

Director General's Environmental Assessment Requirements

Section 115Y of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*
Schedule 2 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000*

Application Number	SSI - 5039
Infrastructure Project	Chaffey Dam Augmentation The proposal includes a dam safety upgrade and increasing the storage capacity from 62 gigalitres (GL) to 100 GL, by raising the dam wall by 8.4 metres and full supply water level by 6.5 metres.
Location	Woolomin, approximately 23 km southeast of Tamworth
Proponent	State Water Corporation
Date of Issue	23 January 2012
General Requirements	The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) must be prepared in accordance with, and meet the minimum requirements of, Part 3 of Schedule 2 of the <i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000</i> (the EP&A Regulation) and include the following: 1. the information required under clause 6 of Schedule 2 of the EP&A Regulation; and 2. the content listed in clause 7 of Schedule 2 of the EP&A Regulation, including, but not limited to: • a summary of the environmental impact statement, • a statement of the objectives of the project, including a description of the strategic need, justification, objectives and outcomes, • an analysis of feasible alternatives to the carrying out of the project, including an analysis of options considered having regard to the project objectives (including an assessment of the environmental costs and benefits of the project relative to alternatives and the consequences of not carrying out the project), the suitability of the chosen option and whether or not the project is in the public interest, • an analysis of the project, including an assessment, with a particular focus on the requirements of the listed key issues, in accordance with clause 7(1)(d) of Schedule 2 of the EP&A Regulation (where relevant), • an identification of how relevant planning, land use and development matters (including relevant strategic and statutory matters, such as relevant water sharing plans, State water environmental management plans, including Namoi Catchment Action Plan) have been considered in the impact assessment (direct, indirect and cumulative impacts) and/or in developing management/ mitigation measures, • a compilation of the measures proposed to mitigate any adverse effects of the project on the environment, • a justification for the preferred project taking into consideration the objects of the <i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i>, and • detailing how the principles of ecologically sustainable development will be incorporated in the design, construction and ongoing operation phases of the project.
Key issues	The EIS must address the following specific matters: Soil and Water – including but not limited to: • impacts on surface water flows, quality and quantity and risks to groundwater quality, with particular reference to impacts on surrounding

