



BELMONT DESALINATION PLANT

Independent Environmental Audit #1

Proponent Review and Response

SSI8896

JUNE 2025

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Document Control

Document Owner	Stuart Longman			
Mandatory Reviewer(s)	Tommy Zhang			
Approvals	Tommy Zhang – Senior Project Manager			
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1 Declaration

This Proponent Review and Response has been prepared as a condition of consent for this project. This document will be submitted to the Department of Planning Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) via the Planning Portal in response to the first project Independent Environmental Audit.

This response includes the recommendations and opportunities for improvement identified in the final Audit Report also submitted to the Planning Portal.

The response to each of the audit findings is included as outlined in the Independent Audit Post Approval Requirements (May 2020).

This response and the Audit Report will be published on the proponent's project website.

2 Project details

2.1 Project Name

Belmont Desalination Plant

2.2 Proponent

Hunter Water Corporation is the project proponent and John Holland Group is the principal design and construction contractor.

EMM is the approved Environmental Representative (ER).

2.3 Project Approvals

The project is approved under SSI8896.

2.4 Project Location

Ocean Park Road, Belmont. (Adjacent to Belmont Wastewater Treatment Plant)

2.5 Independent Environmental Auditor

WolfPeak Group Pty Ltd is the approved independent environmental auditor for this project approved by DPHI (as per Condition D35 of the COA) on 26 February 2025.

2.6 Audit Date

Site audit was conducted on 8th May 2025.

2.7 Audit report issue

The Independent Environmental Audit Report (Audit Report) No. 1 was prepared by the approved independent environmental auditor: The Audit Report is version 1.0 and was issued to the proponent on 24th June 2025.

3 Proponent Review and Response

As per condition D38 (a) the proponent is to review and respond to the Audit Report and to submit this response to the Planning Secretary (DPHI).

The Audit Report has been reviewed by the proponent and the responses to the audit findings are provided in this document.

The audit assessed 147 conditions and found that 77 were compliant and 68 were not triggered at the time of audit.

The audit identified 2 non-compliances and 6 opportunities for improvement (observations).

The proponent review and response is provided in relation to the audit findings below in section 3.1 and 3.2.

3.1 Non-Conformances

Condition	Audit Finding	Proponent Response
A42	ER Monthly Reports for January 2025 and March 2025 were not submitted to the Department within seven calendar days following the end of each month (Condition A42).	Comment from ER: - ER report January 2025 – Lodged 10 February 2025 SSI-8896-PA-48, Late lodgment of this report noted, no extension applied for or received. Reporting period ended on weekend and only <u>5 working days</u> available to obtain consultation information. - ER report March 2025 – Communications information RFI 2/4/25, reply received 8/4/25, Report lodged one day late on 8/4/25 SSI-8896-PA-57, no EOT applied for or received. RFI data not available in time due to month end at start of week and submitted in 6 working days. As a result of these identified reports not meeting the strict requirements of the conditions, specific notifications have been setup to avoid this issue in the future. DPHI contacts are already aware of these late submissions and the responses received from DPHI do not indicate any issues. All ER reports have been accepted with no comment.
C7	ISCA rating registration evidence was not provided to the Department prior to the commencement of construction (Condition C7).	This was self-identified by the proponent and notified to the department on 26th February 2025. DPHI responded 28th February 2025 and indicated that no further action is deemed necessary.

These non-conformances will be notified to DPHI along with the issue of this report.

3.2 Observations

Condition	Finding	Proponent Response
B8	Groundwater extraction license and a sea dumping permit had not yet been published on the project website (Condition B8).	Updated to the project website on 6 th June 2025.
D1	The site notice was missing the details for the Structural Engineer (D1).	John Holland is the Principal Contractor (PC) of the Belmont Desalination Plant Project. As the PC, John Holland holds sole responsibility of all subcontractors and consultants (including designers), the site notice therefore meets condition D1 by displaying John Holland's details.
D8	The current weekly environmental checklist does not cover off all the requirements from Section 6 as indicated in Table 7-3 of the Traffic and Pedestrian Management Sub-Plan (TPMP) (Condition D8).	The Traffic and Pedestrian Management plan will be updated with consideration to the audit finding.
D12	Section 4.2 and Table 4-1 of the Noise and Vibration Management Sub-Plan (NVMSP) are not clear as to when the unattended noise monitoring would be conducted (Condition D12).	The Noise and Vibration Management Plan will be updated to clarify monitoring timing.
D14	During the site audit it was observed that one unit of mobile plant did not have non-tonal beacons (Condition D14).	In accordance with condition D14, the project will continue to monitor implementation of non-tonal beacons. Following the site audit, the Project team addressed the finding and discovered that the plant with the beeper had a switch to enable non-tonal beeping. This was rectified immediately.
D20	During the site inspection it was observed that the stabilisation of the site egress and the internal access road could be improved (Condition D20).	Works are ongoing to improve and manage site access as site works progress. The project will monitor the access and egress points throughout the Project's construction phase.

3.3 Audit notification and publishing

As per condition D38 (b), this report is to be issued to the Planning Secretary (DPHI) via the planning portal within 2 months of the audit date.

As per condition D38 (c) this audit response, along with the Audit Report, will be published on the proponent's project website.