Sydney WATER

Preliminary Environmental Assessment

Sewage Pumping Station SP1146

Booth St, Balmain

March 2011

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1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose of this report

This Preliminary Environmental Assessment has been prepared to accompany Sydney Water's Major Project Application for the provision of a new wastewater pumping station and associated infrastructure in Balmain (the Proposal). The proposed pumping station is to be located on land currently owned by Sydney Ports Corporation near Booth Street, Balmain.

The document includes the following information relevant to the Proposal:

- background of the Proposal
- planning approval provisions
- description of the Proposal components
- identification of environmental issues associated with the Proposal
- description of the assessment approach
- proposed scope of environmental assessment for the Proposal.

1.2 Proponent

Sydney Water is the proponent of the Proposal. Sydney Water is a statutory State owned corporation wholly owned by the New South Wales Government.

1.3 Proposal overview

Sydney Water's Proposal involves the provision of new wastewater infrastructure in Balmain, part of the Leichhardt Municipal Council local government area. Key elements of the Proposal include a wastewater pumping station, a gravity main pipeline and a pressure main pipeline.

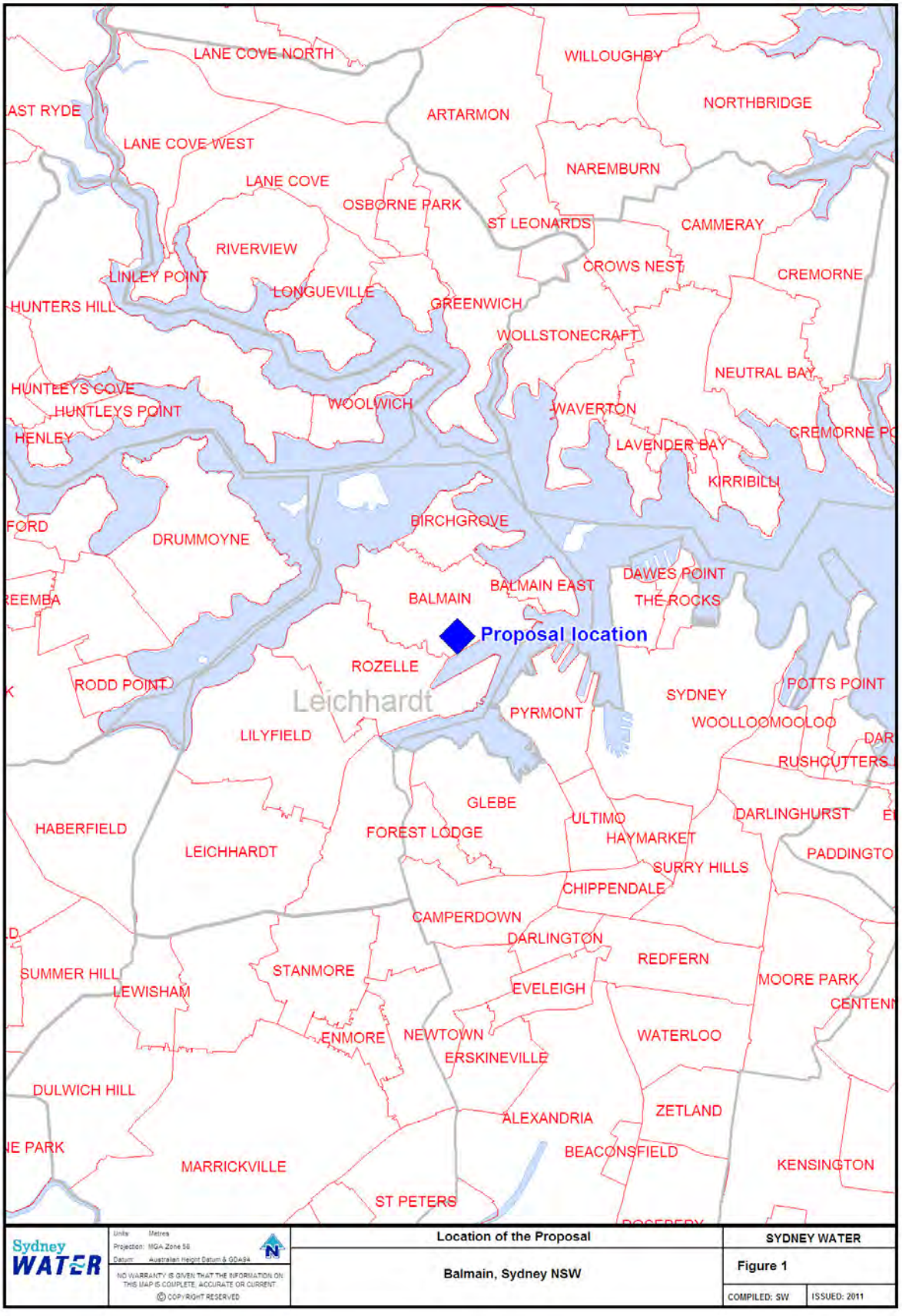
Figure 1 shows the location of the Proposal in relation to Sydney suburbs. Indicative location of the Proposal's key elements is shown in Figure 3.

