

Environmental Assessment Requirements

Section 5.16 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*

Application Number	SSI 9208
Project	<p>The Snowy 2.0 Exploratory Works Project, which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an exploratory tunnel, construction pad and portal; • a construction compound and supporting infrastructure, including a concrete batching plant; • excavated rock management; • emplacement of excavated rock in Talbingo Reservoir; • road upgrades to provide access to the site; • construction and operation of barge infrastructure at Talbingo Reservoir; and • an accommodation camp and associated ancillary infrastructure.
Location	Lobs Hole, Ravine and Talbingo Reservoir approximately 27 kilometres northwest of the township of Adaminaby primarily within the Kosciuszko National Park
Proponent	Snowy Hydro Ltd
Date of Issue	20 June 2018
General Requirements	<p>The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the project must comply with the requirements in Schedule 2 of the <i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000</i> (EP&A Regulation).</p> <p>In particular, the EIS must include, but not necessarily be limited to, the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an executive summary; • a full description of the project, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - all components, materials and activities required to construct the project (including any ancillary development that may require a separate approvals); - likely staging or sequencing of the project, including construction and rehabilitation; - a strategy for the design, management, and rehabilitation of the excavated material stockpiles in the short, medium and long term, including removal, re-use and disposal; - the likely interactions between the project and any other existing, approved or proposed development in the vicinity of the site, including the existing Snowy Scheme and the broader Snowy 2.0 project; • a summary of the strategic context for the project having regard to its critical significance for NSW and relevant State and Commonwealth Governments policies and reports relating to energy security and reliability, and the management of the Kosciuszko National Park; • statutory context for the project, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - how the project meets the provisions and objectives of the <i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i> (EP&A Act) and EP&A Regulation; - consideration of the project against all relevant environmental planning instruments; - any approvals that must be obtained before the project can commence; and - the likely interactions between the <i>Snowy Hydro Corporatisation Act 1997</i>, the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i>, the <i>Kosciuszko National Park Plan of Management 2006</i> and the Snowy Park Lease.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an assessment of the likely impacts of the project on the biophysical and socio-economic environment, focusing on the specific issues identified below, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a description of the existing environment likely to be affected by the project; - a description of how the project has been designed to avoid and minimise impacts; and - an assessment of the potential impacts of the project, including any cumulative impacts, and taking into consideration relevant guidelines, policies, plans and industry codes of practice; • a consolidated summary of all the proposed environmental management and monitoring measures, identifying all the commitments in the EIS, and how these measures would be integrated with the environmental management, monitoring and reporting regime for the existing Snowy Scheme; and • an evaluation of the project as a whole having regard to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - relevant matters for consideration under the EP&A Act including ecologically sustainable development; - the strategic need and justification for the project having regard to energy security and reliability in NSW and the broader National Electricity Market; and - the biophysical, economic and social costs and benefits of the project. <p>While not exhaustive, Attachment 1 contains a list of some of the environmental planning instruments, guidelines, policies, and plans that may be relevant to the environmental assessment of the project.</p>
<p>Key Issues</p>	<p>The level of assessment of likely impacts should be commensurate with the significance or degree or extent of impact within the context of the proposed location and surrounding environment, and having regard to applicable NSW Government policies and guidelines.</p> <p>In particular, the EIS must address the following matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity – including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - an assessment of the biodiversity values and the likely biodiversity impacts of the project in accordance with the NSW <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i>, the Biodiversity Assessment Method (BAM) and documented in a Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR); - a strategy to offset any residual impacts of the project focusing on improving the biodiversity and conservation values of the Kosciuszko National Park in the medium to long term; and - an assessment of the impacts of the project on aquatic ecology in Yarrangobilly River, Wallaces Creek, and Talbingo Reservoir, including impacts on key fish habitat and threatened species of fish; • Kosciuszko National Park – including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - an assessment of impacts on the amenity, recreational and conservation values of the Kosciuszko National Park; - an assessment of the visual impacts of the project for visitors to the Kosciuszko National Park and key vantage points in the public domain, paying particular attention to any new landforms and minimising lighting impacts; - identification of the impacts and management measures to allow continued NPWS park operations; and - a strategy for managing these impacts during construction and improving the amenity, recreational and conservation values of the Kosciuszko National Park in the medium to long term;

