



OUT21/16010

Dominic Crinnion
Planning and Assessment Group
NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

Dominic.Crinnion@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Mr Crinnion

**Snowy 2.0 – Main Works Mod 1 – Main Access Tunnel to Marica Services Connection
(SSI-9687)**

I refer to your email of 25 October 2021 to the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) Water and the Natural Resources Access Regulator (NRAR) about the above matter.

Snowy Hydro Limited propose to modify the critical State Significant Infrastructure approval (CSSI 9687) for the Snowy 2.0 Main Works as approved May 2020, to undertake horizontal directional drilling (HDD) to establish water and electricity services between the Lobs Hole and Marica areas of the project.

DPIE Water and NRAR require further information from the proponent with regard to accounting for water required during drilling construction and operation. Please find additional details in Attachment A.

Any further referrals to DPIE Water and NRAR can be sent by email to water.assessments@dpie.nsw.gov.au. or to the following coordinating officer within DPIE Water:

Simon Francis – Senior Project Officer
E: simon.francis@dpie.nsw.gov.au
M: 0428 926 117

Yours sincerely

Liz Rogers, Manager Assessments
Knowledge Division
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment: Water
9 November 2021

Attachment A

Detailed advice to DPIE Planning & Assessment regarding the Snowy 2.0 – Main Works Mod 1 – Main Access Tunnel to Marica Services Connection (SSI-9687)

1.0 Water Take and Entitlement

1.1 Explanation

- The report does not indicate what water access licence will be used to account for water take from the unregulated surface water system which may be needed to meet the drilling requirements for this project. The modification report refers to water demands for the drilling to be sourced from the Main Access Tunnel water supply system, however the source of this water and how it is accounted for has not been provided. Clarification is requested on the need to use water sourced from unregulated river water sources and whether the current water access licence(s) held by the proponent are sufficient to account for this water take. This needs to be considered in terms of existing demands for the Snowy 2.0 project.
- The modification development is estimated to intersect ground water at an estimated rate of 900KL/day over the 100 day period of the modification development (a total of 90 ML).
- The proponent holds a large water allocation, under water access Licence 40AL418132 within the Lachlan Fold Belt Murray Darling Basin groundwater source. However, the proponent has not provided a water balance to describe how this additional 90ML fits into the total water balance of the project and hence whether the additional water exceeds the allocated limit for this water source.
- We require information on the quantity of groundwater take due to construction and operation of the seven drill holes required for this modification. This is necessary to address the requirements of the NSW Aquifer Interference Policy for the Snow 2.0 project.
- The proposed mitigating measures to meter groundwater intercepted, to divert clean runoff and to implement erosion and sediment controls in areas of disturbance are supported. The additional activities of the project and associated metering, monitoring and mitigating measures will need to be detailed within updated management plans.

1.2 Recommendation – Prior to Determination

That the proponent:

- a) Clarify the need to use unregulated river water sources to meet the water demands of this project. Where this is required, confirmation is requested of the adequacy of entitlement held in existing water access licences to account for the take by this modification, in addition to the existing demands of the project.
- b) Provide a revised water balance that includes the additional take from the modification development to clarify total take is within entitlement held.
- c) Quantify the annual groundwater take due to construction and operation of the seven holes in accordance with the requirements of the NSW Aquifer Interference Policy.

1.3 Recommendation – Post Determination

That the proponent:

- a) Update the Groundwater Management Plan and Surface Water Management Plan to reflect the additional activities and necessary monitoring, metering and management measures to report on groundwater and surface water take and to manage potential impacts to water sources due to the activity.

End Attachment A