

7 October 2022

NSW Department of Planning & Environment

Director Resource Assessments

Attention: Steve O'Donoghue

Dear Steve

SSI 12590060 – Hunter Power Project: Modification Request

The Hunter Power Project (SSI 12590060) was approved by the Minister on 17 December 2021. As discussed on 3 August 2022, Snowy Hydro wish to modify the project, pursuant to section 5.25 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, in accordance with the details provided in this letter.

Scope of the modification

There are three main components to the proposed modification:

1. Temporary extension of the project site boundary to include land known as Precinct 3B.

The additional area of land proposed to be used during the construction phase comprises approximately 15 ha and adjoins the Project Site (as assessed in the Hunter Power Project EIS) directly to its south as shown below:



Figure 1-1: HPP Construction (red) Site and Precinct 3B (green)

Figure 1.1 Legend

1. Kurri Kurri North Switching Station
2. Power Station
3. APA Compressor and Construction Contractor Compound
4. Precinct 3B – Proposed carparking, laydown and OSOM staging

Snowy Hydro has entered into a license/ lease agreement with Regrowth Kurri Kurri (the industrial estate developer) and Hydro Aluminium (the landowner) to use Precinct 3B during construction of the power station. This additional land is proposed to be used for the purposes of:

- Stockpiling of material (both suitable and unsuitable earthworks material)
- Fabrication of power station components (including suitable temporary buildings/ shelters and associated facilities)
- Laydown areas
- Additional temporary (internal) construction access roads and hardstand areas
- Light vehicle parking area and associated roads
- Staging for oversize overmass (OSOM) vehicles and vehicle loads
- Staging and parking of plant/ heavy vehicles.

In order to safely undertake the above uses, it will be necessary to undertake minor site levelling and stabilisation/surface treatments, implement improvements to site stormwater drainage and erect some temporary structures.

The additional land would be handed back to the landowner on completion of construction of the power station. During operation, the Project would occupy only the land on the Project Site as delineated and assessed in the Hunter Power Project EIS.

2. An increase in light vehicle construction traffic accessing the project site for the duration of construction.

It is anticipated that light vehicle construction traffic will increase from the approved 200 vehicles per day to approximately 400 vehicles per day during the peak of construction (associated with an increase in construction workforce from about 250 to some 450 full time equivalents).

3. An increase in heavy vehicle construction traffic

It is anticipated that heavy vehicle numbers will increase from the approved 60 per day to approximately 130 per day at the peak of construction.

In addition, during two separate approximately 16-hour continuous concrete pours associated with the turbine pile caps (which are anticipated to take place over-night), there could be up to 320 vehicles, with a few other continuous concrete pours to occur later in the program requiring between 120 and 185 vehicles.

Proposed scope of the assessment

Snowy Hydro proposes to address the following matters in the Modification Report:

Biodiversity

The entirety of Precinct 3B was covered by the former aluminium smelter and then subjected to extensive earthworks as part of the demolition and remediation process. The site has recently been levelled, graded and stabilised and therefore no impacts to native flora and fauna is anticipated.

No surveys or assessment of biodiversity is proposed. However, as per the Biodiversity Management Plan, the unexpected finds of threatened species protocol would be followed in the unlikely event of that any biodiversity is found during the lease period.

Cultural heritage

Although Precinct 3B has been subject to extensive previous disturbance, a desktop review of potential risks and impacts to Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal cultural heritage will be carried out as part of the modification.

The scope, approach, methodology and results of the desktop heritage risk assessment will be documented in the Modification Report.

Construction noise

The Modification Report will include modelling of construction noise to assess the specific impacts of the proposed activities on the site. In addition, any likely changes to construction noise resulting from increased vehicle numbers will be considered.

The scope, approach, methodology and results of the construction noise assessment will be documented in the Modification Report.

Construction traffic

The impacts of increased light vehicle traffic on the surrounding road network will be assessed. This will also take into account any changes resulting from shift times and construction hours. These revised traffic numbers will be used to update the construction traffic modelling and allow an assessment of any change to the level of service of the Hunter Expressway during peak hours.

In addition, the modification will consider the increase in heavy vehicle traffic.

The scope, approach, methodology and results of the traffic assessment will be documented in the Modification Report.

Stormwater

Some improvements to the current stormwater system are proposed to allow the proposed uses and to achieve similar or improved outcomes. Stormwater will continue to be

discharged from Precinct 3B via Hydro Aluminium's stormwater basin and existing licenced discharge point.

While no assessment of the impacts is proposed, details of this licencing arrangement will be documented in the Modification Report.

Consultation

In formulating the proposed modification, Snowy Hydro has consulted with Hydro Aluminium and Regrowth Kurri Kurri. Further consultation with these stakeholders will be undertaken during preparation of the Modification Report.

No other consultations have been undertaken, or are planned, during the preparation of the modification.

I look forward to your consideration of this request. Please advise Snowy Hydro of any additional requirements to be addressed in the modification.

Your sincerely

DocuSigned by:

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Isaac Strachan

Health, Safety and Environment Lead

Hunter Power Project