



Executive Director  
Resources and Industry Policy  
Department of Planning and Environment  
GPO Box 39  
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Sir

**Draft State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) Amendment (Significance of Resource) 2015**

WaterNSW strongly supports the proposed amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) 2007 (Mining SEPP) to remove Clause 12AA.

WaterNSW is responsible for managing 42 dams across NSW, as well as managing the Sydney drinking water catchment and water supply infrastructure that supplies bulk water for the Greater Sydney area. Under the *Water NSW Act 2014*, WaterNSW's principal objectives include ensuring that declared catchment areas and water supply infrastructure are managed to promote water quality and to protect public health and safety and the environment. Protecting the safety and reliability of water in the Sydney drinking water catchment is essential for the health and security of more than four million people, as well as businesses and industry, across the Greater Sydney area.

Many areas of the Sydney drinking water catchment, including Special Areas, are subject to mining production or exploration activities, and mining is likely to continue across the catchment until at least 2050. Mining can have adverse impacts on water quantity, water quality and water supply infrastructure and on the ecological integrity of the Special Areas. The Upper Canal, for example, has been significantly impacted by mining.

Clause 12AA requires assessment authorities to give principal consideration to the economic benefit of mining over other factors contained in Part 3 of the Mining SEPP. This requirement constrains a balanced consideration during the assessment process of the environmental values of the drinking water catchment's Special Areas, the social and environmental benefits of a high quality drinking water supply and the importance of water supply infrastructure.

We would appreciate the opportunity to meet and discuss this matter and to provide any further information or assistance that you may require.

In this regard, Mr Malcolm Hughes, Senior Manager Planning & Environment is available to discuss this matter and can be contacted on 4724 2452 or [malcolm.hughes@waternsw.com.au](mailto:malcolm.hughes@waternsw.com.au).

Yours faithfully



David Harris  
Chief Executive Officer