



Office of
Environment
& Heritage

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Ms Sarah Waterworth
Manager, North West Land Release
NSW Department of Planning and Environment
PO Box 404
PARRAMATTA NSW 2124

Dear Ms Waterworth

West Schofields Precinct

I refer to the 10 October 2018 advice provided by the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) on the draft masterplan for the West Schofields precinct within the North West Growth Centre and provide the following comments on the flooding assessment.

OEH notes from the *Flooding, Water Cycle Management and Riparian Corridor Assessment* report (Calibre Consulting, June 2018) that the flood evacuation approach for the precinct relies on the *North West Flood Evacuation Study* (Stantec, July 2018) prepared for the Department of Planning and Environment in consultation with Infrastructure NSW, Roads and Maritimes Services and the State Emergency Service. However, the study *'has not examined the interrelationship between concurrent evacuations from other precincts such as Marsden Park or areas to the north such as Windsor Downs - which is the role of the regional evacuation model to undertake'* (page 18). Therefore, the cumulative impacts of the evacuation in a regional context has not been considered.

OEH recommends the *North West Growth Area Flood Evacuation Study* findings are used as inputs into the regional evacuation model to examine its feasibility and limitations under various model scenarios. The Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley Flood Risk Management Directorate, Infrastructure NSW, should be consulted regarding this work.

With regards to the floodplain risk assessment in the Calibre Consulting report, OEH's comments are generally confined to the methodology used for the assessment. OEH considers the assessment appears to follow accepted floodplain risk management practice as it utilises Blacktown City Council's (BCC's) Eastern Creek flood study and data from the Hawkesbury Nepean Valley regional flood model (RFM) to address flooding behaviour for existing and developed scenarios.

It is noted that hazard mapping is currently being undertaken and is not represented in the Calibre Consulting report. OEH recommends consulting with BCC to utilise the RFM hazard categories which have been undertaken in accordance with the National Guideline AEM Handbook 7. The RFM shows that the hazard category for development above the 1% but below the probable maximum flood (PMF) is largely classified as H5 (for the 0.5% and 0.2% AEP the flood of record - up to the PMF). The National Guideline Handbook identifies a H5 category as unsafe for all vehicles and people with buildings requiring special engineering design and construction. It is also recommended this matter be addressed in the early stage of planning through establishing broad recommendations for appropriate development and building controls for future directions.

If you have any queries about this advice, please contact Richard Bonner on 9995 6917 or by email at richard.bonner@environment.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



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