# APPENDIX 1

# DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING CORRESPONDENCE

NSW GOVERNMENT
**Department of Planning**

Contact: Rebecca Newman
Phone: (02) 9228 6340
Fax: (02) 9228 6355
Email: rebecca.newman@planning.nsw.gov.au

Our ref: 06/00885-1
Your ref:



Mr Stephen Sawtell
General Manager
Coffs Harbour City Council
Locked Bag155
COFFS HARBOUR NSW 2450

**Attention**: Glenn O'Grady

Dear Mr Sawtell

**Coffs Harbour Water Treatment Plant – Declaration as a Part 3A project**

I refer to your project application for the Coffs Harbour Water Treatment Plant under Part 3A of the Environmental Planning and Assessment (EP&A) Act, which was received by the Department on 24th November 2006.

This is to inform you that Mr Sam Haddad, as delegate of the Minister for Planning, has formed an opinion that Council's proposal is a project to which Part 3A applies. Attached is a copy of the Minister's opinion issued on 10th November 2006 for the purpose of section 75B of the EP&A Act.

Please contact Rebecca Newman at the above contact details should you have any queries on this matter.

Yours sincerely

Rebecca Newman 28.11.06
Senior Environmental Planning Officer
**Major Infrastructure Assessment**

**Record of Minister's opinion for the purposes of Clause 6(1) of the State Environmental Planning Policy (Major Projects) 2005**

I, the Director-General of the Department of Planning, as delegate of the Minister for Planning under delegation executed on 31 October 2005, have formed the opinion that the development described in the Schedule below, is development of a kind that is described in Schedule 1, Clause 25 of State Environmental Planning Policy (Major Projects) 2005 namely development for the purpose of water treatment works for drinking water supply that has a capital investment value of more than $30 million. It is therefore declared to be a project to which Part 3A of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* applies for the purpose of section 75B of that Act.

**Schedule**

**Proposed Coffs Harbour Water Treatment Plant**

A proposal by Coffs Harbour City Council to construct and operate a Water Treatment Plant and transfer facilities at Upper Orara Road, Karangi to treat all potable water supply flowing to the Council's consumers from the existing Karangi Dam, generally as described in the letter dated 20 October 2006 from Coffs Harbour City Council to the Department of Planning.

SHaddad

Sam Haddad
**Director-General**
**Department of Planning**

Date: 10/11/2006.

NSW GOVERNMENT
**Department of Planning**



Contact: Rebecca Newman
Phone: (02) 9228 6340; Fax: (02) 9228 6355
Email: rebecca.newman@planning.nsw.gov.au

Our ref: S06/00885-1
Your ref: 1491055, 31/18991/11/2190

Mr Stephen Sawtell
General Manager
Coffs Harbour City Council
Locked Bag155
COFFS HARBOUR NSW 2450

**Attention**: Glenn O'Grady

Dear Mr Sawtell

**Coffs Harbour Water Treatment Plant (MP 06-0285)**
**Environmental Assessment Requirements**

I refer to your Project Application dated 20 October 2006 for the above project under Part 3A of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979* (EP&A Act).

The Environmental Assessment requirements for your project are attached. These requirements have been prepared based on the information provided to date including:

- preliminary Environmental Assessment contained in the Council's letter of 20 October 2006;
- the Department's draft guidelines *'Steps in the 3A Project Application Process'; and*
- subsequent consultation with other Government agencies (copies of agencies' requirements are attached).

Under section 75F (3) of the Act, the Director-General may alter or supplement these requirements if necessary and in light of any additional information that may be provided.

You should ensure that you consult with the Department prior to submission of a draft Environmental Assessment to determine:

- fees applicable to the application;
- consultation and public exhibition arrangements that will apply; and
- number and format (hard-copy or CD-ROM) of the Environmental Assessments required.

Once you have lodged the draft Environmental Assessment, the Department will consult with the relevant authorities to determine the adequacy of the Environmental Assessment. You will be advised if it is necessary for you to reissue the EA to address any matters that may have not been adequately covered in the draft assessment. Following this review period the Environmental Assessment will be made publicly available, for a minimum period of 30 days.

You should keep the contact officer for this project, Rebecca Newman on the above contact details, up to date with the progress of the preparation of the Environmental Assessment, and seek clarification of any issues that may be unclear or may arise during this process.

Yours sincerely

18.12.06

Chris Wilson
**Executive Director, Major Project Assessments**
As delegate of the Director-General

## ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS UNDER PART 3A OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT ACT 1979

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| **Project** | The project involves the construction of a new Water Treatment Plant (WTP) at 140 Upper Orara Road, Karangi, associated facilities, and a transfer pipeline to Coramba. It generally includes the following components:<br>• construction of new lime dosing facilities;<br>• relocation of carbon dioxide dosing facilities from the Karangi Dam site to the new WTP site;<br>• construction of a dissolved air flotation and filtration ('DAFF') treatment plant within the proposed above ground concrete water retaining structures;<br>• provision of chemical storage and dosing facilities, ultra-violet disinfection of the filtered water, and mechanical plant for backwashing of filters;<br>• construction of washwater recycle, sludge thickening and sludge dewatering facilities;<br>• construction of above ground tanks for treated water storage ( 4 megalitres) and washwater holding tank;<br>• construction of an earthen emergency storage containment lagoon;<br>• construction of a combined control building, testing laboratory and meeting room;<br>• construction of a pump station to transfer treated water to the existing Red Hill tanks for distribution into the Coffs Harbour water supply system;<br>• installation of a kiosk-style power supply transformer to power the various plant, including the provision of a backup diesel generator;<br>• construction of a pipeline to transport treated water to the township of Coramba; and<br>• construction of a paved access road around the WTP site. |
| **Site** | 140 Upper Orara Road (Lot 2 DP 1083920), Karangi for the new WTP; and a pipeline route from the WTP to Coramba going in a north westerly direction as shown on the attached map. The project sites are within the Coffs Harbour LGA. |
| **Proponent** | Coffs Harbour City Council |
| **Date of Expiration** | These Director-General's Requirements expire two years from the date of issue. |
| **Special Provision** | An opinion was formed that the proposal was a Major Project under Part 3A of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act) by the Director-General of the Department of Planning as delegate of the Minister for Planning on 10 November 2006. |
| **General Requirements** | The Environmental Assessment must include:<br>• An executive summary;<br>• A description of the existing water treatment system and the proposal, including construction, operation, decommissioning of old plant, and any staging;<br>• Details of the project location, environmental planning provisions applicable to the site and the project; and consideration of alternatives to the project;<br>• An assessment of the environmental impacts of the project, with particular focus on the key assessment requirements specified below;<br>• The design and layout of the proposed WTP, associated on-site and transfer facilities, and proposed construction method(s) for all proposed water crossings;<br>• Indication of any proposed dredging or reclamation activities associated with the project;<br>• Proposed mitigation/management measures for identified environmental impacts;<br>• Justification for undertaking the project with consideration of the benefits/ impacts of the proposal, and proposed management/mitigation/monitoring;<br>• A draft Statement of Commitments for environmental mitigation, management and monitoring for the project;<br>• Certification by the author of the Environmental Assessment that the information contained in the Assessment is neither false nor misleading. |

