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Date: 26 February 2021

Jim Betts
Planning Secretary
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
GPO Box 39
Sydney NSW 2001

Dear Jim Betts,

RE: St Matthews Catholic College (SSD 9872): Ecologically Sustainable Development – Condition C22 – Request for extension to allow construction commencement

I refer to the St Matthews Catholic College State Significant Development approved on the 16 December 2020.

In accordance with SSD 9872 Development Consent Condition C22, a request for an alternative ESD certification process was submitted to the Department of Planning, Infrastructure and Environment (DPIE) 4 February 2021 (SSD-9872-PA-3). Per Consent Condition C22, the project is seeking to defer the timing for approval of the alternative ESD certification process from prior to the commencement of construction, to one month after the commencement of construction to enable the commencement of works on-site whilst DPIE continues its review.

To support this request, there has been no commentary from the DPIE advising of serious issues with the alternative ESD certification process or assessment framework proposed to date; this includes through the SSD application submission (EIS appendix N - dated 21 April 2020) and associated review period where the alternative ESD certification was identified as being preferred. As this is the case, it is anticipated that any items raised would be minor and the project would be able to adopt propositions by DPIE to further implement ESD principles. Where it is not possible to adopt the propositions as envisaged by DPIE, the project would seek to adapt to an outcome that implements the principles of ESD while being of benefit to the client.

To support the above claim that the project will engage with feedback resulting from DPIE commentary on the alternative ESD certification process, the project team has demonstrated that it is responsive and amenable to modifying plans and strategies following DPIE commentary and engagement. This is evidenced in prompt action being taken with respect to the Community Communication Strategy (C6) RFI-14729608 and discussions regarding the Staging Plan Enquiries (A13-A14).

Please do not hesitate to contact me should there be any enquiries or concerns in providing approval to commence construction works prior to the approval of an alternative ESD certification process.

Kind Regards,

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Cassandra Naccarella Project Director, TSA Management