1.4 Proposal objectives

The Proposal objectives are:

- protecting public health
- protecting catchment and river health
- providing affordable and efficient wastewater services
- providing resource and energy efficient wastewater services
- meeting Sydney Water's statutory and regulatory obligations.

Figure 1 Location of the Proposal



2 Planning and legislative framework

2.1 Planning approval

On 23 December 2010, the Director as delegate for the Minister for Planning formed the opinion under clause 6 of the State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) (Major Development) 2005 that the development is of a kind that is described in Schedule 2 of this SEPP (see Appendix 1). The project is therefore subject to determination by the Minister for Planning under Part 3A of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act).

Under Part 3A, Sydney Water is seeking Project Approval for the Proposal.

As the Proposal is defined as 'linear infrastructure', landowner notification requirements under section 8F(3)(a) of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000* apply. In addition, Sydney Water will undertake consultation in accordance with the community and stakeholder relations strategy for this project.

2.2 Environmental planning instruments

Under section 75R(3) of the EP&A Act, environmental planning instruments (other than SEPPs) do not apply to the Proposal. However, under sections 75J(3) and 75O(3), the Minister may take into account provisions of environmental planning instruments that would otherwise apply.

Accordingly, relevant State environmental planning policies (SEPPs), regional environmental plans (REPs) and local environmental plans (LEPs) are addressed in Sections 2.2.1 to 2.2.3 below. Sydney Water would further address the relevance of these instruments in the Environmental Assessment (EA) documentation if required by the Department of Planning.

2.2.1 State environmental planning policies

State Environmental Planning Policy (Major Development) 2005

The Major Development SEPP provides one method to identify development to which Part 3A of the EP&A Act applies. Schedules of the policy list various sites and types of development for which approval under Part 3A is required.

The project is located on land including 'Port and Related Employment Lands' as described in Schedule 2 of the Major Development SEPP and is estimated to have a capital investment value of more than $5 million.

This policy applies to the Proposal in that it describes why the Proposal is subject to Part 3A.

State Environmental Planning Policy (Infrastructure) 2007

Clause 106 of the Infrastructure SEPP identifies this project as development for the purpose of a sewerage system, which is permitted without consent. However Part 1 Clause 8(2) of the Infrastructure SEPP identifies that the Major Development SEPP overrides it. Subsequently the Major Development SEPP describes why the Proposal is subject to Part 3A of the EP&A Act (see discussion above).

Miscellaneous activities will also be required for (but are excluded from) the Proposal (see Section 3.2). Clause 106 and the exempt development provisions of clause 107 of the Infrastructure SEPP will be applied to these miscellaneous activities as appropriate.

2.2.2 Deemed State environmental planning policies: Regional environmental plans

Sydney Regional Environmental Plan (Sydney Harbour Catchment) 2005

The aims of this plan include ensuring that the catchment, foreshores, waterways and islands of Sydney Harbour are recognised, protected, enhanced and maintained. The plan also adopts principles to enable its aims to be achieved in relation to the 'Foreshores and Waterways Area'. Components of the Proposal are located within land subject to this plan, including the 'Foreshores and Waterways Area'.

Sydney Regional Environmental Plan No 26—City West

This plan aims to establish planning principles, development controls and to promote the orderly and economic use and development of land within an area described as 'City West'. Components of the Proposal are located within land subject to this plan, including land zoned 'Port and Employment Zone'.

2.2.3 Local Environmental Plans

The local environmental plan potentially relevant to the Proposal is the:

- Leichhardt Local Environmental Plan 2000.

2.3 Other NSW environmental legislation

The key NSW environmental legislation applicable to the Proposal is discussed in Section 2.3.1 to 2.3.5 below.

2.3.1 Heritage Act 1977

The *Heritage Act 1977* (Heritage Act) provides for the conservation of NSW natural and built heritage, including through the establishment of a State Heritage Register. Under the Heritage Act, certain works on relics (section 139) or items on the State Heritage Register (Part 4) require a permit from the Heritage Council. However, such permits are not required for projects approved under Part 3A of the EP&A Act.

Therefore the Proposal is not expected to trigger any requirements under the Heritage Act and is not expected to involve activities that would (but for Part 3A) require a permit.

2.3.2 National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974

The *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NPW Act) provides for the protection, preservation and management of Aboriginal relics in NSW. Under the NPW Act, a permit may be issued in relation to an Aboriginal object or place, land, activity or person (section 90). However, such permits are not required for projects approved under Part 3A of the EP&A Act.

Therefore the Proposal is not expected to trigger any requirements under the NPW Act and is not expected to involve activities that would (but for Part 3A) require a permit.

