

Ian Smith  
Project Manager – Hunter Power Project  
Snowy Hydro Limited  
Monaro Highway  
Cooma, NSW, 2630

14/12/2022

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**Subject: Hunter Power Project (SSI-1259006) Additional Construction Hours**

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Dear Mr Smith

I refer to your letter dated 30 November 2022 seeking extended construction hours for the Hunter Power Project (SSI 12590060) in accordance with Condition B32, Schedule 2 of the infrastructure approval.

The Department understands that additional construction hours are sought for 12 discrete periods of up to 16 hours each between 1 January 2023 and 31 March 2023. Approval is sought to extend the project's construction hours to undertake concrete pours and associated activities, which are likely to be required in the evenings, night time and early morning due to temperature constraints. The specific activities include:

- Continuous concrete pours to form the pile caps for the two turbine footings for the power islands.
- Approximately 10 additional smaller (shorter duration) continuous concrete pours.
- Use of concrete boom pumping truck, concrete trucks, hand-held concrete vibrators, light vehicles, lighting towers and trowelling machines.
- Heavy vehicle (concrete truck) trips to deliver concrete to the site for each pour.

The Department notes that the letter also requests the approval of increased maximum daily heavy vehicle movements for the project due to the additional heavy vehicle movements required for the concrete pours.

The Department notes that these increased movements have been included in a separate application to modify the infrastructure approval (SSI 12590060 – Mod-1). However, the construction traffic noise associated with these movements has been considered by the Department as part of its assessment of the additional hours application. The Department notes it is Snowy Hydro's responsibility to manage daily heavy vehicle movements within the limits in the project approval.

The Department has carefully reviewed this letter, attached Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment and evidence of consultation with potentially affected receivers. The Department notes that the construction activities would be compliant with the relevant Noise Management Levels at all but two receivers. At these two receivers there would be an exceedance of up to 2dB(A) of the night-time NML sleep disturbance criteria. The Department notes efforts have been made to consult with affected landowners and no response has been received to date.

Accordingly, the Secretary accepts the request to vary construction hours between 1 January 2023 until 31 March 2023 subject to the following requirements

- Only the specific work scopes listed can be undertaken.

- For each of the 12 concrete pours, written notice must be provided to surrounding potentially affected residential receivers consulted when preparing the request, prior to work occurring outside the normal construction hours. The written notice must:
  - a) identify the location, duration, and activities to occur outside normal construction hours;
  - b) provide a telephone contact number of the construction site manager during the extended construction hours.
- If any complaint is received, appropriate mitigation measures are to be identified, and the Department and the complainant are to be immediately informed of the measures that will be implemented to address the complaint. Should any further complaints be received regarding works in the extended construction hours, this approval to extend the works hours may be revoked by the Department.
- Attended monitoring must be undertaken during the first concrete pour for the turbine footings to validate model predictions.
- A record of any complaints made, or non-compliances identified during monitoring, regarding works undertaken during extended construction hours must be provided to the Department within 24 hours of the complaint/non-compliance.
- All work is to be undertaken in accordance with the requirements of Condition B32 of Schedule 2 and all additional noise mitigation measures proposed in the Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment be adopted and implemented

The Secretary does not approve the request to increase the maximum daily heavy vehicle movements described in the letter.

If you wish to discuss the matter further, please contact Jack Turner on 02 9995 5387

Yours sincerely



Stephen O'Donoghue  
 Director  
 Resource Assessments  
As nominee of the Planning Secretary