



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Your Reference: WC12
Our Reference: F2004/08681
Contact Person: Ross McPherson
Hours: 9am - 4.30pm
Telephone: 9847 6708

31 October 2011

#6

Major Projects Assessment
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Department of Planning
Received
4 NOV 2011
Scanning Room

Dear Sir/Madam

Objection to Sydney Water proposed nutrient discharge increase into the Hawkesbury River (Application No. MP 09 0134 MOD 3)

I write to express Hornsby Shire Council's objection to Sydney Water's proposal to increase nutrient discharge limits from the Brooklyn Wastewater Treatment Plant (BWTP) into the Hawkesbury River.

The proposal to increase nutrient discharge concentrations from BWTP is inconsistent with NSW State Government natural resource management objectives which seek to improve estuarine health through nutrient reduction programs and acknowledges that the plant has failed to perform to design specifications. This design failure should be resolved with an engineering solution to improve effluent quality rather than by degrading the estuary by increasing nutrient discharge concentrations.

Nutrients in the estuary increase the risk of harmful algal blooms becoming more prevalent which in turn threatens public health, local fisheries, oyster industries and recreational activities. This risk to estuarine health, commercial and recreational pursuits is unacceptable.

Government agencies and community groups are working cooperatively to remove nutrients from the estuary. In particular, the proposal is inconsistent with the Office of Environment and Heritage (2010) "Lower Hawkesbury Nepean Nutrient Management Strategy" which has the objective to "reduce nutrient loads from existing sources" (p1).

It is also Council's understanding that the proposal has not been evaluated in accordance with requirements of the Healthy Rivers Commission (1998) which concludes "For future

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protection of river health, the commission recommends that all license renewal processes should incorporate assessment of the cumulative impacts of discharges within the relevant sub-catchment. Those assessments should be in terms of the implications of the subject activities for river health outcomes" (p71).

It is Council's position that current license conditions be kept for BWTP. Sydney Water should improve plant performance by installing additional or alternate treatment measures to improve the discharge quality that doesn't require increasing nutrients into the estuary or cost to residents.

If you require any further information or wish to discuss this matter please contact Dr Ross McPherson, Manager Water Catchments on 9847 6708.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nick Berman', written over a horizontal line.

NICK BERMAN
Mayor