



Office of Water

Infrastructure Projects
Department of Planning
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11 August 2010

Our ref: MPER 21111
Your ref: MP 10_0073

Attention: Anna Bradley

Dear Anna

Subject: Sandvik Machinery Manufacture and Maintenance Project, Heatherbrae (MP 10_0073)

NOW has begun its assessment of the proposed Sandvik Machinery Manufacture and Maintenance Project, but has found a number of issues with the detail provided in the environmental assessment (EA). NOW has consulted with Hunter Water Corporation (HWC) and advises that it can not provide conditions without additional information due to the following reasons:

- The project is located within the Tomago Sandbeds Catchment Area which is defined as a Special Area under the Hunter Water (Special Areas) Regulation 2003, as such

Clause 9 Pollution of waters

"(1) A person must not pollute any waters in a special area."

The project proposes stormwater infiltration basins which pose a risk to the groundwater, which is of high quality and a groundwater source from which Hunter Water extracts. The environmental assessment does not provide sufficient information on the treatment of the stormwater runoff prior to disposal to the infiltration basins and the proposed water quality that will enter the aquifer via the infiltration basins.

Additionally other issues not addresses in the EA include:

- The EA identifies that excavations for the foundations will encounter the groundwater. This activity poses a risk as disturbance of geological material can cause the release of minerals (such as iron or arsenic) from the rock strata into the water table. These minerals may impact on groundwater quality. Also, exposure of watertable could cause aerial contamination of the groundwater.
- Dewatering requires a Part 5 Water Access license under the Water Management Act 2000. This has not been identified in the EA.
- The development is with in the Tomago Groundwater Source which is covered under the Water Sharing Plan for the Tomago Tomaree Stockton Groundwater Sources 2003 (WSPTTSGS), the EA has not considered proposal in relation to the provisions of the WSPTTSGS and the requirement to gain a share for groundwater extracted in this area.

- The proposal details bulk storage of diesel and waste oil, which poses a pollution threat to the groundwater if a spill occurs. The environmental assessment does not detail whether the diesel and waste oil will be stored within a bunded area and the specification of the design.

NOW and HWC require the proponent to address the above issues and include the following information for assessment:

- Specific design details and location of the stormwater treatment systems;
- Expected water quality (through modelling or otherwise) that will enter groundwater through infiltration basins;
- Water quality monitoring locations and schedule to ensure stormwater treatment systems are functioning as per design;
- Details regarding the proposal's impacts in relation to dewatering and the provision of the Water Sharing Plan for the Tomago Tomaree Stockton Groundwater Sources 2003 (WSPTTSGS); and
- Bunding design and capacity for any potentially harmful chemical on site.

Please contact Jennifer Gerrard on 4904 2516 if you require any further information regarding this matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'm. mignanelli', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mark Mignanelli
Manager Major Projects and Assessment