



Mr Darren Cleary
Executive Drought Lead
Hunter Water Corporation
PO Box 5171
HRMC NSW 2310

Our ref: SSI 8896

Dear Mr Cleary

**Amendment to State Significant Infrastructure Application
Belmont Drought Response Desalination Plant**

Thank you for your correspondence received 12 May 2020 and for meeting with the Department on 11 May 2020 to detail Hunter Water's intention to amend the application for the Belmont Drought Response Desalination Plant (the project) by doubling the capacity of the plant and altering the water intake infrastructure.

In accordance with clause 192 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000, the Planning Secretary, as delegate of the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, agrees to the amendment to the application. The Department has considered correspondence detailing the changes to the design and subsequent environmental impacts associated with the amended proposal and supports the additional studies proposed that would enable the environmental impacts of the proposed desalination plant to be considered and assessed by the Department.

The Department requests a Preferred Infrastructure Report be prepared that is to include the studies identified in correspondence dated 12 May 2020. Additionally, as discussed in the meetings of 11 February 2020 and 11 May 2020, revisions and/or updates to the findings of specialist studies undertaken within the EIS should also be provided to ensure the potential environmental impacts of the altered water intake infrastructure and the doubling of the capacity of the desalination plant are appropriately considered. In relation to the revisions and updates, the Department requests details regarding whether the technical reports will be wholly revised, or an addendum provided.

Furthermore, it continues to be a requirement for Hunter Water to respond to issues raised in all submissions received to date as previously requested. This should be presented within a Submissions Report accompanying the Preferred Infrastructure Report.

Prior to exhibiting the Preferred Infrastructure Report and Submissions Report, the Department will review the submitted documentation to determine if it addresses the Department's requirements. You will be required to submit an amended documentation if it does not adequately address these requirements.

If you have any questions, please contact Rebecca Sommer on (02) 9274 6184 or via email at Rebecca.Sommer@planning.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

20 May 2020

Karen Harragon
Director
Social and Infrastructure Assessments
as delegate for the Secretary