



Hunter Water Corporation
ABN 46 228 513 446

PO Box 5171
HRMC NSW 2310
36 Honeysuckle Drive
NEWCASTLE NSW 2300
hunterwater.com.au
1300 657 657 (T)
enquiries@hunterwater.com.au

5 November 2019

Our Ref: HW2019-36

General Manager
Port Stephens Council
PO Box 42
Raymond Terrace NSW 2324

Attention: Ryan Falkenmire
Via email: ryan.falkenmire@portstephens.nsw

Dear Ryan,

RE: DA 16-2019-636-1 – PROPOSED SAND EXTRACTION - 4226 NELSON BAY ROAD, ANNA BAY

Thank you for your letter of 15 October 2019 seeking Hunter Water's comments on the proposed sand extraction activity at Lot: 591 DP: 1191380, 4226 Nelson Bay Road, Anna Bay. Hunter Water understands the proposal involves the extraction of up to 50,000 cubic metres of windblown sand from the site per year for 30 years, with extraction to remove sand at or above ground level. The primary purpose is to keep the electricity easement clear of deposited sand.

The proposed development borders the North Stockton Catchment Area as declared under the *Hunter Water Regulation 2015*. The Stockton Sandbeds are not currently a water source for Hunter Water. Hunter Water does, however, maintain an interest in ensuring that inappropriate development in the catchment does not occur.

Hunter Water's main concerns with sandmining in or near catchments relate to protecting the groundwater from contamination and potential loss of the groundwater resource. As such, Hunter Water's recommendations are as follows:

- Maintenance of a minimum 1 metre buffer between the maximum allowable extraction depth and the maximum predicted groundwater level. The Geotechnical and Groundwater Assessment submitted in support of the application indicated that the "*highest probable water level would be 2.8m below the ground level at BH6/PZ2 in the proximity of the proposed sand mine operational area*". As the application is to remove sand only down to ground level, the extraction activities are expected to maintain a sufficient buffer from groundwater.
- Contaminating substances, such as wastewater, chemicals, fuels, etc. should be stored outside the catchment area wherever possible. This includes the storage of machinery when not in use. The mitigation measures specified in Section 6.4 of the Environmental Impact Statement are considered sufficient.

- Development and implementation of an appropriate Spill Management Procedure and Groundwater Monitoring Plan – Consideration should be made to require these through conditions of approval.

If you require further advice or clarification regarding the submission, please contact me on (02) 4979 9564.

Yours sincerely

Chris Barker
Team Leader Development Planning and Relations

