



OUT21/2060

Jack Turner
Planning and Assessment Group
NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

Jack.Turner@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Mr Turner

**New Cobar Complex Project (SSD-10419)
EIS**

I refer to your email of 22 February 2021 to the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) Water and the Natural Resources Access Regulator (NRAR) about the above matter.

The following recommendations are provided by DPIE Water and NRAR.

Prior to Approval

- Undertake an independent peer review of the numerical groundwater model. The numerical model has been prepared in accordance with the Australian Groundwater Modelling Guidelines to a standard suitable for the scale of activity and the relatively low-risk of groundwater impacts in the area. However, the model has not been independently peer reviewed as required by the Aquifer Interference Policy (AIP).
- Minimal impact consideration under the AIP has been addressed satisfactorily, however, a Basic Landholder Rights (BLR) bore, 2.8 km southwest of the project footprint has been overlooked in the assessment.
The proponent should investigate and include the BLR bore 85WA752553 in the assessment and address whether mitigation is required.

Post Approval

- The proponent should install a monitoring bore in the unconfined aquifer (depth 20 – 25 mbgl) at the New Cobar precinct without relying only on water levels of the third party water supply bore in future monitoring and assessments.
- The Water Management Plan should be updated to document the water management infrastructure, proposed water use, storage and transfer, projected water take and licensing, water metering, water balance, monitoring and management/mitigation responses.
- The ability to accurately meter and monitor water take from surface and groundwater sources will need to be developed with ongoing review of actual versus modelled predictions. This will be a key component to confirm impact predictions, the adequacy of mitigating measures and compliance for water take.
- The proponent must report on water take at the site each year (direct and indirect) in the Annual Review. This should include water take where a water licence is required and where an exemption applies. Where a water licence is required the water take needs to be reviewed against existing water licences.
- The proponent must ensure sufficient water entitlement is held in a water access licence/s to account for the maximum predicted take for each water source prior to take occurring.

- The proponent must ensure that relevant nomination of work dealing applications for Water Access Licences proposed to account for water take by the project have been completed prior to the water take occurring.
- The proponent must comply with the rules of the relevant water sharing plans.

Any further referrals to DPIE Water and NRAR can be sent by email to:
landuse.enquiries@dpi.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Liz Rogers
Manager, Assessments, Knowledge Division
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment: Water
12 April 2021