- **Land** – including:
 - an assessment of impacts of the project on soils and land capability of the site and surrounds;
 - an assessment of the impacts of the project on landforms, including the short and long term geotechnical stability of any new landforms and any seismic or subsidence impacts;
 - an assessment of the compatibility of any permanent new landforms with the existing conservation and recreational land uses of the site and surrounds;
 - an assessment of the risk of soil and water contamination based on the predicted geochemistry of the excavated rock and any disturbance of land associated with previous mining activities and naturally occurring asbestos in the vicinity of the site; and
 - an assessment of any impacts on the Yarrangobilly and Ravine Karst system;
- **Water** – including:
 - an assessment of the impacts of the project on the quantity and quality of the region's surface water resources, including Yarrangobilly River, Wallaces Creek, and Talbingo Reservoir, having regard to *NSW Water Quality Objectives*;
 - an assessment of the impacts of the project on groundwater aquifers and groundwater dependent ecosystems having regard to the *NSW Aquifer Interference Policy* and relevant *Water Sharing Plans*;
 - an assessment of the potential flooding impacts and risks of the project;
 - an assessment of the impacts of emplacement of excavated rock within Talbingo Reservoir (including bathymetry, hydrology, water quality and downstream water users);
 - a strategy for managing and monitoring the impacts of emplacement of excavated rock within Talbingo Reservoir; and
 - a detailed site water balance for the project, including water supply and wastewater disposal arrangements;
- **Transport** – including:
 - an assessment of the transport impacts of the project on the capacity, condition, safety and efficiency of the local, national park and State road network (including Upper Lobs Hole Ravine Road, Lower Lobs Hole Ravine Road, Mine Trail Road, Middle Bay Wharf access road, and Talbingo Reservoir access roads); and
 - a strategy for managing these impacts having regard to existing road maintenance agreements;
- **Heritage** – including:
 - an assessment of the Aboriginal and historic heritage (cultural and archaeological) impacts of the project;
 - archival and oral history recording for any items with significant heritage values likely to be disturbed or impacted by the project; and
 - adequate consultation with the local Aboriginal community and other relevant stakeholders, having regard to the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents* (OEH, 2010);
- **Noise** – including an assessment of the construction noise, road noise and vibration impacts of the project;
- **Air** – including an assessment of the air quality impacts of the project;
- **Public Safety** – including an assessment of the risks to public safety, paying particular attention to bushfire risks, emergency egress and evacuation, and the handling and use of any dangerous goods; and
- **Social & Economic** – including an assessment of the social and economic impacts and benefits of the project for the region and the State as a whole, including consideration of any increase in demand for community infrastructure and services.

Consultation	<p>During the preparation of the EIS, you should consult with the relevant local, State or Commonwealth Government authorities, service providers, community groups and affected landowners, including detailed consultation with the National Parks and Wildlife Service.</p> <p>The EIS must describe the consultation that was carried out, identify the issues raised during this consultation, and explain how these have been considered and addressed.</p>
Further consultation after 2 years	<p>If you do not lodge the EIS for the project within 2 years of the issue date of these assessment requirements, you must consult further with the Secretary in relation to the preparation of the EIS.</p>

