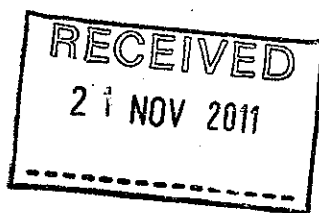




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14 November 2011

Ms Madeleine Foley
Principal Council Officer
General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5
Parliament House
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Ms Foley

Inquiry into coal seam gas

I refer to your letter dated 7th November 2011 asking for the return of the corrected transcript along with the response to the question taken on notice.

There are no corrections to be made in the transcript of our evidence given on behalf of MidCoast Water.

The Sydney Catchment Authority has developed principles to underpin decision making about coal seam gas developments in drinking water catchments. They are included on page 29 and 30 of the NSW Government's submission to the Inquiry. The question taken on notice was whether or not I think they are appropriate in our catchment area.

MidCoast Water fully supports the principles developed by the Sydney Catchment Authority. They cover comprehensively important issues related to protection of water supplies from the effects of coal seam gas developments. However, the principles developed by the Authority relate only to the protection of "inflows to storages", referring specifically to the water supplies in their area of operation which extract water from large on-river storage dams.

Most of water supplies across NSW take water directly from the rivers or from small pools created by the weirs. There are also water supplies taking water from the groundwater sources.

The reference to "inflows to storages" used by Sydney Catchment Authority in regard to the protection of water quality and quantity, contained in the first 2 dot points of the principles, has to be extended by adding the reference to these other water supplies.

After introduction of the above changes in wording, the principles developed by the Sydney Catchment Authority will be appropriate in our catchment areas.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before the Committee, and to comment on the principles aiming to protect drinking water supplies developed by the Sydney Catchment Authority.

Yours faithfully

Robert Loadsman
General Manager