Department of Primary Industries

Neville Osborne   OUT12/5472
A/Director
Infrastructure Projects
Department of Planning & Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Your Ref: 12-DEC-05-MOD1

Attn: Belinda Scott

Dear Mr Osborne,

**Re: Modification Request for Lake Illawarra Entrance Works
           Mod 1 (12-DEC-05-MOD1)**

I refer to your letter dated 5 March 2012 seeking NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) comments on the proposed modification for the Lake Illawarra Entrance Works Mod 1 (12-DEC-05-MOD1).

DPI notes that the proposed modification is located within Lake Illawarra. The potential impact of the proposal upon water quality and aquatic habitats in Lake Illawarra is of particular interest to this Department in relation to this Major Project modification. DPI advises that there are no issues related to agriculture or State Forests.

Issues Related to Fisheries
The responsibilities of DPI include conserving fish stocks and fish habitat, marine vegetation, threatened fish species, and aquatic biodiversity. As such the Department is concerned about any potential impacts that the proposed modification may have on aquatic species and habitats in the vicinity.

DPI Fisheries has reviewed the proposed request to modify the Lake Illawarra entrance works Major Project, including the information provided by the Lake Illawarra Authority (LIA). DPI notes that the current requirement for the construction of a compensatory sand island for nesting seabirds on an annual basis involves regular disturbance of aquatic habitat in the entrance area of Lake Illawarra.

DPI suggests that there are more effective alternative measures which could be implemented for the protection of threatened seabirds which do not involve physical disturbance of the lake entrance area. DPI therefore has no objections to the proposed modification.

If you require any further information, please contact me on 02) 4478 9103.

Yours faithfully

Trevor Daly
Fisheries Conservation Manager, South Coast
Aquatic Habitat Protection

13 March 2012