Appendix C – Stakeholder Consultation Letters

Hunter Water Corporation
ABN 46 228 513 446

PO Box 5171
HRMC NSW 2310
36 Honeysuckle Drive
NEWCASTLE NSW 2300
1300 657 657 (T)
enquiries@hunterwater.com.au
hunterwater.com.au

21 May 2020

Our Ref: HW2017-1122/4.024

Community Liaison Officer
Belmont Police

Email:

Attention:

BELMONT DROUGHT RESPONSE DESALINATION PLANT – EIS AMENDMENT

Like much of NSW, the Lower Hunter region continues to experience ongoing drought conditions. In response, Hunter Water is implementing a program of drought response measures outlined in the 2014 Lower Hunter Water Plan (LHWP). The program includes a range of demand management and operational measures, including planning for a Drought Response Desalination Plant at Belmont.

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The proposed increase in Plant capacity would increase the area of the Plant required, however the associated environmental impacts are expected to be relatively modest. Additional studies are currently being undertaken to confirm the environmental impacts for the increase in plant capacity.

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Further investigations have found that a direct ocean seawater intake system, which involves collecting the water above the surface of the sea floor, performed considerably

better than the sub-surface options across relevant assessment criteria including safety, environmental impact, cost and others.

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Project Manager

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Manager Assessment Advice
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment - Crown Lands

Email: cl.enquiries@crownland.nsw.gov.au

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Senior Conservation Manager
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment - Fisheries

Email:

Attention:

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Senior Conservation planning Officer, Hunter Central Coast Branch
Biodiversity and Conservation Division, Planning Industry & Environment

Email: rog.hcc@environment.nsw.gov.au

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Water Regulation Officer
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment - Water

Email: water.enquiries@dpi.nsw.gov.au

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Strategic Operations Unit - Hunter
Environmental Protection Authority

Email: hunter.region@epa.nsw.gov.au

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Environmental Health Officer
Hunter NSW England Health Population Health

Email: HNELHD_PHEnquiries@Hnehealth.nsw.gov.au

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Senior Development Planner
Lake Macquarie City Council

Email:

Attention:

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HRMC NSW 2310
36 Honeysuckle Drive
NEWCASTLE NSW 2300
1300 657 657 (T)
enquiries@hunterwater.com.au
hunterwater.com.au

21 May 2020

Our Ref: HW2017-1122/4.024

Technical Manager
Subsidence Advisory NSW

Email:

Attention:

BELMONT DROUGHT RESPONSE DESALINATION PLANT – EIS AMENDMENT

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21 May 2020

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Land Use Assessments Unit
Transport for NSW - Roads and Maritime

Email: development.hunter@rms.nsw.gov.au

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21 May 2020

Our Ref: HW2017-1122/4.023

Secretary
Secretary
Belmont Wetlands State Park Land Manager Board

Email: secretary@belmontwetlands.com.au

Attention: Secretary

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21 May 2020

Our Ref: HW2017-1122/4.023

CEO
Bahtabah LALC

Email:

Attention:

BELMONT DROUGHT RESPONSE DESALINATION PLANT – EIS AMENDMENT

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21 May 2020

Our Ref: HW2017-1122/4.023

President
Belmont and District Residents' Action Group

Email:

Attention:

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21 May 2020

Our Ref: HW2017-1122/4.023

General Manager
Belmont Golf Club

Email:

Attention:

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Our Ref: HW2017-1122/4.023

Project Officer
Local Land Services - Lower Hunter

Email:

Attention:

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Secretary
Lake Macquarie Sustainable Neighbourhood Alliance

Email: admin@sustainableneighbourhoods.org.au

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Hunter Water Corporation
ABN 46 228 513 446

PO Box 5171
HRMC NSW 2310
36 Honeysuckle Drive
NEWCASTLE NSW 2300
1300 657 657 (T)
enquiries@hunterwater.com.au
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21 May 2020

Our Ref: HW2017-1122/4.023

President
Newcastle & District 4WD Club

Email:

Attention:

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21 May 2020

Our Ref: HW2017-1122/4.023

Hunter Region Chair
NSW & ACT 4WD Association

Email: hunter@4wdnow.com

Attention:

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21 May 2020

Our Ref: HW2017-1122/4.023

Port Hunter 4x4

Email: president@porthunter4x4club.org.au

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Our Ref: HW2017-1122/4.023

Manager Hunter (Metro)
SafeWork NSW - Regional Operations & Sector Initiatives

Email:

Attention:

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Our Ref: HW2017-1122/4.023

President
Swansea Belmont Surf Life Saving Club

Email: sbsecretary@bigpond.com

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Our Ref: HW2017-1122/4.023

To whom it may concern
Telstra

Email: Telstra.Plans@team.telstra.com

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Our Ref: HW2017-1122/4.023

Property Coordinator
Jemena Gas North - Property Team

Email:

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Email: info@nbn.com.au

Attention: To whom it may concern

BELMONT DROUGHT RESPONSE DESALINATION PLANT – EIS AMENDMENT

Like much of NSW, the Lower Hunter region continues to experience ongoing drought conditions. In response, Hunter Water is implementing a program of drought response measures as outlined in the 2014 Lower Hunter Water Plan (LHWP). The program includes a range of demand management and operational measures, including planning for a Drought Response Desalination Plant at Belmont.

