

Reference: SC639

19 September 2022

**Director – Freight Assessments and Management  
NSW Planning  
Department of Planning and Environment  
Locked Bag 5022  
PARRAMATTA NSW 2124**

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Re: Application SSI-9406 – Inland Rail – Illabo to Stockinbingal**

Goldenfields Water County Council (GWCC) is a NSW Local Government regulated water utility serving the Riverina and Southwest Slopes region of NSW. GWCC supplies water to customers within its area of operation (22,526km<sup>2</sup>), which covers or crosses the boundaries of Local Government Areas (LGAs) of Bland, Coolamon, Junee, Temora, and limited parts of the LGAs of Narrandera, Carrathool, Lalchan, Cootamundra-Gundagai, Wagga and Hilltops. The Wagga supply scheme is provided as a minor bulk supply of water to Riverina Water County Council.

Goldenfields Water welcomes the opportunity to provide a response to the current EIS for the proposed inland rail project. We acknowledge that the EIS provides in APPENDIX F - Utilities management framework that further consultation with GWCC will be required as part of detailed design and prior to construction; however, noting potential timeframes, some concerns may not have the opportunity to be addressed adequately. Whilst GWCC does not object to the proposal, it does wish to provide the following comments in relation to the EIS provided for review and comment:

- Proposed Worker Accommodation Camp, Grogan Rd, Stockinbingal. The proposal mentions that potable water can be supplied, and that up to 450 people will be accommodated in the camp.

No consultation has been made with Goldenfields regarding the provision of water supply for this Accommodation Camp prior to the EIS now being available, with the nearest potable water main is located 500m away from the camp location.

GWCC will require a significant amount of time to assess the requirements to service this proposed camp to ensure that it can produce and supply the necessary volumes of water needed. It needs to be acknowledged that this proposed camp is more than double the size of the existing population of the township and may not be capable of catering for this demand without significant water supply upgrades at significant cost and time.

- Water demands have not been adequately addressed and may not be capable of being achieved via GWCC's existing infrastructure and water access licence entitlements for the construction phase. Whilst GWCC may be able to provide an adequate peak instantaneous flow in certain locations to achieve an increase in population and water



Goldenfields  
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carting requirements, it may not be able to provide that peak level for sustained periods. During peak demand years and droughts; restrictions or refusal may be necessary to ensure adequate town water supply provisions are maintained. This could pose a significant risk to the project which does not appear to have been considered.

- It is acknowledged that the EIS identifies GWCC as a utility with two assets that will be impacted by crossing them. However, it does not adequately address any potential construction issues to the Stockinbingal Reservoir at Ch. 38125.

GWCC are concerned that any vibration or blasting may affect the structural integrity of the reservoir, and request that dilapidation reports be carried out at the earliest possible opportunity to ensure an alternative measure can be developed prior to the finalisation of any design phase.

The potable water reservoir is critical infrastructure for the village of Stockinbingal. It is noted that the NBN Tower is to be relocated (Figure 8-1, Map 9), which is located directly adjacent to the reservoir, yet no protection of the reservoir has been considered by the proponent. GWCC believes that the proposed design and construction methodology will significantly impact this critical asset and water supply for the township of Stockinbingal and an alternative measure needs to be accommodated prior to any construction phase. This could require the relocation and an augmented water supply network.

- It has been raised in previous consultation that access to the Stockinbingal Reservoir will be significantly impacted by the proposed design. Alternative access to this site imposes significant risks to council to accommodate the project, which would include but not limited to potential land acquisition negotiations, extra travel time for staff, and increased maintenance costs. These issues will need to be addressed and compensated for well before any construction phase.

Yours faithfully

Nigel Marion

**Acting Engineering Manager**