

17 February 2022

Contact: *Justine Clarke*
Telephone: *0457 535 955*
Our ref: *D2022/10731*

Iwan Davies
Department of Planning, Industry & Environment
Locked Bag 5022
PARRAMATTA NSW 2124

Dear Mr Davies

Project EnergyConnect (NSW – Eastern Section) (SSI-9172452) - EIS

Thank you for your Major Projects portal referral dated 17 January 2022, seeking WaterNSW's comment on the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Project EnergyConnect (SSI-9172452).

It is understood that this State Significant Infrastructure project will construct and operate a new high voltage interconnector between NSW and SA, with an added connection to the north-west of Victoria. The proposal is inclusive of:

- about 375 kilometres of new 330 kilovolt (kV) double circuit transmission line and associated infrastructure between the Buronga substation and the proposed Dinawan 330kV substation
- the connection of the proposed transmission lines to the existing Buronga substation
- the construction of a new 330kV substation around 30 kilometres south of Coleambally, known as the proposed Dinawan 330kV substation
- the connection of the proposed transmission lines to the proposed Dinawan 330kV substation
- about 162 kilometres of new 500kV double circuit transmission line and associated infrastructure between the proposed Dinawan 330kV substation and the existing Wagga Wagga substation
- the upgrade and expansion of the Wagga Wagga substation to accommodate the new transmission line connections including associated electrical and civil works (road, kerb, gutter, drainage works and earthworks)
- three optical repeater structures and associated connections to existing local electrical supplies
- new and/or upgrade of access tracks as required, and
- ancillary works required to facilitate the construction of the proposal (e.g. laydown and staging areas, concrete batching plants, brake/winch sites, site offices and accommodation camps).

WaterNSW has reviewed the EIS and determined that the proposal should not impact on our land or assets, being water quality monitoring devices. It is considered that the mitigation measures outlined within the EIS will manage the project impacts adequately, including impacts to soil and water.

However, it is unclear in the EIS response how many bore sites will be impacted by the works. WaterNSW requests that the proponent provide detailed advice and suitable mitigation measures in the Response to Submissions to avoid any impacts on WaterNSW or private bores.

If during the implementation of the project interaction with any WaterNSW asset is encountered, WaterNSW requests that the proponent contact WaterNSW to discuss any potential impact, and mitigation measures. WaterNSW requires that the applicant ensure suitable measures are

implemented to provide continued access to these sites by WaterNSW staff and/or contractors during works as part of the traffic management plan.

WaterNSW requests the Department continues to consult with WaterNSW for any development that may impact on our assets, infrastructure or land, using the email address Environmental.Assessments@waterNSW.com.au.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact WaterNSW's Ms Justine Clarke at justine.clarke@waterNSW.com.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Alison Kniha', with a stylized, flowing script.

ALISON KNIHA
Catchment Protection Planning Manager