

The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

Attn: Mark Wisely

02 9873 8526

Mark.Wisely@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Mark

Re: Merimbula Sewage Treatment Plant Upgrade and Ocean Outfall (SSI-7614)

I refer to your request for advice dated 23 August 2021 in relation to the exhibition of State Significant Infrastructure for the Merimbula Sewage Treatment Plant Upgrade and Ocean Outfall in the Bega Valley Shire Council local government area.

The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) detailing the proposed upgrade of sewage treatment at the Merimbula Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) and replacement of the existing beach-face outfall and dunal exfiltration ponds with an ocean outfall in Merimbula Bay has been reviewed under a public health lens.

The EIS addresses adequately any risks to public and human health posed by the development, specifically regarding recreational water quality and the discharge and reuse of treated wastewater under a number of identified potential human exposure pathways.

The decommissioning of the existing beach-face outfall and dunal exfiltration pond and improvements to wastewater quality resulting from the proposed upgrades to Merimbula STP and Ocean Outfall Project is supported from a public health perspective. Introduction of the ocean outfall pipeline with offshore discharge point and submerged diffuser is a favourable approach and based on the assessment would not present an unacceptable risk to human health.

Provided the identified potential impacts of the Project are mitigated and managed as per the EIS, including treatment of biological hazards to comply with EPL criteria, this office would raise no objection to the Project.

Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please don't hesitate to contact me on 0427 004 992 or Circe.Adams@health.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely,

Circe Adams

Environmental Health Officer

17 September 2021