



EPA Assessment

Myalup–Wellington Project

7 October 2019. The Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) has reviewed the Myalup–Wellington Project referral by Collie Water and announced that the proposed project's Stage 1 - Above the Dam Works are unlikely to have a significant impact on the environment and does not warrant formal assessment.

Collie Water had referred the Myalup-Wellington Dam Project Stage 1 to the EPA under section 38 of the Environmental Protection Act 1986 (EP Act).

In an explanation of its decision, the EPA stated:

The EPA considers that the likely environmental effects of the proposal are not so significant as to warrant formal assessment because of the small scale of the proposal and the existing environment is highly modified from historical land uses. The proposal includes maintaining minimum environmental flows in Collie River East Branch (past the diversion); limiting water diversion to winter and spring high-flow periods; and the relatively small amount of clearing. The EPA is of the view that the potential impacts of the proposal can be adequately managed through the implementation of the proposal in accordance with the referral documentation and the proponent's management and mitigation measures.

The EPA notes other statutory processes relevant to this proposal include: surface water diversion in accordance with a licence under the Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914; Part V Division 2 (Clearing) of the Environmental Protection Act 1986; and approval to disturb sites under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972.

The proposal includes the following components:

- Construction of a weir and diversion of saline river water (~9GL/year) from the Collie River East Branch (CREB). This includes the construction of pump stations and water transmission pipelines;
- Water storage in disused Muja 'Z' mine void; and
- Construction and operation of a reverse osmosis Water Treatment Plant. The Water Treatment Plant would supply desalinated water to the Water Corporation via Harris River Dam. It is intended that waste brine will be pumped to Collie Power Station where the brine will then be disposed of via Synergy's Collie Power existing pipeline and ocean outfall.

The proposal aims to reduce the flow of salty water from the Collie River East Branch entering Wellington Dam and improve the quality of dam water for irrigation.

The proposal forms 'Stage 1' of a two-stage project. 'Stage 2' of the project, which aims to enhance the delivery of irrigation water from the Wellington Dam to the Collie Irrigation District, and subsequent expansion of the Myalup Irrigated Agriculture Project, is currently in the planning phase and will be referred to the EPA. The scope and timing of Stage 2 would depend on the outcomes of Stage 1, particularly in relation to salinity reduction in Wellington Dam Reservoir.

The EPA has considered the proposal in accordance with the requirements of the EP Act and the Environmental Impact Assessment (Part IV Divisions 1 and 2) Administrative Procedures 2016 and Environmental Impact Assessment (Part IV Divisions 1 and 2) Procedures Manual.

Attached is the Environmental Protection Authority's public record announcing its decision.

About the Myalup–Wellington Project

The Myalup–Wellington Project is an industry developed initiative led by Collie Water, in response to increased salinity in the Wellington Dam catchment and in the dam itself, and inefficiency in the water distribution network below the dam. Increased salinity and reduced reliability of groundwater has restricted high yield fruit and vegetable production in the Myalup Irrigated Agricultural Precinct, and has impacted agricultural activity in Harvey Water's Collie River Irrigation District, as growers return water entitlements.

The project is a significant economic development project involving Collie Water, the State Government and the Commonwealth and key stakeholders, to substantially increase production capacity, create jobs and allow economic uplift in the region.

In March 2018 Infrastructure Australia, following a review of more than 500 submissions from governments, stakeholder groups and the community, included the Myalup–Wellington project on its national Priority List. Of the twelve projects from around Australia classified as either High Priority Projects or Priority Projects at that time, the Myalup–Wellington Project was the only Western Australian project included, and the only water project from across Australia.

The project will be majority funded by Collie Water. In addition, the State Government has committed \$35 million in grant funding and the Commonwealth will contribute \$140 million from the National Water Infrastructure Development Fund.

About Collie Water

Collie Water is the trading name of Myalup Wellington Water Corporation Pty Ltd. Collie Water is a special-purpose company formed to implement and operate the Project. Collie Water was established by WA water solutions provider Aqua Ferre.

Aqua Ferre was founded by corporate advisory group Pendulum Capital and agri-supplier Regal Grange Group, to develop water projects across the state.



Public record pursuant to s39(1) of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Proposal Title: Myalup Wellington Dam Project Stage 1 (Above Dam Works)

Proposal Location: Shire of Collie

Case Number: CMS 17577

Date referral received: 7-3-2019

Date more information received: 01-07-19

Referrer: Collie Water

Proponent: Collie Water

Potential significant effects:

There are potential impacts on: Flora and Vegetation from the clearing of 9.4 ha of native remnant vegetation; Terrestrial Fauna from the clearing of habitat; Inland Waters from the abstraction of water from the Collie River East Branch, impact to environmental flows, aquatic species and groundwater; Social Surroundings from disturbance of Aboriginal Heritage sites.

Public comment on referral information:

Do not assess:	0
Assess: a) Referral information	1
b) Environmental review - no public review	1
c) Public environmental review	2
	<i>Total submissions:</i> 4

Decision: s. 39A – Not Assess

Referral Examined, preliminary investigations and inquiries conducted. Proposal not to be assessed under Part IV of the EP Act – Advice given.

Explanation of decision:

The EPA considers that the likely environmental effects of the proposal are not so significant as to warrant formal assessment because of the small scale of the proposal and the existing environment is highly modified from historical land uses. The proposal includes maintaining minimum environmental flows in Collie River East Branch (past the diversion); limiting water diversion to winter and spring high-flow periods; and the relatively small amount of clearing. The EPA is of the view that the potential impacts of the proposal can be adequately managed through the implementation of the proposal in accordance with the referral documentation and the proponent's management and mitigation measures.

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Appeals: This decision is appealable. Appeals close 21-10-2019. Appeals are administered by the Office of the Appeals Convenor.

Dr Tom Hatton
CHAIRMAN

Delegate of the Environmental Protection Authority

Date: 1 Oct 2019