

Our Ref: C25/705

FE24/558

26 August 2025

Erin Matarazzo

The Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure

Re: ***Mount Piper to Wallerawang Transmission (SSI-70279722) Environmental Impact Statement***

DPIRD Fisheries is responsible for ensuring that fish stocks are conserved and that there is no net loss of key fish habitats upon which they depend. To achieve this, DPIRD Fisheries ensures that developments comply with the requirements of the *Fisheries Management Act 1994* (namely the aquatic habitat protection and threatened species conservation provisions in Parts 7 and 7A of the Act, respectively), and the associated *Policy and Guidelines for Fish Habitat Conservation and Management (2013)*. In addition, DPIRD Fisheries is responsible for ensuring the sustainable management of commercial, recreational and Aboriginal cultural fishing, aquaculture, marine parks and aquatic reserves within NSW.

DPIRD Fisheries has reviewed the Mount Piper to Wallerawang Transmission EIS and provide the following recommendations for conditions of consent:

Watercourse Crossings

The department requires that the design and construction of watercourse crossings is in accordance with the document *Policy and Guidelines for Fish Habitat Conservation and Management (Update 2013)*.

Riparian Buffer Zones

DPIRD Fisheries policy advocates the use of riparian buffer zones as per the *Policy and Guidelines for Fish Habitat Conservation and Management (Update 2013)* and supports maintaining adequate riparian buffer zones adjacent to the Cocks River where possible.

Should you have any queries regarding this correspondence please contact me on 0429 908 856.

D. Ward

David Ward

Fisheries Manager