



Department of  
Primary Industries

OUT13/866

16 JAN 2013

Ms Denise Robertson  
Metropolitan and Regional Projects North  
NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure  
GPO Box 39  
SYDNEY NSW 2001

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Dear Ms Robertson,

**North Penrith Mixed Use Development (Stages 2B, 2C, 2D & 3B)  
(SSD 5346, SSD 5347, SSD 5349)  
Response to exhibition of Environmental Impact Statement**

I refer to your letter of 19 November 2012 to the Department of Primary Industries in respect to the above matter.

Comment by NSW Office of Water

The NSW Office of Water makes the advices detailed in Attachment A.

For further information please contact Janne Grose, Planning and Assessment Coordinator (Penrith office) on 4729 8262, or at: Janne.Grose@water.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Phil Anquetil  
Executive Director Business Services

## **Attachment A**

### **North Penrith Mixed Use Development (Stages 2B, 2C, 2D & 3B) (SSD 5346, SSD 5347, SSD 5349)**

#### **Response to exhibition of Environmental Impact Statement Comment by NSW Office of Water**

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The NSW Office of Water (Office of Water) on 9 February 2011, when responding to the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the North Penrith Concept Plan and Stage 1 project, raised concern in relation to the proposed water use and water supply options for filling and topping up the proposed water feature and wetland associated with the North Penrith development. Based on information that was provided in the EA it was not clear if the proposal intended to use groundwater or surface water as a water supply option.

The Geotechnical Report and the Contamination Report for Stage 2D confirms the development has no requirement for the extraction of groundwater (see Appendix G, page 7 and Appendix H, page 5) and the Water Cycle Management Strategy for Stages 2B-3B states the results of the water balance and water quality investigations identify that the wetland and central water feature are sustainable with stormwater runoff generated from the site and do not require an external top up source of water supply (see Sections 9.4.1 and 11, Appendix O, pages 34 and 39).

The Geotechnical Report for Stages 2B and 2C confirms the construction of the wetland and canal water feature should not intersect with groundwater but notes they will be constructed with an impervious lining to avoid any interaction between the water-bodies and groundwater (page 10). However, based on the information provided in the EIS documentation, it is not clear if the development will intercept groundwater. The Geotechnical Report for Stage 2D for example indicates drilling for piling construction below depths of about 5m to 8m might encounter groundwater (page 10) while the Contamination Report states site works for Stages 2B, 2C, 2D, 3A and 3B are not expected to encounter any groundwater (page 8).

If groundwater is proposed to be intercepted or extracted, the applicant will be required to hold sufficient licensed entitlement to account for the annual volume within the groundwater source in accordance with the Water Sharing Plan and the trading rules for the Hawkesbury Alluvium Groundwater Source.

Depending on the volumes encountered and the duration of pumping, a licence may be required under Part 5 of the *Water Act 1912* in relation to construction excavation/dewatering activities. The Office of Water can advise on the need for a water licence once information is available on the expected groundwater inflows. The applicant should contact the Office of Water licensing officer at the Parramatta Office (telephone: 8838 7531) in relation to this issue.

**End Attachment A**

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