

ASSESSMENT REPORT

Western Sydney Recycled Water Initiative – Replacement Flows Project (MP 06_0190 MOD 8)

1. INTRODUCTION

This report is an assessment of a request to modify the Project Approval for the Western Sydney Recycled Water Initiative, Replacement Flows Project (the project) in the Penrith, Blacktown, The Hills, Hawkesbury, and Parramatta local government areas.

The request has been lodged by Sydney Water pursuant to section 75W of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act). It seeks approval to enable Sydney Water to adopt its certified systems (Environmental Management System (EMS) and Integrated Management System (IMS)) in lieu of project specific Operational Environmental Management Plans (OEMPs) for the project.

2. SUBJECT SITE

The project runs through four local government areas: Penrith, Blacktown, Hills Shire, Hawkesbury and Parramatta. It includes a pipeline which runs from the Penrith Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) through St Marys STP to Quakers Hill STP and then on to Parramatta (**Figure 1**).

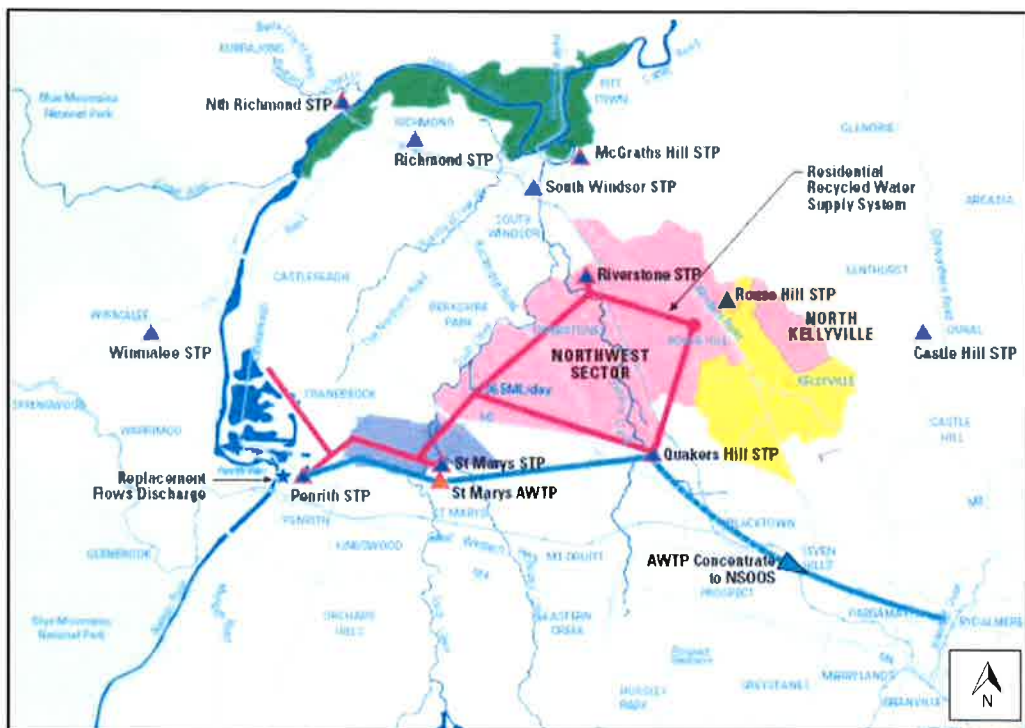


Figure 1: Site context, the blue line represents the Western Sydney Recycle Water Infrastructure, Replacement Flows Project (Source: Proponents Environmental Assessment SWC and SKM, 2006)

3. APPROVAL HISTORY

On 20 June 2007, the Minister for Planning granted approval under section 75J of the EP&A Act, for construction and operation of the Western Sydney Recycled Water Initiative – Replacement Flows Project, comprising interconnection of three existing STPs and treatment of effluent via a new Advanced Water Treatment Plant (AWTP) to replace water released from Warragamba Dam for extraction and river health purposes.

The project has been modified on seven occasions, as follows:

- **Modification 1** approved by the Executive Director, Major Project Assessments, on 10 June 2008, and amended Conditions 2.11 (to change the alignment of the pipeline) and 3.1 (changed timing of reporting requirements) with consequential amendments to Conditions 1.1 and 1.2.
- **Modification 2** approved by the Executive Director, Major Project Assessments, on 17 October 2008, and amended Condition 2.4 (for the purposes of undertaking biological monitoring of the pilot plant in lieu of challenge testing on the full scale AWTP) with consequential amendments to Conditions 1.1 and 1.2.
- **Modification 3** approved by the Executive Director, Major Project Assessments, on 1 November 2008, and amended Condition 2.11(b) (to allow for impacts to River-flat Eucalypt Forest EEC as part of the construction of the concentrate storage pond within the Quakers Hill STP) with consequential amendments to Conditions 1.1 and 1.2.
- **Modification 4** approved by the Executive Director, Major Project Assessments, on 22 December 2008, and amended Condition 2.11(a) (to allow clearing of three, mature Grey Box trees within the footprint of the concentrate storage pond within the Quakers Hill STP) with consequential amendments to Conditions 1.1 and 1.2.
- **Modification 5** approved by the Director-General, on 20 March 2009, and amended Condition 2.11(b) to allow clearing of four trees which form part of the River-flat Eucalypt Forest on Coastal Floodplains Endangered Ecological Community as a result of realignment of the pipeline between the M7 Motorway and Bells Creek to avoid land required for the proposed Castlereagh Freeway, amendments were made to Conditions 1.2 and 1.2.
- **Modification 6** approved by the Acting Executive Director, Major DA Assessments, on 15 July 2009, and amended Condition 2.11 to enable the Director-General to authorise impact on a case by case basis without the need to seek a formal modification of the condition on every occasion.
- **Modification 7** approved by the Director, Infrastructure Projects, on 1 April 2011, and amended Conditions 2.17 and 2.18 to enable measurement of operational noise at the most affected sensitive receiver location.

