



Our ref: DOC26/132162-6

16 March 2026

Kurtis Wathen
Principal Planning Officer
Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure

Via: NSW Major Projects Planning portal

**EPA Advice on Submissions and Amendment Reports
Hunter Transmission Project – SSI-70610456**

Dear Kurtis

I am writing in response to your request for the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) to review the Submissions and Amendment Reports for the proposed Hunter Transmission Project.

The EPA has reviewed the following documents:

- *Submissions Report* – EnergyCo – February 2026
- *Amendment Report* – EnergyCo – February 2026
- *Amendment Report Appendix A-D* – EnergyCo – February 2026
- *Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment Addendum* (version 1.0) – SLR – August 2025

The EPA understands the proposal is for construction and operation of a 110km 500kV transmission line from Bayswater South to Olney switching stations, including upgrades to Bayswater and Eraring substations. The EPA understands amendments to the proposal include:

- Realignment of transmission lines at Mount Thorley and Gouldsville,
- Changes to substation works at Eraring and Bayswater,
- Changes to construction methods and sites.

Based on the information provided, the proposal is being undertaken by EnergyCo. The EPA would be the Appropriate Regulatory Authority (ARA) for the proposal for the purposes of the *Protection of the Environment Operations* (POEO) Act 1997 under Section 6(2)(c) of the POEO Act.

The EPA has reviewed the Submissions and Amendment Reports and notes it generally addresses the EPA's submission on this project from 24 September 2025 (DOC25/723503-10). The EPA has the following comments and recommendations:

Matters to be addressed with conditions

1. Noise impacts

The EPA recommends Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) to consider the noise comments in **Attachment A**, relating to the management and mitigation

NSW Environment Protection Authority

As the environmental steward and regulator of our State we are committed to a sustainable future. Join us on our mission to protect tomorrow together.

Phone:
131 555

Website:
epa.nsw.gov.au

Email:
info@epa.nsw.gov.au

Mail:
Locked Bag 5022
Parramatta NSW 2124



of construction and operational noise, as part of preparing conditions for the proposal, should it be approved.

The purpose of these comments is to ensure suitable measures for monitoring and mitigating construction and operational noise are included in any project approval to minimise impact on identified receivers.

2. Previously recommended matters for conditions

The EPA notes the recommendations in its previous response dated 24 September 2025 regarding considerations for conditions relating to air quality, contamination and waste. The EPA continues to recommend DPHI consider these comments when preparing any conditions for the project.

Matters for consideration

1. Compliance with existing licence conditions

The EPA notes the amended proposal will continue to impact a number of licenced premises listed in the EPA's previous response dated 24 September 2025. In particular, the amended proposal increases work on land within the Bayswater Power Station (EPL 779) and Eraring Power Station premises (EPL 1429).

The EPA advises that DPHI should note that works within licenced premises will need to comply with the applicable licence conditions, unless the respective licences are varied accordingly. The Proponent should be addressed as part of the post approval Construction and Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) for the project.

2. Scheduled activities under POEO Act

The EPA notes the comments in the Submissions Report regarding whether works at any of the proposed construction sites will exceed the thresholds in Schedule 1 of the POEO Act, particularly with regard to Clause 16 Crushing, Grinding and Separating and Clause 20 Helicopter activities. The Proponent should address tracking of these activities against the relevant thresholds in the POEO Act as part of the CEMP.

Please contact Carlos Ferguson at environmentprotection.planning@epa.nsw.gov.au if you have any further questions about this matter.

Yours sincerely,



CHRISTIE JACKSON
Unit Head – Environment Protection Planning
NSW Environment Protection Authority

Attachment A – NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) advice on Submissions and Amendment Reports for Hunter Transmission Project (SSD-70610456)

The EPA provides the following comments on matters it recommends be addressed by conditions, for DPHI's consideration as part of its assessment should the project be approved.