2.3.3 Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997

The *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* (POEO Act) regulates pollution and includes provisions for issuing environment protection licences. Under Part 3A of the EP&A Act, an environment protection licence can not be refused if it is necessary for carrying out an approved project and must be substantially consistent with the approval under Part 3A.

The provisions of the POEO Act for regulating pollution apply to the Proposal. The Proposal is not expected to require a new environment protection licence under the POEO Act. It will be part of the licensed Bondi Sewage Treatment System.

2.3.4 Sydney Water Act 1994

The *Sydney Water Act 1994* (SW Act) constitutes Sydney Water Corporation and prescribes it as a statutory state owned corporation under the *State Owned Corporations Act 1989*. The SW Act details various aspects of the Sydney Water Corporation including its principal objectives to:

- be a successful business
- protect the environment
- protect public health.

The objectives of the Proposal (as described in Section 1.4) are consistent with these objectives in the SW Act.

2.3.5 Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995

The *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* (TSC Act) provides for the protection of critical habitat and threatened species, populations, ecological communities and their habitats in NSW (with the exception of fish and marine plants).

It is an offence to damage critical habitat and/or cause harm to a threatened species, population or endangered ecological community, except if the action constituting the offence was:

- authorised by a licence issued under the TSC Act or NPW Act.
- essential for the carrying out of a project approved under Part 3A of the EP&A Act.

Therefore the Proposal is not expected to trigger any requirements under the TSC Act and is not expected to involve activities that would (but for Part 3A) require a permit.

2.4 Commonwealth legislation

The key Commonwealth legislation applicable to the Proposal is the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). Under the EPBC Act, approval is required from the Commonwealth Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities for any action likely to have a significant impact on a matter of national environmental significance. Matters of national environmental significance are:

- World Heritage properties
- National Heritage places
- wetlands of international importance
- listed threatened species and ecological communities
- migratory species protected under international agreements
- Commonwealth marine areas
- nuclear actions.

Commonwealth land is also protected under the EPBC Act.

Based on preliminary investigations it is not expected that any matters of national environmental significance or Commonwealth land would impacted by the Proposal. Therefore the Proposal is not expected to trigger any requirements under the EPBC Act and will not be referred to the Commonwealth Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities for a determination about whether it is a controlled action.

3 Proposal description

3.1 Proposal components

In general, the Proposal comprises the construction, operation and maintenance of wastewater infrastructure in Balmain, including:

- pipelines
- a pumping station.

The proposed pumping station (SP1146) is to be located off Booth Street, Balmain. It will replace an existing pumping station (SP0008) located at the eastern end of Reynolds Street, Balmain.

Figure 3 shows the proposed indicative location of the key elements of the Proposal (note: drawing components of Figure 3 are approximate and not to scale).

Pipelines

The Proposal includes pipelines for wastewater transfer, including an approximately 250m gravity main pipeline from SP008 to SP1146 and approximately 340m pressure main pipeline along Palmer Street, Balmain. These wastewater transfer pipes will generally be installed below ground but may include some surface facilities such as access maintenance holes.

Pumping station

The Proposal includes a new wastewater pumping station located on a site of approximately 300 square metres. The majority of the pumping station components would be below ground apart from structures such as access holes, a vent shaft and a control kiosk. Figure 2 shows a typical pumping station, but should be considered indicative only as it does not represent the exact size or design of the pumping station for this Proposal. These details will be determined at the final design phase of the Proposal.

3.2 Activities excluded from the Proposal

Pre-construction activities to help define the Proposal, and subject to the exempt development provisions of the Infrastructure SEPP, are not part of the Proposal. This includes, for example, additional route and location feasibility studies, geotechnical and contamination surveys, identification of the locations of existing underground services, condition surveys and other minor surveys and tasks required to optimise and finalise alignments, design and constructability.

In addition, activities involved in decommissioning and preservation of the existing pumping station (SP0008) are not part of the Proposal.

Figure 2 Typical pumping station and associated kiosk

3.3 Description of land

A description of the land to be developed by the Proposal (identified by Lot, DP/SP numbers) is shown in Figure 3. Land affected is in public and private ownership. Figure 4 shows the Proposal in relation to an aerial photo of the surrounding environment (note: drawing components of Figure 4 are approximate and not to scale).