ATTACHMENT 1

Environmental Planning Instruments, Policies, Guidelines & Plans

Biodiversity	
	Biodiversity Assessment Method (OEH)
	Threatened Species Assessment Guidelines - Assessment of Significance (OEH)
	Why Do Fish Need to Cross the Road? Fish Passage Requirements for Waterway Crossings (DPI)
	Policy and Guidelines for Fish Habitat Conservation and Management (DPI)
Land	
	The land and soil capability assessment scheme: second approximation (OEH)
	Soil and Landscape Issues in Environmental Impact Assessment (NOW)
	Australian and New Zealand Guidelines for the Assessment and Management of Contaminated Sites (ANZECC)
	Acid Sulfate Soils Manual (OEH)
Water	
Groundwater	NSW State Groundwater Policy Framework Document (NOW)
	NSW State Groundwater Quality Protection Policy (NOW)
	NSW State Groundwater Quantity Management Policy (NOW)
	NSW Aquifer Interference Policy 2012 (NOW)
	National Water Quality Management Strategy Guidelines for Groundwater Protection in Australia (ARMCANZ/ANZECC)
	Guidelines for the Assessment & Management of Groundwater Contamination (EPA)
Surface Water	Water Sharing Plan for NSW Murray-Darling Basin Fractured Rock Groundwater
	NSW State Rivers and Estuary Policy (NOW)
	NSW Government Water Quality and River Flow Objectives (EPA)
	Using the ANZECC Guideline and Water Quality Objectives in NSW (EPA)
	National Water Quality Management Strategy: Australian Guidelines for Fresh and Marine Water Quality (ANZECC/ARMCANZ)
	National Water Quality Management Strategy: Australian Guidelines for Water Quality Monitoring and Reporting (ANZECC/ARMCANZ)
	National Water Quality Management Strategy: Guidelines for Sewerage Systems – Effluent Management (ARMCANZ/ANZECC)
	National Water Quality Management Strategy: Guidelines for Sewerage Systems – Use of Reclaimed Water (ARMCANZ/ANZECC)
	Approved Methods for the Sampling and Analysis of Water Pollutants in NSW (EPA)
	Managing Urban Stormwater: Soils & Construction (Landcom) and associated Volume 2E: Mines and Quarries (DECC)
	A Rehabilitation Manual for Australian Streams (LWRRDC and CRCCH)
	Technical Guidelines: Bunding & Spill Management (EPA)
	NSW Guidelines for Controlled Activities (NOW)
Water Sharing Plan for Murrumbidgee Regulated River	
Water Sharing Plan for Murrumbidgee Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources	
Handbook for Sediment Quality Assessment (CSIRO, 2005)	
Flooding	Floodplain Development Manual (OEH)
	Floodplain Risk Management Guideline (OEH)

Heritage	<p>The Burra Charter (The Australia ICOMOS charter for places of cultural significance)</p> <p>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents (OEH)</p> <p>Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigations of Objects in NSW (OEH)</p> <p>Guide to investigating, assessing and reporting on Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW (OEH).</p> <p>NSW Heritage Manual (OEH)</p> <p>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents (OEH)</p> <p>Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigations of Objects in NSW (OEH)</p> <p>Guide to investigating, assessing and reporting on aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW (OEH)</p>
Noise	<p>NSW Noise Policy for Industry (EPA)</p> <p>Interim Construction Noise Guideline (EPA)</p> <p>NSW Road Noise Policy (EPA)</p> <p>Assessing Vibration: a Technical Guideline (EPA)</p>
Air	<p>Approved Methods for the Modelling and Assessment of Air Pollutants in NSW (DEC)</p> <p>Approved Methods for the Sampling and Analysis of Air Pollutants in NSW (DEC)</p> <p>National Greenhouse Accounts Factors (Commonwealth)</p> <p>NSW Renewable Energy Action Plan</p> <p>NSW Climate Change Framework</p>
Transport	<p>Guide to Traffic Generating Developments (RTA)</p> <p>Road Design Guide (RMS) & relevant Austroads Standards</p>
Waste	<p>Waste Classification Guidelines (EPA)</p>
Environmental Planning Instruments - General	<p>State Environmental Planning Policy (State and Regional Development) 2011</p> <p>State Environmental Planning Policy (Infrastructure) 2007</p> <p>State Environmental Planning Policy No. 44 – Koala Habitat Protection</p> <p>State Environmental Planning Policy No. 55 – Remediation of Land</p>
Other	<p>Kosciuszko National Park Plan of Management 2006</p>