Matters to be addressed with conditions

1. Noise Impacts

Construction noise

- All works and activities must be undertaken in a manner that will minimise noise and vibration impacts on noise sensitive receivers.
- The EPA notes the proponents response to the EPA's comments regarding preparation of a Construction Noise and Vibration Management Plan (CNVMP) provided in its previous advice dated 24 September 2025.
- Any work generating high noise impact (e.g. rock hammering, helicopter, drone) must only be undertaken:
 - between the hours of 8:00am and 6:00pm Monday to Friday;
 - between the hours of 8:00am and 1:00pm Saturday; and
 - in continuous blocks of no more than 3 hours, with at least a 1-hour respite between each block of work generating high noise impact, where the location of the work is likely to impact the same receivers,

For the purposes of this condition 'continuous' includes any period during which there is less than a 1-hour respite between ceasing and recommencing any of the work the subject of this condition.

Operational Noise

- The EPA notes the recommended operational noise limits/Project Noise Trigger Levels (PNTLs) below are recommended for audible transmission line noise, with an exemption if a negotiated agreement is in place. The EPA recommends any approval include provisions for negotiated agreements.
- The EPA suggests consideration of post-commissioning noise monitoring and verification of operational noise against the predicted PNTLs, and undertaking an assessment of, and implementation of any reasonable and feasible mitigation measures where there are any exceedances of the PNTLs.
- Operational noise generated by switching stations and substations at the premises should not exceed the noise limits at the times and locations in the table below. The noise limits apply at all residential receivers within the nominated noise catchment area (NCA) in the table below. The NCA referred to in the table below are indicated in Attachment B of Technical report 8 Noise and vibration impact assessment, prepared by SLR Consulting Australia, SLR Project No.: 630.032094.00001.

Noise catchment area	Noise limit dB(A)		
	Day	Evening	Night
	L _{Aeq,15min}	L _{Aeq,15min}	L _{Aeq,15min}
NCA 01	42	41	38
NCA02	40	35	35
NCA14	40	40	38
Any other location	40	35	35

For the purposes of this condition:

- Day means the period from 7am to 6pm Monday to Saturday and the period from 8am to 6pm Sunday and public holidays.
- Evening means the period from 6pm to 10pm.
- Night means the period from 10pm to 7am Monday to Saturday and the period from 10pm to 8am Sunday and public holidays.

The noise limits set out in the above condition apply under the following meteorological conditions:

Assessment Period	Meteorological Conditions
Day	Stability Categories A, B, C, D and E with wind speeds up to and including 3m/s at 10m above ground level.
Evening	Stability Categories A, B, C, D and E with wind speeds up to and including 3m/s at 10m above ground level.
Night	Stability Categories A, B, C, D and E with wind speeds up to and including 3m/s at 10m above ground level; or Stability category F with wind speeds up to and including 2m/s at 10m above ground level.

For those meteorological conditions not referred to the above condition, the noise limits that apply are the noise limits in condition L6.1 plus 5dB.

- Audible transmission line noise at the premises must not exceed the noise limits at the times and locations in the table below. The noise limits apply at all residential receivers within the nominated noise catchment area (NCA) in the table below. The NCA referred to in the table below are indicated in Attachment B of Technical report 8 Noise and vibration impact assessment, prepared by SLR Consulting Australia, SLR Project No.: 630.032094.00001.

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	Day	Evening	Night
	L _{Aeq,15min}	L _{Aeq,15min}	L _{Aeq,15min}
NCA 01	42	41	38
NCA02	40	35	35
NCA03	41	38	37
NCA04	40	36	36
NCA05	43	40	38
NCA06	40	35	35
NCA07	40	36	35
NCA08	40	35	35
NCA09	40	39	38
NCA10	40	39	38
NCA11	40	37	35
NCA12	42	40	36
NCA13	48	48	43
NCA14	40	40	38
Any other location	40	35	35

The noise limits specified in the above condition do not apply to any sensitive receiver location (residence) where a noise agreement is in place between the licensee and the respective land owner(s) in respect to noise impacts and/or noise limits.

For the purposes of this condition 6.6:

- Day means the period from 7am to 6pm Monday to Saturday and the period from 8am to 6pm Sunday and public holidays.
- Evening means the period from 6pm to 10pm.

- Night means the period from 10pm to 7am Monday to Saturday and the period from 10pm to 8am Sunday and public holidays.

The noise limits set out in the above condition for audible transmission line noise apply under all meteorological conditions.