

Our Ref: C24/464

28/05/2024

Your Ref: PAE-70843214

Lauren Clear
Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
c/o: Major Projects Portal

Dear Lauren,

**Request for input into the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARS)
for the proposed Hunter Transmission Project SSI-70610456**

Thank you for your referral of 15/05/2024 seeking input on the proposed SEARs from DPI Fisheries, a division of NSW Department of Primary Industries.

DPI Fisheries is responsible for ensuring that fish stocks are conserved and that there is no net loss of key fish habitats upon which they depend. To achieve this, DPI Fisheries ensures that developments comply with the requirements of the *Fisheries Management Act 1994* (FM Act) (namely the aquatic habitat protection and threatened species conservation provisions in Parts 7 and 7A of the Act, respectively), and the associated *Policy and Guidelines for Fish Habitat Conservation and Management (2013)*. In addition, DPI Fisheries is responsible for ensuring the sustainable management of commercial, recreational and Aboriginal cultural fishing, aquaculture, marine parks and aquatic reserves within NSW.

DPI Fisheries has reviewed the *Scoping Report - Hunter Transmission Project (EnergyCo, May 2024)*, *Appendix J Preliminary Aquatic Assessment (EnergyCo, 08/05/2024)*, and *DRAFT Planning Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (DPHI, no date)*. DPI Fisheries notes the presence of key fish habitat within the proposed project area and considers the Draft SEARS document to have adequately captured the issues requiring consideration under the FM Act and in our Policy and Guidelines. DPI Fisheries has no additional comments to provide at this stage.

If you have any queries, please contact Cherie Colyer-Morris, Fisheries Manager, Coastal Systems (Central) at cherie.colyer-morris@dpi.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely,



Cherie Colyer-Morris
Fisheries Manager, Coastal System