



Our ref: DOC25/723113-6

24 September 2025

Erin Matarazzo
Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure

Via: Major Projects Portal

**EPA Advice on Environmental Impact Statement – Mount Piper to Wallerawang
Transmission – SSI-70279722**

Dear Erin

I am writing in response to your request for the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) to review the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Mount Piper to Wallerawang Transmission line (Application SSI-70279722).

The EPA has reviewed the following documents:

- *Mount Piper to Wallerawang Transmission Line Upgrade Project – Environment Impact Statement (version) – Transgrid – August 2025*
- *Mount Piper to Wallerawang Transmission Line Upgrade – Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment – GHD – August 2025*
- *Mount Piper to Wallerawang Transmission Line Upgrade – Contamination Assessment – GHD – August 2025*
- *Mount Piper to Wallerawang Transmission Line Upgrade – Water Impact Assessment – GHD – August 2025*

The EPA understand the proposal is for:

- The construction and operation of approximately 8km of new 330 kV transmission line between the Mount Piper and Wallerawang 330kV substations.
- The replacement of transmission structures, partial adjustment of existing transmission lines.
- Construction of permanent and temporary access tracks, construction compounds and laydown areas.

Based on the information provided, the proposal does not appear to require an environment protection licence under the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* (POEO). However, the proposal is being undertaken by an authorised electricity network provider as described in Section 6(2)(c1) of the POEO Act and therefore the EPA is the appropriate regulatory authority for the proposal.

NSW Environment Protection Authority

As the environmental steward and regulator of our State we are committed to a sustainable future. Join us on our mission to protect tomorrow together.

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It is noted that as part of the development of detailed design and construction details, the need for an Environmental Protection Licence (EPL) the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* may be identified, particularly for Helicopter-related activities, Crushing, grinding or separating, Electricity Generation (back-up diesel generators) or Sewage treatment.

The EPA advises DPHI that the Proponent is responsible for determining whether any activities trigger the requirement for an EPL and applying for the appropriate licence. The EPA recommends DPHI ensure a post-approval Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) is implemented and includes provisions for continuous review of relevant details and ensure an EPL is obtained prior to works exceeding any thresholds in Schedule 1 of the POEO Act at any of the construction sites.

The EPA has reviewed the EIS and notes that it does not provide the information required to allow us to complete our assessment. The EPA has the following comments and recommendations:

1. Matters to be addressed prior to determination (Attachment A)

- a. Noise

2. Matters to be addressed with conditions

The EPA recommends that the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) consider conditions addressing ground and surface water, sediment and erosion controls, contaminated land and waste in Attachment B. Additional conditions may be provided following review of the additional information requested in Attachment A for Noise.

3. Springvale Coal Services

The EPA acknowledges that the proponent has identified the proximity of the proposed project boundary with the nearby Springvale Coal Services premises, also known as Western Coal Services (WCS), operated by Centennial, and recognises the historical underground mine workings across WCS. In addition, the EPA also notes that the proponent has consulted with Centennial on matters relating to route options for the transmission line upgrade. The EPA would like to inform DPHI, the EPA is currently working with Centennial to address several significant historical and current surface and groundwater water management matters across the WCS premises, particularly a diversion of clean water draining from the upper Huon Gully towards the WCS premises in an area where the transmission line is proposed to be constructed. Therefore, the EPA seeks to ensure that the proponent is acutely aware of all potential risks to the environment while undertaking construction works within the upper catchment of WCS and within the Wangcol Creek and Upper Cocks River Catchment.

If you have any questions about this request, please contact Nick Vlasoff via email at environmentprotection.planning@epa.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Gabby Sutherland
A/Unit Head – Environment Protection Planning
NSW Environment Protection Authority

ATTCAHMENT A – MATTER TO BE ADDRESSED PRIOR TO DETERMINATION

The EPA recommends that DPHI require the applicant to address the matters in this attachment prior to determination of the application and provisions of recommended conditions.

Noise

The EPA recommends that DPHI request the additional information to enable the EPA to complete its assessment of noise and vibration impacts.

Construction Noise

The Noise Impact Assessment (NIA) proposes construction works outside the standard construction hours, which includes works from 6pm to 7pm on weekdays, 7am to 8am and 1pm to 6pm on Saturdays, and 7am to 6pm on Sundays. Exceedances of construction noise management levels (NMLs) of up to 34dB occurring outside standard construction hours have been predicted.

Section 3.3 of the NIA outlines justification for works occurring outside standard hours, noting that these works would be scheduled to occur away from the Lidsdale and Wallerawang townships and to avoid evening and night periods where possible. The EPA notes that measures to mitigate and manage these impacts outlined in Section 7 of the NIA do not provide specificity regarding when or where they will be implemented, how works will be scheduled, or how effectively they will reduce impacts. As such, they provide limited certainty that construction noise impacts will be managed effectively.

