



Department of Primary Industries

OUT13/2934

- 4 MAR 2013

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

Emma.Barnet@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Ms Barnet,

**McWilliam's Winery Expansion (MP 09_0177)
Response to exhibition of Environmental Impact Statement**

I refer to your letter dated 15 November 2012 requesting advice from the Department of Primary Industries (Agriculture) in respect to the above matter. It is advised that the proposed project is of prime interest in respect to the responsibilities of the NSW Office of Water, also a division within the Department of Primary Industries.

Comment by NSW Office of Water

Advice by the NSW Office of Water including a recommended condition should the application be approved is detailed in Attachment A.

For further information please contact Tim Baker, Planning and Assessment Coordinator (Dubbo office) on 6841 7403, or at: Tim.Baker@water.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Phil Anquetil
Executive Director Business Services

Attachment A

McWilliam's Winery Expansion (MP 09_0177)

Response to exhibition of EIS

Comment by NSW Office of Water

The NSW Office of Water provides the following comments for consideration in determining the project.

- (i) Although the Environmental Assessment (EA) provides significant detail about the regional groundwater levels, it only provides bore construction details for the Murrumbidgee Irrigation sites in the vicinity of the proposed development. Tables 10 and 11 identify bores in the area of the development but the associated figures (22 and 23) do not identify the bore numbers to enable them to be located.
- (ii) The key area of concern for the Office of Water is the potential impacts and monitoring requirements in relation to the lagoons proposed to store wastewater. The exhibited EA has not provided details regarding groundwater levels and flow direction in the vicinity of the proposed development. Further to this there are no details regarding the construction requirements of the lagoons in terms of potential excavation requirements which may intercept the water table or the capillary fringe. This information is critical to enable an assessment of potential groundwater impacts and hence monitoring requirements.
- (iii) In the situation that groundwater is intercepted by the lagoon construction, the proponent will be required to obtain relevant approvals under the *Water Act 1912* or *Water Management Act 2000* and measures will need to be developed to mitigate impacts to groundwater and the potential for ongoing groundwater take.
- (iv) Despite the uncertainty of the groundwater impacts, the Office of Water can advise that additional monitoring sites to those listed in the EA will be required to detect leakage from the lagoons. Monitoring sites are required to determine groundwater levels up and down the gradient of the lagoons and it is recommended selection of these sites be carried out in consultation with the NSW Office of Water.
- (v) It is recommended groundwater levels be monitored monthly for the initial 12-18 months and then consideration be given to reducing the monitoring frequency depending on groundwater level behaviour characteristics. It is recommended groundwater quality monitoring be quarterly to establish a baseline for the first 12 months and then a review be carried out to consider reducing the monitoring frequency.

Recommended Condition of Approval

The following condition is recommended should the application be approved:

- A Groundwater Management Plan is to be prepared in consultation with the NSW Office of Water prior to commencement of activities.

End Attachment A