



## Western Sydney Parklands Trust

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Mr Jim Betts  
Secretary  
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment  
Level 29, 320 Pitt Street  
Sydney NSW 2001

Attention: Mr Shaun Williams  
Key Sites and Industry Assessments

Dear Sir

### **SSD-9601 – Horsley Park Austral Brickworks Plant 2 Upgrade**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Horsley Park Austral Brickworks Plant 2 Upgrade at 780 Wallgrove Road, Horsley Park.

In general, Western Sydney Parklands Trust (WSPT) supports the proposal, with the proposed new production building, demolition and replacement of kilns, construction of a fire access road and provision of an onsite detention basin, all intended to improve the environmental, health and safety and sustainability performance of the existing brickworks operation. However, WSPT considers that, given the location of the site within the Western Sydney Parklands and the proposed long term use of the site for brick production purposes, the proposal should include environmental and/or recreational links through the site. This is consistent with advice provided to the applicant prior to lodgement of the application.

### **Previous consultation**

The site is within the Western Sydney Parklands. As such the Western Sydney Parklands Trust has previously been invited to respond to the Department's Request for Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs). As part of its submission WSPT requested that the applicant clearly demonstrate how the proposed development would contribute to the implementation of the objectives and long term vision for the Parklands.

WSPT has also been involved in pre-lodgement consultation with Willow Tree Planning. As noted within Willow Tree Planning's *Community Consultation Report* WSPT has previously advised that:

- the site is subject to future acquisition for use as a multi-purpose public open space.
- that, given Austral's proposal supports long term use of the site, WSPT would like to encourage the landowner to consider opportunities in the short term to create environmental links along Eastern Creek and recreational links such as walking and cycling links north south through the site.

The applicant still needs to address the request for environmental or recreational links within its Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and also how the proposal will contribute to the implementation of the objectives and long term vision for the Parklands, as outlined in the *Western Sydney Parklands Plan of Management 2030*, and other relevant matters outlined in the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Western Sydney Parklands) 2009*.

### **State Environmental Planning Policy (Western Sydney Parklands) 2009 and Western Sydney Parklands Plan of Management 2030**

The *State Environmental Planning Policy (Western Sydney Parklands) 2009* (Parklands SEPP) was established to assist in fulfilling the functions of the Parklands, as established by the *Western Sydney Parklands Act 2006*. It puts in place flexible planning controls to enable WSPT to develop the Parklands into a multi-use urban parkland for the region. It establishes matters that must be considered by the consent authority in determining a development application, which include consistency with any plan of management or precinct plan for a precinct of the parklands. The *Western Sydney Parklands Plan of Management 2030* (PoM 2030) establishes the vision, principles and strategic directions for the Western Sydney Parklands and the objectives, land use opportunities and key management priorities for the Wallgrove Precinct. The Parklands SEPP and the PoM 2030 have both been addressed by the applicant as part of its application.

### **The Applicant's Assessment – Parklands SEPP**

The applicant has assessed the proposal against the Parklands SEPP and the matters required to be considered by the consent authority. The table below provides an overview of the applicant's consideration of the issues and provides comment on the consistency of the proposal with the relevant requirement.

<b>Clause 12 – Matters to be considered by the consent authority (Parklands SEPP)</b>		
<b>Relevant Requirement</b>	<b>Applicant's Response</b>	<b>Trust comments</b>
(a) the aim of this Policy, as set out in clause 2,		
(d) protecting and enhancing the natural systems of the Western Parklands, including flora and fauna species and communities and riparian corridors, and	The proposed development would be undertaken at least 150m east of the nearest waterbody (a tributary of Eastern Creek which traverses through Lot 7 from south to north). No vegetation is required to be cleared to facilitate the proposed development. However, the proposed development would improve the air quality performance of the site, potentially resulting in improved ecological outcomes for the surrounding locality.	<p>The proposed on-site detention appears to be located within 50m of Eastern Creek, directly adjacent highly vegetated land.</p> <p>The applicant has not demonstrated how the proposal will protect and enhance the natural systems of the Western Sydney Parklands, including flora and fauna species and communities and riparian corridors.</p> <p>WSPT considers that environmental improvement works in the riparian corridor should form part of the proposal.</p>



