



Colongra Power Station Modification 4

Administrative Condition Amendment – Alignment with Environment
Protection Licence Limit Conditions

State Significant Development Modification Assessment

(SSD 05_0195 MOD 4)

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1 Introduction

The Colongra Power Station is located approximately 40 kilometres (km) southwest of Newcastle and 2 km southeast of Doyalson in the Central Coast region of NSW. The facility is owned and operated by Snowyhydro Limited (Snowy Hydro).

The facility operates under Ministerial development consent MP 05_0195 issued by the Minister for Planning in 2006. The consent permits an output of 660 megawatts (MW) via four turbines fired through both gas and diesel fuel.

2 Proposed modification

The development consent imposes limits on nitrogen oxide (NO₂) emissions for turbine stack discharge points. The facility's Environment Protection Licence (EPL) regulated by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) under the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* (POEO Act) contains these same limits.

In October 2020, the facility's EPL was varied to allow for the temporary exceedance of air concentration limits, during emergency circumstances. These circumstances include responding to a direction by the Australian Electricity Market Operator (AEMO) to secure or stabilise the electricity network. This emergency exceedance provision is not included in the development consent.

Snowy Hydro is seeking to modify its development consent to ensure consistency with the variation to the EPL approved by the EPA, the NSW Government's key regulator on air emissions.

3 Statutory context

The modification application has been lodged under section 4.55(1) of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act) as an administrative modification. The Department has reviewed the modification application and considers that it is within the scope of this section.

The Minister for Planning is the consent authority for the application. However, under the Minister's delegation of 9 March 2022, the Director Resource Assessments may determine the application.

4 Engagement

The Department is not required to notify or seek public submissions on the application because it is administrative in nature. Nonetheless, the Department made the Modification Report available on its website and consulted with the Environment Protection Agency (EPA) on its proposed condition amendment.

5 Evaluation

The proposed modification involves amendment of condition 2.8 of Schedule 2 of the development consent to allow the facility to operate in accordance with its EPL.

No change is proposed to the prescribed NO₂ discharges limits in the development that would be in effect during normal operating circumstances. The proposed modification would allow Snowy Hydro to discharge air emissions consistent with the EPA's EPL variation approval during emergency circumstances as directed by AEMO.

The Department has proposed amendments to condition 2.8 of Schedule 2 that would allow Snowy Hydro to meet air emission discharge requirements as authorised by the EPA. The Department consulted with the EPA who confirmed that this proposed condition amendment was acceptable.

The proposed modification would allow Snowy Hydro to comply with directions by the AEMO to stabilise and secure energy supplies during emergency circumstances.

The Department considers that the proposed modification is in the public interest and should be approved, subject to the recommended condition.

6 Determination

It is recommended that the Director Resource Assessments, as delegate of the Minister for Planning:

- **considers** the findings and recommendations of this report;
- **determines** that the application 05_0195 MOD 4 falls within the scope of section 4.55(1) of the EP&A Act;
- **accepts and adopts** all of the findings and recommendations in this report as the reasons for making the decision to approve the modification;
- **modify** the consent 05_0195; and
- **signs** the attached approval of the modification (**Appendix B**).

Recommended by:



6/7/2022

Gen Lucas

Team Leader - Resource Assessments

The recommendation is **Adopted** by:



8/7/2022

Steve O'Donoghue

Director Resource Assessments

as delegate of the Minister for Planning

Appendices

Appendix A1 – List of referenced documents

A1 – Modification Report: Refer to folder “Modification Application” on the Department’s website at – <https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/projects/modification-4-administrative-modification-condition-28>

Appendix B – Notice of modification

<https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/projects/modification-4-administrative-modification-condition-28>

Appendix C – Consolidated Consent

<https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/projects/modification-4-administrative-modification-condition-28>