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Mr Peter Hurst
Development Manager, Hume Highway Office
NSW Roads and Traffic Authority
PO Box 484
WAGGA WAGGA NSW 2650

Our ref:
Your ref:

Dear Mr Hurst

Hume Highway Duplication – Woomargama to Mullengandra – Water Pipeline

I refer to correspondence from the NSW Roads and Traffic Authority, dated 28 March 2008 seeking the Director-General's approval of an ancillary facility in accordance with condition 5.4 of the Minister's approval of the Concept Plan for the Hume Highway duplication project. I also refer to the supplementary information provided in email correspondence from Ms Jo Moss of SKM, dated 2 April 2008.

It is noted that the proposed water pipeline and Hume Weir pumping station was originally approved by the Director-General in accordance with condition 75 of the Minister's approval of the Albury-Wodonga National Highway project to service the Wymah Road batch plant and to supply water to the construction activities between Table Top and Woomargama. It is also noted that this approval should have also been granted under condition 5.4 of the Minister's approval of the concept plan given the pipeline (and weir) did not satisfy the criteria for ancillary facilities.

The Department understands that the Wymah Road batch plant will no longer be proceeding and that the pipeline route has now been amended and extended along Wymah-Jingelic Road and the Hume Highway (north and south) to:

- supply water to the current construction activities associated with the Minister's approval for the works between Table Top and Mullengandra; and
- ultimately connect to two proposed batch plants at Knox Road and Mullengandra Tip (subject to the Director-General's approval).

Given the changes to the approved alignment, the Director-General has approved the construction and operation of modified alignment of the pipeline and associated works described in the abovementioned letter in accordance with condition 5.4 of the Minister's concept approval, subject to:

- amendment to the Table Top to Woomargama Construction Environmental Management Plan and associated subplans prepared by the Hume Highway Southern Alliance to incorporate the mitigation and management measures associated with the construction and operation of the pipeline;
- consultation with the Department of Environment and Climate Change with respect to mitigation and management measures that would be implemented for works (if any) located within areas containing threatened species or their habitat(s), Endangered Ecological Communities and/or Aboriginal heritage items/sites;
- demonstration to the Department that the requirements of the Department of Water and Energy with respect to the pumping facilities at Hume Weir have been addressed;
- obtaining relevant landowner agreement(s) for the installation, access and maintenance of the pipeline where it crosses private land prior to works commencing; and
- decommissioning the pipeline and weir structure following the completion of Hume Highway Duplication construction activities and rehabilitation of these areas to pre-existing conditions.

As you are aware, the Director-General has no approval role for ancillary facilities, other than batching plant facilities, under the Minister's 1998 approval of the Albury-Wodonga National Highway project. Consequently, the Director-General cannot approve the alteration or extension to the pipeline as now proposed under that approval. However, the Department understands that the RTA has satisfied its assessment obligations under Part 5 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* to address the changes to the pipeline alignment where it complements the Minister's 1998 approval.

Please note that if the alternative batch plants are approved by the Director-General, the current approval for the Wymah Road batch plant will be revoked.

Should you require any clarification regarding this matter, please contact Caitlin Bennett on the above contact details.

Yours sincerely,



Scott Jeffries
Director
Major Infrastructure Assessment
As delegate for the Director-General

03/04/08