

5. PETITIONS

No Petitions this round

6. CORRESPONDENCE

6.1 Hon Brad Hazzard MP Minister for Planning and Infrastructure

Attachments

1. Copy of letter from Hon Brad Hazzard MP
2. Copy of Council's letter

Responding to Council's letter concerning the Draft Aquifer Interface Policy to State Significant Development.

Officer's Recommendation

That the letter be received and the information be noted.

Council Meeting 31 July 2012 (Rule/Lake)

That the Officer's Recommendation be adopted.

Council Minute Resolution Number 132

That the Officer's Recommendation be adopted.

ATTACHMENT 1



The Hon Brad Hazzard MP
Minister for Planning and Infrastructure
Minister Assisting the Premier on Infrastructure NSW

12/09899

Mr Paul Tosi
General Manager
Campbelltown City Council
PO Box 57
Campbelltown NSW 2560

JUL 12 '12 08:06:01 RCVD

Paul
Dear Mr Tosi

I refer to your letter concerning the application of the draft Aquifer Interference Policy to State significant development.

I have noted the issues you have raised and can assure you that the NSW Government is committed to balancing resource development with the protection of aquifers and other key environmental assets.

As you will be aware, the draft Aquifer Interference Policy was on public exhibition from 8 March 2012 until 14 May 2012. I am advised that all submissions received during the exhibition period are being carefully reviewed by the NSW Office of Water prior to the finalisation of the policy. I have also forwarded a copy of your letter to the Hon Katrina Hodgkinson MP, Minister for Primary Industries, for her consideration. You can be assured that the issues you have raised will be carefully considered prior to the finalisation of the Aquifer Interference Policy. In this regard, I can advise that the NSW Government is currently reviewing the proposed roll out of the Aquifer Interference Policy across the State and the timeline for applying the policy to all of NSW.

I can also assure you that impacts on aquifers are already comprehensively considered through the assessment process for State significant development applications such as the Camden Gas Project. In addition, the issue of the impacts of mining and coal seam gas on water resources in the Greater Sydney region is being considered in the development of a new Metropolitan Strategy for Sydney.

I appreciate Campbelltown City Council's contribution to the preparation of the Strategic Regional Land Use Policy and look forward to Council's continued involvement. Should you have any further enquiries about this matter, I have arranged for Richard Pearson, Deputy Director General, Development Assessment & Systems Performance, of the Department of Planning and Infrastructure to assist. Mr Pearson can be contacted on (02) 9228 6181.

Yours sincerely

HON BRAD HAZZARD MP
Minister

11 JUL 2012

ATTACHMENT 2



22 May 2012

The Hon. Brad Hazzard
Minister for Planning and Infrastructure
Level 31 Governor Macquarie Tower
1 Farrer Place
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Minister

Draft NSW Aquifer Interference Policy application to State Significant Developments

The NSW Office of Water recently released the Draft NSW Aquifer Interference Policy (AIP) for public exhibition, as a part of the preparation of a Strategic Land Use Policy to provide protection for land of high agricultural and biodiversity significance within NSW from the impacts associated with coal seam gas and mining operations.

At its meeting on 1 May 2012 Council considered a report on the Strategic Land Use Policy and resolved (in part)

That Council write to the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure and strongly request that all State Significant Developments (including those not yet to be determined) be subject to the full requirements of the Aquifer Interference Policy.

Council asserts that all State Significant Developments (such as the approved Bulli Seam Project and Camden Gas Project), irrespective of their approval status, should not be exempt from requiring an aquifer interference approval under the AIP. This recommendation is based on the significant deficiencies in the assessment of water related impacts in regard to coal seam gas and mining development applications to date. Groundwater investigation studies, required for the approval of projects, should be conducted in accordance with the requirements for licences outlined in the draft AIP.

In addition exploration activities associated with both coal seam gas and mining activities that can potentially impact on surface and groundwaters, including the interconnectivity of aquifers, should be subject to the requirements of the AIP rather than the current process under Part 5 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

Council appreciates your consideration of this request and looks forward to your response. If you require any further information please contact Council's Director Planning Environment, Jeff Lawrence on (02) 4645 4575.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Tosi', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Paul Tosi
General Manager