



OUT12/23218

19 SEP 2012

Mr Stuart Withington
Metropolitan and Regional Projects North
NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001



Dear Mr Withington

**North Penrith Mixed Use Development (SSD 5243)
Response to exhibition of Environmental Impact Statement**

I refer to your letter to the NSW Office of Water, a division within the Department of Primary Industries, received on 6 August 2012, in respect to the above matter.

The Office of Water advises as follows.

- (i) Section 6.8.2 of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) notes the Stage 2A site is suitable for the proposed residential and open space land uses subject to *"further assessment of any groundwater extracted during construction works"* (page 47). The Office of Water considers there is a need to determine if the works/excavations associated with Stage 2A will intercept or use groundwater prior to any intended approval. Based on the information provided in the EIS it is not clear if Stage 2A proposes to extract or use groundwater. For example:
- Section 6.10.1 of the EIS notes geotechnical constraints to the development are in relation to piling to depths below 5m which is likely to encounter groundwater (page 48).
 - The Geotechnical Report (Appendix O) indicates *"drilling for piling construction below depths of about 5 to 8 m may encounter groundwater"* (page 2) but notes *"the development has no requirement for extraction of groundwater"* (page 6).
 - Section 4 of Appendix N also notes *"it is understood that there are no current plans for groundwater extraction from Stage 2A but indicates that "if groundwater is to be extracted for use in the future, further assessment of the water quality is required to verify that the groundwater is suitable for the purposes being considered"*. This statement implies groundwater could potentially be extracted for use in the future while Section 5 notes *"site works for Stage 2A are not expected to encounter any groundwater"*.

- (ii) If groundwater is proposed to be extracted for use, the applicant needs to be advised that water would need to be traded within the groundwater source in accordance with the Water Sharing Plan and the trading rules for the Hawkesbury Alluvium Groundwater Source.
- (ii) Depending on the volumes encountered and the duration of pumping, a licence may be required under Part 5 of the *Water Act 1912* in relation to construction excavation and dewatering activities. The Office of Water can advise on the need for a water licence once information is available on the expected groundwater inflows. The applicant should contact the Office of Water licensing officer at the Parramatta Office (telephone: 02 8838 7531) in relation to this issue.

For further information please contact Janne Grose, Planning and Assessment Coordinator (Penrith office) on 4729 8262 or at: Janne.Grose@water.nsw.gov.au.

It is requested that future aspects of this proposal be referred to DPI as a whole for appraisal. Referral is to be made to landuse.enquiries@industry.nsw.gov.au. Internal referral will then be made to relevant DPI divisions, including NSW Office of Water.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Phil Anquetil', with a stylized, cursive script.

Phil Anquetil
Executive Director Business Services