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Contact: Juri Jung
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Our ref: D2023/65680

Kurtis Wathen
Senior Environmental Assessment Officer
Energy, Resources and Industry Assessments
Department of Planning & Environment
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Dear Mr Wathen

**WaterNSW Response for Input into SEARs
Lake Lyell Pumped Hydro Energy Storage Scheme (SSD-60598738)**

WaterNSW appreciates the opportunity to provide input regarding the environmental assessment for the Lake Lyell Pumped Hydro Energy Storage Scheme (SSD-60598738).

As the development is located within the Sydney Drinking Water Catchment, sections 6.61(1) and 6.63 of the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Biodiversity and Conservation) 2021* (the SEPP) apply including assessment of neutral or beneficial effect (NorBE) on water quality.

WaterNSW has reviewed the Scoping Report prepared by EMM (dated 19 July 2023) and requests that the following shall also be added in SEARs:

Recommendations for SEARs:

The full description of the development and existing environment should also include those aspects which have the potential to impact on the quality and quantity of surface and ground water and landform at and adjacent to the site. This should also include:

- maps with:
 - the proposed project boundary
 - detailed description of all waterbodies and watercourses
 - areas of vegetation clearance and offsets
- specific attention and consideration for project design and route/site selections to ensure to avoid and/or minimise impacts on:
 - surface and ground water quantity and quality
 - riparian zones and any wetland vegetation
 - groundwater dependent ecosystems, and
 - landform
- assessment of impacts including cumulative impacts on:
 - surface water using sufficient and appropriate baseline data including:
 - water flows in Coxs River, Farmers Creek and tributaries and controlled releases of environmental flows downstream of Lake Lyell

- water quality in Lake Lyell, Coxs River, Farmers Creek and tributaries because of water transfer, construction activities and vegetation clearance
- potential degradation of Lake Lyell banks due to lowering of lake levels
- groundwater using sufficient and appropriate baseline data including:
 - baseflows in Coxs River, Farmers Creek, and tributaries
 - groundwater quality, and
 - groundwater dependent ecosystems
- landforms with specific attention to the long-term geotechnical stability of proposed upper storage reservoir
- flooding and scouring of Farmers Creek and Coxs River
- stormwater management strategy for any impervious areas created as part development including:
 - stormwater quality modelling using MUSIC software showing a comparison of pre- and post-development scenarios on water quality parameters of key concern (Total Suspended Solids, Total Phosphorus and Total Nitrogen). An electronic copy of the MUSIC file in .sqz file shall be submitted to WaterNSW
 - concept design plans of any proposed stormwater quality treatment measures and crossings of Farmers Creek (both temporary and permanent)
- a detailed assessment including description and location of proposed on-site wastewater management systems for construction and operational phases
- concept design plans for erosion and sediment controls for construction phase including management of groundwater required as part of groundwater dewatering, and
- concept surface and ground water monitoring programs.

Water NSW requests that it be listed as a stakeholder in any further consultation on this project and looks forward to reviewing the forthcoming Environmental Impact Statement.

If you have any questions, please contact Juri Jung via email at environmental.assessments@waternsw.com.au

Yours sincerely



Camilla Edmunds
Manager Environment & Catchment Protection