

Director-General's Requirements

Section 75F of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*

Application	08_160
Project	Murrumbidgee to Googong Water Transfer Project. In particular, the project involves the transfer of up to 100ML per day of water from the Murrumbidgee River at Angle Crossing (ACT) to Burra Creek (NSW) near the Googong Reservoir. The component of the project within NSW includes: ▪ construction and operation of a pipeline from the ACT border to Burra Creek; and ▪ construction and operation of a discharge point at Burra Creek.
Site	The pipeline route traverses various properties between the ACT/NSW border at Williamsdale and Burra Creek in the Palerang local government area.
Proponent	ACTEW Corporation Ltd
Date of issue	7 October 2008
Date of Expiration	7 October 2010
General Requirements	The Environmental Assessment (EA) should be prepared to a high technical and scientific standard and include: ▪ an executive summary; ▪ a detailed description of the project including, construction methods, location and alignment of project components, operation details, including pumping technology and water quality standards to be applied, interfaces with watercourses, energy requirements and any staging; ▪ an assessment of the environmental impacts of the project, with particular focus on the key assessment requirements specified below; ▪ justification for undertaking the project with consideration of the benefits and impacts of the proposal; ▪ a draft Statement of Commitments detailing measures for environmental mitigation, management and monitoring of the project; and ▪ certification by the author of the Environmental Assessment that the information contained in the Assessment is neither false nor misleading.
Key Assessment Requirements	▪ Strategic and Project Justification – the Environmental Assessment must clearly outline the strategic context of the project, having regard to existing and future development of the Australian Capital Territory and the Queanbeyan area, regional water supply and demand, and the effect on downstream users. The Environmental Assessment must describe the need for and objectives of the project; alternatives considered (including an assessment of the environmental costs and benefits of the project relative to alternatives) and provide justification for the preferred project taking into consideration the objects of the <i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i>. ▪ Water Quality and Hydrology – the Environmental Assessment must include an assessment of water quality impacts arising from the construction and operation of the project. With respect to construction, risks associated with laying pipelines, including across watercourses, erosion and sedimentation controls and management of any discharges from the project to prevent impacts to nearby watercourses must be addressed. With respect to operation, details of the quality of the transferred water should be provided particularly as it relates to existing water quality in both the Murrumbidgee River at Angle Crossing and Burra Creek must be assessed. ▪ Flora and Fauna - the Environmental Assessment must include a flora and fauna impact assessment taking into consideration impacts on any threatened species, populations, ecological communities and/or critical habitat and any relevant recovery plan in accordance with the DECC's <i>Guidelines for Threatened Species Assessment</i> (2005). This assessment must justify the need for clearing any vegetation and/ or habitat features and include an evaluation of potential impacts on waterways, aquatic ecosystems or riparian zones, including potential for weed infestation, impacts to fish passage, and the provision of any

	compensatory habitat/ biodiversity offsets. ▪ Indigenous and Non-indigenous Cultural Heritage Impacts – the Environmental Assessment must include an assessment of indigenous and non-indigenous cultural heritage values that may be impacted by the project with details on subsurface archaeological investigations undertaken for potential archaeological deposits. The assessment must address the information and consultation requirements of the draft <i>Guidelines for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment and Community Consultation</i> (DEC, 2005). ▪ Traffic and Transport – the Environmental Assessment must include an assessment of impacts to the local and regional road network and intersections during construction, including direct impacts from traffic rerouting and any access restrictions to property, as well as details on the nature/ mode of traffic generated from the project, transport routes and traffic volumes. Consideration must also be given to the impact of the project on any existing and proposed railway infrastructure in the area. ▪ Noise and Vibration – the Environmental Assessment must include an assessment of noise and vibration impacts during construction and operation and in a cumulative context with existing development. The assessment must take into account the following guidelines, as relevant: <i>Industrial Noise Policy</i> (EPA, 2000), <i>Assessing Vibration: A Technical Guideline</i> (DECC, 2006) and draft <i>New South Wales Construction Noise Guideline</i> (DECC, 2008). ▪ Spoil Management – the Environmental Assessment must include estimates of likely spoil generation, including identification of known or potential contamination issues, and options for spoil management, reuse and/ or disposal. ▪ Soils and Groundwater – the Environmental Assessment shall include consideration of the impact of trenching and other underground work on soils, groundwater and subsurface flows. ▪ General Environmental Risk Analysis – notwithstanding the above key assessment requirements, the Environmental Assessment shall include an environmental risk analysis to identify potential environmental impacts associated with the project (construction and operation), proposed mitigation measures and potentially significant residual environmental impacts after the application of proposed mitigation measures. Where additional key environmental impacts are identified through this environmental risk analysis, an appropriately detailed impact assessment of this additional key environmental impact must be included in the Environmental Assessment.
Consultation Requirements	You should undertake an appropriate and justified level of consultation with relevant parties during the preparation of the Environmental Assessment, including: ▪ NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change; ▪ NSW Department of Primary Industries; ▪ NSW Department of Water and Energy, Southern Rivers Catchment Management and the Murray-Darling Basin Commission; ▪ NSW Roads and Traffic Authority and Railcorp; ▪ Commonwealth Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts; ▪ Palerang Council; ▪ the local community, including affected landowners. The Environmental Assessment must describe the consultation process, document all community consultation undertaken to date and identify the issues raised (including where these have been addressed in the Environmental Assessment).
Deemed refusal period	Under clause 8E(2) of the <i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000</i>, the applicable deemed refusal period is 60 days from the end of the proponent's environmental assessment period for the project.