

Department of Planning and Environment

Our ref: SSI-10038-PA-511 & 518

Your ref: not supplied

Sydney Metro West
via Major Projects Portal

19 December 2023

Attention: Ben Armstrong, Director Environment, Sustainability & Planning

Subject: Sydney Metro West Stage 1 (SSI-10038) & Stage 2 (SSI-19238057) – independent audit program and auditors

Dear Ben,

I refer to submissions regarding the Sydney Metro West Stage 1 (SSI-10038, as modified) & Stage 2 (SSI-19238057, as modified):

- independent audit program (PA-511; lodged 22 November 2023)
- independent auditor nomination for the initial Stages 1 & 2 audit, being the fourth Stage 1 audit and the second Stage 2 audit (PA-518; lodged 5 December 2023).

Independent audit program

As you are aware, the Sydney Metro West Stage 1 independent audit program (WolfPeak, rev 4, 20 March 2023) is approved under condition A39.1 of the project approval until 30 June 2024 (SSI-10038-PA-362 & 397). Stage 2 condition A9 allows for adoption of Stage 1 project processes, subject to the relevant endorsement / approval.

Following the initial Stage 2 independent audit and the initial Stage 1 independent audit under the program (being the third Stage 1 independent audit), a combined Sydney Metro West Stages 1 & 2 independent audit program (WolfPeak, rev 5.1, 11 December 2023) was prepared in consultation with the Department of Planning and Environment (**NSW Planning**). Consistent with the approved program, the proposed combined program relevantly identifies that independent audits would:

- *be preceded by submission of a scoping statement each December and June (s6, Table 4)*
- *be carried out each February and August with the audit reports submitted each April and October (s6, Table 4)*
- *involve up to five days of audit effort (s7.2.1)*
- *focus on matters with material risk as informed by the environmental impact statements (Stage 1 chapter 28 & Stage 2 chapter 24), the construction and design works for the preceding six months, and consultation with NSW Planning and other parties (s7.2.2).*

Department of Planning and Environment

As nominee of the Planning Secretary, under Stage 1 condition A39.1 and Stage 2 condition A41, I approve the combined Sydney Metro West Stages 1 & 2 independent audit program (WolfPeak, rev 5.1, 11 December 2023) until 30 June 2024. As such this program must be implemented for the fourth Sydney Metro West independent audit. The approval of this program has been limited as clarifications to the Sydney Metro West phasing report (revision 1.6, September 2023) are pending.

I note that the program increases complexity regarding temporal scope which will need to be addressed in the audit scoping statement, audit activities, and audit report.

Independent auditors

NSW Planning has reviewed the information you have provided against the *Independent Audit Post Approval Requirements*. NSW Planning is satisfied that the nominees are certified with Exemplar Global as lead auditors in environmental management systems, are suitably experienced in critical state significant infrastructure projects and have supplied declarations of independence.

Due to the complexity of current Stages 1 & 2 activities, namely three active tunnelling phases and one active utilities phase, NSW Planning is approving three auditors. Consequently, I can advise that under condition A40 of SSI-10038 and condition A42 of SSI-19238057, the Planning Secretary has approved the following auditors:

- Mr Steve Fermio, WolfPeak, as lead auditor
- Ms Ana Maria Munoz, WolfPeak, as auditor
- Mr Derek Low, WolfPeak, as auditor.

Please ensure this correspondence is appended to the Independent Audit Report.

The Independent Audit must be prepared, undertaken and finalised in accordance with the *Independent Audit Post Approval Requirements* and the approved program identified above. Failure to meet these requirements will require revision and resubmission.

Please note that a further auditor nomination must be made and written approval from the Planning Secretary provided prior to undertaking any subsequent independent audits.

Should you wish to discuss the matter further, please contact Alex McGuirk, Senior Compliance Officer, or myself.

Department of Planning and Environment

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Sherry".

Rob Sherry

Team Leader Compliance – Government Projects

NSW Planning

As nominee of the Planning Secretary