The EPA recommends that DPHI request the proponent to provide quantitative specificity regarding how the proposed measures will shift the timing of impacts away from sensitive periods, and/or reduce magnitude or duration of impacts.

Operations noise

The NIA has identified exceedances of the Noise Policy for Industry nighttime criteria from corona noise during light rain by up to 9dB, representing a 3dB increase when compared against noise from the existing transmission lines. Section 7 of the NIA states that monitoring will be undertaken at receivers predicted to experience exceedances of operational noise criteria, with mitigation considered in consultation with affected landowners where verified. However, detail has not been provided on the extent of mitigation that will be considered for affected receivers.

The EPA recommends that DPHI request the proponent to clarify how and what mitigation will be considered and applied to impacted receivers based on the extent of the predicted impacts.

ATTACHMENT B – MATTERS TO BE ADDRESSED WITH CONDITIONS

The EPA recommends that DPHI consider the following conditions as part of their determination of the application, should the project be approved.

Ground water and surface water management

The EPA recommends DPHI consider conditions for the management of surface and ground water for the proposal. The EPA recommends the conditions include:

- The preparation of a Soil and Water Management plan, which includes sediment control plans which are prepared in accordance with WaterNSW Current Recommended Practices (CRPs) *Managing Urban Stormwater: Soils and construction (Volume 1)* (Landcom, 2004) and *Volume 2c* (DECC, 2008) to manage construction phase risks associated with water quality and groundwater.
- Develop a trigger action response plan for the construction phase of the project to address groundwater inflows. The trigger response plan should include proposed actions in response to higher levels of groundwater inflow than predicted and how any ground water will be managed.

Sediment/Erosion

The EPA recommends DPHI consider conditions for the management of sediment and erosion for the project including the construction of any proposed access tracks. The EPA recommends the condition include:

- The implementation of all feasible and reasonable erosion and sediment controls as may be necessary throughout any construction works and activities to minimise the migration of sediment. The Proponent should ensure erosion and sediment controls are designed (where required), constructed, operated and maintained consistent with the principle and practices of industry best practice, including but not limited to the document *Managing Urban Stormwater: Soils and Construction (Volume 1)* (Landon 2004)

Contaminated Land

The EPA recommends DPHI consider conditions for the management of contaminated lands for the project. The EPA recommends the conditions include:

Construction Environmental Management Plan

- A Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) must be developed to outline the management measures required to prevent mobilisation of airborne asbestos fibres during the works.
- The CEMP must be prepared, or reviewed and approved, by consultants certified under either the Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand's Certified Environmental Practitioner (Site Contamination) scheme (CEnvP(SC)) or the Soil Science Australia Certified Professional Soil Scientist Contaminated Site Assessment and Management (CPSS CSAM) schemes.
- The Applicant must develop a site-specific CEMP for contamination at the site. The CEMP must:
 - Consider all known contamination present in soils at the site and consider the potential for groundwater to also be contaminated.
 - Outline clear measures to mitigate impacts to human health and the environment from the contamination, and identify the parties responsible for implementing these measures

- Include information on what actions must be undertaken if unexpected contamination is found as part of the development works; and
- Be prepared, or reviewed and approved, by consultants certified under either the Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand's Certified Environmental Practitioner (Site Contamination) scheme (CEnvP(SC)) or the Soil Science Australia Certified Professional Soil Scientist Contaminated Site Assessment and Management (CPSS CSAM) scheme

Unexpected Finds Protocol

- An Unexpected Finds Protocol must be developed for the site to outline procedures to follow if unexpected contamination is found during works at the site. The Unexpected Finds Protocol must be written by, or reviewed and approved by, a consultant certified by either of the following schemes:
 - Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand - Certified Environmental Practitioner (Site Contamination) (CEnvP (SC)); or
 - Soil Science Australia - Certified Professional Soil Scientist Contaminated Site Assessment and Management (CPSS CSAM)

Waste

The proposal has the potential to generate large quantities of waste. Construction and decommissioning of the proposal may exceed the capacity of local waste management facilities. It is recommended that the applicant prepare and implement a waste management strategy in consultation with the relevant local Councils to show waste will be directed to facilities that can lawfully accept it, including:

- The capability of the waste management facilities of the relevant Local Government Area to accept the volumes of waste predicted to be deposited and any associated approvals required to create and/or expand waste storage or disposal facilities.
- Any infrastructure that may be required at any waste facilities that are proposed to be created and/or expanded to receive additional volumes of waste from the project.