

OUT17/34952

Mr James Sellwood
Senior Planning Officer | Transport Assessments
NSW Department of Planning and Environment

james.sellwood@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Mr Sellwood

**Parramatta Light Rail Stage 1 – EIS (8285)
Comment on the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)**

I refer to your email of 22 August 2017 to the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) in respect to the above matter. Comment has been sought from relevant branches of DPI. Views were also sought from NSW Department of Industry - Crown Lands and Water that are now a division of the broader Department and no longer within NSW DPI. Any further referrals to DPI can be sent by email to landuse.enquiries@dpi.nsw.gov.au.

DPI has reviewed the EIS and provides the following recommendations with further detailed comments at **Attachment A**:

- The proponent should ensure all works within or around the Parramatta River are undertaken in accordance with [DPI Water Guidelines for Controlled Activities \(2012\)](#) and the [Policy And Guidelines For Fish Habitat Conservation And Management \(2013\)](#).
- The proponent should provide further clarification regarding the possibility of impacting groundwater, including detailed justification of assumptions.
- The proponent should provide an assessment of impacts to mangroves in the vicinity of proposed works.
- The proponent should consult with DPI Fisheries (ahp.central@dpi.nsw.gov.au) on the design of bridge crossings and any associated construction plans for works within or adjacent to the waterway and on the development of the Construction Environmental Management Plan, and Erosion and Sediment Control Plan.
- The proponent should consult with Department of Industry – Crown Lands and Water (water.referrals@dpi.nsw.gov.au) on the development of an appropriate groundwater monitoring strategy.

Yours sincerely



Alison Collaros
A/Director, Planning Policy & Assessment Advice
29 September 2017

DPI appreciates your help to improve our advice to you. Please complete this three minute survey about the advice we have provided to you, here:

<https://goo.gl/o8TXWz>

Attachment A

Parramatta Light Rail Stage 1 – EIS (8285) **Environmental Impact Statement** **Detailed comments**

Riparian Lands

- The Biodiversity Assessment report indicates that the Parramatta River requires a 20 metre wide riparian buffer. However, as the Parramatta River is a fourth order watercourse, a 40 metre wide riparian zone should be provided. The proponent should undertake an assessment on the potential impact of the project on riparian land along the river assuming a 40 metre set back.
- DPI considers that Option 2 of the four proposed locations for the stabling and maintenance facility to be the preferred option as it presents the lowest impacts to riparian land.
- Some mangroves are situated within the vicinity of the proposed works near the Parramatta River crossing at Camellia. Avoidance and minimisation of harm of these mangroves should be a priority for the proposed works. DPI Fisheries request that the proponent confirm whether any mangroves will be harmed as a result of the proposal. Any proposed harm of mangroves will need to address the NSW Biodiversity Offsets Policy for Major Projects – Aquatic Biodiversity Fact Sheet, in minimising the harm of mangrove and designing appropriate aquatic habitat offsets. This fact sheet can be found on: <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/biodiversity/14817aqoffs.pdf>.

Groundwater

- The proponent should provide evidence to demonstrate the potential impacts on groundwater.
- Crown Lands and Water Division supports the recommendation to undertake baseline groundwater monitoring, but considers that four sampling events is not sufficient. The proponent should provide justification for proposed groundwater monitoring and should consult with the Department of Industry – Crown Lands and Water (water.referrals@dpi.nsw.gov.au) on the development of the groundwater monitoring strategy.
- There is below-ground excavation required for basement structures proposed as part of the Stabling and Maintenance Facility at Camellia. Whilst it is acknowledged that earthworks at the Stabling and Maintenance Facility site will include filling it is not clear how this relates to the basement substructures which are illustrated in Figure 5.35. The proponent should provide details of the depth of construction, as well as excavation, in comparison with groundwater levels beneath the site is required.

End Attachment A