Figure 3 Proposal components and land proposed to be developed

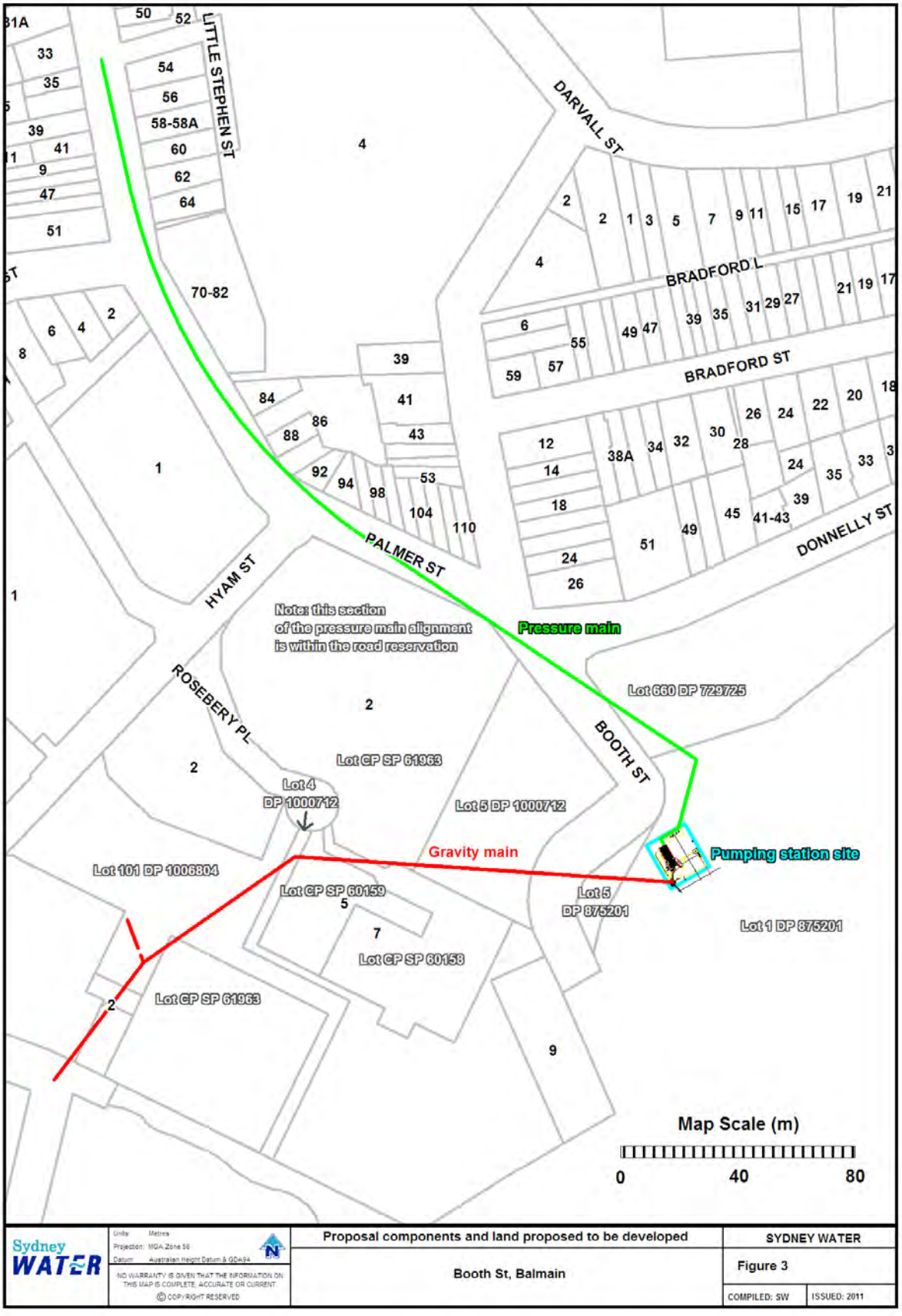


Figure 4 Proposal components in relation to the surrounding environment

4 Proposal phases

4.1 Proposal Staging

Construction of the Proposal is expected to occur between late 2011 and mid/late 2013.

4.2 Pre-construction activities

Pre-construction activities are described in Section 3.2.

4.3 Construction phase

4.3.1 Pipelines

Pipelines will generally be located underground in road reserves, public open space (parkland) and private land.

The main construction technique proposed for the pipelines is trenchless technology. An advantage of this technique is that it typically does not require excavation along the pipeline route other than launch and receiving pits at each end. Minimal use of open trenching will also occur as required and should have a construction footprint width of less than one metre. Laydown areas will also be required. The pipes will generally be around 250 millimetres in diameter for the pressure main and 300 millimetres in diameter for the gravity main.

4.3.2 Pumping station

It is proposed the pumping station be located on land currently owned by Sydney Ports Corporation near Booth Street, Balmain. Its construction will involve the following key activities:

- site preparation and excavation
- construction of a wet well and a valve chamber, etc
- ancillary construction works such as a driveway, fencing, etc
- commissioning in accordance with standard commissioning procedures
- landscaping and restoration.

Typical construction equipment may include: excavators, compactors, rock breakers, saw cutters, welding equipment, delivery and concrete trucks, powered hand tools, generators, directional drilling rigs and cranes.

