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Re: Submission to Snowy 2.0 Exploratory Works Modification (SSI 9208)

I have to object to the short time-frame for public scrutiny of these modifications. My comments therefore can only be generalisations but I hope will still be counted as relevant.

“Snowy Hydro must produce an EIS for the whole Snowy 2 project not just Exploratory works. A staged EIS works for a project like the Wagga Hospital where the footprint is established in stage 1 then every other stage is on top. Snowy 2.0 if it goes ahead is proposing to establish a significant footprint in stage 1 and an unknown but significant footprint in an unknown number of further stages. It's illogical, unreasonable and environmentally reckless.”

This is an excerpt from my submission in August 2018 and this modification validates my comment. Snowy 2.0 is a major proposal which will have a major impact. That's why all the facts need to be known before starting the project.

A shift of the footprint 1 kilometer to the west, construction of a substation and increasing impact on Smoky Mouse (SM) habitat to name just a few are all additional impacts on Kosciuszko National Park already struggling to regenerate under among many other things, the impacts of climate change.

The only logic Snowy Hydro Limited (SHL) gives for this project is to help address rising energy costs, energy security, and transition away from coal.

I would argue that this argument must be balanced by the natural values to humanity which national parks provide and which this project threatens.

There are plenty of other projects outside of National Parks who are rapidly addressing rising energy costs, energy security, and transition away from coal.

Stop this project now before we all regret it.

This is an increasingly negative impact on SM habitat (p 113) with SHL's only commitment to “long term environmental management” (p 116) for this “critically endangered” (p 61) species being offset.

This staged EIS process is an abyss of unknown proportions. Where is the ceiling to SM destruction. I've been informed by senior SHL staff there will be further modifications resulting in further SM habitat destruction - and we are only months into the exploratory stage of the proposal. It makes a joke of the Biodiversity Conservation Act and it should be pricking the conscience of all those involved in approving this.