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| **Key Assessment Requirements** | The Environmental Assessment must include assessment of the following key issues:<br>• **Need and Justification** - include a strategic assessment of:<br>o the need for the project, its scale and capacity in relation to predicted water demand, and proposed future expansion;<br>o the direction of the region concerning water supply and demand; and<br>o alternative water sources.<br><br>• **Flora and Fauna** - assess any impacts to flora and fauna, particularly critical habitats, threatened species, populations, ecological communities, and their habitats listed under the Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995 and the Fisheries Management Act 1997. The assessment should be undertaken in accordance with the draft Guidelines for Threatened Species Assessment (July 2005), prepared by the Department of Environment and Conservation and the Department of Primary Industries. Reference must be made to potential impacts on threatened aquatic species, fish and macro-invertebrates and their habitats, and methods to control pest aquatic species, as well as to terrestrial species.<br><br>• **Water treatment** – provide details on the water treatment proposed for all drinking water produced by the water treatment plant and demonstrate compliance with the National Health and Medical Research Council's Drinking Water Guidelines 2004 and subsequent guidelines. (Note: the North Coast Area Health Service encourages the Proponent to review the management of its water supplies in accordance with the Framework for Management of Drinking Water Quality in the Guidelines).<br><br>• **Water Quality and Water Management** – provide background information, and context, on the water supply system that will feed the WTP, including any operational rules; and any implications of the WTP proposal for this system.<br><br>Assess any interaction that the proposed emergency lagoon may have with groundwater and/or base flows to the Orara River and measures to prevent such interaction. (Note: Measures to protect the lagoon from public/animal access and to prevent it from becoming a mosquito breeding site should also be addressed).<br><br>• **Wastewater Management** – it is noted that wastewater will be routinely returned to Karangi Dam or to the WTP inlet. The EA must detail wastewater management approaches, including whether other options are proposed, and fully justify any options not involving reuse, and any further treatment requirements. For wastewater discharged to receiving waters, the EA must include:<br>o assessment of the ambient water quality conditions of the receiving environment and the impact of wastewater discharges and mixing dynamics on receiving waters, with reference to the National Water Quality Management Strategy (ANZECC, 2000) and Water Quality and River Flow Objectives for the Northern Rivers Catchment;<br>o identification of discharge points with estimates of the volume and frequency of discharge; and<br>o discussion of the appropriate monitoring strategy for wastewater quality and quantity and of ambient conditions.<br><br>• **Water crossings** – identify all watercourses that will be traversed or affected by the proposed pipelines, consider/discuss alternative construction methods for the pipeline crossings, and assess potential impacts on the water bodies resulting from the chosen construction method.<br><br>• **Noise Impacts** – a noise assessment that identifies the construction and operational noise impacts on surrounding residential premises and other sensitive receivers and associated mitigation measures.<br><br>• **Air Quality** - an assessment of the potential impacts of dust and odour from the site during construction and operation (as relevant), identify any sensitive receptors and outline proposed mitigation and management measures.<br><br>• **Cultural heritage** – an assessment of potential impact of the proposal on |