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This letter is to inform you that Hunter Water proposes changes to the design of the Belmont Drought Response Desalination Plant. We will be submitting an EIS Amendment Report to Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) before the end of June. This report will outline our responses to issues raised in the submission we received when the EIS was exhibited last year, and will outline the proposed design changes and their potential impacts. It is likely that the EIS Amendment Report will be put on public exhibition later in the year.

We did not, however, want to wait until then to update you on the changes to the plant design. The rationale, scope and predicted environmental issues for the planned changes are set out below.

Increase in capacity from 15 ML/day to 30 ML/day
The EIS assessed a Plant with a capacity of making 15 ML/day of drinking water. Recent work indicates that a desalination plant with a production capacity of 30 ML/day would provide the best balance of meeting Hunter Water's operational requirements during a drought while still providing value for money.

The proposed increase in Plant capacity would increase the area of the Plant, however the associated environmental impacts are expected to be relatively modest. Additional studies are currently being undertaken to confirm the environmental impacts for the increase in Plant capacity.

Direct ocean seawater intake

The EIS proposed a sub-surface seawater intake system to collect seawater from underneath Nine Mile Beach. Investigations and liaison with our construction partners suggested that this approach presents additional safety and construction risks and require substantial additional infrastructure.

Further investigations found that a direct ocean seawater intake system, which involves collecting the water above the surface of the sea floor, performed considerably better than the sub-surface options across relevant assessment criteria including safety, environmental impact, cost and others.

Hunter Water is therefore progressing with environmental and design studies for an amended design based on a direct ocean intake. The key features of the direct ocean intake include:

- A seawater transfer pipeline (or pipelines) with an intake structure located a sufficient distance from the beach to clear the surf zone. The indicative distance is around one kilometre offshore, and a minimum 500 metres from the existing Belmont Wastewater Treatment Works ocean outfall diffusers;
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Next Steps
Hunter Water has engaged specialist consultants to complete further environmental studies and to develop the concept design. Hunter Water proposes to present the findings of the additional studies in an EIS Amendment Report to be submitted to DPIE in June 2020.

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Yours sincerely

Nicholas Bates
Project Manager

Hunter Water Corporation
ABN 46 228 513 446

PO Box 5171
HRMC NSW 2310
36 Honeysuckle Drive
NEWCASTLE NSW 2300
1300 657 657 (T)
enquiries@hunterwater.com.au
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21 May 2020

Our Ref: HW2017-1122/4.023

To whom it may concern
Optus

Email: fibre.locations@optus.net.au

Attention: To whom it may concern

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1300 657 657 (T)
enquiries@hunterwater.com.au
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21 May 2020

Our Ref: HW2017-1122/4.025

President
Boating Industry Australia

Email: info@bia.org.au

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HRMC NSW 2310
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1300 657 657 (T)
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21 May 2020

Our Ref: HW2017-1122/4.025

Owner
CoastXP

Email:

Attention:

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21 May 2020

Our Ref: HW2017-1122/4.025

Jetbuzz Water Sports

Email: info@jetbuzz.com.au

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HRMC NSW 2310
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8 May 2020

Our Ref: HW2017-1122/4.025

General manager
Lake Macquarie Yacht Club

Email: gm@lmyc.com.au

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21 May 2020

Our Ref: HW2017-1122/4.025

Commodore
Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club

Email: info@ncyc.net.au

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21 May 2020

Our Ref: HW2017-1122/4.025

Hunter Region Branch
Surfrider Foundation Austrailia

Email: newcastle@surfrider.org.au

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Yours sincerely

Nicholas Bates
Project Manager

Hunter Water Corporation
ABN 46 228 513 446

PO Box 5171
HRMC NSW 2310
36 Honeysuckle Drive
NEWCASTLE NSW 2300
1300 657 657 (T)
enquiries@hunterwater.com.au
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21 May 2020

Our Ref: HW2017-1122/4.025

Commercial Fishermen's Co-operative - Newcastle Ltd

Email: admin@commfish.com.au

Attention:

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Our Ref: HW2017-1122/4.025

To whom it may concern
The Manager
NOVA Cruises

Email: info@novacruises.com.au

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CEO
Professional Fishermans Association

Email: admin@pfai.com.au

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Chairman/President
Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW

Email: president@rfansw.com.au

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