

Our ref: Clarrie Hall Dam Raising (SSI-65020460)

Mr David Hannah
Senior Environmental Scientist
Tweed Shire Council
Civic Centre

10-14 Tumbulgum Road
Murwillumbah NSW 2484

31/05/2024

Subject: Reissued Planning Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements

Dear Mr Hannah

Please find attached a copy of the amended Planning Secretary's environmental assessment requirements (SEARs) for the preparation of an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the Clarrie Hall Dam Raising (SSI-65020460).

Based on the information provided, the SEARs have been amended to update the sensitive and protected lands requirements and administrative edits.

Where relevant, the Planning Secretary may modify the SEARs to ensure the environmental assessment of the project covers all relevant matters and is consistent with contemporary assessment practice.

Your SEARs will expire two years from the date of issue (or the date they were last modified) unless the Planning Secretary has granted an extension. If you would like to seek an extension, you should contact the department at least three months prior to the expiry date.

If your EIS is not submitted within two years (or by the agreed extension date), you will need to make a new application for SEARs to progress your project.

Preparing your EIS

Your EIS must be prepared having regard to the department's *State Significant Infrastructure Guidelines* – including the *Preparing an Environmental Impact Statement Guideline*. All relevant guides for State significant projects that are referenced in the SEARs are available at www.planning.nsw.gov.au/Policy-and-Legislation/Planning-reforms/Rapid-Assessment-Framework.

During the preparation of your EIS, you are required to consult with various parties, including the department and relevant agencies, in accordance with the *Undertaking Engagement Guidelines for State*

Significant Projects. For more information, please visit the [Prepare EIS page](#) on the NSW planning portal.

Agency contact details can be found at

<https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/assessment/guide-agency-directory>.

You will need a Registered Environmental Assessment Practitioner (REAP) to declare that your EIS meets certain standards in relation to its completeness, accuracy, quality and clarity before it is submitted to the department, as per Division 5 of Part 8 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021. A pro forma declaration can be found in [Appendix B of the Preparing an Environmental Impact Statement Guideline](#).

Submitting your EIS

Once you submit your EIS, we will check it for completeness to confirm it addresses the requirements in Part 8 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021 (EP&A Regulation). We will also notify you of the application fee for your project.

To minimise delays, **please contact the department at least two weeks before you submit your EIS** to confirm fee determination information and payment arrangements. This will give us sufficient time to ensure your application fee can be determined quickly.

Information needed to determine the application fee

Your EIS will need to be accompanied by a Quantity Surveyor's Report supporting the estimated cost of development for your project. You must ensure that the information in the report is consistent with the information provided in your EIS.

Once you submit your Quantity Surveyor's Report, we will check it for completeness against the requirements of the EP&A Regulation and the relevant Planning Circular.

Public exhibition requirements

When you contact us regarding the applicable application fee, we will also advise whether hard and/or electronic copies of the EIS will be required for public exhibition.

Matters of National Environmental Significance

The Australian Government Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water has confirmed that the proposal can proceed as an accredited assessment (EPBC 2018/8339) under Division 5.2 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* and requires approval under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

The proposal will be assessed by the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure under an accredited assessment. The requirements for accredited assessments follow the same process for

Bilateral Assessments under the EPBC Act. These SEARs provide information on assessment requirements from the Australian Government in relation to matters of national environmental significance.

If you have any questions, please contact Benjamin Cox on (02) 9995 6524 or via email at ben.cox@planning.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Glenn Snow".

Glenn Snow
Director
Transport Assessments

as delegate for the Planning Secretary