

Kurtis Wathen
Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
c/o: kurtis.wathen@dpi.nsw.gov.au

Re: Request for advice on EIS and recommended conditions for the proposed Hunter Transmission Project (SSI-70610456)

Dear Kurtis,

Thank you for your referral of 22 August 2025 seeking advice on the EIS and recommended conditions from DPIRD Fisheries, a division of NSW Department of Primary Industries & Regional Development on the proposed works stated above.

DPIRD 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, DPIRD 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)* (P&G). DPIRD Fisheries is also responsible for ensuring the sustainable management of commercial, recreational and Aboriginal cultural fishing, aquaculture, marine parks and aquatic reserves within NSW.

DPIRD Fisheries has reviewed the Hunter Transmission Project Environmental Impact Statement (Energy Co, August 2025), Technical report 1 Biodiversity development assessment report (WSP, 21 August 25) and Appendix L Aquatic Biodiversity Impact Assessment (WSP, 01 August 2025) and has no objections to the findings in these reports.

DPIRD Fisheries recommends the following for inclusion in conditions:

1. Waterway crossings should be designed and constructed in accordance with the national guidelines entitled 'Why do Fish Need to Cross the Road? Fish Passage Requirements for Waterway Crossings' (Fairfull and Witheridge 2003). This document can be access via the website at this link: https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0004/633505/Why-do-fish-need-to-cross-the-road_booklet.pdf
2. Environmental safeguards (silt curtains, booms etc) are to be used during the works to ensure that there is no escape of turbid plumes into the adjacent aquatic environment.
3. Any material removed from the waterway that is to be temporarily deposited or stockpiled on land is to be located well away from the waterway and to be contained by appropriate sediment control devices.

4. DPIRD Fisheries (1800 043 536) and the Environment Protection Authority (131 555) is to be notified immediately if any fish kills occur in the vicinity of the works. In such cases, all works other than emergency response procedures are to cease until the issue is rectified and approval is given by DPI Fisheries and/or the Environment Protection authority for the works to proceed.

If you require any further information, please contact me on karthika.krishnapillai@dpie.nsw.gov.au

Sincerely



Karthika Krishna Pillai
Fisheries Manager, Coastal Systems
DPIRD Fisheries