### Clause 12 – Matters to be considered by the consent authority (Parklands SEPP)

Relevant Requirement	Applicant's Response	Trust comments
(g) facilitating public access to, and use and enjoyment of, the Western Parklands.	The proposed development would not impact on the use or enjoyment of the remaining lands within the WSP for public purposes.	<p>The applicant has not addressed opportunities for the proposal to facilitate public access to, and use and enjoyment of, the Western Sydney Parklands.</p> <p>WSPT considers that the applicant should investigate opportunities and deliver walking and cycling links through the site.</p>
(j) allowing for interim uses on private land in the Western Parklands if such uses do not adversely affect the establishment of the Western Parklands or the ability of the Trust to carry out its functions as set out in section 12 of the Western Sydney Parklands Act 2006.	The proposed development would not adversely affect the functions of the Western Parklands Trust.	<p>WSPT supports the long term use of the site by Austral.</p> <p>However, it is considered that Austral's proposal should also provide for enhancement of natural systems, particularly in the vicinity of Eastern Creek.</p>
(k) ensuring that development of the Western Parklands is undertaken in an ecologically sustainable way.	As set out in Section 7.1.5, the proposed development would encapsulate the principles of ESD.	WSPT considers that Austral's proposal should also provide for enhancement of natural systems, particularly in the vicinity of Eastern Creek.
(d) the impact of carrying out the development on environmental conservation areas and the natural environment, including endangered ecological communities,	Not assessed by the Applicant	WSPT considers that Austral's proposal should also provide for enhancement of natural systems, particularly in the vicinity of Eastern Creek.
(e) the impact on the continuity of the Western Parklands as a corridor linking core habitat such as the endangered Cumberland Plain Woodland,	Not assessed by the Applicant	WSPT considers that Austral's proposal should also provide for enhancement of natural systems, particularly in the vicinity of Eastern Creek.
(f) the impact on the Western Parkland's linked north-south circulation and access network and whether the development will enable access to all parts of the Western Parklands that are available for recreational use,	Not assessed by the Applicant	WSPT considers that the applicant should investigate opportunities for walking and cycling links through the site.
(h) the impact on public access to the Western Parklands,	Not assessed by the Applicant	WSPT considers that the applicant should investigate opportunities for walking and cycling links through the site.
(i) consistency with: (i) any plan of management for the	Pg 34-35 of EIS – the applicant considers the proposal is consistent	See below.

Clause 12 – Matters to be considered by the consent authority (Parklands SEPP)		
Relevant Requirement	Applicant's Response	Trust comments
parklands, that includes the Western Parklands, prepared and adopted under Part 4 of the <a href="#">Western Sydney Parklands Act 2006</a> , or	with the plan of management	
(ii) any precinct plan for a precinct of the parklands, that includes the Western Parklands, prepared and adopted under that Part,	Pg 34-35 of EIS – the applicant considers the proposal is consistent with the plan of management	See below.

### Applicant's Assessment - PoM 2030

The applicant has assessed the proposal against the PoM 2030, which establishes the vision, principles and strategic directions for the Western Sydney Parklands and the objectives, land use opportunities and key management priorities for the Wallgrove Precinct.

The applicant identifies the Environmental Protection and Land Stewardship Strategic Direction as being relevant to its proposal. This Strategic Direction seeks to improve the sustainability of WSP's operations and the quality of the Parkland's natural environment. Objective two of this Strategic Direction includes the following actions:

- Improve the health of waterways and wetlands, as well as protecting water supply assets;
- Work with partners to improve, measure and monitor water quality, birdlife and aquatic health in Eastern Creek, Hinchinbrook Creek, Bungaribee wetland and other waterways; and
- Work with State Government partners to protect water quality and assets for key water supply infrastructure such as Prospect Reservoir, Upper Canal and the Warragamba Pipelines.

The applicant considers that its compliance with Environmental Protection Licence (EPL) 546 satisfies these directions. WSPT considers that the applicant should explore further opportunities to improve the health of waterways and wetlands.

The applicant has not addressed Objective 4 of this Strategic Direction, to increase bushland biodiversity. WSPT considers the applicant needs to address the following actions:

- Expand existing biodiversity corridors and core habitats and connect the Parklands to the Green Grid across Western Sydney
- Undertake environmental management practices that improve understorey and groundcover biodiversity.

The applicant has not adequately demonstrated how the proposal will satisfy the PoM precinct plan for Wallgrove, particularly in respect to the following:

- Land use opportunities
  - Walking and cycling tracks
  - Environmental protection works



- Key Management priorities
  - Improve the bushland and biodiversity along Eastern Creek and its inflows
  - Explore long-term walking and cycling links

## Summary

WSPT does not object to the proposal, within Western Sydney Parklands, for brick production purposes, and supports the proposal which is intended to improve the environmental, health and safety and sustainability performance of the existing brickworks operation. However, WSPT considers that the proposal does not comply with some elements of the PoM 2030, and should include measures to improve the existing physical environment in order to:

- protect and enhance the natural systems of the Western Sydney Parklands
- provide for enhancement of natural systems, particularly in the vicinity of Eastern Creek
- improve the health of waterways
- improve the bushland and biodiversity along Eastern Creek
- expand existing biodiversity corridors and core habitats; and
- to undertake environmental management practices that improve understorey and groundcover biodiversity.

WSPT considers that the applicant should also investigate opportunities for and potentially deliver walking and cycling links through the site.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposal. Please do not hesitate to contact me to further discuss the proposal.

Yours Sincerely



Joshua French  
**Director, Parklands Development and Strategy**  
**Parramatta Park and Western Sydney Parklands Trusts**