



**Our Ref: OUT11/20776**

Your Ref: 10\_0211

11 November 2011

Kane Winwood  
A/Manager Water Projects  
NSW Department of Planning & Infrastructure  
GPO Box 39  
Sydney NSW 2001

Dear Kane,

**Re: Water Related Services for the North West Growth Centre - Second Release  
Precincts - Environmental Assessment - Sydney Water**

Thank you for your letter of 10 October (INW11/29116) requesting comment from the Department of Primary Industries (formerly Industry and Investment NSW) on Sydney Water's Environmental Assessment (EA) for the aforementioned works. This is a co-ordinated response from the Department of Primary Industries, incorporating comments from Fisheries and Agriculture, noting there are no issues for Resources and Energy Division or Forests NSW.

**DPI-Fisheries**

The EA has addressed the key issues identified in the DGRs, as well as the additional issues identified by DPI-Fisheries (OUT09/13138) relating to threatened species, fish passage, water quality, and erosion and sedimentation impacts.

The use of underboring as the primary technique for crossing waterways is commended, as is implementing construction and post-construction mitigation measures in accordance with Managing Urban Stormwater: Soils and Construction (Volume 1, Landcom 2004 and Volume 2A, DECC 2008).

Trenching is also proposed for crossing minor creeks that are shallow, ephemeral, highly disturbed and weed infested, and where trenching is thought to cause less potential impacts than underboring. Such a broad and generic classification could apply to many of the waterways in the study area, and therefore it is recommended that trenching be limited to 1st and 2nd order waterways (based on the Strahler method of stream classification). Proposals to trench 3rd order waterways and above will require further detailed consultation with DPI-Fisheries, and that consultation should be reflected in point 2 in the Statement of Commitments.

Contact officer: Marcel Green, Senior Environmental Assessments Officer, 8437 4933.

**DPI-Agriculture**

If the proposed pipeline route bisects current farms in particular intensive horticulture farms - coordination with harvesting time to reduce loss of produce and replacement of infrastructure, damaged or removed will need to be considered. Compensation for loss of commercial agricultural production and removing permanently production areas should form part of the mitigation proposed.

Contact officer: Andrew Docking; Resource Management Officer, 45882128.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me on 8437 4933.

Yours sincerely,

**Marcel Green**

Aquatic Habitat Protection Unit (Central)  
DPI-Fisheries