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| | Aboriginal cultural heritage values and actions to be implemented to avoid/mitigate impacts, including details of consultation undertaken with the local Aboriginal community and their responses.<br><br>• **Hazardous Materials** - details of hazardous materials used or kept on the premises during the construction and operation phases. Details provided should include, but not be limited to:<br>o the maximum quantity likely to be on site, the annual throughput/usage, package size, and the dangerous goods class if a dangerous good;<br>o identification and discussion of any hazards likely to have off site impacts on people or the environment. Credible incident scenarios should be carried forward for further analysis to demonstrate that off site risks will not exceed the NSW published risk criteria as detailed in the Department's Hazardous Industry Planning Advisory Paper No.4, *Risk Criteria for Land Use Safety Planning;* and<br>o identification of properties likely to be impacted in the event of an incident.<br><br>Regarding the use or storage of dangerous goods, the EA should consider the principles of State Environmental Planning Policy No.33 (SEPP 33) and refer to the Department's guideline *Applying SEPP 33.* If relevant, a *Preliminary Hazard Analysis* in accordance with the Department's Hazardous Industry Planning Advisory Paper No.6, *Guidelines for Hazard Analysis* must be included as part of the EA.<br><br>• **Fire risk** – address the potential for the treatment plant, associated chemicals and neighbouring vegetated areas to cause/influence fire and include management strategies and measures in consultation with the Rural Fire Service.<br><br>• **Traffic and Transport** – identify transport routes to and from the project site, including:<br>o details of any proposed upgrading or construction access to the site;<br>o assessment of the construction traffic impact of the project in terms of capacity and safety for these routes and potential damage; and<br>o future traffic movements following completion of works and during full operation such as chemical deliveries and sludge removal.<br><br>• **Waste Generation** – consider all wastes generated during construction and upon operation, methods of recycling, treatment, storage and disposal. Particular attention should be given to sludge/biosolids handling.<br><br>• **Contaminated land** – document the assessment and management of any land contamination.<br><br>• **Visual Amenity** – assess the impact of the proposed development on visual amenity of the surrounding areas. |
| **Relevant Guidelines** | • Draft Guidelines for Threatened Species Assessment (Department of Environment and Conservation and Department of Primary Industries, 2005).<br>• Australian Drinking Water Guidelines 2004 (National Health and Medical Research Council).<br>• Water Quality and River Flow Interim environmental Objectives for the Northern Rivers Catchment.<br>• NWQMS: Australian and New Zealand Guidelines for Fresh and Marine Water Quality (ANZECC, 2000).<br>• NWQMS: Australian Guidelines for Water Quality Monitoring and Reporting (ANZECC, 2000).<br>• NWQMS Guidelines for Groundwater Protection in Australia (ARMCANZ & ANZECC, 1995).<br>• State Groundwater Policy Framework Document (DLWC, 1997), NSW State Groundwater Quality Protection Policy (DLWC, 1998), Draft NSW State Groundwater Quantity Management Policy and NSW State Groundwater Dependant Ecosystems Policy (DLWC, 2002). |

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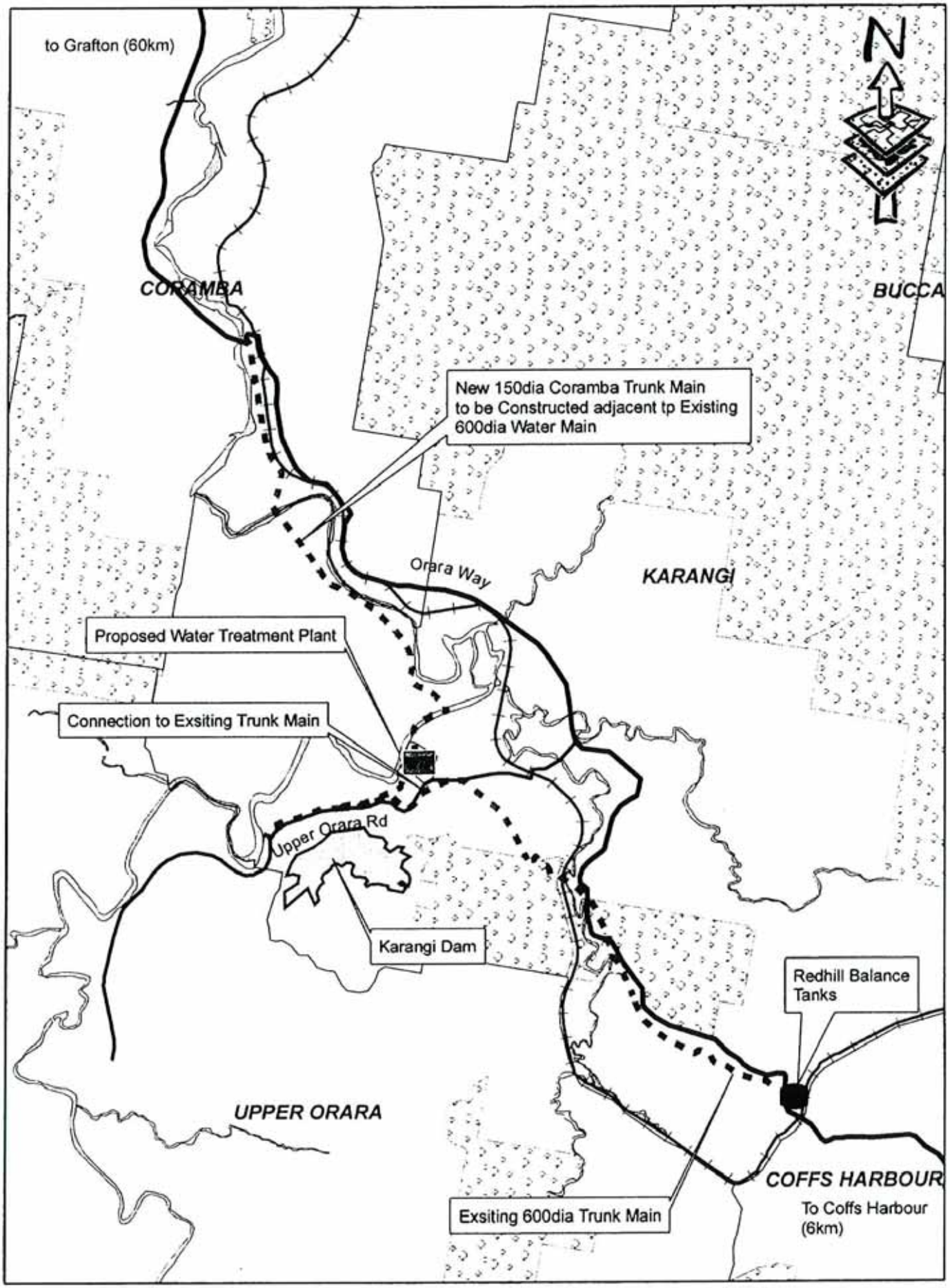
| | • Acid Sulphate Soil Manual (ASSMAC, 1998).<br>• NSW Industrial Noise Policy (EPA, 1999).<br>• Chapter 171 Noise Control Guidelines, *Construction Site Noise, Environmental Noise Control Manual, 1994.*<br>• Assessment and Management of Odour from Stationary Sources in NSW (EPA, 2001 or its latest version).<br>• Guideline for the Use and Disposal of Biosolids Products (NSW EPA, 1997).<br>• Draft Guidelines for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment and Community Consultation (DEC, 2005). |
| **Consultation Requirements** | You must undertake an appropriate and justified level of consultation with the following parties during the preparation of the Environmental Assessment:<br><br>• NSW Department of Environment and Conservation;<br>• NSW Department of Natural Resources;<br>• NSW Department of Primary Industries ( Fisheries);<br>• North Coast Area Health Service;<br>• Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority;<br>• Local Aboriginal community;<br>• relevant community groups;<br>• Affected residents; and<br>• Commonwealth Department of Environment and Heritage regarding the application of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act* 1999 (EPBC Act). Under this Act, approval of the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment is required for actions that may have a significant impact on matters of National Environmental Significance, except in circumstances which are set out in the EPBC Act[1]. Approval from the Commonwealth is in addition to any approvals under NSW legislation. If you have any questions about the application of the EPBC Act to your proposal, you should contact the Commonwealth Department of Environment and Heritage in Canberra (ph 6274 1111 or http://www.deh.gov.au). |
| **Landowners Information** | When submitting the EA for an adequacy check under Sec.75H(2):<br>(a) The consent of the landowner should be provided, if required under Sec. 8F of the Regulations.<br>(b) The proponent is to provide details of adjoining landowners and occupiers which require formal notification. |
| **Exhibition of EA and notification requirements** | Pursuant to Sec.75H (3) of the EP&A Act, the EA must be exhibited for a minimum of 30 days. |
| **Deemed refusal period** | Not applicable |

