



DOC24/531642
16 July 2024

The Senior Environmental Assessment Officer
Energy Resource Industry Assessments
Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
PARRAMATTA NSW 2150

By Major Projects Portal

Dear Ms Green

Thank you for your request for advice from the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) on the draft Planning Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARS) for the proposed new electrical connection between NSW and Victoria called the Victoria to New South Wales Interconnector West (VNI West), located from the Victorian border at Murrabit to the new Dinawan substation in NSW, traversing the Murray River, Edward River and Murrumbidgee local government areas (LGAs), and from the Wagga Wagga substation and finishing at the new Gugaa substation, within the Wagga Wagga LGA (SSI-72887208).

The EPA notes that the proposal consists of:

- The development of approximately 235km of new 500kV double-circuit overhead transmission line between the NSW and Victoria border near Murrabit and the new Dinawan substation;
- The expansion of the new Dinawan 330 kV substation;
- Connection and line diversion works at the existing Wagga Wagga substation, new Dinawan substation; and the new Gugaa substation;
- Ancillary works, such as upgrades to or augmentation of existing electricity transmission lines and substation infrastructure, temporary facilities including construction compounds and laydown areas, upgrading or establishing new access tracks, concrete batching plants, stockpiling areas, accommodation facilities, and site offices.

The EPA has responsibilities for pollution control and environmental management for scheduled activities under the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* (the Act). Based on the information provided, the proposal does not appear to require an environment protection licence (EPL) under the Act. Furthermore, the EPA understands that the proposal is not being undertaken by or on behalf of an NSW Public Authority nor are the proposed activities other activities for which the EPA is the appropriate regulatory authority.

In view of the information provided, the EPA advise that the draft SEARS appear to be adequate, and we have no further comment to provide.

The EPA note the proposal's close proximity to the Wagga Wagga City Council (Council) operated Gregadoo Waste Management Centre, which is licenced by the EPA under EPL 6671. The EPA ask that the proponent communicate and work with Council, to ensure the proposed works do not impact Council's ability to comply with their regulatory obligations and conditions of EPL 6671.

If you have any further enquiries about this matter please contact Michael Waanders by telephoning 6969 0712 or by electronic mail at info@epa.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Briohny Seaman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

BRIOHNY SEAMAN
Unit Head - Operations
NSW Environment Protection Authority