4.4 Operation phase

All infrastructure will be routinely inspected, maintained and repaired as necessary. The pumping station will be controlled remotely using an integrated instrumentation, control, automation and telemetry system. The pumping station will have built in redundancies to minimise the risk of discharges to the environment in the event of operational problems. The pumping station will be maintained in accordance with standard Sydney Water work instructions and specifications for wastewater assets. Maintenance of the pumping station site may include, but not be limited to, testing of electrical equipment, inspection of mechanical components and vegetation management.

5 Assessment approach

5.1 Identification of key environmental assessment issues

Sydney Water has analysed the Proposal and identified the key environmental assessment (EA) issues. The assessment issues have been identified and separated into two categories as shown in Table 1. Consideration was given to both the construction and operation phases of the Proposal.

Table 1 Assessment issues

Category	Assessment level	Issue
Construction Phase		
1 – Key assessment issues	Issues with some level of uncertainty about outcomes. Further analysis is required to determine the extent of impact and appropriate management measures.	• Non- Aboriginal heritage • Noise and vibration • Topography, geology and soils • Water quality and Hydrology
2 – Other issues requiring limited analysis	Issues with highly predictable impacts and which are easily and reliably managed within acceptable levels. These issues will not need a full analysis but may involve limited analysis to select relevant standard management measures.	• Flora and Fauna • Aboriginal heritage • Waste • Hazardous materials • Visual amenity • Air quality • Traffic and access • Land use and services • Greenhouse and climate change
Operation Phase		
1 – Key assessment issues	Issues with some level of uncertainty about outcomes. Further analysis is required to determine the extent of impact and appropriate management measures.	• None

2 – Other issues requiring limited analysis	Issues with highly predictable impacts and which are easily and reliably managed within acceptable levels.
	These issues will not need a full analysis but may involve limited analysis to select relevant standard management measures.
		• Operational impacts:
		  • Noise, vibration and air quality
		  • Water quality and Hydrology
		  • Visual amenity
		  • Land use and services
		  • Greenhouse and climate change
		  • Other impacts

5.2 Level of assessment

The different levels of assessment proposed in the EA are summarised in Table 2 below.

Table 2 Assessment approach for environmental issues

Issue category	Project level assessment scope
1	Desktop and field assessment (with added focus on areas of high sensitivity) to determine the extent of impact and identify specific management measures.
2	Desktop assessment and field inspection (if considered necessary based on desktop assessment findings) to identify specific management measures.

6 Preliminary environmental assessment of key issues

This section summarises the existing environment, potential impacts of the Proposal and proposed assessment scope in relation to key assessment issues. In the context of this Proposal, the following four items have been identified as key assessment issues. Sections 6 and 7 use the term 'assessment area' which includes areas potentially affected by the Proposal.

6.1 Non-Aboriginal heritage

6.1.1 Existing environment

The non-Aboriginal heritage value of the assessment area is largely related to properties associated with the early housing development in Balmain. There are listings on the local heritage register within the assessment area and the Proposal is also located in a conservation area (Leichhardt LEP 2000). There are no state, national or World Heritage listed sites in the assessment area.

6.1.2 Preliminary assessment

The Proposal is unlikely to directly disturb any non-Aboriginal heritage items as the majority of infrastructure will be located underground in relatively disturbed areas of minimal heritage significance. Vibration generated by construction machinery may result in impacts to heritage buildings and structures if those items are located in close proximity to work sites.

Given non-Aboriginal heritage items in the assessment area can potentially be avoided in most cases, Sydney Water considers it unlikely the Proposal will have a significant impact on non-Aboriginal heritage.

6.1.3 Scope of assessment in EA

Sydney Water will undertake a non-Aboriginal heritage assessment as part of the EA to identify potential impacts and management measures to minimise them. This will include:

- characterisation of non-Aboriginal heritage in the assessment area
- assessment of the Proposal's potential to impact on non-Aboriginal heritage items during construction and operation. It is anticipated this would be a desktop assessment with field investigations as required
- dilapidation surveys where appropriate.

6.2 Noise and vibration

6.2.1 Existing environment

The assessment area is dominated by residential suburban noise, intermittent traffic noise from local roads and industrial noise from the port and harbour. Noise receivers that may potentially be affected include residential areas and commercial premises.

6.2.2 Preliminary assessment

Construction will contribute to the local noise environment mainly through vehicles transporting personnel and materials to and around the construction sites and operation of construction equipment, including excavators, cranes, drilling rigs and generators. Vibration has the potential to impact on residents and buildings in close proximity to construction work involving rock breakers, compactors and other similar equipment.

Due to the progressive nature of pipeline construction, adjacent sensitive receivers will only be affected for short durations. Construction activities at the pumping station would be of longer duration in the one location and impacts would depend on the proximity of sensitive receivers.

Given that standard management measures can be implemented to minimise noise impacts, Sydney Water considers it unlikely that the Proposal will have a significant impact on the noise environment.

6.2.3 Scope of assessment in EA

Sydney Water will commence a noise and vibration assessment as part of the EA to identify potential impacts and management measures to minimise them. This will include:

- characterisation of the ambient noise and vibration environment
- consideration of the Proposal's potential noise and vibration impacts during construction
- noise and vibration monitoring during the construction phase.

