

Our ref: SSI-78107213

Ms Oriana Senese
Principal Project Manager
Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
4PSQ, Locked Bag 5022
Parramatta NSW 2124

1 April 2026

Subject: Lord Howe Island Critical Infrastructure Project (SSI-78107213) - Request for Additional Information

Dear Ms Senese

I refer to the Department's assessment for the Lord Howe Island Critical Infrastructure Project (SSI-78107213). After careful consideration, the Department is requesting that you provide additional information.

The Department requests that you provide a targeted response to outstanding matters raised by Government agencies in their advice on the Submissions Report, as outlined by the Department at **Attachment A**. The Department has consolidated all Government agency advice received on the Submissions Report for information at **Attachment B**.

You are requested to provide the information, or notification that the information will not be provided, to the Department by **Friday 24 April 2026**. If you cannot meet this deadline or do not intend to provide the additional information, please advise the Department via the NSW planning portal.

If you have any questions, please contact Nathan Heath on 02 8289 6617 or via email at nathan.heath@planning.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely,



Lisa Mitchell
Team Leader
Transport Assessments

Attachment A: Outstanding matters to be addressed by Proponent

1. Threat of re-introduction of the black rat (*Rattus rattus*)

Please provide further information to address Conservation Programs, Heritage and Regulation (CPHR) of NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (NSW DCCEEW) advice regarding the threat of re-introduction of the black rat (*Rattus rattus*):

- Sections 2.1.3 and 5.5.2.3 of the Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR) include brief references to there being strict biosecurity measures and quarantine protocols already applied to existing freight services to prevent pest incursions. However, the BDAR does not contain any detail about specific biosecurity measures proposed to be applied to each component of the project during either construction or operational phases
- To accord with section 8.2 of the Biodiversity Assessment Method (BAM) the BDAR must include an assessment of the potential indirect impacts of re-introducing the black rat to Lord Howe Island on threatened species and their habitats, with detailed analysis provided of:
 - o the nature of impact (e.g. predation, competition),
 - o the extent of impact (i.e. within and beyond the development footprint), and
 - o the duration of impact (i.e. during both the construction and operation phases for the project).
- Also, to accord with section 8.4 of the BAM the BDAR must describe each measure being proposed to prevent or mitigate the impacts of black rat re-introduction, with a particular emphasis on contingency actions to be applied in the event that standard measures outlined in the Biodiversity Risk Management Framework are ineffective
- CHPR recommends the BDAR be revised to include detailed descriptions of specific biosecurity measures proposed to be applied to each component of the project during both construction and operational phases to prevent incursions by introduced rodents.

This additional information can be provided as an addendum to the BDAR.

2. Project water demands

Please confirm that sufficient volumes of rainwater can be captured for the project's water needs. If water will be purchased from a third party, please provide confirmation that the supplier has been consulted and can provide the required volumes.

Attachment B: Consolidated Government agency advice on Submissions Report