

Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI)
C/- Major Projects Portal

Attention: Kurtis Wathen

Hunter Transmission Project (SSI-70610456)

Dear Mr Wathen,

I refer to your request for advice on the Hunter Transmission amendment report dated 18 March 2026.

The NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Agriculture and Biosecurity (the Department) has reviewed the documentation provided.

The assessment report has outlined the project's amendments. It is noted that the total area of agricultural land affected has increased by approximately 3ha to 877ha, with dryland agricultural land increasing to 839ha and irrigated land decreasing from 57ha to 38ha. It is also noted that the extent of affected Biophysical Strategic Agricultural Land (BSAL) has decreased from 213ha to 190ha, and that Land and Soil Capability (LSC) (Second Approximation) Class 3 land has reduced from 182ha to 159ha.

Based on the above, the amendments do not appear to result in a greater impact on agricultural land than that assessed in the EIS.

However, the Amendment Report states that *'there have been minor adjustments to the number of properties requiring acquisition or leasing, as well as to the overall area required for acquisition and leasing, as a result of ongoing consultation with affected landholders'* (page 192). The EIS previously identified a reduction in the number of directly affected properties from 78 to approximately 20 at the EIS stage (page 234).

While the Amendment Report identifies changes to the extent of land affected in hectare terms, it does not clearly outline whether these amendments have resulted in a change to the number of properties affected. As such, it is unclear how the referenced adjustments to the number of properties requiring acquisition or leasing relate to the previously identified number of affected properties in the EIS.

Should you require clarification on any of the information provided, please do not hesitate to contact me by email at landuse.ag@dpird.nsw.gov.au.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H Willis', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Helen Willis

Agricultural Land Use Planning Officer

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