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Our Ref: HW2015-1313/6

Industry Assessments
Planning and Environment
GPO Box 90
Sydney NSW 2001

Attention: Susan Fox, Planner
Via email: susan.fox@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Ms Fox,

RE: MODIFICATION REQUEST FOR REGAIN SPENT POTLINING PROCESSING FACILITY - MP 06-0050 MOD2

Thank you for the invitation to provide a submission on the proposed modification to the existing Spent Potlining (SPL) facility operated by Regain Services Pty Ltd at the Tomago Aluminium Smelter at Lot 3 DP 909004, 638 Tomago Road, Tomago. Hunter Water understands the modification seeks to increase the processing capacity of the plant from 20,000 tpa to 60,000 tpa of SPL waste, which will require alterations and additions to the plant, including an additional heat treatment plant and emission point.

The Tomago Aluminium Smelter borders the Tomago Sandbeds Special Area as gazetted in the *Hunter Water Regulation 2015*, with the smelter's northern buffer zone being within the Special Area. The Special Area requires appropriate management to protect the Tomago Aquifer drinking water source from potential pollution caused by industry or other activities. The aquifer can supply up to 30% of the region's drinking water supply, and plays an important strategic function for Hunter Water as a critical contingency water source, providing water supply resilience for climatic and water quality hazards in other water storages, such as drought, blue green algal events, and severe storms.

Hunter Water requested that the Environmental Assessment should address the effect of the proposal on the Tomago Sandbeds in terms of air emissions, hazards and risk management, storage and handling of by-products, stormwater management, and water and wastewater servicing. These issues are considered to be sufficiently addressed in the Environmental Assessment and, based on the information provided, the proposal does not appear to present a risk to the water source. As such, Hunter Water has no further comment on the proposed modification.

If you require further advice or clarification regarding the submission, please contact me on (02) 4979 9545.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. Withers".

Malcolm Withers
Account Manager Major Development