



# Environmental Protection Authority

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*Your Ref* JTI 2008 00296 V02  
*Our Ref* DEC 6531-03  
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Dear Mr Baker

## **ALKIMOS Wastewater treatment Plant Site B - STATEMENT 755 and Bulletins 1238 and 1239**

The following Plan, prepared to meet the requirements of Conditions 8 & 9 of Statement 755, is considered acceptable, on advice of the DEC and the EPA Service Unit, that additional information in relation to the points below have been provided:

1. Assessment 1529; Biodiversity: *"The EPA also notes that underwater blasting may be used to manage the production of fines from the excavation. The EPA considers that if blasting is to be employed then this matter needs to be assessed by the EPA."*

Blasting is identified as a part of this proposal (pg 24) during the period of October – December, 2009. The proposal acknowledges the southerly migration of the humpback whale in the vicinity of the construction site as mid September to mid October (DEH 2005a). Jenner and Jenner, 1993 place the peak of the migration in this area as September 9 – October 25.

Further advice from senior DEC wildlife staff confirms whale movements through until late December. There are other species of mega fauna which inhabit this area, or may be found in it occasionally, rather than migrate through it, namely bottlenose dolphins and pinnipeds. As such, given your acknowledgement of the issues related to underwater blasting and the impact on mega fauna and other fish species, it is advised that underwater blasting can commence in September, 2008 as per the *'Information and procedures for the management of the exclusion zone during offshore blasting'* document presented to the EPA Service Unit, 8 September, 2008.

Future consideration for incorporating site management elements of the Commonwealth guidelines for seismic activity is also recommended to ensure impacts to these species are minimised across other Water Corporation proposals for offshore blasting and marine habitat modifications.

2. EPBC referral 2007/3259 and the noting the Commonwealth potential requirement of a permit for sea dumping as a result of side cast dredging. Confirmation of DEWHA clearance is noted.

The EPA and DEC are cognisant of the project's timelines in relation to logistics and financial arrangements. These two issues are confirmed as adequately addressed in the overall content of the proposed activities and subsequently, confirm that the submitted Plan meets the aforementioned conditions.

Any further changes to the Plan that substantially affect the management actions or targets require submittal for review and acceptance of the new version of the Plan.

This advice has been provided to the Compliance Monitoring Section which may monitor the implementation of the Plan.

Yours sincerely



Mark Jefferies  
A/Director  
Environmental Impact Assessment Division

8 September, 2008

Cc  
DEC Marine Ecosystems  
DEC Marine Wildlife  
DEC Marine Science