

Our ref: OUT26/3087

Kurtis Wathen
Planning Group
NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure

Email: kurtis.wathen@dpie.nsw.gov.au

17/03/2026

Subject: Hunter Transmission Project (SSI-70610456) – Response to Submissions and Amendment Report

Dear Kurtis Wathen,

I refer to your request for advice sent on 3 March 2026 to the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) Water Group about the above matter.

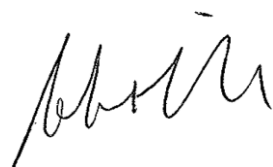
NSW DCCEEW Water Group has reviewed the Response to Submissions and Amendment Report and has recommendations regarding:

- Amending the construction site footprint to be consistent with watercourse buffer requirements.
- Water licensing and approval requirements for water supply and take.

Please see **Attachment A** for details.

Should you have any further queries in relation to this submission please do not hesitate to contact the Water Assessments team at water.assessments@dcceew.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rob Brownbill".

Rob Brownbill,
Manager, Water Assessments, Planning & Knowledge Division
NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water

Attachment A

Detailed advice to DPHI Planning & Assessment regarding the Hunter Transmission Project (SSI-70610456) – RTS and Amendment Report

1.0 Activities on waterfront land

1.1 Recommendation – pre-determination

The Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) requests the proponent to amend the footprints of the construction support sites at Hebden Road, Wollombi Road and Freeman's Drive (including Bushfire Asset Protection Zones) to address the Vegetated Riparian Zone requirements of the Guidelines for Controlled Activities on Waterfront Land (DCCEEW 2025). This amendment is to:

- Ensure the retention and protection of existing riparian vegetation, including removal of all development (including APZ's) from the inner VRZ of Jigadee Ck, Cudgewai Ck and Lake Liddell.
- Include riparian offsets for any encroachment into the outer VRZs of Jigadee Ck and Cudgewai Ck.

Explanation

The proposed development footprints of the construction support sites at Hebden Road, Wollombi Road and Freemans Drive, when Bushfire Asset Protection zones are considered, encroach into the required inner Vegetated Riparian Zone widths of the adjacent watercourses and lake (Lake Liddel, Cudgewai Creek and Jigadee Creek respectively) and are therefore not in accordance with the Guidelines for Controlled Activities on Waterfront Land (DCCEEW 2025).

1.2 Recommendation – post approval

DPHI should ensure the proponent's works within waterfront land are in accordance with the Guidelines for Controlled Activities on Waterfront Land (DCCEEW 2025).

Explanation

The project contains many sites where works are proposed within waterfront land. This includes upgrade and construction of new access tracks and forestry roads, compound sites, tower sites and laydown and materials processing areas. These works need to address the Guidelines for Controlled Activities on Waterfront Land (DCCEEW 2025).

2.0 Water supply, take and licensing

2.1 Recommendation – post approval

DPHI should request the proponent to:

- Obtain a water access licence (WAL) to account for the maximum predicted water take for construction and operation activities unless an exemption applies under the *Water Management (General) Regulation 2025 (WM Reg)*.
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- Obtain a water supply work approval under the *Water Management Act 2000* for water supply works that have not been identified and assessed in the SSD documentation.

Explanation

The RTS and Amendment Report refer to the proposal to utilise existing WALs to supply up to 60% of the projects water demand (potable and non-potable), in addition to a number of other options e.g. rainwater, reuse/recycling, groundwater inflows, additional groundwater or surface water sources. Under the *Water Management Act 2000*, if water is to be taken a WAL must be obtained prior to the take occurring unless an exemption applies. WAL exemptions under Schedule 4 of the WM Reg should be considered for the project in addition to requirements to claim the exemption which can include mandatory monitoring and reporting.

Should the project require additional water supply works e.g. a dam, bore, pipeline that have not been identified and assessed as part of the SSD documentation a water supply work approval will need to be obtained from DCCEEW Water under the *Water Management Act 2000*.

Further information on these requirements and other information on licensing and approvals and exemptions, including a form to report and record water taken can be found at: <https://www.water.dcceew.nsw.gov.au/our-work/licensing-and-approvals> and [Groundwater access licence exemptions | NSW Government Water](#).

End Attachment A
