

13 December 2019

Ms Rebecca Sommer
Senior Planning Officer
NSW Planning & Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Email: Rebecca.sommer@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Ms Sommer

Belmont Drought Response Desalination Plant (EXH 2612) – Environmental Impact Statement

I refer to the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Belmont Drought Response Desalination Plant (EXH 2612) exhibited on the NSW Planning & Environment website. The project involves construction and operation of a temporary desalination plant including: seawater intake infrastructure (subsurface beach wells); desalination units (15 ML/d); brine discharge via existing ocean outfall; electricity/water supply and ancillary works.

Hunter New England Population Health (HNEPH) has reviewed the EIS paying particular attention to issues which may have an impact on public health.

Water Quality

The EIS refers to appropriate standards and guidelines for ensuring drinking water quality. It is essential that NSW Health and DPEI Water are actively consulted throughout all stages of this project to ensure the public's health.

Noise

Environmental noise can have negative impacts on human health and well-being and trigger ongoing community complaints about annoyance and stress. It is noted that works associated with the power upgrades and additional traffic related to construction are predicted to increase noise levels.

Hunter New England Local Health District
ABN 63 598 010 203

Hunter New England Population Health
Locked Bag 10
Wallsend NSW 2287
Phone (02) 4924 6477 Fax (02) 4924 6490
Email HNELHD-PHEnquiries@hnehealth.nsw.gov.au
www.hnehealth.nsw.gov.au/hnep

It is important that the applicant ensure compliance with all NSW Environment Protection Authority noise criteria and that all reasonable and feasible measures are taken to reduce the impact on the surrounding receivers.

Community Consultation

We also want to strongly emphasise that due to the sensitivity within the surrounding and the broader community, that the proponent ensure meaningful ongoing community engagement and awareness.

Should you require any additional information, please contact Ms Nichole Mason, Environmental Health Officer on 4924 6477.

Yours sincerely



Professor David Durrheim
Director - Health Protection
Hunter New England Population Health