

Ms Lou Roberts
Manager Environment & Aboriginal Affairs
Branch
Water Corporation
PO Box 100
LEEDERVILLE WA 6902

Your Ref: JT1 2011 12136v01
Our Ref: CMS14335
Enquiries: Amy Sgherza, 6145 0818
Email: amy.sgherza@epa.wa.gov.au

Dear Ms Roberts

BALANNUP WASTEWATER PRESSURE MAIN - ASSESSMENT ON PROPONENT INFORMATION CATEGORY A SCOPING GUIDELINE – ASSESSMENT NO. 2081

The Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) has recently determined to assess the proposed Balannup Wastewater Pressure Main, Keane Road and Hanlin Road, Armadale, at the level of Assessment on Proponent Information (API) – Category A.

I note that officers from the Office of the EPA (OEPA) and the Water Corporation met on 1 June 2016 regarding the next steps and how to present information to inform the EPA's assessment. The EPA acknowledges the work undertaken since the referral of the proposal and considers that consolidating this information in an API Environmental Review (ER) document consistent with *Environmental Assessment Guideline No. 14 – Preparation of an API – Category A Environmental Review document* will assist the EPA and the public to more fully consider the proposal in the context of the EPA's environmental principles, environmental factors and associated objectives, and policies.

Further to this and to assist you in the preparation and compilation of a suitable ER document, a Scoping Guideline (SG) has been prepared by the EPA for the above proposal. This SG outlines the preliminary key environmental factors and issues that are required to be addressed in preparing the ER document.

Please note the timeframes are based on the Water Corporation providing adequate information by 16 September 2016. Should you be unable to meet this date, the timeframes for the assessment may need to be renegotiated.

During the preparation of the ER you are encouraged to consult with Amy Sgherza, the Office of the EPA assessment officer for the project, who can be contacted on telephone number 6145 0818. Please quote the above "Our Ref" on any further correspondence.

Yours sincerely



Dr Tom Hatton
CHAIRMAN

29 June 2016

Encl: Balannup Wastewater Pressure Main – Environmental Scoping Guideline

EPA PREPARED SCOPING GUIDELINE

PROPOSAL: Balannup Wastewater Pressure Main
LOCALITY: City of Armadale
PROPONENT: Water Corporation
DECISION: Assessment on Proponent Information – Category A
(Assessment No 2081)
PROCEDURE: EPA Prepared Scoping Guideline

The Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) has set the level of assessment on the above proposal as Assessment on Proponent Information (API) – Category A.

The proponent is required to consolidate existing and new information to prepare an environmental review document in accordance with this scoping guideline. All technical reports utilised which were submitted as part of the referral documentation should also be provided (as appendices).

The structure and content of the environmental review document is required to be prepared in accordance with EPA's Environmental Assessment Guideline 14 – *Preparation of an API-A Environmental Review Document*, January 2015 (EAG 14).

Proposal

The Water Corporation proposes to construct and operate the Balannup Wastewater Pressure Main, a 4.5 kilometre (km) wastewater pressure main from the Collared Street Pump Station to the Waterworks Road Pump Station in Armadale.

For 3 km of its 4.5 km length, the proposed alignment presents no significant environmental issues. However, the remaining 1.5 km of the alignment, between Skeet Road and Anstey Road, crosses Bush Forever site 342. This Bush Forever site contains locally and regionally significant environmental values.

The majority of the pipeline would be constructed using open trench excavation methods. However, to minimise impacts to vegetation and hydrology within the Bush Forever site the proponent has proposed to install the pressure main within this section using a trenchless pipe installing technology, known as the EcoPlough technique. A High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) pipe with no joins, scours or air valve pits, will be driven into the soil profile to a maximum depth of 1.2 metres (m) and width of 500 millimetres (mm). The pipeline will be installed within an existing 4 m wide fire access track, with a maximum extent of 0.1 ha vegetation clearing. No dewatering is required for this method.

The environmental review document should describe the proposal in accordance with the EPA's Environmental Assessment Guideline 1 – *Defining the Key Characteristics of a Proposal*.

Preliminary Key Environmental Factors

The EPA has identified the following preliminary key environmental factors that should be addressed. In addition, the environmental principles from EPA's Environmental Assessment Guideline 8 – *Environmental Principles, Factors and Objectives* will also need to be addressed in the environmental review document.

Where an EPA policy and/or guideline is listed under each factor, the EPA requires that you explicitly show and document how the relevant considerations in the policies have been given due consideration in the environmental assessment. This is best set out in a subsection of 'Section 5 – Assessment' of the Table of Contents in the environmental review document, in EAG 14.

