



Department of  
Primary Industries  
Office of Water

Department of Planning and Infrastructure  
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**Attention: Jahangir Alam**

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Our ref ER21825  
Your ref MP11\_0092

Dear Mr Alam

**Exhibition of Environmental Assessment  
Sydney CityGrid Project (11\_0092) Stage 2A (ii)**

I refer to your letter of 24 February 2012 seeking comments and recommended conditions of approval for the project proposal.

The NSW Office of Water (Office of Water) has reviewed the Environmental Assessment (EA) and identified a number of issues outlined in **Attachment A** that require consideration.

The Office of Water has also included recommended conditions of approval in **Attachment B**.

If you require further information please contact Christie Jackson, Planning and Assessment Coordinator on (02) 6701 9652 at the Tamworth Office.

Yours sincerely

**Mark Mignanelli**  
**Manager Major Projects, Mines and Assessment**  
12 April 2012

**NSW Office of Water Comments on Environmental Assessment  
Sydney CityGrid Project (11\_0092) Stage 2A (ii)**

**Groundwater**

The project will involve bulk excavation for the substation basement, shaft and cable tunnel. The EA indicates that the quantity of groundwater inflows will be determined during the detailed design phase for the basement however, the preliminary analysis indicates the volumes of groundwater inflow will be low. Given the expected minor inflows anticipated during construction, the Office of Water considers it is appropriate for the proponent to provide this information prior to excavating.

**Statement of Commitments**

The draft Statement of Commitments (SoCs) [Table 23-1] includes a commitment under Soil and Water that a Water Quality Management Sub-Plan (Sub-Plan) will be prepared as part of the CEMP for the project. As stated in previous correspondence, the Office of Water requests a copy of the Sub-Plan and results.

The results of predicted groundwater inflows will also need to be provided to the Office of Water with a commitment by the proponent to consult with the Office of Water and seek appropriate licences under the relevant NSW water legislation.

In Section 4.2.3 of the EA, it is indicated in the SoCs that the proponent consult with the Office of Water during construction planning to determine whether a licence under the *Water Act 1912* is required. This will involve Ausgrid providing the Office of Water with copies of the following:

- The Sub-Plan and results; and
- The results of the geotechnical investigations and analysis relating to groundwater.

It is recommended that the above commitments are incorporated in the SoCs for the project.

**End Attachment A  
12 April 2012**

**Recommended Conditions of Approval  
Sydney CityGrid Project (11\_0092) Stage 2A (ii)**

1. A licence under Part 5 of the *Water Act 1912* must be obtained prior to commencement of any excavation works that require dewatering.
2. Any licence application under Part 5 of the *Water Act 1912* must be accompanied by a groundwater and excavation monitoring program developed to the satisfaction of the NSW Office of Water.
3. Accurate information on the quality and quantity of groundwater inflows must be provided to the NSW Office of Water prior to construction.
4. The proponent shall provide the NSW Office of Water with a copy of the Water Quality Management Sub-Plan and results prior to construction.
5. The proponent shall provide the NSW Office of Water with a copy of the results of the geotechnical investigations and analysis relating to groundwater prior to construction.
6. All groundwater inflows must be adequately treated prior to entering the stormwater system to protect the receiving water source quality.

**End Attachment B  
12 April 2012**