



environmental management consultants

Our Ref: 335-AJ

25 September 2007

Att: Stuart Hawkins  
Water Corporation  
Project Environmental Officer  
Project Management Group  
604 Newcastle Street  
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Via email: [Stuart.Hawkins@watercorporation.com.au](mailto:Stuart.Hawkins@watercorporation.com.au)

Dear Stuart

**Scope of Wetland Impact Assessment:  
Southern Seawater Desalination Plant (SSDP) and Integrated Assets**

## 1. Background

Further to our meeting on the 24/9/2007 and previous environmental services scoped for the Southern Seawater Desalination Plant (SSDP) and Integrated Assets, 360 Environmental is pleased to provide this revised proposal to the Water Corporation to undertake an assessment of the potential impacts to wetlands along the preferred pipeline route.

In addition to the environmental assessment work currently being undertaken (Contract No: CN-06-13688), this proposal summarises additional activities proposed to assist Water Corporation to accurately assess potential impacts to wetlands, document management requirements and plan appropriate mitigation activities. The team undertaking the flora and fauna component of the work (360 Environmental ref: 335 AC) will also undertake the wetland assessment.

## 2. Scope

The following scope of work is based on current Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) wetland mapping and will be undertaken concurrently

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with the flora, vegetation, hygiene and fauna surveys. This assessment will supplement and draw on information obtained as part of these surveys.

In summary, the following is required:

- Identify conservation significant wetlands (Conservation Category Wetland (CCW), Resource Enhancement Wetland (REW)) within 50m of the preferred pipeline corridor;
- Describe and assess the potential short and long-term direct and indirect impacts that may result from the installation of pipelines within the proposed corridor, on wetlands of conservation significance. This will include the following:
  - Describe and assess the potential impacts to water dependant ecosystems;
  - Describe and assess the potential impacts on localised and specialised fauna;
  - Describe and assess potential direct and indirect impacts that may result from any changes to the local hydrology as a result of the installation of pipelines within the proposed corridor (including stormwater drainage impacts) on any wetlands of conservation significance and the broader wetland area;
- Undertake a brief wetland boundary assessment for REWs and CCWs based on the presence of wetland, transitional and dryland species within the current DEC wetland mapping. Based on this information, vegetation types relative to wetlands will be discussed and recommendations made on the potential for alterations to the wetland boundaries;
- Assess potential wetland buffers with regard to the Environmental Protection Authority *Guidance Statement No. 33 draft Environmental Guidance for Planning and Development* (EPA, 2005) with reference to the Department of Planning and Infrastructure's *Guideline for the Determination of Wetland Buffer Requirements* and recommend methods for protecting buffers of wetlands of conservation significance, which are intersected by or within 50m of the pipeline corridor and that have been identified as



being directly or indirectly impacted as a consequence of the pipeline installation; and,

- Outline possible management and mitigation measures for wetlands of conservation significance which are intersected by or within 50m of the pipeline corridor and are potentially impacted as a consequence of the pipeline installation. Recommendations will be included on both ecological issues and construction methodologies.

This scope of work will address the comments raised by the DEC (email correspondence dated 19/9/2007 to Suzanne Brown and Stuart Hawkins, and memo of the 14/9/2007 to Colin Murray) with regard to the potential impacts of placing a pipeline through conservation wetlands. Acid sulphate soil leachates and soil management issues will not be addressed as it is understood these are being managed separately.

Much of the information used to address potential impacts will be sourced from the results of the flora and vegetation and fauna assessments. Following collation of this information, and the completion of the field wetland assessments appropriate recommendations will be provided.

### 3. Schedule and Timing

The proposal is based on conducting this assessment concurrently with other environmental services as described in Contract No: CN-06-13688. It is proposed to provide a draft report in early December 2007, after the Spring field surveys are complete.