating effects of proposed stormwater and wastewater management during and after construction on hydrological attributes such as volumes, flow rates, management methods and re-use options.
  - g. Identification of proposed monitoring of hydrological attributes.

### **Flooding and coastal erosion**

13. The EIS must map the following features relevant to flooding as described in the Floodplain Development Manual 2005 (NSW Government 2005) including:
- a. Flood prone land.
  - b. Flood planning area, the area below the flood planning level.
  - c. Hydraulic categorisation (floodways and flood storage areas).

14. The EIS must describe flood assessment and modelling undertaken in determining the design flood levels for events, including a minimum of the 1 in 10 year, 1 in 100 year flood levels and the probable maximum flood, or an equivalent extreme event.

15. The EIS must model the effect of the proposed development (including fill) on the flood behaviour under the following scenarios:
- a. Current flood behaviour for a range of design events as identified in 11 above. This includes the 1 in 200 and 1 in 500 year flood events as proxies for assessing sensitivity to an increase in rainfall intensity of flood producing rainfall events due to climate change.

16. Modelling in the EIS must consider and document:

- a. The impact on existing flood behaviour for a full range of flood events including up to the probable maximum flood.
- b. Impacts of the development on flood behaviour resulting in detrimental changes in potential flood affection of other developments or land. This may include redirection of flow, flow velocities, flood levels, hazards and hydraulic categories.
- c. Relevant provisions of the NSW Floodplain Development Manual 2005.

17. The EIS must assess the impacts on the proposed development on flood behaviour, including:

- a. Whether there will be detrimental increases in the potential flood affectation of other properties, assets and infrastructure.
- b. Consistency with Council floodplain risk management plans.
- c. Compatibility with the flood hazard of the land.
- d. Compatibility with the hydraulic functions of flow conveyance in floodways and storage in flood storage areas of the land.
- e. Whether there will be adverse effect to beneficial inundation of the floodplain environment, on, adjacent to or downstream of the site.
- f. Whether there will be direct or indirect increase in erosion, siltation, destruction of riparian vegetation or a reduction in the stability of river banks or watercourses.
- g. Any impacts the development may have upon existing community emergency management arrangements for flooding. These matters are to be discussed with the SES and Council.
- h. Whether the proposal incorporates specific measures to manage risk to life from flood. These matters are to be discussed with the SES and Council.
- i. Emergency management, evacuation and access, and contingency measures for the development considering the full range of flood risk (based upon the probable maximum flood or an equivalent extreme flood event). These matters are to be discussed with and have the support of Council and the SES.
- j. Any impacts the development may have on the social and economic costs to the community as consequence of flooding.

## **Attachment B – Project specific environmental assessment requirements**

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<b>Biodiversity - nil</b>
<b>Aboriginal cultural heritage - nil</b>
<b>Historic heritage - nil</b>
<b>Water and soils - nil</b>
<b>Flooding and coastal erosion - nil</b>

## Attachment C – Guidance material

Title	Web address
<b>Relevant legislation</b>	
<i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i>	<a href="https://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/#/view/act/2016/63/full">https://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/#/view/act/2016/63/full</a>
<i>Coastal Management Act 2016</i>	<a href="https://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/#/view/act/2016/20/full">https://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/#/view/act/2016/20/full</a>
<i>Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>	<a href="http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/cth/consol_act/epabca1999588/">http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/cth/consol_act/epabca1999588/</a>
<i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i>	<a href="http://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/maintop/view/inforce/act+203+1979+cd+0+N">http://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/maintop/view/inforce/act+203+1979+cd+0+N</a>
<i>Fisheries Management Act 1994</i>	<a href="http://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/maintop/view/inforce/act+38+1994+cd+0+N">http://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/maintop/view/inforce/act+38+1994+cd+0+N</a>
<i>Marine Parks Act 1997</i>	<a href="http://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/maintop/view/inforce/act+64+1997+cd+0+N">http://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/maintop/view/inforce/act+64+1997+cd+0+N</a>
<i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i>	<a href="http://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/maintop/view/inforce/act+80+1974+cd+0+N">http://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/maintop/view/inforce/act+80+1974+cd+0+N</a>
<i>Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997</i>	<a href="http://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/maintop/view/inforce/act+156+1997+cd+0+N">http://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/maintop/view/inforce/act+156+1997+cd+0+N</a>
<i>Water Management Act 2000</i>	<a href="http://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/maintop/view/inforce/act+92+2000+cd+0+N">http://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/maintop/view/inforce/act+92+2000+cd+0+N</a>
<i>Wilderness Act 1987</i>	<a href="http://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/viewtop/inforce/act+196+1987+FIRST+0+N">http://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/viewtop/inforce/act+196+1987+FIRST+0+N</a>
<b>Biodiversity</b>	
Biodiversity Assessment Method (OEH, 2017)	<a href="http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/bcact/biodiversity-assessment-method-170206.pdf">http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/bcact/biodiversity-assessment-method-170206.pdf</a>
Guidance and Criteria to assist a decision maker to determine a serious and irreversible impact (OEH, 2017)	<a href="http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/bcact/guidance-decision-makers-determine-serious-irreversible-impact-170204.pdf">http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/bcact/guidance-decision-makers-determine-serious-irreversible-impact-170204.pdf</a>
NSW Guide to Surveying Threatened Plant	<a href="http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/threatenedspecies/160129-threatened-plants-survey-guide.pdf">http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/threatenedspecies/160129-threatened-plants-survey-guide.pdf</a>
Fisheries NSW policies and guidelines	<a href="http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/habitat/publications/policies,-guidelines-and-manuals/fish-habitat-conservation">http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/habitat/publications/policies,-guidelines-and-manuals/fish-habitat-conservation</a>
List of national parks	<a href="http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/NationalParks/parksearchatoz.aspx">http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/NationalParks/parksearchatoz.aspx</a>
Revocation, recategorisation and road adjustment policy (OEH, 2012)	<a href="http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/policies/RevocationOfLandPolicy.htm">http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/policies/RevocationOfLandPolicy.htm</a>
Guidelines for developments adjoining land and water managed by the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (DECCW, 2010)	<a href="http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/protectedareas/developmentadjoiningdecc.htm">http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/protectedareas/developmentadjoiningdecc.htm</a>
<b>Heritage</b>	
The Burra Charter (The Australia ICOMOS charter for places of cultural significance)	<a href="http://australia.icomos.org/wp-content/uploads/The-Burra-Charter-2013-Adopted-31.10.2013.pdf">http://australia.icomos.org/wp-content/uploads/The-Burra-Charter-2013-Adopted-31.10.2013.pdf</a>
Statements of Heritage Impact 2002 (HO & DUAP)	<a href="http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/heritagebranch/heritage/hmstatementsofhi.pdf">http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/heritagebranch/heritage/hmstatementsofhi.pdf</a>
NSW Heritage Manual (DUAP) (scroll through alphabetical list to 'N')	<a href="http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/Heritage/publications/">http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/Heritage/publications/</a>