6.3 Topography, geology and soils

6.3.1 Existing environment

The assessment area includes land previously and currently used for residential, commercial and industrial uses. Disturbed terrain (identified in the former Department of Natural Resources risk mapping for acid sulfate soils) and Hawkesbury sandstone underlie the majority of the assessment area. The Gymea and Hawkesbury soil landscapes are expected in the proposal area, along with artificial fill (as identified in the former Department of Land and Water Conservation soil landscapes mapping).

6.3.2 Preliminary assessment

There is potential for construction work to disturb acid sulfate soils and contaminated soils. Construction activities will also result in the exposure of soils leading to potential for erosion and sedimentation during rainfall events.

Standard management measures can be implemented to minimise erosion and sedimentation. Potential acid sulfate soil and impacts from contaminated soil can be managed with site specific measures. Sydney Water considers it unlikely that the Proposal will have a significant impact on these aspects.

6.3.3 Scope of assessment in EA

Sydney Water will undertake further assessment as part of the EA to identify potential impacts and management measures to minimise them. This will include:

- characterisation of the existing topography, geology and soils in the assessment area
- consideration of soil erosion and sedimentation issues
- an acid sulfate soils and contamination assessment.

6.4 Water quality and Hydrology

6.4.1 Existing environment

The Proposal falls in the Sydney Harbour catchment. Water quality in the area is highly degraded and is currently impacted by various sources including urban stormwater runoff. There is potential for contaminated groundwater in the assessment area, particularly from previous industrial land uses.

6.4.2 Preliminary assessment

Construction of the proposal has the potential to impact on water quality and hydrology as a result of:

- increased erosion and sedimentation from cleared construction work areas
- discharge of contaminated or dirty water from construction sites.

Potentially contaminated groundwater may be disturbed in some areas.

Standard management measures can be implemented to minimise water quality and hydrology impacts. Impacts from potentially contaminated groundwater can be managed with site specific measures. Sydney Water considers it unlikely that the Proposal will have a significant impact on water quality and hydrology.

6.4.3 Scope of assessment in EA

Sydney Water will identify potential water quality and hydrology impacts from construction of the Proposal and develop management measures to minimise them. Sydney Water will also undertake a groundwater contamination assessment as part of the EA.

7 Preliminary environmental assessment of other issues

This section summarises the existing environment, other potential impacts of the Proposal and proposed assessment scope in relation to issues other than key assessment issues.

7.1 Flora and Fauna

7.1.1 Existing environment

The assessment area sits within the Sydney basin bioregion (DECCW 2008). The native vegetation in the assessment area is extensively cleared and highly fragmented due to the highly urbanised landscape.

Flora

No endangered ecological communities under the TSC Act and EPBC Act are mapped or likely to occur in the assessment area.

Searches of the following databases were undertaken to identify recordings of plant species of conservation significance within the assessment area:

- Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities Database of Species of National Environmental Significance
- Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (DECCW) Atlas of New South Wales Wildlife

According to this data, a small number of threatened flora species have the potential to occur within the assessment area. Weed infestation is also present in the assessment area.

Fauna

The data sources noted above and information from Leichhardt Municipal Council (2010) identified a small number of threatened fauna potentially occurring in the assessment area. Introduced animals are also expected in the assessment area.

7.1.2 Preliminary assessment

Flora and fauna

Given the nature of the Proposal and its location, Sydney Water considers that it is highly unlikely to have a significant impact on flora and fauna. A small area of vegetation clearance is expected to be required as part of the Proposal.

7.1.3 Scope of assessment in EA

Sydney Water will undertake further assessment as part of the EA to identify potential impacts and management measures to minimise them. This will include:

- a field inspection and desktop analysis of the ecological values of the assessment area.

7.2 Aboriginal heritage

7.2.1 Existing environment

No Aboriginal heritage sites have been recorded in the assessment area.

7.2.2 Preliminary assessment

The Proposal is not expected to impact either directly or indirectly on known Aboriginal heritage sites.

It is considered highly unlikely that sites of Aboriginal heritage value would be encountered during the construction of the Proposal due to the highly disturbed and modified landscape in the assessment area.

Sydney Water considers that the Proposal is highly unlikely to have a significant impact on Aboriginal heritage.

7.2.3 Scope of assessment in EA

Sydney Water will undertake further assessment as part of the EA to identify potential impacts and management measures to minimise them. This will include:

- a desktop analysis of the Aboriginal heritage values of the assessment area.

7.3 Odour

7.3.1 Existing environment

Odours in the assessment area are typical of those encountered in a residential environment.

7.3.2 Preliminary assessment

While parts of the Proposal are located in residential areas, construction activities associated with the Proposal are not expected to generate significant odours. Sydney Water considers that the Proposal is highly unlikely to have a significant impact on the odour environment.

