

15 March 2019

Tim Stuckey
Senior Environmental Assessment Officer
Resource and Energy Assessments
Department of Planning & Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Contact: *Malcolm Hughes*
Telephone: *98652520*
Our ref: *D2019/27854*

Dear Mr Stuckey

Shoalhaven Pumped Hydro Energy Storage Expansion – Geotechnical Investigations Project (SSI 18 9816)

I refer to your e-mail dated 15 February 2019 inviting WaterNSW to comment on the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Shoalhaven Pumped Hydro Energy Storage Expansion – Geotechnical Investigations Project (the Project).

WaterNSW considers that the project sites can be accessed, drilled, monitored and rehabilitated without impacting significantly on WaterNSW infrastructure and land subject to appropriate impact mitigation measures being applied. WaterNSW also considers that the project can be undertaken so as to have a neutral or beneficial effect on water quality subject to appropriate impact mitigation measures being applied.

WaterNSW has an interest in the project as:

1. Each of the drill sites are located on WaterNSW land.
2. The project area is located in the declared Sydney catchment area where WaterNSW has legislative objectives and functions relating to protection of the catchment and the protection of both the quality and quantity of water.
3. A number of the drill sites are located adjacent to or in close proximity to WaterNSW water supply infrastructure.

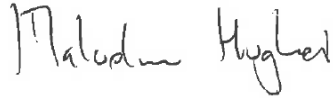
WaterNSW requests that if the project is recommended for approval by the Minister for Planning, the approval require:

1. Implementation of the mitigation measures stated in the EIS.
2. All drilling muds to be stored/recirculated via above ground tanks.
3. Consultation to occur with WaterNSW during the development of the Environmental Management Plan (EMP). The EMP should include measures:
 - a. to protect water supply infrastructure at sites 1 and 2 and to enable WaterNSW to access this infrastructure at all times
 - b. to avoid disturbing large trees and hollow bearing trees, rock outcrops and bush-rock, termite mounds and large hollow logs at sites 3, 4, 5 and 6, and
 - c. for verification at the completion of the works that all materials used as part of the project have been removed and that the sites are free of contamination that may be caused by the project.

Origin Energy currently holds a consent from WaterNSW to enter WaterNSW lands to undertake non-invasive environmental studies for the Shoalhaven Pumped Hydro Energy Storage Expansion project. Subject to approval being granted by the Minister for Planning for the geotechnical investigations project, WaterNSW will issue Origin Energy a new conditional consent to enter and undertake the geotechnical investigations.

If you wish to discuss this letter further, please contact me on 9865 2520 or e-mail at environmental.assessments@waterNSW.com.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Malcolm Hughes". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

MALCOLM HUGHES
Principal Adviser - Catchment Protection