



Department of Primary Industries

OUT15/36008

Ms Karen Jones
Director Transport Assessments – Planning Services
NSW Department of Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Karen.Jones@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Ms Jones,

WestConnex M4 East Project (SSI_6307) Comment on the Response to Submissions Report

I refer to your email dated 11 December 2015 to the Department of Primary Industries in respect of the above matter. DPI has reviewed the Response to Submissions and the Preferred Infrastructure Report and provides comments and recommendations below.

Further referrals or requests for review can be sent by email to landuse.enquiries@dpi.nsw.gov.au.

DPI responses to issues responded to in chapter 4.2 of the RTS are number sequentially here for ease of reference.

1. The response is adequate.
2. The modelling report should be finalised in accordance with the Australian Groundwater Modelling Guidelines, in consultation with (not just provided to) DPI Water, taking into account DPI's earlier submission on the EIS.
3. As above (Issue 2).
4. The response is adequate.
5. The response is adequate, however as with Issues 2 & 3, the final modelling should be developed in consultation with DPI Water.
6. The response is adequate.
7. It is recommended that a condition of approval require that groundwater inflow be less than 1 L / s / km.
8. The RTS has not addressed the issue raised in DPI's submission, which is seeking consideration / clarification of why a single rather than multiple

disposal options is considered. Multiple disposal options could have benefits such as dispersing the impacts of discharge, and reducing impacts if the facility failed or was taken offline, however it is recognised there are also likely benefits of a single facility.

9. The response is adequate.
10. The response is adequate.
11. The response is adequate. It is recommended that the proponent identify and commence consultation with bore owners at the earliest opportunity to allow time for adequate consultation.
12. The response is adequate, pending finalisation of a detailed monitoring plan in consultation with DPI Water.
13. The response is adequate, pending finalisation of a detailed monitoring plan in consultation with DPI Water.
14. The response is adequate.
15. The response is broadly adequate, however a methodology must be developed to adequately estimate and report annually on the volume of groundwater extracted (including through passive inflows).
16. The response is adequate, however note comments to Issue 11.
17. The response is broadly adequate; however DPI maintains the recommendation that the proponent offset riparian land as a mitigation measure.

Recommendations

1. The proponent meet with DPI Water to discuss revisions to the groundwater modelling and monitoring work, as well as to discuss methods to monitor and report on groundwater inflows.
2. A condition of approval require that groundwater inflow be less than 1 L/s/km.
3. The proponent and the Department of Planning & Environment consider whether the proposed treatment & disposal option is sufficiently justified and provides the maximum benefit.
4. The proponent identify and commence consultation with bore owners on make good provisions.
5. The proponent offset riparian land lost as a mitigation measure.
6. The proponent be required to undertake works on waterfront land in accordance with the *Guidelines for Controlled Activities on Waterfront Land* (DPI, 2012).

For further information please contact Brendan Fletcher, A/Manager, Assessments on 0418 988 262 or brendan.fletcher@dpi.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M Isaacs', with a stylized, cursive script.

Mitchell Isaacs
Director, Planning Policy & Assessment Advice
18/12/2015