[1] Matters of National Environmental Significance under the EPBC Act are:

i) World Heritage properties;
ii) RAMSAR wetlands;
iii) Threatened species or ecological communities listed in the EPBC Act;
iv) Migratory species listed in the EPBC Act;
v) The environment in a Commonwealth marine area;
vi) Nuclear actions; and
vii) National heritage.




**COFFS HARBOUR CITY COUNCIL**

**PROPOSED WATER TREATMENT PLANT**

Attachments

Our reference : FIL06/1506
Contact : Zoë White, 02 6640 2504

27 NOV 2006

Mr Neville Osborne
Team Leader- Water and Energy
Major Infrastructure Assessments
Department of Planning
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Mr Osborne,

**Coffs Harbour City Council- Proposed Water Treatment Plant, 140 Upper Orara Road (Lot 2 DP 1083920), Karangi**

I refer to your request for the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) to identify key requirements for the environmental assessment (EA) in regard to the above proposal.

The DEC has considered the details of the project as outlined in the letter and accompanying information (dated 20 October 2006), provided by Department of Planning for the proposed Coffs Harbour Water Treatment Plant. DEC has identified the information it requires to assess the project in Attachment A.

In summary, DEC's key information requirements for the project are:

- the impact on water quality and quantity, air quality, noise amenity, Aboriginal heritage and biodiversity;
- the design and layout of the facility to minimise potential environmental impacts and achieve ambient goals; and
- the measures that will be implemented to avoid or mitigate environmental impacts or compensatory measures to minimise unavoidable impacts of construction and operational works on the site.

In carrying out the assessment the applicant should refer to the relevant guidelines in Attachment B and employ environmental best management practice during both the construction and operation of the facility.

The proponent should consider all options for effluent disposal, including wastewater being recycled to the plant inlet, directed to sewer, or whether it requires further treatment before disposal/discharge. If Coffs Harbour City Council plans to discharge any wastewater to receiving waters, they would require an environmental protection licence (non-scheduled activity- water pollution licence), as it is an offence under s.120 of the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 to pollute waters other than in accordance with the conditions of an environment protection licence.

PO Box 498, Grafton NSW 2460
NSW Government Offices,
49 Victoria Street, Grafton NSW
Tel: (02) 6640 2500 Fax: (02) 6642 7743
ABN 30 841 387 271
www.environment.nsw.gov.au

DEC strongly recommends that the Water Treatment Plant be designed with 100% reuse of water, with any water that cannot be put to head of works to be disposed of to sewer.

If a licence is required the applicant will need to make a separate application to the DEC to obtain this licence once planning consent has been granted by the Minister for Planning.

In relation to biodiversity matters, the proponent should be referred to the DEC's Threatened Biodiversity Survey and Assessment: Guidelines for Development and Activities (Working Draft November 2004), available at http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/pdfs/tbsa_guidelines_draft.pdf

The DEC requests that 2 copies of the Environmental Assessment are provided for review. These documents should be lodged at PO Box 498, Grafton NSW 2460.

If you have any further inquiries please contact Zoë White in the Grafton office on 66402504.

Yours sincerely,

**IAN GREENBANK**
**A/Head Waters and Catchment Unit**
**North Coast Region**
**Environment Protection and Regulation Division.**

# Attachment A
# Department of Environment and Conservation's
# Environmental Assessment Requirements

**Environmental impacts of the project**

1. The following environmental impacts of the project need to be assessed, quantified and reported on:
   - Water quantity and quality
   - Air Quality (including dust emissions)
   - Acid Sulphate Soils
   - Contaminated Land
   - Noise
   - Waste
   - Threatened species
   - Aboriginal cultural heritage

2. These should be assessed in accordance with the relevant guidelines listed in Attachment B.

3. Describe mitigation and management options that will be used to prevent, control, abate or mitigate identified environmental impacts associated with the project and to reduce risks to human health and prevent the degradation of the environment. This should include an assessment of the effectiveness and reliability of the measures and any residual impacts after these measures are implemented.

4. DEC recommends that the Water Treatment Plant be designed with 100% reuse of water, with any water that cannot be put to head of works to be disposed of to sewer. If this is the case, the applicant will not require an Environment Protection Licence (Non-scheduled activity – pollution of waters) under the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997.

