

# **Appendix A**

## **Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements**

**Table A.1** Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements – general requirements

Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements	Location addressed in EIS
<b>General requirements</b>	
Stand-alone executive summary	Page vii
A full description of the development, including:	Chapter 3
– details of construction, operation and decommissioning, including any staging of the development	Sections: 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5
– a high quality site plan at an adequate scale showing all infrastructure and facilities (including any infrastructure that would be required for the development, but the subject of a separate approvals process)	Figure 3.1, Figure 3.4 Section 3.1
– a high quality detailed constraints map identifying the key environmental and other land use constraints that have informed the final design of the development	Figure 2.6 Figure 2.7
A strategic justification of the development focusing on site selection and the suitability of the proposed site with respect to potential land use conflicts with existing and future surrounding land uses (including other proposed or approved energy facilities, rural / residential development and subdivision potential)	Chapter 2 Section 2.3
An assessment of the likely impacts of the development on the environment, focusing on the specific issues identified below, including:	Chapter 6
– a description of the existing environment likely to be affected by the development	Section 1.3 Chapter 6
– an assessment of the likely impacts of all stages of the development, (which is commensurate with the level of impact), including any cumulative impacts of the site and existing, approved or proposed developments in the region and impacts on the site and any road upgrades, taking into consideration any relevant legislation, environmental planning instruments, guidelines, policies, plans and industry codes of practice including the Cumulative Impact Assessment Guideline (DPIE, 2021)	Chapter 6
– a description of the measures that would be implemented to avoid, mitigate and/or offset the impacts of the development (including draft management plans for specific issues as identified below)	Chapter 6
– a description of the measures that would be implemented to monitor and report on the environmental performance of the development.	Chapter 6
A consolidated summary of all the proposed environmental management and monitoring measures, identifying all the commitments in the EIS	Chapter 8 Appendix C
A detailed evaluation of the merits of the project as a whole having regard to:	Chapter 8
– the requirements in Section 4.15 of the <i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i> , including the objects of the Act and how the principles of ecologically sustainable development have been incorporated in the design, construction and ongoing operations of the development	Section 8.1.5
– the suitability of the site with respect to potential land use conflicts with existing and future surrounding land uses	Section 8.1.2
– feasible alternatives to the development (and its key components), including the consequences of not carrying out the development	Section 2.3
A detailed consideration of the capability of the project to contribute to the security and reliability of the electricity system in the National Electricity Market, having regard to local system conditions and the Department's guidance on the matter	Sections 2.1, 2.1.5, 2.1.6, Sections 8.1.3
A signed statement from the author of the EIS, certifying that the information contained within the document is neither false nor misleading	Page 1

Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements	Location addressed in EIS
The EIS must also be accompanied by:	
– a report from a AIQS Certified Quantity Surveyor or RICS Chartered Quantity Surveyor providing a detailed calculation of the capital investment value (CIV) (as defined in the Regulation) of the proposal, including details of all assumptions and components from which the CIV calculation is derived. The report shall be prepared on company letterhead and indicate applicable GST component of the CIV and include certification that the information provided is accurate for the development at the time of application	Cost estimate provided under separate cover
– an estimate of jobs that will be created during the construction and operational phases of the proposed development.	Section 2.1.6
The development application must be accompanied by the consent of the owner/s of the land (as required in Section 23(1) of the Regulation).	Landowner notice provided under separate cover