4. PROPOSED MODIFICATION

On 10 March 2017, the Proponent lodged section a 75W modification application seeking approval to insert a new condition allowing Sydney Water to adopt its certified management systems (EMS and IMS), in lieu of project specific OEMPs to manage environmental risks.

The proposed condition would read, as follows:

Notwithstanding Condition 4.5, if an existing environmental management system that is administered by the Proponent and prepared in accordance with the AS/NZS ISO 14000 Environmental Management System (EMS) series, or similar certified system, which addresses and is applicable to this project, then that EMS may be submitted in lieu of the OEMP. Details of the existing EMS must be provided to the Secretary demonstrating its application to this project.

5. STATUTORY CONSIDERATION

5.1 Modification of approval

The project was originally approved under Part 3A of the EP&A Act. Although Part 3A was repealed on 1 October 2011, the project remains a 'transitional Part 3A project' under Schedule 6A of the EP&A Act, and hence any modification to this approval must be made under the former section 75W of the Act.

The Department is satisfied that the proposed changes are within the scope of section 75W of the EP&A Act, and the proposal does not constitute a new application.

5.3 Approval Authority

The Minister for Planning is the approval authority for the request. However, the Director, Modification Assessments, may determine the request under delegation as:

- the relevant council has not made an objection, and
- a political disclosure statement has not been made, and
- there were no public submissions in the nature of objections.

6. CONSULTATION

6.1 Notification

The modification request was made publicly available on the Department's website and referred to Parramatta, Penrith, Blacktown, the Hills and Hawkesbury Councils (the Councils), Office of Environment and Heritage, Environment Protection Authority, Department of Primary Industries Water and the Department of Industry for comment.

Councils and agencies raised no objections to the proposed modification.

7. ASSESSMENT

The Proponent seeks to modify the approval to allow it to adopt its EMS and IMS in lieu of implementing a specific OEMP, to manage the potential operational impacts associated with the project.

The modification is sought to remove duplication between the OEMP requirements of Condition 4.5 and Sydney Water's existing procedures and processes, improve efficiency, and provide a consistent approach to Sydney Water's operational management.

Sydney Water has prepared an OEM "Roadmap" to demonstrate how it would implement its existing procedures and processes to meet the requirements the OEMP.

The Department considers the proposed modification permitting Sydney Water to use its existing EMS and IMS systems is acceptable for the following reasons:

- the intent of Condition 4.5 would still be met as the proposed condition would require Sydney Water to demonstrate that all appropriate operational management measures have been addressed
- site specific operational issues would still need to be addressed under Sydney Water's EMS and IMS systems
- it would remove duplication of OEMP requirements and processes used by Sydney Water and provide a consistent approach to managing its assets

- the Department has imposed the condition on other Sydney Water approvals allowing it to use EMS and IMS management systems in lieu of an OEMP.

The Department's assessment, therefore, concludes the proposal to allow Sydney Water to use its EMS and IMS management systems instead of an OEMP is acceptable. Consequently, the Department is satisfied the modification is in the public interest and recommends the application be approved subject to conditions.

8. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Director, Modification Assessments, as delegate for the Minister for Planning:

- **consider** the findings and recommendation of this report;
- **determine** that the application (MP 06_0190 MOD 8) falls within the scope of s75W of the EP&A Act;
- **modify** the approval (MP 06_0190 MOD 8); and
- **sign** the attached approval of the modification (**Appendix A**)

Recommended by:



Ingrid Berzins
Planner
Modification Assessments

Recommended by:



Natasha Harras
Team Leader
Modification Assessments

DECISION

The recommendation is approved by:



Anthony Witherdin
Director
Modification Assessments
as delegate of the Minister for Planning.

APPENDIX A: NOTICE OF MODIFICATION

A copy of the notice of modification can be found on the Department's website at:

http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au/index.pl?action=view_job&job_id=8434

APPENDIX B: SUPPORTING INFORMATION

The following supporting documents and supporting information to this assessment report can be found on the Department of Planning and Environment's website as follows:

1. Modification request

http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au/index.pl?action=view_job&job_id=8434

2. Submissions

http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au/index.pl?action=view_job&job_id=8434