5. Details of the location of the proposed development including the affected environment, should be addressed in the EA including:
   - meteological data (e.g. rainfall, temperature and evaporation, wind speed and direction)
   - topography (landform element, slope type, gradient and length)
   - surrounding land uses (potential synergies and conflicts)
   - soil types and properties (including erodibility, engineering and structural properties, dispersibility, permeability and any soil issues such as salinity)
   - ecological information (water systems, habitat, vegetation, fauna)
   - planning zonings and potential sensitive receptors.

**Water quantity and quality**

The environmental outcomes for the project in relation to water should ensure:

- There is no pollution of waters (including surface and groundwater) during the construction and operational phases of the development;
- All process water is adequately managed to eliminate any impact to the environment
- There is no inconsistency with any relevant Statement of Joint Intent established by the Healthy Rivers Commission; and
- It is acceptable in terms of the achievement or protection of the River Flow Objectives and Water Quality Objectives for the Northern Rivers Catchment.

The EA should include a detailed assessment of wastewater management for all stages of the proposal, if discharge to receiving waters is to occur which:

- Assesses the ambient water quality conditions of the receiving environment and the impact of wastewater discharges and mixing dynamics on receiving waters, with reference to the National Water Quality Management Strategy (ANZECC, 2000) and River Flow & Water Quality Objectives for the Northern Rivers Catchment
- Identifies discharge points with estimates of the volume and frequency of discharge
- Details an appropriate monitoring strategy for wastewater quality and quantity and of ambient conditions
- Provides a wastewater management contingency plan.

**Air Quality**

The EA should address the potential impacts of dust and odour from the site, identify any sensitive receptors that may be impacted and outline the proposed measures to manage the generation of dust and odour from the site.

**Acid Sulphate Soil**

The EA should contain an assessment of the presence of potential acid sulphate soil (PASS) on the site. This assessment should determine the likelihood of the project's construction and operations processes disturbing PASS and the appropriate measures that will be implemented to mitigate these impacts. This assessment should be conducted in accordance with the Acid Sulphate Soil Manual (ASSMAC, 1998).

**Contaminated Land**

The EA must document the assessment and management of any land contamination to ensure that the land is not allowed to be put to a use that is inappropriate because of the presence of contamination. Under the *Contaminated Land Management Act 1997* there is a responsibility to notify the DEC of sites that pose a significant risk of harm to human health or the environment.

**Noise**

The EA should assess any potential noise impacts from all proposed operations on noise sensitive receivers in accordance with the NSW Governments *Industrial Noise Policy*. These should include strategies to minimise noise during the construction and the operational stages of the development.

**Waste**

The goal of the development should ensure:

- It is in accordance with the principles of the waste hierarchy and cleaner production;
- The handling, processing and storage of all materials used at the premises does not have negative environmental or amenity impacts;
- The beneficial reuse of all wastes generated at the premises are maximised where it is safe and practical to do so; and
- No waste disposal occurs on site except in accordance with an Environment Protection Licence.

The EA should address the means by which the various forms of solid waste generated on site will be managed. This includes the maintenance, storage and disposal of accumulated pond sediments and waste generated from the processing plant.

**Impacts of the project on threatened species and their habitat**

The EA will need to include a comprehensive assessment of the above issues and also address the following:

1. A field survey of the site should be conducted and documented in accordance with the draft "Guideline for threatened species assessment' as well as 'Species Profiles and Environmental Impact Assessment Guidelines' which are available in Recovery Plans for a number of threatened species.

2. Likely impacts on threatened species and their habitat need to be assessed, evaluated and reported on. The assessment should specifically report on the considerations listed in Step 3 of the draft guideline.

3. Describe the actions that will be taken to avoid or mitigate impacts or compensate to prevent unavoidable impacts of the project on threatened species and their habitat. This should include measures taken to address any impacts, an assessment of the effectiveness and reliability of the measures and any residual impacts after these measures are implemented.

4. The EA needs to clearly state whether it meets each of the key thresholds set out in Step 5 of the draft guideline.

**Impacts of the project on Aboriginal cultural heritage values**

1. The EA should address and document the information requirements set out in the draft "Guidelines for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment and Community Consultation" involving surveys and consultation with the Aboriginal community.

2. Identify the nature and extent of impacts on Aboriginal cultural heritage values across the project area.

3. The extent and significance of this site will need to be assessed and preferably any development in this area would avoid disturbance of the site.

4. Describe the actions that will be taken to avoid or mitigate impacts or compensate to prevent unavoidable impacts of the project on Aboriginal cultural heritage values. This should include an assessment of the effectiveness and reliability of the measures and any residual impacts after these measures are implemented.

5. The EA needs to clearly demonstrate that effective community consultation with Aboriginal communities has been undertaken in determining and assessing impacts, developing options and making final recommendations.

Note: If the EA is relying on past surveys that they should check that the work is consistent with the requirements within the above Part 3A guidelines.

# Attachment B - Guidance Material

## 1. Assessing Environmental Impacts

### Water quality

- National Water Quality Management Strategy (AWQMS): Australian and New Zealand Guidelines for Fresh and Marine Water Quality (ANZECC 2000)
- NWQMS Australian Guidelines for Water Quality Monitoring and Reporting (ANZECC 2000)
- Water Quality and River Flow Interim Environmental Objectives for the Northern Rivers Catchment
- Healthy Rivers Commission Report into Coastal Lakes and Statement of Joint Intent
- The relevant targets within the State Water Management Outcomes Plan
- EPA technical guidelines *'Bunding and Spill Management'*

### Wastewater

- National Water Quality Management Strategy: Guidelines for Sewerage Systems - Effluent Management (ARMCANZ/ANZECC 1997)
- National Water Quality Management Strategy: Guidelines for Sewerage Systems – Use of Reclaimed Water (ARMCANZ/ANZECC 2000)
- Environmental Guidelines for the Utilisation of Treated Effluent by Irrigation (NSW DEC 2004)
- Environment and Health Protection Guidelines: 'Onsite Sewage Management for Single Households', February 1998 (Silver Book)