Title	Web address
<b>Aboriginal cultural heritage</b>	
Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents (DECCW, 2010)	<a href="http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/cultureheritage/commconsultation/09781ACHconsultreq.pdf">http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/cultureheritage/commconsultation/09781ACHconsultreq.pdf</a>
Code of Practice for the Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales (DECCW, 2010)	<a href="http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/cultureheritage/10783FinalArchCoP.pdf">http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/cultureheritage/10783FinalArchCoP.pdf</a>
Guide to investigating, assessing and reporting on Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW (OEH 2011)	<a href="http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/cultureheritage/20110263ACHguide.pdf">http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/cultureheritage/20110263ACHguide.pdf</a>
Aboriginal Site Recording Form	<a href="http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/parks/SiteCardMainV1_1.pdf">http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/parks/SiteCardMainV1_1.pdf</a>
Aboriginal Site Impact Recording Form	<a href="http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/cultureheritage/120558asirf.pdf">http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/cultureheritage/120558asirf.pdf</a>
Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) Registrar	<a href="http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/contact/AHIMSRegistrar.htm">http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/contact/AHIMSRegistrar.htm</a>
Care Agreement Application form	<a href="http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/cultureheritage/20110914TransferObject.pdf">http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/cultureheritage/20110914TransferObject.pdf</a>
<b>Acid sulphate soils</b>	
Acid Sulfate Soils Planning Maps via Data.NSW	<a href="http://data.nsw.gov.au/data/">http://data.nsw.gov.au/data/</a>
Acid Sulfate Soils Manual (Stone et al. 1998)	<a href="http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/epa/Acid-Sulfate-Manual-1998.pdf">http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/epa/Acid-Sulfate-Manual-1998.pdf</a>
Acid Sulfate Soils Laboratory Methods Guidelines (Ahern et al. 2004)	<a href="http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/soils/acid-sulfate-soils-laboratory-methods-guidelines.pdf">http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/soils/acid-sulfate-soils-laboratory-methods-guidelines.pdf</a> This replaces Chapter 4 of the Acid Sulfate Soils Manual above.
<b>Flooding and coastal erosion</b>	
Reforms to coastal erosion management	<a href="http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/coasts/coastalerosionmgmt.htm">http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/coasts/coastalerosionmgmt.htm</a>
Floodplain development manual	<a href="http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/floodplains/manual.htm">http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/floodplains/manual.htm</a>
Guidelines for Preparing Coastal Zone Management Plans	Guidelines for Preparing Coastal Zone Management Plans <a href="http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/coasts/130224CZMPGuide.pdf">http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/coasts/130224CZMPGuide.pdf</a>
NSW Climate Impact Profile	<a href="http://climatechange.environment.nsw.gov.au/">http://climatechange.environment.nsw.gov.au/</a>
Climate Change Impacts and Risk Management	<a href="#">Climate Change Impacts and Risk Management: A Guide for Business and Government, AGIC Guidelines for Climate Change Adaptation</a>
<b>Water</b>	
Water Quality Objectives	<a href="http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/ieo/index.htm">http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/ieo/index.htm</a>
ANZECC (2000) Guidelines for Fresh and Marine Water Quality	<a href="http://www.environment.gov.au/water/publications/quality/australian-and-new-zealand-guidelines-fresh-marine-water-quality-volume-1">www.environment.gov.au/water/publications/quality/australian-and-new-zealand-guidelines-fresh-marine-water-quality-volume-1</a>
Applying Goals for Ambient Water Quality Guidance for Operations Officers – Mixing Zones	<a href="http://deccnet/water/resources/AWQGuidance7.pdf">http://deccnet/water/resources/AWQGuidance7.pdf</a>

<b>Title</b>	<b>Web address</b>
Approved Methods for the Sampling and Analysis of Water Pollutant in NSW (2004)	<a href="http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/legislation/approvedmethods-water.pdf">http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/legislation/approvedmethods-water.pdf</a>