

21 March 2012

Craig Lamberton
Director Specialised Regulation
Environment Protection Authority NSW
PO Box A290
SYDNEY SOUTH NSW 1232

Reference: 2012/00974F

Re: Alexandra Canal - Status

Dear Mr Lamberton

I am writing in response to your letter of 23 December 2011 requesting an update from Sydney Water on actions taken to improve the contamination status of Alexandra Canal ("canal") sediments.

The Remediation Order

Sydney Water has fully complied with the remediation order ("Order") over the Alexandra Canal bed sediments, dated 10 May 2004. In regard to the specific actions required by the Order:

1. there have been no works or activities undertaken on the bed sediments of the canal by Sydney Water or its contractors that would result in disturbance of the sediment, hence there has been,
2. no requirement to implement Action 2,
3. no requirement to implement Action 3,
4. no requirement to implement Action 4, and
5. to the knowledge of Sydney Water no "other persons" have undertaken works or activities on the bed sediments. In addition, Sydney Water:
 - a. has developed and implemented an information campaign to alert people near the site to the requirements of the Order;
 - b. has erected signs along the canal at 1 kilometre intervals to alert users of the canal of the requirements of the Order; and
 - c. has liaised with Marrickville Council, Botany Bay City Council and City of Sydney as part of the information campaign.
6. a copy of the documentation recording the information campaign was provided to the Environment Protection Authority ("EPA").

Sydney Water has implemented a process of checking and repairing signs, where required.

Heritage and Stormwater Issues

Alexandra Canal is entered on the State Heritage Register. Sydney Water has prepared a Conservation Management Plan for the canal to gain a greater understanding of the canal and why it is important to the people of Sydney and NSW.

As part of stormwater management processes, Sydney Water:

- is currently undertaking site investigations and preparing design documentation to stabilise and repair a 300 metre section of the western bank of Alexandra Canal at Tempe Reserve. In this location, the Canal is mainly comprised of steep earth embankments with some small sections of the original stone wall exposed near the toe of the bank. The project aims to address bank erosion and improve the heritage and environmental values of the Canal. At this stage, the preferred option is to renew the Canal embankment with sandstone and native vegetation, taking into account the requirements of the relevant Conservation Management Plan. Construction works are planned to commence in June 2013 following consultation with key stakeholders including the EPA.
- has completed various planning activities towards the provision of stormwater quality improvement devices in the Alexandra Canal catchment. Concept design documentation, water quality monitoring and initial stakeholder consultation has been completed, however, implementation has not progressed. Sydney Water continues to seek partnership opportunities with the key stakeholders, including the City of Sydney, to realise our objective of improving the quality of stormwater discharging to Alexandra Canal.
- requires development sites of a certain scale that propose direct connection to our stormwater assets in the Alexandra Canal catchment to meet best practice stormwater quality targets. These targets are outlined in our Notice of Requirements and form a key part of our Section 73 assessment and approvals processes.
- places various special requirements on development sites immediately adjacent to Alexandra Canal to ensure new stormwater connections do not disturb the bed sediments. In addition to any heritage considerations, this can include restrictions on the number of new connections, their configuration and the use of energy dissipation structures.

For further information I may be contacted by telephone

Yours sincerely

Signed

Manager Property
Asset Management Division