7.3.3 Scope of assessment in EA

Sydney Water will undertake further assessment as part of the EA to identify potential impacts and management measures to minimise them.

7.4 Visual amenity

7.4.1 Existing environment

The topography of the assessment area is generally flat at the proposed pumping station site with a gentle westward slope along the pressure main route in Palmer Street and parts of the gravity main route. White Bay and the distant city skyline are dominant visual features to the east.

7.4.2 Preliminary assessment

While parts of the Proposal are located in residential areas, impacts on visual amenity during construction will be on a small scale and temporary. Sydney Water considers it highly unlikely that the Proposal will have a significant impact on the visual environment.

7.4.3 Scope of assessment in EA

Sydney Water will undertake further assessment as part of the EA, to identify potential impacts and management measures to minimise them.

7.5 Land use and services

7.5.1 Existing environment

The assessment area consists of residential, public open space (parkland), industrial (ports) and commercial uses.

7.5.2 Preliminary assessment

During construction, small areas of road reserves, public open space and private land will be temporarily cordoned off. Construction activities can generally avoid existing services. Sydney Water considers it highly unlikely that the Proposal will have a significant impact on land use or services.

7.5.3 Scope of assessment in EA

Sydney Water will undertake further assessment as part of the EA, to identify potential impacts and management measures to minimise them.

7.6 Traffic and transport

7.6.1 Existing environment

The road networks in the assessment area reflect the predominantly residential land use, with a low-density road network.

7.6.2 Preliminary assessment

Construction of infrastructure has the potential to cause localised traffic delays and diversions. This is due to additional vehicle movements to and from the construction sites, short-term closure of sections of road to allow the safe installation of pipelines within existing road easements, and restricted or modified access to adjacent properties.

Given that standard management measures can be implemented to minimise traffic and transport impacts, Sydney Water considers it highly unlikely that the Proposal will have a significant impact on traffic and transport.

7.6.3 Scope of assessment in EA

Sydney Water will identify roads potentially impacted by the Proposal and identify management measures to minimise them. This will include:

- determination of where a traffic management plan may be suitable for implementation during the construction phase.

7.7 Waste

7.7.1 Existing environment

Sydney Water generates a range of waste and has measures in place to minimise the amount of waste that is disposed.

7.7.2 Preliminary assessment

During construction, waste would include excess soil, vegetation waste, construction waste, wastewater from dewatering of excavations and waste drilling fluid.

Given that standard management measures can be implemented to minimise waste, Sydney Water considers it highly unlikely that the Proposal's waste impacts would be significant.

7.7.3 Scope of assessment in EA

Sydney Water will identify waste streams likely to be generated during construction of the Proposal and management measures to minimise potential impacts.

7.8 Greenhouse and climate change

7.8.1 Existing environment

Sydney Water has a range of measures in place to minimise impacts of its energy use including reducing demand, energy efficiency, renewable energy and offsets.

Sydney Water has assessed the risks of climate change on its operations and infrastructure.

7.8.2 Preliminary assessment

Direct sources of greenhouse gas emissions from the construction phase of the Proposal include fuel combustion (from transport and machinery). The main indirect source of greenhouse gas emissions is electricity consumption.

Standard management measures can be implemented to minimise greenhouse gas emissions. Given the small scale and nature of the Proposal, Sydney Water considers it highly unlikely that construction of the Proposal will have a significant impact on the greenhouse effect. In addition, climate change is not expected to present a risk to the Proposal during construction.

7.8.3 Scope of assessment in EA

Sydney Water will undertake further assessment as part of the EA, to identify potential impacts and management measures to minimise them.

7.9 Operational impacts

7.9.1 Preliminary assessment

Noise, vibration and air quality

Operational noise, vibration and odour will be attenuated by appropriate noise, vibration and odour control and design measures.

Water quality and Hydrology

Potential water quality and hydrology impacts during operation include wastewater overflows into the local stormwater system in the highly unlikely event of pumping station failure. Ongoing maintenance, onsite storage and an alarm system will minimise the potential for overflows.

Visual amenity

Pipelines will have an insignificant ongoing visual impact, given that they will be located underground. Some surface components associated with the pipelines will be visible, such as access maintenance holes. The pumping station will occupy an existing cutting in the hillside and is not expected to block views of the White Bay waterway. Major components of the pumping station will be located underground, minimising potential for ongoing visual impact.

Land use and services

The pumping station site would create a permanent change in land use from its existing industrial (ports) use to utility infrastructure use, however it only requires a relatively small footprint of land.

Greenhouse and climate change

Greenhouse gas emissions during the operational phase will be on a very small scale compared to global greenhouse gas emissions. Climate change risks during operation will be considered during the Proposal's design phase.

Other impacts

Operational impacts related to other environmental issues are likely to be minimal and largely associated with accessing the wastewater infrastructure and routine maintenance activities such as maintenance vehicle movements.