### Stormwater

(Note: some of these documents will be revised in 2006)

- Managing Urban Stormwater: Soils and Construction (NSW Landcom, 2004)
- Managing Urban Stormwater: Source Control (EPA 1998)
- Managing Urban Stormwater: Treatment Techniques (EPA 1998)

### Groundwater

- State Groundwater Policy Framework Document (DLWC 1997)
- The NSW State Groundwater Quality Protection Policy (DLWC 1998)
- (Draft) NSW State Groundwater Quantity Management Policy
- NSW State Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems Policy (DLWC, 2002)
- National Water Quality Management Strategy Guidelines for Groundwater Protection in Australia (ARMCANZ & ANZECC, 1995)

### Air Quality

- Protection of the Environment Operations (Clean Air) Regulation 2002
- (Draft) Assessment and Management of Odour from Stationary Sources in NSW

### Acid Sulphate Soil

- Acid Sulphate Soil Manual – ASSMAC, 1998

**Contaminated Land**

- Managing Land Contamination: Planning Guidelines - SEPP55 - Remediation of Land, Department of Urban Affairs and Planning and NSW EPA, 1998
- Contaminated Sites – Guidelines for Consultants Reporting on Contaminated Sites (Environment Protection Authority (EPA) 1997)
- Contaminated Sites – Guidelines on Significant Risk of Harm and Duty to Report (EPA, 1999)

**Noise and vibration**

- NSW Industrial Noise Policy (EPA, 1999)
- NSW Environmental Criteria for Road Traffic Noise (EPA, 1999)
- Chapter 171 Noise Control Guideline, *Construction Site Noise, Environmental Noise Control Manual, 1994*
- Assessing Vibration: a technical guideline (DEC, 2006)

**Waste**

- Guideline for the Use and Disposal of Biosolids Products (NSW EPA 1997)
- Environmental Guidelines: Assessment, Classification and Management of Liquid and Non-Liquid Wastes

## 2. Assessing Threatened Species Impacts

Draft Guidelines For Threatened Species Assessment - Available from Department of Planning

DEC's Threatened Biodiversity Survey and Assessment: Guidelines for Development and Activities (Working Draft November 2004), available at
http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/pdfs/tbsa_guidelines_draft.pdf

## 3. Assessing Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Impacts

Draft Guidelines For Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment and Community Consultation - Available from Dept of Planning

Interim Community Consultation Requirements for Applicants
http://www3.environment.nsw.gov.au/npws.nsf/Content/Protecting+Aboriginal+objects+and+places

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Standards and Guidelines Kit - Available shortly on-line through DEC's webpage

NSW DEPARTMENT OF
**PRIMARY INDUSTRIES**

Received
30 NOV 2006
Critical Infrastructure and Special Projects NSW

Incorporating NSW Fisheries
ABN 51 734 124 190-002

Our Ref:

Mr Neville Osborne
Manager, Water and Energy, Major Infrastructure Assessments
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

27 November 2006

Attention: Ms Rebecca Newman

Dear Ms Newman

**Re: Coffs Harbour Water Treatment Plant – Request for Environmental Assessment Requirements**

Thank you for your letter of 14 November 2006 requesting the Aquatic Habitat Protection Unit (AHPU) within NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) outline requirements for the above mentioned proposal.

DPI responsibility covers managing fish (including aquatic invertebrates), and fish habitat throughout NSW. In addition, the department works to provide quality commercial and recreational fishing, and aquaculture opportunities.

Information provided to this department in your letter and the supporting documentation indicates that the proposal may be an Integrated Development Assessment matter for DPI. It is noted that several watercourse crossings will be required. Sections 198-202 of the *Fisheries Management Act* 1994 are triggered when dredge and reclamation is undertaken on land that is periodically inundated by water. Sections 219 – 220 of the *Fisheries Management Act* 1994 are triggered when barriers to the movement of fish are to be constructed or modified.

If appropriate the DPI will prepare General Terms of Approval, conditions that require appropriate mitigation strategies are undertaken and efforts are actively pursued to ensure minimal impacts on aquatic habitats. In this instance DPI would strongly

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT DIVISION
AQUATIC HABITAT PROTECTION BRANCH

1243 Bruxner Highway
WOLLONGBAR NSW 2477

ABN 51 734 124 190
www.dpi.nsw.gov.au
Tel: 02 6626 1269
Fax: 02 6626 1377

recommend attaching the pipeline to existing bridges or underboring (particularly waters such as the Orara River) to mitigate the potential for impacts on the threatened fish Eastern Freshwater Cod.

The Aquatic Habitat Protection Unit will need to comment on the detailed design plans and EMP for the underboring component of the project to investigate appropriateness of contingencies to be employed.

Finally, I have included as an attachment DPI Aquatic Habitat Protection's standard minimum information requirements for environmental assessment. Please ensure that the proponent address these requirements in the environmental studies. This will facilitate effective assessment of the proposal and reduce delays.

If you have any further enquiries please contact me on (02) 6626 1397.

Mobile: 0407 264 391

Yours sincerely

Patrick Dwyer
**Fisheries Conservation Manager (North)**

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT DIVISION
AQUATIC HABITAT PROTECTION BRANCH

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## GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

Describe the purpose of the proposal;

Describe the location and area of the proposal;

Detail the location of all component parts of the proposal, including any auxiliary infrastructure;

Provide a timetable for construction of the proposal with details of each phases of construction;

Detail likely or possible future needs arising from the proposal;

Provide a legible topographic map with scale, contours, north represented and the date the map/plan/air photo was prepared;

Specify zoning, present land use and whether special conditions (eg SEPP 14 wetlands) apply to the land proposed for development or adjacent land;

Describe the surrounding geomorphology;

Identify all water bodies including wetlands and floodplains;

Specify the direction of river flow and provide hydrological and stream morphological including depth contours and stream bed substrate information, water quality and if appropriate tidal characteristics;