	(up and down stream) waterways, their habitats and environmental flows, and inclusion of baseline water quality and flow conditions; • flooding impacts and characteristics, with an assessment of the potential changes to flooding behaviour (levels, velocities and direction) and impacts on bed and bank stability, through flood modelling, including: ◦ hydraulic modelling for a range of flood events, ◦ description, justification and assessment of design objectives, ◦ an assessment of afflux and flood duration (inundation period) on land, infrastructure, property and business operations, ◦ consideration of the changes in rainfall frequency and/or intensity as a result of climate change; and ◦ outline contingency measures for flooding events with potential for inundation and discharge through the spillway area during construction; • waterways to be modified as a result of the project, including ecological, hydrological and geomorphic impacts (as relevant), including temporary crossings, and measures to rehabilitate the waterways to pre-construction conditions or better, including fish passage requirements taking into account <i>Policy and Guidelines for Fish Friendly Waterway Crossings</i> (Department of Primary Industries, 2004); and • identification and assessment of soil characteristics and properties that may impact or be impacted by the project and details of erosion and sedimentation control measures. Biodiversity - including but not limited to: • impacts on the biodiversity values of the site and adjoining areas, including terrestrial, riparian and aquatic habitats; • impacts on Endangered Ecological Communities, critical habitat, threatened and protected species, populations and their habitats, listed under both State and Commonwealth legislation that have been recorded or considered likely to occur on the site and surrounding land, and whether the proposal or specific aspects of the proposal constitute Key Threatening Processes in terms of the <i>Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995</i>; • targeted surveys of threatened flora and fauna species and their habitat that are known or likely to occur within the project's study area based on the presence of suitable habitat. Details of the survey methodology employed, including survey effort and timing and representativeness for the species targeted, should be included; • the details of available offset measures to compensate the biodiversity impacts of the proposal where offset measures are proposed, consistent with the <i>Principles for the use of biodiversity offsets in NSW</i>; and • taking into account the <i>Draft Guidelines for Threatened Species Assessment</i> (Department of Environment and Conservation, 2005); <i>Threatened Species Survey and Assessment Guidelines: Field Survey Methods for Fauna - Amphibians</i> (DECCW, 2009); and <i>Threatened Biodiversity Survey and Assessment: Guidelines for Developments and Activities – Working Draft</i> (DEC, 2004). Heritage – including but not limited to: • impacts to Aboriginal heritage (including cultural and archaeological significance), in particular impacts to Aboriginal heritage sites identified within or near the project. Where impacts are identified, the assessment shall: ◦ outline the proposed mitigation and management measures (including measures to avoid significant impacts and an evaluation of the effectiveness of the measures), demonstrate effective consultation with Aboriginal communities in determining and assessing impacts and developing and selecting options and mitigation measures
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	(including the final proposed measures), - o demonstration that an appropriate archaeological assessment methodology, including research design, (where relevant) has been undertaken, including results, and, - o take into account the <i>Draft Guidelines for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment and Community Consultation</i> (Department of Environment and Conservation, 2005) and be undertaken by a suitably qualified heritage consultant; and • impacts to historic heritage (including archaeology, heritage items conservation areas and natural areas), in particular impacts to the Bowling Alley Point site should be assessed. Where impacts to State or locally significant historic heritage items are identified, the assessment shall: - o outline the proposed mitigation and management measures (including measures to avoid significant impacts and an evaluation of the effectiveness of the mitigation measures), - o include a statement of heritage impact for heritage items (including significance assessment), - o demonstrate that an appropriate archaeological assessment methodology, including research design, (where relevant) has been undertaken, including results, and - o take into account the guidelines in the NSW Heritage Manual (1996) and be undertaken by a suitably qualified heritage consultant. Traffic and Transport – including but not limited to: • construction traffic impacts, including: - o the identification of construction traffic routes and the nature of existing traffic on these routes, - o an assessment of construction traffic volumes, and - o potential impacts to the State, regional and local road network (including safety and level of service) and potential disruption to existing public transport/school bus services and access to properties and businesses. The assessment shall identify suitable mitigation and management measures; and • operational traffic and transport impacts to the State, regional and local road network, including changes to local road connectivity and impacts on local traffic arrangements, road capacity/ safety and modified access to realigned roads. The assessment shall identify suitable mitigation and management measures. Noise and Vibration – including but not limited to construction and operational noise and vibration impacts taking into account (where relevant) the <i>Interim Construction Noise Guideline</i> (Department of Environment and Climate Change, 2009), <i>Assessing Vibration: A Technical Guideline</i> (Department of Environment and Conservation, 2006) and the <i>NSW Road Noise Policy</i> (Department of Environment Climate Change and Water, 2011). Air Quality – including but not limited to an assessment of the construction air quality impacts on sensitive receptors, including impacts from particulate matter, total suspended solids and other air pollutants generated by the project. Visual Amenity – including but not limited to an assessment of the visual impact of the project on the landscape character of the area and details of landscaping treatment and design. Land Use, Property and Socioeconomic - including but not limited to: • impacts on directly affected properties and land uses, including impacts related to access and recreational uses of the dam, land use, mineral resources and exploration, property infrastructure, future development
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	potential, property acquisition and land sterilisation; • impacts on Crown land, reserves and assets, and land reserved under the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i>; • impacts on natural resources, including mining and extractive resources utilisation; and • identification of services and utilities to be relocated. Spoil and Waste Management – including but not limited to dredging impacts, an estimation of the likely spoil generation and type (including identification of known or potential contamination issues), disposal/recycling sites and management of all types of waste material. Hazards and Risk – including an assessment of the hazards and risk associated with the proposal including details of hazardous materials used or kept on the premises during the construction and operation phases. The assessment must refer to the Department's Guideline <i>Applying SEPP 33</i> (DUAP, 1994), where relevant.
Environmental Risk Analysis	Notwithstanding the above key assessment requirements, the EIS must include an environmental risk analysis to identify potential environmental impacts associated with the project (construction and operation), proposed mitigation measures and potentially significant residual environmental impacts after the application of proposed mitigation measures. Where additional key environmental impacts are identified through this environmental risk analysis, an appropriately detailed impact assessment of this additional key environmental impact must be included in the EIS.
Consultation	You should undertake an appropriate and justified level of consultation with relevant parties during the preparation of the EIS, including but not limited to: • local, State and Commonwealth government authorities, including the: ○ Department of Primary Industries (Agriculture, Forests, Fisheries, Minerals, Crown Land and Office of Water), ○ Heritage Council of NSW, ○ Office of Environment and Heritage (Environment Protection Authority), ○ Roads and Maritime Services, ○ Namoi Catchment Management Authority, ○ NSW Dams Safety Committee, and ○ Tamworth Regional Council; • specialist interest groups, including Local Aboriginal Councils, Aboriginal stakeholders and industry/ growers associations, mining and petroleum title holders and exploration licence holders; • utilities and service providers; and • the public, including community groups and adjoining and affected landowners. The EIS must describe the consultation process and the issues raised, and identify where the design of the infrastructure has been amended in response to these issues. Where amendments have not been made to address an issue, a short explanation should be provided.
Further consultation after 2 years	If you do not lodge an EIS for the infrastructure within 2 years of the issue date of these DGRs, you must consult with the Director General in relation to the requirements for lodgement.