



Hunter Water Corporation

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23 January 2012



PCU030467

**Major Development Assessment
Mining and Industry Projects
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001**

Att: Paul Freeman

Dear Paul,

RE: REQUEST FOR SUBMISSION MACKAS SAND PROJECT MODIFICATION

I refer to your request for Hunter Water Corporation comment regarding the Access Road Modification to the Mackas Sand Operations at Salt Ash, NSW.

This development falls within Tomago Sandbed Special Area which protects the Tomago Sandbed drinking water source. These Sandbeds supply 20-25% of drinking water to the Lower Hunter, and are of particular importance in periods of drought. In accordance with the *Hunter Water Regulation 2010*, the ongoing ecological health of the catchment is of paramount importance to provide safe drinking water to Hunter Water Corporation customers.

The Environmental Assessment provided by Umwelt for the Modifications to Mackas Sand has been reviewed and deemed to satisfactorily ensure that the proposed modifications will not result in a net increase in pollution of groundwater. To this extent, Hunter Water Corporation does not have issue with either proposed access road (Road A or B) given the environmental pollution mitigation measures proposed within the report are provided.

Further, I would like to clarify Hunter Water's position on the location of borefields within the area. Hunter Water may develop borefields in a time of drought within the Hunter Water Easement located near the site; however potential future development of borefields is not limited to this area exclusively.

If you require further advice or clarification regarding the submission please do not hesitate to contact me on (02) 4979 9545.

Regards

Malcolm Withers
Senior Account Executive Major Development

