

3 February 2021

Our Ref: PLR L210520

Mr [REDACTED]  
Senior Operations Officer  
Regulatory Operations Metro North  
NSW Environment Protection Authority  
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

**Parramatta Light Rail – Infrastructure Contract – EPL 21347  
Environmental Incident Written Report – Church Street, North Parramatta at the intersection of  
Factory Street**

On 28 January 2021, Parramatta Connect reported an incident to the EPA arising from the discharge of potable water and potentially sediment from an excavation on Church Street, North Parramatta. In accordance with Condition R3 of EPL 21347, the EPA verbally requested a written report of the event on 28 January 2021. Responses to the matters detailed in Condition R3.3 are detailed in the sections that follow.

**Condition R3.3. Matters**

**1. *The cause, time and duration of the event.***

A pre-existing water main leak was identified by Parramatta Connect during excavation works on Church Street, North Parramatta (intersection of Factory Street). In response, a crew was mobilised to repair the water main, commencing at 08.30am. During the repair works, the stop cock valve dislodged at approximately 9:15am resulting in the loss of water and potentially sediment to stormwater. The event continued until approximately 09.35am when the water main was isolated by Sydney Water.

**2. *The type, volume and concentration of every pollutant discharged as a result of the event.***

As a result of the event, there was a loss of potable water and potentially sediment to stormwater. While the volume of water and sediment discharged is not known, the stormwater drain was inspected following site clean-up and there was no evidence of accumulated sediment within the drain.

**3. *The name, address and business hours telephone number of employees or agents of the licensee (CPB) who witnessed the event.***

Parramatta Connect is aware of the following employees or agents of CPB who witnessed the event:

[REDACTED] (witness)  
Parramatta Connect, Site Supervisor  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] (response)  
Parramatta Connect, Leading Hand  
[REDACTED]

**4. *The name, address and business hours telephone number of every other person (of whom CPB is aware) who witnessed the event, unless the licensee has been unable to obtain that information after making reasonable effort.***

Parramatta Connect is aware of the following additional individuals who witnessed the event and are not CPB employees:

[REDACTED]  
Austere, Plant Operator  
[REDACTED]

**5. Action taken by the licensee in relation to the event, including any follow-up contact with any complainants.**

Immediately following the valve failure, Sydney Water were contacted to isolate the water main. The site crew rapidly deployed additional sediment controls including sand bags within the kerb and reinforced the geofabric over the drain. In addition, a vacuum truck removed water from the trench to minimise potential losses to stormwater.

Despite the efforts of the crew to contain the water to the site, the flow rate was such that the water overflowed the excavation and entered the stormwater drain at approximately 9:15am. Within 20 minutes of the overflow, Sydney Water isolated the water main and the discharge ceased.

Following isolation of the water main, the vacuum truck removed the water from the trench and the service was repaired.

Affected residents were notified of water outage while repairs were conducted and there were no complaints received as a result of the event. There were no observable environmental impacts to flora or fauna resultant from the water discharge.

The event was reported to relevant authorities including the EPA (reference C01283-2021). In accordance with the Construction Environmental Management Plan, the incident was also reported to Transport for NSW, the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment and the Environmental Representative.

It is noted that the incident was investigated and there was not a consequent non-compliance arising from the event.

**6. Details of any measure taken or proposed to be taken to prevent or mitigate against a recurrence of such an event.**

Due to the significantly aged nature of water assets within the alignment, the ability to prevent failure of water mains is limited. As such, Parramatta Connect are focused on mitigating potential impacts through the establishment of erosion and sediment controls prior to commencement of works. This include the installation of sand bags or coir logs within the kerbing and protection of stormwater drains with geofabric or similar. In addition, a vacuum truck is placed on standby to minimise the volume of water released from the trench.

**7. Any other relevant matters.**

Parramatta Connect would like to assure the EPA that this matter is taken seriously and we will continue to work with our sub-contractors to mitigate the risk of reoccurrence.

Yours faithfully  
on behalf of Parramatta Connect



[REDACTED]  
Environment and Sustainability Manager