

Our ref: Billabong Creek Environmental Water Regulators (SSI-50831979)

Mr. Matt Kendall
Principal Project Manager, Murrumbidgee SDLAM Program
Water Infrastructure NSW
11 FARRER PLACE
QUEANBEYAN 2620

8 December 2022

Subject: Planning Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements

Dear Mr. Kendall

Please find attached a copy of the Planning Secretary's environmental assessment requirements (SEARs) for the Billabong Creek Environmental Water Regulators (SSI-50831979).

The SEARs have been prepared in consultation with relevant public authorities, based on the information you have provided. A copy of the advice from the public authorities will be forwarded to you for your information.

Where relevant, the Planning Secretary may modify the SEARs to ensure the environmental assessment of the project covers all relevant matters and is consistent with contemporary assessment practice.

Your SEARs will expire two years from the date of issue (or the date they were last modified) unless the Planning Secretary has granted an extension. If you would like to seek an extension, you should contact the department at least three months prior to the expiry date.

If your application is not submitted within two years (or by the agreed extension date), you will need to make a new application for SEARs to progress your project.

Preparing your EIS

Your environmental impact statement (EIS) must be prepared having regard to the department's *State Significant Infrastructure Guidelines* – including the *Preparing an Environmental Impact Statement Guideline*. All relevant guides for State significant projects that are referenced in the SEARs are available at www.planning.nsw.gov.au/Policy-and-Legislation/Planning-reforms/Rapid-Assessment-Framework.

During the preparation of your EIS, you are required to consult with various parties, including the department and relevant agencies, in accordance with the *Undertaking Engagement Guidelines for State Significant Projects*. For more information, please visit the [Prepare EIS page](#) on the NSW

planning portal. Agency contact details can be found at <https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/assessment/guide-agency-directory>.

You will need a Registered Environmental Assessment Practitioner (REAP) to declare that your EIS meets certain standards in relation to its completeness, accuracy, quality and clarity before it is submitted to the department, as per Division 5 of Part 8 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021. A pro forma declaration can be found in [Appendix B of the Preparing an Environmental Impact Statement Guideline](#).

Submitting your EIS

Once you submit your EIS, we will check it for completeness to confirm it addresses the requirements in Part 8 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021. We will also notify you of the application fee for your project.

To minimise delays, **please contact the department at least two weeks before you submit your EIS** to confirm fee determination information and payment arrangements. This will give us sufficient time to ensure your application fee can be determined quickly.

Information needed to determine the application fee

Your EIS will need to be accompanied by a Quantity Surveyor's Report supporting the estimated cost of works for your project. You must ensure that the information in the report is consistent with the information provided in your application form.

If your project involves extractive industries or any subdivision of land, you must also ensure that your report includes a breakdown of estimated costs for any other component of your project.

Public exhibition requirements

When you contact us regarding the applicable application fee, we will also advise whether hard and/or electronic copies of the EIS will be required for public exhibition.

Matters of National Environmental Significance

Any development likely to have a significant impact on matters of National Environmental Significance will require approval under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). This approval is in addition to approvals required under NSW legislation.

It is your responsibility to contact the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment to determine if you need approval under the EPBC Act (<http://www.environment.gov.au> or 02 6274 1111).

If you have any questions, please contact Drew Anderson on 02 9228 6212 or via email at Drew.Anderson@dpie.nsw.gov.au.

Department of Planning and Environment



Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Alan Bright".

Alan Bright

Director, State Significant Acceleration
as delegate for the Planning Secretary