

STATEMENT OF REASONS

DECLARATION OF STATE SIGNIFICANT INFRASTRUCTURE AND CRITICAL STATE SIGNIFICANT INFRASTRUCTURE

Stratford Pumped Hydro and Solar

Application No	SSI-73368213
Description	Development of a 300 MW / 3600 MWh pumped hydro energy storage and generation project, 330 MW solar farm, grid connection and ancillary infrastructure.
Location	12 km south of Gloucester within the Mid Coast local government area.
Proponent	Yancoal Australia Limited
Council Area	Mid Coast
Minister who made the order	The Hon. Minister Scully, Minister for Planning and Public Spaces
Date of declaration	19 June 2024

Decision

On 19 June 2024, the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces declared the Stratford Pumped Hydro and Solar as State Significant Infrastructure (SSI) and Critical State Significant Infrastructure (CSSI) in accordance with s 5.12 (4) and 5.13 of the EP&A Act.

To view the order visit: <https://legislation.nsw.gov.au/view/pdf/asmade/sl-2024-241>

Key reasons

The Stratford Pumped Hydro and Solar has been declared SSI and CSSI because the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces considered that the Project is essential to NSW for economic, social and environmental reasons as it would:

- Provide reliable and up to 300 MW of dispatchable energy when solar or wind are unavailable and contributes to NSW Government's aim to establish a pipeline of up to 3GW of pumped hydro projects including using an industrialised site with the ability to leverage and repurpose existing infrastructure, water stored in mine voids and previously disturbed areas, offering a lower impact alternative to a greenfield project.
- Assist NSW (and Australia) in meeting its target of net zero emissions by 2050.
- Inject capital expenditure into the region of around \$1.25 billion and the create hundreds of construction and ongoing jobs in regional NSW.
- Contribute to the substantial economic and social benefits for NSW that will be delivered by the NSW Government's Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap.

The considerations taken into account when making the Declaration are consistent with the principles outlined in the 'Declaration of SSI and CSSI- State Significant Infrastructure Guide' March 2021 published on the NSW Planning website [here](#).