



Mr David Harper
Project Director
WaterNSW - Warragamba Dam Raising
169 Macquarie Street
PARRAMATTA NSW 2124

Via email: david.harper@waternsw.com.au

Dear Mr Harper

Thank you for your correspondence dated 1 July 2021, to the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (the Department) regarding the Warragamba Dam Raising Project (SSI 8441).

I acknowledge the ongoing engagement and consultation undertaken by WaterNSW with NSW and Commonwealth agencies following the receipt of detailed feedback on the draft environmental impact statement (EIS) for the Warragamba Dam Raising Project (the project).

Considering the ongoing consultation with regulatory authorities, the Department considers that it is appropriate for WaterNSW to complete the preparation of the EIS on the basis of the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) for the project, as issued on 13 March 2018. The Department notes that the Department and regulatory authorities will undertake a review of the EIS during public exhibition and may request that further information be provided as part of the Response to Submissions (RtS) documentation.

The Department also considers that WaterNSW has met its obligation under Schedule 2, Section 14 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000* to consult further with the Planning Secretary in relation to the preparation of the EIS.

The Department also notes that under recent changes to the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000*, the SEARs for the project may expire on 30 November 2021 if an EIS is not submitted by this date.

The Department will continue to work with WaterNSW to ensure that the EIS for the Project meets the SEARs. If you have any more questions, please contact Mr Alan Bright, Director, State Significant Acceleration, at the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment at Alan.Bright@planning.nsw.gov.au or on (02) 9995 5223.

Yours sincerely

08/07/2021

David Gainsford
Deputy Secretary
Assessment & Systems Performance