



DOC22/30534

Team Leader
Energy Resource Assessment
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
Locked Bag 5022
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By Major Projects Portal

Attention: Iwan Davies

EPA Advice on Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Mr Davies

Thank you for the request for advice from Public Authority Consultation (PAE-35178736), requesting the review by the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Proposed Energy Connect (NSW – Eastern Section) (SSI-9172452) between Buronga and Wagga Wagga.

The EPA has reviewed the following documents:

- EnergyConnect (NSW-Eastern Section) Environmental Impacts Statement (Volume 1 – Main Volume) – WSP Australia Pty Ltd – 13 January 2022;
- EnergyConnect (NSW-Eastern Section) Technical paper 8 Hydrology, Flooding and Water Quality – Volume 1 – WSP Australia Pty Ltd – December 2021;
- EnergyConnect (NSW-Eastern Section) Technical paper 9 Air Quality Impact Assessment - Volume 1 – WSP Australia Pty Ltd – December 2021;
- EnergyConnect (NSW-Eastern Section) Technical paper 10 Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment – Volume 1 – WSP Australia Pty Ltd – December 2021;
- EnergyConnect (NSW-Eastern Section) Technical paper 14 Phase 1 Contamination Assessment – Volume 1 – WSP Australia Pty Ltd – December 2021; and
- EnergyConnect (NSW-Eastern Section) Technical paper 15 Groundwater Impact Assessment – Volume 1 – WSP Australia Pty Ltd – December 2021.

The EPA understands the proposal is for:

- The construction of about 375km of new 330 kilovolt(kV) double circuit transmission line and associated infrastructure between the Buronga substation and the proposed Dinawan 330kV substation;
- The construction of a new substation around 30km south of Coleambally, known as the proposed Dinawan 330kV substation;
- The construction of about 162km of new 500kV double circuit transmission line and associated infrastructure between the proposed Dinawan substation and the existing Wagga Wagga substation;
- An upgrade and expansion of the existing Wagga Wagga substation to accommodate the new transmission line connections;

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- The crushing and screening of material to be used for the construction of the proposed Dinawan substation; and
- Ancillary works required to facilitate the construction of the proposal, such as laydown and staging areas, concrete batching plants, brake/winch sites, site offices and accommodation camps.

Based on the information provided, the proposal will require an environment protection licence under sections 43 and 48 of the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* (POEO Act) for crushing, grinding or separating, clause 16 of Schedule 1 of the POEO Act.

The EPA note there is a proposal to utilise treated effluent from the Koorinal and Narrung sewage treatment plants and the Gregadoo Waste Management Centre as a method of dust suppression, earthworks and washdown during construction activities.

These three sites all currently hold environment protection licences with the EPA that do not allow the use of treated water for dust suppression or for other construction purposes. In addition, the EPA has consulted with Wagga Wagga City Council on this proposal and have been advised that the treated effluent from the sewage treatment plant(s) does not have the log reduction (contaminant reduction) required to be safely utilised for any construction activities. Given that the use of treated sewage effluent for dust suppression is not currently permitted other sources of construction water will be required.

If you have any further enquiries about this matter please contact Briohny Seaman by telephoning 02 6983 4918 or by electronic mail at info@epa.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



9 February 2022

DARREN WALLETT
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NSW Environment Protection Authority