



Office of Water

Metropolitan and Regional Projects South
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Attention: Amy Watson

c: Janne Grose
t: 02 4729 8262
f: 02 4729 8141
e: Janne.Grose@water.nsw.gov.au

Our ref : ER21330
Your ref: MP10_0155

Dear Ms Watson

MP10_0155 – Concept Plan Application – Mixed Use Development of the former Allied Mills Site, 2-32 Smith Street, Summer Hill – Environmental Assessment

I refer to your letter of 27 June 2011 seeking comment from the NSW Office of Water (Office of Water) on the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the above project proposal. I apologise for the delay in responding.

The Office of Water's comments on the EA are provided in **Attachment A**. The Office of Water's issues are in relation to:

- Groundwater; and
- Protection and enhancement of riparian land along the section of Hawthorne Canal that is not capped on the project site.

Contact Details

Should you have any queries in relation to this matter please contact Janne Grose on telephone (02) 4729 8262.

Yours sincerely

Mark Mignanelli
Manager Major Projects, Mines and Assessment
24 November 2011

NSW Office of Water Comments

Concept Plan Application – Mixed Use Development of the former Allied Mills Site, 2-32 Smith Street, Summer Hill

The NSW Office of Water (Office of Water) provides the following comments in relation to the Environmental Assessment (EA).

Groundwater

In Section 2.9 of the EA, it is asserted that no groundwater pump out is required based on the depths at which groundwater was located and the proposed depths of the basement excavation (page 14 of 75). The Executive Summary in the Geotechnical Assessment report (Attachment 7, page 4 of 26) indicates that all basements associated with the project are not proposed to be excavated more than 3 metres. The Geotechnical Assessment states in Section 6.3 that no excavations are planned to extend below the depth of groundwater (5 m) but it would appear the project is proposing to excavate into the groundwater, as the second paragraph on page 10 of 26 refers to depths of perched water at between 2-2.25 m and all basement excavations are above 3m. Clarification is required as to whether the project is excavating into the groundwater as this has regulatory licensing implications.

If the project is likely to intercept or use groundwater a licence under relevant NSW water legislation is required in relation to this development. All proposed groundwater works including bores for the purpose of investigation, extraction, dewatering, testing or monitoring must be identified and approval obtained from Office of Water prior to their installation.

On 1 July 2011, the Water Sharing Plan (WSP) for *the Greater Metropolitan Region Groundwater Sources* which covers the project area commenced. Upon commencement of the Water Sharing Plan, the licensing provisions of the *Water Management Act 2000* (WMA 2000) also came into effect in the plan area.

Information on the WSP can be found at the following link:

http://www.water.nsw.gov.au/Water-management/Water-sharing-plans/plans_commenced/default.aspx

The site is located within the *Sydney Basin Central Management Zone*. Various rules apply to specific water sources and rule summary sheets are located at:

<http://www.water.nsw.gov.au/Water-management/Water-sharing-plans/Plans-commenced/Water-source/gmr-ground/default.aspx>

Under the WMA 2000, all works that intercept groundwater require an aquifer interference approval. As Aquifer Interference Approvals have not yet been 'switched on' under the WMA, monitoring bores are required to be processed under the *Water Act 1912*.

Hawthorne Canal

The Office of Water in its DGR submission recommended a vegetated riparian setback be provided either side of Hawthorne Canal on the site. Figure 5 in the EA shows the site is bisected by the Hawthorne Canal and that the site adjoins the Greenway corridor. Given the close proximity of the site to the Greenway corridor it is recommended the project enhances habitat for native fauna and is consistent with the corridor.

**End Attachment A
24 November 2011**