1. Hydrological Processes

The EPA's environmental objective for this factor is:

- *To maintain the hydrological regimes of groundwater and surface water so that existing and potential uses, including ecosystem maintenance, are protected.*

The key aspect with regard to this environmental factor is the installation and physical presence of the pipeline during operations. Potential effects from construction and operational aspects include the impacts to, and alteration of, local hydrological processes, which has the potential to directly impact on the Conservation Category Wetland (CCW), known as the Anstey-Keane dampland, and indirectly impact on the adjacent groundwater dependent vegetation community identified as Threatened Ecological Community (TEC) SCP10a '*shrublands on dry clay flats*'.

In addition to preparing an Environmental Review Document in accordance with EAG 14 the following specific information is required:

- Demonstrate how you have considered the following EPA Policy:
 - Position Statement No. 4 – *Environmental Protection of Wetlands*, November, 2004.
 - Guidance Statement No. 33 - *Environmental Guidance for Planning and Development*, May 2008.
- In determining whether the proposal will have a significant residual risk to hydrological processes, demonstrate how you have considered the following EPA Policy:
 - *WA Environmental Offsets Policy*. September 2011. Government of Western Australia.
 - *WA Environmental Offsets Guidelines*. August 2014. Government of Western Australia.
 - Environmental Protection Bulletin No. 1 – *Environmental Offsets*. August 2014.

2. Inland Waters Environmental Quality

The EPA's environmental objective for this factor is:

- *To maintain the quality of groundwater and surface water, sediment and biota so that the environmental values, both ecological and social, are protected.*

The key environmental aspects relating to this factor are disturbance of Acid Sulfate Soils during construction and the potential for sewage leaks and spills during operation. Potential effects from the construction and operation aspects include the impacts to, and alteration of, wetland water quality.

In addition to preparing an Environmental Review Document in accordance with EAG 14 the following specific information is required:

- Demonstrate how you have considered the following EPA Policy:
 - Position Statement No. 4 – *Environmental Protection of Wetlands*, November, 2004.
 - Guidance Statement No. 33 – *Environmental Guidance for Planning and Development*, May 2008.
- In addition to the above, have regard to the Department of Environment Regulation Acid Sulfate Soil Guidelines (June, 2015).

3. Flora and Vegetation

The EPA's environmental objective for this factor is:

- *To maintain representation, diversity, viability and ecological function at the species, population and community level.*

The key environmental aspect relating to this factor are the direct impacts from clearing of native vegetation and the activities associated with the construction of the pipeline. Potential effects from construction aspects include the spread of weeds and Dieback (*Phytophthora cinnamomi*).

In addition to preparing an Environmental Review Document in accordance with EAG 14 the following specific information is required:

- Demonstrate how you have considered the following EPA policy:
 - Environmental Protection Bulletin No. 20 – *Protection of naturally vegetated areas through planning and development*, December 2013.
 - Guidance Statement No. 10 – *Levels of Assessment for Proposals affecting natural areas within the system 6 region and Swan Coastal Plain portion of the system 1 region*, June 2006.
 - Position Statement No. 3 – *Terrestrial biological surveys as an element of biodiversity protection*, March 2002.
 - Position Statement No. 2 – *Environmental Protection of Native Vegetation*, December 2000.

- In completing Section 4 *Environmental Studies and Survey Effort* of the environmental review document, provide specific information as to how the flora and vegetation surveys that support the assessment were undertaken in accordance with the following EPA policy and guidance:
 - Position Statement No. 3 – *Terrestrial biological surveys as an element of biodiversity protection*. March 2002.
 - Guidance Statement No. 51 – *Terrestrial Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment in Western Australia*, June 2004.

Consultation

As a minimum, details of any consultation undertaken to date, with the following government agencies should be included in the draft environmental review document;

- Department of Parks and Wildlife; and
- Department of Water.

The outcomes of this consultation should be presented in the final environmental review document as outlined in EAG 14.

Target Timeframe for the Assessment

Key Stage of Assessment	Agreed Completion Date
Level of Assessment set as API	23 May 2016
API Scoping Guideline issued	29 June 2016
Proponent submits draft environmental review	16 September 2016
Proponent submits final environmental review	10 October 2016
EPA considers draft report (within 7 weeks from receipt of <u>acceptable</u> information)	20 October 2016
EPA finalises report for Minister (including consultations on conditions) (4 weeks)*	21 November 2016
Appeal period closes (2 weeks)	5 December 2016

* Should the EPA require additional information, the report would be finalised 4 weeks from receipt of that information.

If any stage in the agreed timelines is not met or inadequate information is submitted by the proponent, the timing for the completion of subsequent stages of the process will be revised. Equally, where the EPA is unable to meet an agreed completion date in the timelines, the proponent will be advised and the timeline revised.

The proponent should refer to the EPA's Environmental Assessment Guideline 6 – *Timelines for environmental assessment of proposals* for information regarding the responsibilities of proponents and the EPA for achieving timely and effective assessment of proposals.