

STATEMENT OF REASONS

DECLARATION OF STATE SIGNIFICANT INFRASTRUCTURE AND CRITICAL STATE SIGNIFICANT INFRASTRUCTURE

Muswellbrook Pumped Hydro

Application No	SSI-76014961
Description	Development of a 500 MW pumped hydro energy storage and generation project, grid connection and ancillary infrastructure.
Location	4 km northeast of Muswellbrook within the Muswellbrook local government area.
Proponent	Muswellbrook Pumped Hydro Pty Ltd
Council Area	Muswellbrook
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 Muswellbrook Pumped Hydro Project 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/si-2024-239>.

Key reasons

The Muswellbrook Pumped Hydro Project 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 up to 500 MW of reliable and 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.
- Facilitating the development of the Hunter Central Coast REZ.
- Take advantage of the Muswellbrook coal mine site with the ability to leverage and repurpose existing infrastructure, and previously disturbed areas, offering a lower impact alternative to a greenfield project.
- Inject capital expenditure into the region of around \$750 million and create hundreds of construction and ongoing jobs in regional NSW.
- Assist NSW (and Australia) in meeting its target of net zero emissions by 2050.
- 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](#).