Summary

Sydney Water considers it highly unlikely that the Proposal would have any significant operational impacts.

7.9.2 Scope of assessment in EA

Sydney Water will undertake further assessment as part of the EA to identify potential impacts and management measures to minimise them.

7.10 Ecologically sustainable development

7.10.1 Existing environment

Sydney Water's Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) Policy states that Sydney Water will ensure its corporate direction is consistent with the Australian Government's goal for ESD and will apply the four principles of ESD:

- precautionary principle
- intergenerational equity
- conservation of biological diversity and ecological integrity
- improved valuation, pricing and incentive mechanisms.

7.10.2 Preliminary assessment

The objectives of the Proposal as listed in Section 1.4 are consistent with ESD principles.

7.10.3 Scope of assessment in EA

A more detailed consideration of the consistency of the Proposal with ESD principles will be included in the EA.

8 Stakeholder and community consultation

Sydney Water will develop and implement a community and stakeholder relations strategy, which will include a range of activities aiming to keep key stakeholders involved and informed throughout the Proposal.

Key stakeholders fall into two main groups including government and community stakeholders, as detailed in Sections 8.1 and 8.2 below.

8.1 Government stakeholders

Sydney Water intends consulting with key government stakeholders prior to and during the environmental assessment process for the Proposal. These include but are not limited to:

- Department of Planning
- Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water
- Leichhardt Municipal Council
- Sydney Ports Corporation
- Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority
- State Government Member of Parliament (electorate of Balmain).

8.2 Community stakeholders

As an integral part of the environmental assessment process, Sydney Water will develop a community and stakeholder relations strategy to inform the broader community about the Proposal and about the environmental assessment process through meetings, newsletters, advertisements and letters.

Once the major project application is lodged and the EA is finalised, the Department of Planning will invite the public to make submissions on the Proposal. As with other key stakeholder groups, community issues and concerns will be identified in a Preferred Project Report following the public display of the EA.

8.3 Consultation undertaken to date

Sydney Water has begun discussions with the Department of Planning and Sydney Ports Corporation regarding the Proposal.

9 Conclusion

This document describes Sydney Water's Proposal for the provision of a new wastewater pumping station and associated infrastructure in Balmain.

Based on Sydney Water's preliminary assessment of environmental issues, Sydney Water considers the Proposal is not likely to have a significant effect on the environment.

In view of the assessment undertaken to date, the key issues for environmental assessment are considered to be:

- Non- Aboriginal heritage
- Noise and vibration
- Topography, geology and soils
- Water quality and Hydrology.

As outlined in Section 7, other issues may require further analysis to determine the extent of impact and appropriate management measures or are highly predictable impacts which can be easily and reliably managed within acceptable levels.

Sydney Water will consult with key stakeholders prior to submitting the Environmental Assessment for approval to carry out the Proposal.

10 References

Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water, *Sydney Basin Bioregion*, 2008, viewed 2/3/2011, <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/bioregions/SydneyBasinBioregion.htm>

Leichhardt Local Environmental Plan 2000

Leichhardt Council, *Leichhardt State of the Environment Report 2009-2010*, 2010, viewed 2/3/2011, <www.leichhardt.nsw.gov.au/State-of-the-Environment-Report-SOE.html>

Appendix 1 Opinion letter

NSW GOVERNMENT | Planning

Contact: Belinda Scott
Phone: (02) 9228 6472
Fax: (02) 9228 6455
Email: Belinda.Scott@planning.nsw.gov.au

Our ref.: 10_0238

Ben Sharpe
Environmental Officer
Environmental Planning and Management
Sydney Water
PO Box 399
Parramatta NSW 2124

Dear Mr Sharpe

Subject: Balmain SP1146 Project

I refer to your correspondence dated 22 November 2010 seeking confirmation that the above proposal is a project to which Part 3A of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (the Act) applies.

On 23 December 2010, the Director as delegate for the Minister, formed the opinion under clause 6 of the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Major Development) 2005* (the Major Development SEPP) that the above proposal is development of a kind that is described in Schedule 2 of the Major Development SEPP. The project is therefore subject to determination by the Minister for Planning under Part 3A of the Act.

Section 75E of the Act requires you to lodge an application for your project with the Director-General. The application must include a completed application form (available at http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/assessingdev/pdf/part3a_applicationform.pdf) and a Preliminary Environmental Assessment. Please include both hard and electronic[1] copies of each of these documents.

The Major Project Application Number for this project is MP 10_0238. Please use this number in all correspondence with the Department. Your contact officer for this proposal, Belinda Scott, can be contacted on (02) 9228 6472 or via email at Belinda.Scott@planning.nsw.gov.au. Please mark all correspondence regarding the proposal to the attention of the contact officer.

Yours sincerely,

23/12/10

Daniel Keary
Director Infrastructure Projects

[1] File parts must be no greater than 5Mb each. File parts should be logically named and divided.

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