



Department of Primary Industries

OUT15/4407

Mr Nathan Stringer
NSW Department of Planning and Environment
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Dear Mr Stringer

Wagga Wagga Water Treatment Plant Upgrade Response to exhibition of Environmental Impact Statement

I refer to your email dated 21 January 2015 requesting advice from the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) in respect to the above matter.

Comment by NSW Office of Water

The NSW Office of Water has reviewed the Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Wagga Wagga Water Treatment Plant Upgrade. The following comments and recommended condition of approval are provided to assist in finalising the assessment of the project.

- Figure 3-3 and 3-4 indicates a concept design for a proposed levee adjacent to the Murrumbidgee River. However Section 6.4.1 indicates this is not part of the current project and will be subject to further assessment at a later date. A levee would require consideration of flood related impacts and potential approval requirements under Part 8 of the *Water Act 1912*.
- Figure 3-5 indicates the existing raw water intake and high and low level pumps are to be decommissioned. These relate to current approval 40WA400025 under the *Water Management Act 2000*. It is understood these are to be replaced with a new water intake with three pipes connecting to three pumps on the high bank of the Murrumbidgee River.
- Significant excavation is proposed within the bed and banks of the Murrumbidgee River to install and stabilise the raw water intake and pipelines, in addition to removal of the existing structures. This is to also include installation of coffer dams for in river works. Detailed design to ensure stability of the final structure during high flows will be critical. It is therefore recommended that design, construction and rehabilitation works are in accordance with the NSW Office of Water's Guidelines for Controlled Activities on Waterfront Land (July 2012).

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- Section 6.4.2 indicates groundwater may be encountered during construction of the river water intake and this would be managed via pumping. The potential dewatering volumes and associated impact have not been assessed. The NSW Office of Water advises if the total groundwater take is less than 3ML over a period of less than 12 months no licence is required. Water take that exceeds 3ML will require a Part 5 licence under the *Water Act 1912* prior to commencement. In the situation that the excavation induces take from surface water rather than groundwater, then consideration of accounting for this take via the proponents surface water entitlement may be required. Further assessment is recommended to clarify the dewatering requirements and potential impacts.
- The proponent will require a Section 60 approval under the *Local Government Act 1993* to construct or extend water treatment works. Consultation with the Urban Water Branch of NSW Office of Water has occurred and is expected to continue to facilitate the approval process.

Recommended Condition of Approval

- The proponent shall prepare a Construction Environmental Management Plan for the project prior to commencement of activities. This plan must be developed in consultation with the NSW Office of Water.

For further information please contact Tim Baker, Senior Water Regulation Officer, NSW Office of Water on (02) 6841 7403 or at Tim.Baker@dpi.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Kristian Holz
Policy, Legislation and Innovation