NSW GOVERNMENT | Department of Primary Industries

26 APR 2013

OUT13/9421

Ms Emma Barnet
Major Projects Assessment
NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Emma.Barnet@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Ms Barnet,

Moorebank Materials Recycling Facility (MP 05_0157)
Response to exhibition of Environmental Assessment

I refer to your email dated 26 February 2013 requesting advice from the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) in respect to the above matter.

Comment by Fisheries NSW
Fisheries NSW advise no issues in terms of the responsibilities of that agency. For further information, please contact Carla Ganassin, Conservation Manager (Wollongong office), on 4254 5527 or carla.ganassin@dpi.nsw.gov.au.

Comment by NSW Office of Water
The advice of the NSW Office of Water is detailed in Attachment A. For further information, please contact Janne Grose, Planning and Assessment Coordinator (Penrith office), on 4729 8262 or Janne.Grose@water.nsw.gov.au.

Comment by Crown Lands
It is noted that the adjacent Georges River is Crown waterway. It is suggested that Crown Lands be consulted in the preparation of any weed management and maintenance program, as recommended by the NSW Office of Water, for the Environmentally Significant Land/riparian area of the site. For further information, please contact Stephen Fenn, Senior Area Manager Metropolitan (Parramatta office), on 8236 7113 or stephen.fenn@lands.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Phil Anquetil
Executive Director Business Services

Attachment A

Moorebank Materials Recycling Facility (MP 05_0157)
Response to exhibition of the Environmental Assessment (EA)
Comment by NSW Office of Water

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1. Watercourses and Riparian vegetation

The Liverpool 1:25 000 topographic map shows there is a second order stream located near the northern boundary of the site. The EA does not provide details on this watercourse, nor does the EA provide details on the first order stream which is located in close proximity to the access road. Information on these watercourses is requested to enable the Office of Water to adequately assess the proposal. It is also recommended the EA assess the potential impacts of the proposal on the watercourses and riparian areas and provide details on safeguard measures to mitigate impacts. The Site Layout Plans (Sheet No 04 and 06) in Appendix 4 appear to show a car park is proposed to be located in close proximity to the second order watercourse. The topographic map shows the second order watercourse provides a linkage between the Georges River and the remnant bushland west of the site, so it is important that details are provided on this creek and its associated riparian area.

Table 3-1 in the EA notes the proposed development would not be within 50 metres of the Georges River. Section 2.2.4 of Appendix 12 indicates a large area of the site along its eastern boundary adjacent to the Georges River and a narrow strip along the southern boundary is designated as Environmentally Significant land (page 15). The intention to revegetate the southern boundary to enhance connectivity with the Georges River is supported. It is recommended a scaled overlay plan is provided which shows the location of the proposed development, the Environmentally Significant Land on the site and the remnant vegetation, including riparian vegetation along the river.

It is recommended a weed management and maintenance program is prepared and implemented as part of this project to manage the weeds within the Environmentally Significant Land on the site, particularly the riparian land along the Georges River.

Appendix 12 indicates a perimeter mound is proposed to be constructed between the Environmentally Significant Land and the area containing the plant equipment (page 18). It is recommended the earth mound not disturb or degrade remnant riparian vegetation along the Georges River.

Appendix 12 indicates buffer planting of indigenous native trees selected from the riparian and forest vegetation adjacent to the site are proposed to be planted along the northern boundary of the site. The planting and use of local native riparian and forest plant species on the site is supported particularly as the site is located on a broad low lying floodplain of the Georges River.

2. Groundwater

The site is located within the mapped extent of the Sydney Basin Central Groundwater Source, which is a less productive groundwater source. Intrusive works are limited to the installation of building footings and monitoring bores. There is therefore limited potential for extraction/interception of groundwater. Despite this the NSW Office of Water advises that the proponent will be required to hold sufficient licensed water entitlement prior to commencement of water-take for the activity.

Although the documents provided with the application have not explicitly addressed the requirements of the *NSW State Groundwater Policy Framework Document* (NSW Government, 1997), the *NSW State Groundwater Quality Protection Policy* (NSW Government, 1998), the *NSW Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems Policy* (NSW Government, 2002), or the *NSW*

Aquifer Interference Policy (NSW Government, 2012), the proposed development is above the existing capped landform (refer Figure 2) and is unlikely to generate significant impacts on the natural groundwater system beneath the site beyond those historically created by the presence of the landfill.

It should also be noted that the *NSW Aquifer Interference Policy* document was published well after the lodgement of the application with the planning agency.

3. Water use – licensing

The Harvestable Right gives landholders the right to capture and use for any purpose 10% of the average annual runoff from their property. The Harvestable Right has been defined in terms of an equivalent dam capacity called the Maximum Harvestable Right Dam Capacity (MHRDC). The MHRDC is determined by the area of the property (in hectares) and a site-specific run-off factor.

The rainfall runoff factor for this site is 0.08. Given the property size of 20.5 ha, as outlined in the EA, the maximum harvestable right dam capacity for the subject site is 1.6 ML.

The EA indicates four stormwater storage tanks (250,000 litres each) are proposed to capture and reuse stormwater runoff from the site with a total capacity of 1000 m^3 (ie. 1 ML). Please note that storages capturing up to the harvestable right capacity are not required to be licensed but any capacity of the total of all storages/dams on the property greater than the MHRDC may require a licence.

The installation of monitoring bores will require consideration of licensing requirements under water legislation.

4. Recommended Condition of Approval

Should the application be approved, the following condition is recommended:

1. The proponent will be required to obtain necessary licences under the *Water Act 1912* or *Water Management Act 2000* (whichever is relevant) prior to installation of monitoring bores for the project.

End Attachment A