

OUT19/4952

Olivia Hirst
Key Sites and Industry Assessments
NSW Department of Planning and Environment

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Dear Ms Hirst

**Lane Cove West Data Centre (SSD 9741)
EIS Exhibition**

I refer to your email of 10 April 2019 to the Department of Industry (DoI) in respect to the above matter. Comment has been sought from relevant branches of Lands & Water and Department of Primary Industries. Any further referrals to Department of Industry can be sent by email to landuse.enquiries@dpi.nsw.gov.au.

The department provides the recommendations and comments for consideration in assessment of the proposal.

DPI - Fisheries

DPI Fisheries notes that it is important that best practice erosion and sediment control measures are used during construction. The Erosion and Sediment Control Plan and Construction Environmental Management Plan should include a measure to monitor for obvious turbidity plumes leaving the site and to immediately put in place appropriate mitigation measures should such plumes be evident. No turbid plumes from the site, during the construction of this facility should reach the Lane Cove River.

DoI - Water

DoI - Water recommends the following:

- 1) Groundwater Assessment - Within six months of development approval being granted, the applicant is to have demonstrated due diligence with respect to the *Water Management Act 2000* and the NSW Aquifer Interference Policy in a comprehensive report to be provided to the department for review and concurrence that includes the results of all original and proposed supplementary intrusive investigations at the site as documented in the EIS.
- 2) Water Licencing - Once the above due diligence report has been approved by the department, and prior to the commencement of any excavation works, the applicant shall obtain, as required, any authorisations identified by the Natural Resources Access Regulator to account for the take of surface water or groundwater by the development (for both construction and occupation stages).
- 3) Water Monitoring –
 - a. Water-related monitoring is to commence at the time of development approval being granted. This should continue throughout the duration of site works to identify any change to groundwater, surface water or discharge water with regard to: levels, quality, metered volumes, direct or indirect pollution, or flow behaviour.

- b. A project completion report collating all water-related monitoring data including detailed analysis of actual (as measured) and predicted (as conceptualised) impacts of the proposed excavation and construction is to be provided to the department for review and concurrence prior to building certification.

Further comments regarding these recommendations are provided in **Attachment A**.

Should clarification of the required due diligence assessments be needed to assist compliance with the *Water Management Act 2000*, the relevant water sharing plan(s) or the *NSW Aquifer Interference Policy*, specialist staff of the department are available to provide further advice.

Yours sincerely



Liz Rogers
Manager, Assessments
Lands and Water - Strategy and Policy
17 June 2019

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Groundwater Assessment

The EIS has data gaps which need to be fully reported prior to the commencement of the project. Proposed supplementary investigations into groundwater levels across the site and the rock mass permeability are considered necessary by the department and should be completed at the earliest opportunity. The investigations should be sufficiently comprehensive to appropriately characterise the hydraulic parameters of each of the different units identified (viz. alluvium, fill and sandstone) from at least three locations (separate to those existing monitoring wells and standpipe piezometers at the site) for each of these materials. Additional testing of the sandstone across three metre intervals from the surface to five metres below the base of the proposed excavation at the three locations selected for that formation is needed to provide sufficient data for the due diligence assessment of potential groundwater inflows. The results of those intrusive investigations must be reported to the department to demonstrate the nature of the shallow groundwater system being intersected by the works and to confirm the probable volumetric take during dewatering (both for the construction and occupation phases of the development).

Proposed testing and assessment of the fill materials and alluvial soils occurring across part of the site is considered necessary by the department and should also be completed at the earliest opportunity. The results of those intrusive investigations must be reported to the department, in conjunction with a detailed acid sulphate soils management plan to demonstrate that adverse water quality effects from the oxidation of the sulphidic sediments can be avoided or mitigated.

The timing of the reporting of these additional investigations has not been indicated in any of the documentation provided. The department considers that a period of no more than six months should allow sufficient time for the required investigations to be completed, the results analysed and the findings comprehensively reported.

Notwithstanding the relatively small volumes involved, the development as it has been presented constitutes an aquifer interference activity in accordance with the definition in the *Water Management Act 2000*. The minimal impact considerations of the NSW Aquifer Interference Policy therefore apply to any individual or cumulative effects arising from the project works. Any predicted impacts must have regard to the considerations and provisions of that policy and must be comprehensively documented to demonstrate that appropriate due diligence with respect to water management legislation has been carried out.

Water Licencing

Given the low volumes calculated for the designed excavation at the project site, licensing of the groundwater take does not appear to be warranted. Supplementary investigations are proposed which should determine if a license is required.

END ATTACHMENT A