Describe / map aquatic habitats (generally within 100 metres of the boundary of the proposal and sometimes further if downstream) that could be impacted upon either directly or indirectly by the proposal during its construction, life and decommissioning including:

- gravel beds
- rocky reefs
- wetlands and floodplains
- deep pools
- riparian vegetation and snags
- under cut banks
- aquatic vegetation (seagrass, algae, mangroves, saltmarsh & emergent vegetation such as reeds

Identify recreational and commercial fishing areas and aquaculture ventures that could be affected by the proposal or works during its construction;

A statement about the presence or absence of threatened species. Threatened species and key threatening processes are listed in Schedule 4 of the *Fisheries Management Act* and regularly updated on the Fisheries Scientific Committee website: www.fsc.nsw.gov.au

Detail the potential impacts of the various phases of the proposal;

Outline ongoing management activities to ensure impacts on aquatic biodiversity are minimised;

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AQUATIC HABITAT PROTECTION BRANCH

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## REQUIREMENTS FOR ACTIVITIES THAT BLOCK FISH PASSAGE

Purpose and type of works requiring fish passage to be blocked;

Timing, duration and manner of proposed restriction / blockage to fish passage;

Methods to be used to avoid stranding fish and any remediation works.

## REQUIREMENTS FOR DREDGING AND RECLAMATION WORKS

Purpose of works;

Type(s) of marine vegetation in the vicinity of the proposed works;

Distance of adjacent marine vegetation from the outer boundary of the proposed works;

Method of dredging or reclamation to be used;

Duration of dredging or reclamation works;

Time of dredging or reclamation works;

Dimension of area to be dredged or reclaimed;

Depth of dredging height of reclamation activities;

Nature of sediment to be dredged, including Acid Sulphate Soil and Potential Acid Sulphate Soils;

Method of marking area subject to works;

Environmental safeguards to be used during and after works;

Measures for minimising harm to fish habitat under the proposal;

Spoil type and source location for reclamation activities;

Method of disposal of dredge material;

Location and duration of spoil stockpiling, if planned;

Volume of material to be extracted or placed as fill.

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## REQUIREMENTS FOR ACTIVITIES THAT DAMAGE MARINE VEGETATION

Type of marine vegetation to be harmed;

Amount of marine vegetation to be harmed, map distribution noting percentage densities of species of marine vegetation;

Reasons for harming marine vegetation;

Methods of harming marine vegetation;

Construction details, including proposed drainage;

Duration and timing of works/activities;

Measures for minimising harm to marine vegetation under the proposal;

Environmental measures to be employed;

Method and location of transplanting activities or disposal of marine vegetation.

## REQUIREMENTS FOR ACTIVITIES THAT COULD IMPACT ON THREATENED SPECIES OR CONTRIBUTE TO KEY THREATENING PROCESSES

All assessments require a statement about the presence or absence of threatened species. Up to date listings are available on the Fisheries Scientific Committee website: www.fsc.nsw.gov.au

In determining the presence of threatened species, consideration must be given to the habitat types present within the study area, recent records of threatened species in the locality and the known distributions of these species;

The condition of the habitat within the area must be discussed noting habitat requirements of threatened species likely to occur and the effect of relevant historical events (including land clearing, agricultural activities, water abstraction/diversion, dredging, de-snagging, reclamation, siltation, commercial and recreational activities);

Assess potential impacts on threatened species via the 'Eight-Part Test' and upon completion, consultation with NSW DPI Aquatic Habitat Protection Unit prior to the EIS being finalised;

The proponent should note that where significant impact on threatened species is likely, a detailed Species Impact Statement must be prepared to assist in forming a determination.

The proponent should also note that the *Fisheries Management Act* 1994 contains provisions for strict penalties (up to $220,000 and 2 years imprisonment) to be imposed for individuals or companies that harm an endangered species, population or community or their habitat without proper authority carries.

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## ASSESSMENT OF LIKELY IMPACTS

Investigate and report on an area extending downstream and/or upstream as far as is necessary to take all potential impacts into account;

Discussion possible indirect effects of the proposal on species/habitats in the area surrounding the subject site: for example, through altered hydrological regimes including stormwater runoff and drainage, soil erosion or pollution;

Outline the habitat requirements of threatened species and species important to commercial or recreational fishing likely to occur in the study area;

Discuss fish habitats within the study area and the nature and extent of habitat removal or modification which may result from the proposed action;

Discuss the potential impact of the modification or removal of habitat on fish species in the area;

For all species likely to have their lifecycle patterns disrupted by the proposal to the extent that individuals will cease to occupy any location within the subject site, the EIS must describe and discuss other locally occurring populations of such species;

The relative significance of this location for these species in the general locality must be discussed in terms of the extent, security and viability of remaining habitat in the locality;

Describe the potential contribution of the proposal to cumulative impacts on fish and fish habitat in the vicinity of the proposal.

## AMELIORATIVE MEASURES

Discuss measures for minimising impacts on fish and fish habitat and other environmental safeguards to be employed such as how erosion and run off will be reduced and water quality maintained;

Specify the nature of any rehabilitation or environmental compensatory works to be undertaken and ongoing maintenance of these works to ensure their benefits are maintained;

Describe ongoing management actions within the proposal, both during construction and after completion, which relate to impact minimisation eg Environmental Management Plans;

Detail monitoring programs, including methodologies that assess Before and After, Control and Impact sites to determine the success of techniques used to ameliorate impacts on aquatic biodiversity level of impact of the development;

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The EIS must consider how the proposal has been or may be modified and managed to conserve fisheries habitat on the subject site and in the study area.

In discussing alternatives to the proposal, and the measures proposed to mitigate any effects of the proposal, consideration must be given to developing long term management strategies to protect areas within the study area which are of particular importance for fish species. This may include proposals to restore or improve habitat.

