

# Notice of Decision - Snowy 2.0 Segment Factory

## Section 2.22 and Clause 20 of Schedule 1 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*

<b>Application type</b>	Critical State Significant Infrastructure
<b>Application number and project name</b>	Snowy 2.0 - Segment Factory (CSSI 10034)
<b>Applicant</b>	Snowy Hydro Limited
<b>Approval Authority</b>	Minister for Planning and Public Spaces

### Decision

Under section 5.19 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (the Act)*, the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces has approved the infrastructure application to develop a Segment Factory in the Cooma industrial area, subject to conditions.

The Segment Factory would operate for up to 4 years and produce concrete segments for the proposed Snowy 2.0 pumped-hydro project.

A copy of the Department's assessment report and Minister's infrastructure approval are available [here](#).

### Date of decision

31 March 2020

### Reasons for decision

The following matters were taken into consideration in making this decision:

- the environmental impact statement for the project;
- issues raised in submissions;
- Snowy Hydro's response to the issues raised in submissions;
- advice from key government agencies, including Snowy Monaro Regional Council;
- relevant NSW legislation, policies and guidelines; and
- the findings and recommendations of the Department's assessment report.

The findings and recommendations set out in the Department's assessment report were accepted and adopted as the reasons for making this decision.

The key reasons for approving the application are as follows:

- the Segment Factory is an important component of the broader Snowy 2.0 pumped-hydro project which has been classified as Critical State Significant Infrastructure, and would supply up to 2,000 megawatts of electricity to the National Electricity Market (if it is approved) as it transitions away from a long-standing reliance on coal-fired power stations;
- the Segment Factory can be carried out without causing any significant impacts, subject to the implementation of suitable mitigation measures;
- conditions have been imposed on Snowy Hydro to ensure these mitigation measures are implemented, and address the issues raised by the community and government agencies in submissions;
- The Segment Factory would deliver economic and social benefits to the State and Cooma region by
  - facilitating the development of the Snowy 2.0 pumped-hydro project (if approved);
  - attracting \$55 million of capital investment;
  - creating 125 jobs; and
- weighing all relevant considerations, the project is in the public interest.

## Attachment 1 – Consideration of Community Views

During the assessment of the Segment Factory, the Department consulted widely with the community, including Snowy Monaro Regional Council. This engagement included:

- making all the information associated with the project publicly available on the Department’s website;
- exhibiting the EIS from 10 October to 6 November 2019;
- publishing copies of all the submissions received online;
- requiring Snowy Hydro to provide a formal response to the issues raised in submissions;
- holding public information sessions in Cooma in August 2018 and October 2019;
- inspecting the site and surrounding area; and
- working closely with government agencies during the assessment to consider community views.

During the exhibition, the Department received 33 submissions including 7 from government agencies and 26 from the general public. None of these submissions objected to the Segment, although they raised concerns about certain aspects of the project including the potential traffic impacts of the Cooma town centre.

The table below includes a summary of how the key issues raised by the community were taken into consideration.

<i>Issue</i>	<i>Consideration</i>
<p><i>Traffic</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cumulative impacts with the traffic from the Snowy 2.0 project over a period of up to 4 years.</li> <li>• Increase in heavy vehicle traffic in the Cooma town centre could have significant adverse impacts on traffic flows and the safety and amenity of the town centre.</li> <li>• Snowy Hydro should use an alternative route for heavy vehicles that by-passes the town centre,</li> <li>• Night-time traffic noise could be significant as you can already hear heavy vehicles moving through Cooma, particularly when they brake.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Assessment</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are no suitable alternatives to the proposed route through town, which forms part of the State road network connecting the Monaro Highway to the Snowy Mountains Highway.</li> <li>• The potential cumulative impacts of the Segment Factory and Snowy 2.0 pumped hydro project can be reduced to an acceptable level with road upgrades and conditions requiring Snowy Hydro to use larger vehicles to deliver concrete segments to the Snowy 2.0 site and to schedule as many heavy vehicle movements outside peak periods.</li> </ul> <p><i>Conditions</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upgrade the pavement on Polo Flat Road.</li> <li>• Install temporary traffic lights at the Bombala Street intersection in Cooma to control peak traffic flows.</li> <li>• Use larger vehicles to deliver concrete segments.</li> <li>• Restrict heavy vehicle movements at night.</li> <li>• Schedule heavy vehicle movements outside peak periods.</li> <li>• Minimise the traffic noise of the project.</li> <li>• Prepare a Traffic Management Plan for the project in consultation with Transport for NSW and Snowy Monaro Regional Council.</li> </ul>
<p><i>Noise</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construction noise</li> <li>• Factory noise during operations, particularly at night</li> </ul>	<p><i>Assessment</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The project would comply with the relevant noise criteria at all the residential areas in Cooma.</li> <li>• There could be minor exceedances of the relevant construction noise criteria at three residential properties to the south-east of the site, although these could be kept to a minimum with the implementation of best practice noise controls.</li> <li>• The operation of the project may result in exceedances of up to 2 dBA on a residence near the site during evenings and at night. However, this exceedance is likely to be indiscernible at the residence, and total noise levels at the residence would continue to be well below the recommended noise amenity criteria.</li> </ul> <p><i>Conditions</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restrict construction hours from 7am to 6pm from Monday to Saturday.</li> <li>• Snowy Hydro to implement best practice mitigation to minimise the construction and traffic noise impacts.</li> <li>• Noise limits set for operations with regular monitoring required.</li> </ul>