NSW GOVERNMENT | Department of Primary Industries

OUT15/11033

Ms Elle Donnelley
Mining Projects
NSW Department of Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Elle.Donnelley@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Ms Donnelley,

Horsley Park Meter Station Upgrade Project (SSI_6681)
Response to exhibition of Environmental Impact Statement

I refer to your email dated 31 March 2015 requesting advice from the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) in respect to the above matter.

Comment by NSW Office of Water
The NSW Office of Water (Office of Water) has reviewed the Environmental Impact Statement and provides comments in **Attachment A**.

For further information please contact Janne Grose, Planning and Assessment Coordinator (Penrith office) on 8838 7505 or at janne.grose@water.nsw.gov.au.

Agriculture NSW, Fisheries NSW and Crown Lands advise no issues.

Yours sincerely

Kristian Holz
Policy, Legislation and Innovation

Attachment A

Horsley Park Meter Station Upgrade Project (SSI_6681)
Response to exhibition of EIS
Comments by NSW Office of Water

Eastern Creek and riparian corridor

The EIS notes the site falls within the area covered by *State Environmental Planning Policy (Western Sydney Parklands) 2009* (Section 4.1.3, page 23). It is noted the SEPP includes an aim to protect and enhance the natural systems of the Western Parklands, including riparian corridors.

In determining a development application for development on land in the Western Parklands, the SEPP requires the consent authority to consider any plan of management for the parklands. It is suggested the proponent gives consideration to the *Western Sydney Parklands Plan of Management 2020* (Plan of Management) in relation to the riparian corridor/bushland corridor that is to be established and rehabilitated west of the site.

The Plan of Management includes an objective to secure a bushland corridor along the entire length of the parklands to improve biodiversity. Based on Figure 3 in the Plan of Management much of the length of this corridor is to be provided along Eastern Creek. A long term land use target in the Plan of Management is to increase the area of the corridor.

Figure 7.2 in the EIS shows there is currently a vegetated riparian corridor along Eastern Creek which includes remnant Alluvial Woodland and Shale Plains Woodland. The width of the corridor along the right bank of the creek near the site appears to be currently approximately 27-28 m wide. According to the Plan of Management, the site is located within Precinct 9 (Horsley Park) and Precinct 9 appears to show that the proposed bushland corridor will extend beyond the existing remnant vegetation (ie the corridor will be located closer to the Horsley Park meter station site boundary).

Appendix B of the EIS indicates Eastern Creek is located about 70m to the west of the existing facility boundary (Table 4.4, page 8). Based on Figure 7.3 in the EIS there currently appears to be about a 36m wide setback between remnant riparian vegetation and the site boundary. It is suggested the proponent provides details, including a scaled plan on:

- the footprint of the proposed bushland corridor as identified in the Plan of Management in relation to the site boundary
- the minimum setback distances between the site and the proposed bushland corridor
- asset protection zone requirements for the site and whether there is an issue in relation to APZ requirements and the future rehabilitation and revegetation of the corridor. If so, it is recommended mitigation measures are provided to address this.

The EIS notes all runoff from the site would enter a ponded depression and swampy area to the north of the site which is subject to poor water quality before it drains to Eastern Creek (see Sections 7.1.2 - 7.2.2, pages 39 - 42). It indicates that because Eastern Creek is ephemeral in the vicinity of the site, sedimentation and water quality impacts in aquatic ecosystems down gradient from the construction works is very limited. While the creek is ephemeral near the site, it is important adequate mitigation measures are in place prior to work commencing and they are maintained until the construction earthworks are stabilised to ensure the project does not degrade water quality in the downstream receiving environment off site.

It is suggested the Mitigation Measure B5 in the EIS (Table 9-1, page 87) is amended to ensure appropriate sediment filtration devices are installed prior to works commencing at the site and these devices are regularly inspected and maintained until the site is stabilised.

Groundwater

The EIS indicates the proposal includes minor excavations for concrete pads, underground conduits, services and pipework (Section 3.4.1, page 19) and earthworks are required to create trenches for belowground pipework, service and telemetry conduits (page 21). It notes the existing level bench

would be expanded to accommodate the new pipework and requires excavation to a depth of around 0.5 m (Section 7.2.2, page 42). Should the project modify the extent/depth of excavation, the Office of Water requests it is consulted to assess potential impacts on groundwater.

End Attachment A