**Table A.2** Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements – key issues

Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements	Location addressed in EIS
<b>Key issues</b>	
Biodiversity – including:	
An assessment of the biodiversity values and the likely biodiversity impacts of the project in accordance with Section 7.9 of the <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> (NSW) (BC Act), the Biodiversity Assessment Method (BAM) 2020 and documented in a Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR), including a detailed description of the proposed regime for avoiding, minimising, managing and reporting on the biodiversity impacts of the development over time, and a strategy to offset any residual impacts of the development in accordance with the BC Act	Section 6.2 Appendix D
An assessment of the likely impacts on listed aquatic threatened species, populations or ecological communities, scheduled under the <i>Fisheries Management Act 1994</i> , and a description of the measures to minimise and rehabilitate impacts, including any impacts to the Colongra Swamp Nature Reserve	Section 6.2 Appendix D
If an offset is required, details of the measures proposed to address the offset obligation.	Section 6.2 Appendix D
Heritage – including:	
An assessment of impact on Aboriginal heritage (cultural and archaeological) impacts of the development in consultation with the local Aboriginal community and in accordance with relevant guidelines as applicable	Section 6.3
On historic heritage prepared in accordance with relevant guidelines as applicable.	Section 6.3
Land – including:	
An assessment of the potential impacts of the development on existing land uses on the site and adjacent land, including:	Section 6.4 Appendix E
– consideration of the project's location in a mine subsidence district, flood prone land, Crown lands, mining, quarries, mineral or petroleum rights	Section 6.4 Appendix E
– a soil survey to determine the soil characteristics and consider the potential for erosion to occur	Section 6.4 Appendix E
– land contamination assessment and description of any mitigation and monitoring measures in accordance with the Managing Land Contamination Planning Guidelines: SEPP 55 – Remediation of Land (DUAP, 1998)	Section 6.4 Appendix E
– a cumulative impact assessment of nearby developments.	Section 6.4 Section 6.14

Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements	Location addressed in EIS
An assessment of the compatibility of the development with existing land uses, during construction, operation and after decommissioning, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– consideration of the zoning provisions applying to the land, including subdivision (if required)</li> </ul>	Section 6.4 Appendix E
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– completion of a Land Use Conflict Risk Assessment in accordance with the Department of Industry's <i>Land Use Conflict Risk Assessment Guide</i>.</li> </ul>	Section 6.4 Appendix E
Visual:	
Including a detailed assessment of the likely visual impacts of all components of the project (including transmission lines, substations and any other ancillary infrastructure) on surrounding residences and key locations, scenic or significant vistas, air traffic and road corridors in the public domain and provide details of measures to mitigate and/or manage potential impacts.	Section 6.5
Noise:	
Including an assessment of the construction noise impacts of the development in accordance with the <i>Interim Construction Noise Guideline</i> (ICNG), operational noise impacts in accordance with the <i>NSW Noise Policy for Industry</i> (2017), cumulative noise impacts (considering other developments in the area), and a draft noise management plan if the assessment shows construction noise is likely to exceed applicable criteria.	Section 6.6 Appendix G
Transport – including:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– An assessment of the peak and average traffic generation, including over-dimensional vehicles and construction worker transportation</li> </ul>	Section 6.7 Appendix I
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– An assessment of the likely transport impacts to the site access route (including, but not limited to the M1 Pacific Motorway, Central Coast Highway and Station Road), site access point(s), any Crown Land, particularly in relation to the capacity and condition of the roads, road safety and intersection performance</li> </ul>	Section 6.7 Appendix I
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– A cumulative impact assessment of traffic from nearby developments</li> </ul>	Section 6.7 Section 6.14 Appendix I
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Provide details of measures to mitigate and / or manage potential impacts including a schedule of all required road upgrades (including resulting from heavy vehicle and over mass / over dimensional traffic haulage routes), road maintenance contributions, and any other traffic control measures, developed in consultation with the relevant road authorities.</li> </ul>	Section 6.7
Water – including:	
An assessment of the likely impacts of the development (including flooding) on surface water and groundwater resources (including watercourses traversing and surrounding the site, drainage channels, wetlands, riparian land, groundwater dependent ecosystems and acid sulfate soils), related infrastructure, adjacent licensed water users and basic landholder rights, and measures proposed to monitor, reduce and mitigate these impacts	Section 6.8 Appendix H
Details of water requirements and supply arrangements for construction and operation	Section 6.8 Appendix H
Where the project involves works within 40 metres of any river, lake or wetlands (collectively waterfront land), identify likely impacts to the waterfront land, and how the activities are to be designed and implemented in accordance with the DPI Guidelines for Controlled Activities on Waterfront Land (2018) and (if necessary)	Section 6.8 Appendix H
A description of the erosion and sediment control measures that would be implemented to mitigate any impacts in accordance with <i>Managing Urban Stormwater: Soils &amp; Construction</i> (Landcom 2004).	Section 6.8 Appendix H
Hazards – including:	
A preliminary risk screening completed in accordance with the State Environmental Planning Policy (Resilience and Hazards)	Section 6.9 Appendix F

Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements	Location addressed in EIS
A Preliminary Hazard Analysis prepared in accordance with <i>Hazardous Industry Planning Advisory Paper No. 6 – Guideline for Hazard Analysis</i> (DoP, 2011) and <i>Multi-Level Risk Assessment</i> (DoP, 2011). The PHA must consider all recent standards and codes and verify separation distances to on-site and off-site receptors to prevent fire propagation and compliance with Hazardous Industry Advisory Paper No. 4, 'Risk Criteria for Land Use Safety Planning' (DoP, 2011)	Section 6.9 Appendix F
An assessment of potential hazards and risks including but not limited to fires, spontaneous ignition, electromagnetic fields or the proposed grid connection infrastructure against the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) Guidelines for limiting exposure to Time-varying Electric, Magnetic and Electromagnetic Fields	Section 6.9 Appendix F
Identify potential hazards and risks associated with bushfires / use of bushfire prone land including the risks that a solar farm would cause bush fire and demonstrate compliance with Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2019	Section 6.9 Appendix F
<b>Social impact:</b>	
Including an assessment of the social impacts in accordance with <i>Social Impact Assessment Guideline</i> (DPIE, 2021) and consideration of construction workforce accommodation.	Section 6.11 Appendix K
<b>Economic:</b>	
Including an assessment of the economic impacts or benefits of the project for the region and the State as a whole.	Section 6.11 Appendix K
<b>Waste:</b>	
Identify, quantify and classify the likely waste stream to be generated during construction and operation, and describe the measures to be implemented to manage, reuse, recycle and safely dispose of this waste.	Section 6.12
<b>Plans and documents</b>	
The EIS must include all relevant plans, diagrams and relevant documentation required under Part 3 of the EP&A Regulation. Provide these as part of the EIS rather than as separate documents.	Appendix B
In addition, the EIS must include high quality files of maps and figures of the subject site and proposal.	Chapter 3 Chapter 6
<b>Legislation, policies and guidelines</b>	
<p>The assessment of the key issues listed above must take into account relevant guidelines, policies, and plans as identified.</p> <p>A list of some of the legislation, policies and guidelines that may be relevant to the assessment of the project can be found at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <a href="https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/Policy-and-Legislation/Planning-reforms/Rapid-Assessment-Framework/Improving-assessment-guidance">https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/Policy-and-Legislation/Planning-reforms/Rapid-Assessment-Framework/Improving-assessment-guidance</a></li> <li>– <a href="https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/assessment/policies-and-guidelines">https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/assessment/policies-and-guidelines</a>; and</li> <li>– <a href="http://www.environment.gov.au/epbc/publications#assessments">http://www.environment.gov.au/epbc/publications#assessments</a></li> </ul>	Chapter 6
<b>Consultation</b>	
During the preparation of the EIS, you should consult with relevant local, State or Commonwealth Government authorities, infrastructure and service providers, community groups, affected landowners and any exploration licence and/or mineral title holders. In particular, you must undertake detailed consultation with affected landowners surrounding the development, relevant government agencies and Central Coast Council.	Chapter 5
<b>The EIS must:</b>	
– Detail how engagement undertaken was consistent with the <i>Undertaking Engagement Guidelines for State Significant Projects</i> (DPIE, 2021); and	Sections 5.1, 5.2

Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements	Location addressed in EIS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Describe the consultation process and the issues raised and identify where the design of the development has been amended in response to these issues. Where amendments have not been made to address an issue, an explanation should be provided.</li> </ul>	Sections 5.3, 5.4
<b>Expiry date</b>	
If you do not lodge EIS for the infrastructure within 2 years of the issue date of these SEARs, your SEARs will expire. If an extension to these SEARs will be required, please consult with the Planning Secretary 3 months prior to the expiry date.	