Any proposed pre-construction monitoring plans or on-going monitoring of the effectiveness of the mitigation measures must be outlined in detail, including the objectives of the monitoring program, method of monitoring, reporting framework, duration and frequency.

**Please Note:** Persons undertaking aquatic surveys may be required to hold or obtain appropriate permits or licences under relevant legislation. It is recommend that, prior to any field survey activities taking place, those persons proposing to undertake those activities give consideration to their obligation to obtain appropriate permits or licences which may be required in the specific context of the proposed survey activities.

For example:

*Fisheries Management Act 1994*
Permit to take fish or marine vegetation for research or other authorised purposes (Section 37)

Licence to harm threatened (aquatic) species, and/or damage the habitat of a threatened species (Section 220ZW).

*Animal Research Act* 1985:
Animal Research Authority to undertake fauna surveys.

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## USEFUL DEFINITIONS

The definitions given below are relevant to these requirements:

***Fish*** means any part of marine, estuarine or freshwater fish or other aquatic animal life at any stage of their life history (whether alive or dead). Fish include oysters and other aquatic molluscs, crustaceans, echinoderms and beachworms and other aquatic polychaetes.

***Marine vegetation*** means any species of plant that at any time in its life must inhabit water (other than fresh water).

***Waters*** refers to all waters including tidal waters to the Astronomical High Tide Level (AHTL) as well as flowing streams, irregularly flowing streams, gullies, rivers, lakes, coastal lagoons, wetlands and other forms of natural or man made water bodies on both private and public land.

***Dredging work*** means:

(a) any work that involves excavating water land, or

(b) any work that involves the removal of material from water land that is prescribed by the regulations as being dredging work to which this Division applies.

***Farm Dam*** means the backed up waters of any dam, or impoundment, located on land that is not public water land.

***Reclamation Work*** means any work that involves:

(a) using any material (such as sand, soil, silt, gravel, concrete, oyster shells, tyres, timber or rocks) to fill in or reclaim water land, or

(b) depositing any such material on water land for the purpose of constructing anything over water land (such as a bridge), or

(c) draining water from water land for the purpose of its reclamation.

***Water Land*** means land submerged by water:

a) whether permanently or intermittently, or

b) whether forming an artificial or natural body of water,

and includes wetlands and any other land prescribed by the regulations as water land to which this Division applies.

***Wetlands*** includes marshes, mangroves, swamps, or other areas that form a shallow body of water when inundated intermittently or permanently with fresh, brackish or salt water, and where the inundation determines the type and productivity of the soils and the plant and animal communities.

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**Further Information**

The DPI Policy and Guidelines series contains more detailed information on techniques and practices that satisfy DPI requirements to minimise impacts of developments on fish and fish habitat. The Guidelines are available at www.fisheries.nsw.gov.au. Considering the information in these documents prior to developing and submitting your proposal is strongly recommended.

Another document "*Guidelines for the Assessment of Aquatic Ecology in EIA*" (Draft 1998) produced by the Department for Urban Affairs and Planning (now Dept of Planning) may prove useful in outlining appropriate procedures and methodologies for conducting aquatic surveys required for the preparation of an EIS.

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NORTH COAST
AREA HEALTH SERVICE
NSW HEALTH

4 December 2006

**Ms Rebecca Newman**
**Senior Environmental Planning Officer**
**Department of Planning**
**Room 312, 22 – 23 Bridge Street**
**Sydney NSW 2000**

Dear Ms Newman,

**RE: COFFS HARBOUR CITY COUNCIL WATER TREATMENT PLANT – CONSULTATION ON EA REQUIREMENTS**

I refer to your email dated 14 November 2006 regarding the above matter. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Coffs Harbour City Council's proposed new Water Treatment Plant. The North Coast Area Health Service has no objection to the above proposal.

The following comments are of significance to population health.

Council is encouraged to consider:

- All drinking water produced by the water treatment plant to comply with the National Health and Medical Research Council's Australian Drinking Water Guidelines 2004 and subsequent guidelines. Furthermore Coffs Harbour City Council is encouraged to review management of their water supplies in accordance with the Framework for Management of Drinking Water Quality in the Guidelines.
- Nuisance to residents arising from dust from construction works and unmade roads
- Protection of the lagoon/dams should be provided by means of a security fence so as to prevent access by members of the public and animals
- The design of lagoons, drains and any artificial waterways to reduce the potential for these water bodies to become mosquito breeding sites
- Capacity to supply potable water to reticulated areas in times of scarcity and to meet increased demand due to future population growth
- Rainwater tanks for non potable use (if reticulated water is provided)

Should you require any further information regarding this submission, please contact me on telephone 02 6588 2792 during office hours.

Yours sincerely

**Ronnie Naicker**
**Acting Senior Environmental Health Officer**
**Public Health Unit Port Macquarie**
**PO Box 126 Port Macquarie NSW 2444**
**Telephone 02 6588 2792 Fax 02 6588 2789**

E-MAIL
1·12·06

NSW Government
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Received
- 6 DEC 2006
Critical Infrastructure and Special Projects SDA

Contact: Linden Bird
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Our ref: Inq207
Your ref: S06/00885-1
File: CH101502

Mr Neville Osborne
Manager, Water and Energy
Major Infrastructure Assessments
Department of Planning
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Attention: Ms Rebecca Newman

1 December 2006

Dear Ms Newman

**Subject: Coffs Harbour Water Treatment Plant - Request for Environmental Assessment Requirements**

Thank you for your letter of 14 November 2006 received in this office on 23 November 2006. I apologise for the delay in responding to the above matter.

A review of the documentation shows that the proponent has adequately identified the issues of concern for this Department with the exception of the emergency storage lagoon. If the use of the lagoon was to interact with groundwater and base flows to the Orara River then consideration should be given to ensuring that the lagoon is lined appropriately with an impermeable barrier and is consistent with standards required by the Department of Environment and Conservation.

Should you have further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Linden Bird
Natural Resource Planning