

Planning Secretary  
Department of Planning and Environment  
Locked Bag 5022  
Sydney NSW 2001

Attn: Nathan Heath, Alexandra Sands

19 January 2024

Dear Mr. Heath and Ms Sands,

**Upper South Creek Advanced Water Recycling Centre (AWRC and Pipelines Project (CSSI 8609189): Provision of initial independent audit report and submission of response to audit findings in accordance with conditions A40 and A41**

I refer to the Upper South Creek AWRC and pipelines project approved on the 28 November 2022.

In accordance, with conditions A40 and A41 of the Conditions of Approval, attached is the initial independent environmental audit report (extension granted on 21 December 2023 for submission of report due to due date falling within the Christmas shutdown period). The audit was undertaken on 6th and 7th November 2023 as per the *Independent Audit Post Approval Requirements* (DPIE, 2020) by Richard Peterson of Trigalana Environmental, who was approved as the project auditor by DPE on 21 July 2023.

The audit identified 2 minor/ administrative non-compliances, relating to:

- Provision of relevant information on the project website not including all required documents listed under the approval
- Use of recently gazetted, but unapproved local road (this had been self-reported by SWC/ JH prior to the audit on 26/10/23 (Refer to SSI-8609189-PA-58)).

Two recommendations were also identified.

As per condition A40, a response to these audit findings is attached in Table 1. A copy of the initial audit report and response to the audit findings will be made publicly available on the project's website (<https://www.sydneywatertalk.com.au/uppersouthcreek>) by the end of January 2024.

Should you have any queries in relation to this submission, please contact me on 0456 666 573 or [Cheryl.Cahill@sydneywater.com.au](mailto:Cheryl.Cahill@sydneywater.com.au).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark blue ink, appearing to read "Cheryl Cahill".

Cheryl Cahill

Environment Lead – Major Projects

***Upper South Creek Advanced Water Recycling Centre Project***  
**Sydney Water**

**Table 1: Response to Audit Findings – Following completion of Initial Audit undertaken 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

Condition Number	Compliance Requirement	Independent Audit Finding	Independent Audit Recommendation	Proponents Proposed Action	Proposed Due Date
<b>Non- Compliance</b>					
<b>B12</b>	A website or webpage providing information in relation to Stage 1 of the CSSI must be established before commencement of Work and be maintained for the duration of construction, and for a minimum of 24 months following the completion of construction of Stage 1 of the CSSI. The following up-to-date information (excluding confidential, private, commercial information or any other information that the Planning Secretary has approved to be excluded) must be published before the relevant Work commences and maintained on the website or dedicated pages including: .... (d) a copy of each statutory approval, licence or permit required and obtained in relation to Stage 1 of the CSSI;	<b>Non compliance (Minor/ Administrative)</b> The website includes most of the information as required by this condition, however, does not include the following: • Environment Protection Licence • Commonwealth Controlled Activity Approval (EPBC 2020/8816) • Staging Report	Update and maintain the website to ensure all relevant documents as required by the Approval are provided on the Project website.	Upload documents to project website. However, staging report was included on the Project's planning portal at: <a href="https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/projects/upper-south-creek-advanced-water-recycling-centre">https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/projects/upper-south-creek-advanced-water-recycling-centre</a> and the EPL is held by John Holland and is maintained on the JH website at: <a href="https://johnholland.com.au/how-we-care/sustainability/environmental-and-sustainability-disclosures">https://johnholland.com.au/how-we-care/sustainability/environmental-and-sustainability-disclosures</a> which lists all EPLs held by JH.	Completed 8/01/2024 EPL, Stage 1 staging report and Commonwealth Approval uploaded to Project Sydney Water talk website.

Condition Number	Compliance Requirement	Independent Audit Finding	Independent Audit Recommendation	Proponents Proposed Action	Proposed Due Date
	(e) a copy of the current version of each document required under the terms of this approval; and ....				
<b>E95</b>	Local roads that are proposed to be used by heavy vehicles (for the purposes of Stage 1 of the CSSI) that are immediately adjacent to the construction boundary and ancillary facilities, and that are not identified for use by heavy vehicles in the documents listed in Condition A1, must be approved by the Planning Secretary as part of the Traffic and Transport Management CEMP Sub-plan.	<b>Non compliance (Minor/Administrative)</b> SWC self-reported a noncompliance for the incorrect/unapproved use of a recently gazetted local road previously assessed under the EIS.	Appropriate actions have been identified and implemented with no further recommendations made at this time.	Non compliance report submitted to the Department on 26/10/23 (SSI-8609189-PA-58) and subsequent response to RFI raised on 8/12/2023 submitted on 15/12/23. No further response to the matter has been received from the Department to date.	Completed prior to audit on 26/10/23 (pending close out from the Department), (refer to SSI-8609189-PA-58 along with subsequent response to RFI)
<b>Recommendation/ Observation</b>					
<b>A47</b>	Heavy vehicles used for spoil haulage must be clearly marked on the sides and rear with the project name and CSSI application number to enable immediate identification by a person viewing the heavy vehicle. No more than one set of project markings can be	<b>Observation</b> - Sufficient evidence was provided to demonstrate the spoil trucks have the appropriate identification labels in place. During the site inspection three vehicles were observed to have Parramatta Rail Link labels	Remove the labels relating to other Projects when they are working on the Upper South Creek AWRC Project.	Develop toolbox/ factsheet on the issue and provide to the relevant trucking companies.  Conduct periodic truck inspections to ensure adherence to signage requirements.	31/03/2024

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	displayed on a heavy vehicle at any point of time.	attached. None of the vehicles were observed to be hauling spoil.			
<b>E12/E13</b>	<p>The clearing of native vegetation must be minimised to the greatest extent practicable with the objective of reducing impacts to threatened ecological communities, threatened species and their habitat.</p> <p>Impacts to plant community types and species credit species must not exceed those identified in Table 5 and Table 6.</p>	<p><b>Observation</b> - The Project is in its early stages of construction with minimal clearing undertaken to date. The Project has an established pre-clearing process which is overseen by the Project ecologist (Biosis) whose role is to advise and report on clearing limits. The initial ecologists report had not been finalised at the time of the audit inspection.</p>	<p>As part of the ecologist's report, it is recommended a schedule is developed and included in each report so that the limits prescribed by Tables 5 and 6 are reported on so compliance can be tracked on an ongoing basis and any corrective actions implemented, should there be a risk of exceeding the limits.</p>	<p>As part of the clearing works for each specific area, a post clearing report is completed which verifies the extent of clearing undertaken. A clearing GIS is also maintained with specific identification for each tree and mapped species area. The recommendation will be provided to Biosis to potentially include a progressive clearing tally table for the limits included in condition in each post clearing report.</p>	<p>31/03/2024 to determine application within post clearing reports in consultation with Project ecologist</p>