

MDBA REF: D22/2672

YOUR REF: SSI-9172452: EnergyConnect East - EIS advice

11 February 2022

Alex Wang  
Case Manager  
NSW Department of Planning and Environment  
[alex.wang@planning.nsw.gov.au](mailto:alex.wang@planning.nsw.gov.au)

Dear Alex

**Subject: SSI-9172452: EnergyConnect East - Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) advice**

Thank you for your 08 February 2022 email (MDBA ref: D22/2148) requesting agency advice on the EnergyConnect East EIS.

Based on the relevant website information made available, the Murray-Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) has completed its assessment and provides the following comments:

1. The proposed works are for significant infrastructure and are therefore considered under Clause 49 Schedule 1 *Water Act 2007*, being the effect of a proposal on the flow, use, control, or quality of water, in the River Murray. We ensure water quality is maintained/improved and that the flow carrying capacity of the River Murray (located downstream of project areas) is not impacted.
2. The works comprise new/upgraded electrical infrastructure, mostly overland from Wagga to Buronga, except however for spanning several waterways including the Murrumbidgee River, Abercrombie Creek, Yanco Creek, Coleambally Outfall Drain, Colombo Creek, Lake Cullivel and Burkes Creek.
3. We note transmission lines would cross waterways in a single span, with towers each side, with a low risk of impact to flow, control, use, or quality of adjacent waters. We support that ancillary works, enabling tower construction either side of waterways, would be situated at least 50m from waterways, with appropriate sediment/erosion controls in place to minimise fouling.
4. Appropriate consideration has been given to on-site stormwater capture/discharge at all substations, with runoff interception/diversion managed via new infrastructure where required. Prevention of contaminants entering surface or ground water systems is augmented via the use of impervious surfaces/bunding.
5. We support additional water quality monitoring being established to assist with mitigation/management of construction impacts, at identified watercourses, and for key water quality parameters against target values.
6. We anticipate that any further risks to water quality including, but not limited to, sedimentation, potential contaminants and stormwater management will be adequately addressed via the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP), Soil and Water Management Plan and any other relevant operational management plans.

We conclude the proposal is unlikely to have a negative impact on the flow, use, control, or water quality, of the River Murray downstream of the project areas.

Should you have any further queries, please direct them to [RiverMurrayHealth@mdba.gov.au](mailto:RiverMurrayHealth@mdba.gov.au).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'RK' followed by a stylized flourish.

Rob Kingham  
Director (A/g), Water Quality and Salinity