



The Honourable Melinda Pavey MP
Minister for Water, Property and Housing

IM19/22914

Ms Debra Little



NSW 2207

Dear Ms Little

Thank you for your correspondence of 6 October 2019 concerning Sydney Water's proposal to install an odour control unit (OCU) near Unwin Street, Earlwood. I shared your correspondence of 10 September 2019 with Sydney Water as it was deemed to be an operational matter.

I am advised Sydney Water's decision to locate the proposed OCU was made following a comprehensive assessment of many sites. This includes the alternate site suggested by the Wolli Creek Preservation Society (WCPS) which was found to be unviable. This is not only due to the impact on the adjoining property owner and residents of Unwin Street, but Sydney Water requires ongoing access to its site to maintain and rehabilitate its assets above and below the ground.

I appreciate your concern for the environment surrounding the proposed OCU. I can confirm Sydney Water's Review of Environmental Factors (REF) identified there is no threatened ecological community on the area to be cleared on Sydney Water's land. Sydney Water will work with the local Bushcare group to retrieve vegetation for relocation within the Wolli Creek Regional Park before work starts.

In line with Sydney Water's biodiversity offset guidelines, if native vegetation is impacted it will be offset 2:1. Sydney Water's preference is to replant native vegetation near the site of the proposed OCU, in consultation with local land owners.

Sydney Water appreciates the WCPS's desire to maintain access to the walking trail on its land. Therefore, Sydney Water has committed to granting right of way through the land, modifying the site layout to reduce impacts and maintaining access to the walking trail by constructing a walkway around the new OCU. I understand walking trail users have accessed the land without Sydney Water's permission.

I am advised Sydney's Water OCU project is in the concept design phase, with construction planned to start late 2020. Engagement with the WCPS was started early, through their nominated representative Mr Stevens. There will be an opportunity for the WCPS to provide input into the new walking track which Sydney Water will include in the detailed design.

Should you wish to be updated directly on the progress of this project, please contact Sydney Water's Senior Communications & Engagement Advisor, Catherine Mullins on 0409 462 308 or catherine.mullins@sydneywater.com.au.

Yours sincerely,

Melinda Pavey MP
Minister for Water, Property and Housing

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