



Industry &
Investment

#3

Your Ref: S08/01819

Our Ref: OUT10/20353

Lisa Mitchell
Manager – Water Projects
Infrastructure Projects
Department of Planning
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Ms Mitchell,

**Re: MP08_0236 – Environmental Assessment – Proposed Googong Township
Water Cycle Project.**

Thank you for your letter dated 10 November 2010 seeking Industry & Investment NSW (I&I NSW) comments on the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the above Major Project.

This is a joint response from I&I NSW providing comments on Fisheries and Agriculture issues related to this proposal which are detailed in Attachments A and B. I&I NSW advises that there are no issues related to Minerals or State Forests.

Should you have any general queries please contact Dr Trevor Daly on (02) 4478 9103. For further specific information on Agriculture issues please contact the relevant officer listed in the Attachment.

Yours sincerely

BILL TALBOT
DIRECTOR, FISHERIES CONSERVATION & AQUACULTURE

17 December 2010

ATTACHMENT A – FISHERIES ISSUES

I&I NSW is responsible for ensuring that fish stocks are conserved and that there is "no net loss" of key fish habitats upon which they depend. To achieve this, the Department ensures that developments comply with the requirements of the *Fisheries Management Act 1994* (namely the aquatic habitat protection and threatened species conservation provisions in Parts 7 and 7A of the Act respectively) and the associated *Policy and Guidelines for Aquatic Habitat Management and Fish Conservation* (1999). In addition the Department is responsible for ensuring the sustainable management of commercial and recreational fishing and aquaculture within NSW.

I&I NSW notes that the proposed water cycle project is located in the catchments of Googong Creek and Montgomery Creek which drain to the Queanbeyan River. The potential impact of the development upon water quality and aquatic habitats in Googong Creek, Montgomery Creek and downstream in the Queanbeyan River is of particular interest to this Department in relation to this Major Project.

I&I NSW has reviewed the Environmental Assessment (EA) prepared by Manidis Roberts P/L (dated November 2010). Overall, I&I NSW has no objection to approval of the proposal as outlined in the EA and Appendices (including Statement of Commitments and site plans) but makes the following comments and recommendations:

1. I&I NSW concurs with the proposed development and implementation of a construction environmental management plan (CEMP) (incorporating soil and water and spill management plans) and an operation environmental management plan (OEMP) (C1, WQ1, WQ2, WQ5, S2 – Table 18.1).
2. I&I NSW concurs with the proposed implementation of a water quality and aquatic ecology monitoring program for the Queanbeyan River (including water quality, flow, fish migration, macrophytes and macroinvertebrate communities) to be developed in consultation with I&I NSW (WQ4, A1 – Table 18.1).
3. I&I NSW recommends that any proposed new or upgraded road crossings of Googong Creek and Montgomery Creek must be designed and constructed in accordance with the Department's *Policy and Guidelines for Fish Friendly Waterway Crossings* (2004) and *Why Do Fish Need to Cross the Road? Fish Passage Requirements for Waterway Crossings* (2004). The design of any road crossings of these waterways should be submitted to I&I NSW for approval prior to construction.
4. I&I NSW concurs with the proposed mitigation measures for water quality and hydrology (Section 7 of EA) and Ecology (Section 11 of EA), in particular:
 - Revegetation and rehabilitation of waterways and banks disturbed during laying of pipelines;
 - Development of an irrigation strategy for the application of recycled water in the township including implementation of buffer zones;
 - Removal of weeds and revegetation with native species in the riparian zones within the Googong township site;
 - Implementation and maintenance of riparian buffer zones along drainage lines within the Googong township site;
 - Use of appropriate erosion and sedimentation controls during construction;

I&I NSW requests that all the above commitments and recommendations are made approval conditions for the development by Department of Planning.

Contact:

The contact person for matters relating to fisheries and aquatic habitat is Dr Trevor Daly, Fisheries Conservation Manager – South Coast, Ph 02) 4478 9103 or email: trevor.daly@industry.nsw.gov.au

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ATTACHMENT B – AGRICULTURE ISSUES

Water Cycle Projects are not a major issue in relation to agricultural land and use issues. Accordingly I&I NSW has not provided specific comments on this particular development application for the Googong Water Cycle Project.

The agricultural Land Use Planning Team within Industry & Investment NSW retains a strong interest in; strategic land use planning matters, agricultural land rezoning; intensive agricultural developments; and major projects likely to significantly impact on agricultural resources or agricultural industries (eg mining proposals).

In place of the advice we have previously provided on specific developments such as infrastructure proposals, we have produced a series of guidelines for use by consent authorities and consultants. These guidelines are available from the I&I NSW land use planning and development web portal: <http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/environment/landuse-planning/agriculture>. The series includes a specific guideline on [Infrastructure proposals on rural lands](#) which identifies the critical agricultural issues and recommended development planning and assessment responses. The document can also be used as a benchmark for assessing environmental assessment reports of such developments.

Contact:

The contact person for matters relating to agriculture is Wendy Goodburn, Resource Management Officer, Ph 02) 4828 6635 or email: wendy.goodburn@industry.nsw.gov.au.