

Our ref: SSI-9687-Mod-4

Nicola Fraser

Post Approvals

Snowy Hydro Limited

Via email

29 May 2026

Subject: Snowy 2.0 Main Works (SS1-9687) Modification 4 – Southern Communication Line

Dear Ms Fraser

I refer to your letter dated 1 May 2026 regarding a proposed modification to the State Significant Infrastructure (SSI) approval for Snowy 2.0 Main Works (SS1-9687). I understand the modification would seek approval to:

- install and operate a 16 km southern communication line from Marica to the Selwyn Ski Field carpark, replacing a 35 km section of the approved communication line; and
- amend the reporting timing on the final disturbance footprint under Schedule 3, Condition 13.

Scope of Modification

Based on the information provided in your scoping report, the Department considers that the appropriate planning pathway for the modification application would be under Section 5.25 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

Scope of Environmental Impact Assessment

The Department notes your proposed approach to assessing the impacts of the modification, and requests that the matters in **Attachment A** also be addressed in your modification application.

Your modification report must be prepared having regard to the Department's State Significant Infrastructure Guidelines – including the [Preparing a Modification Report Guideline](#).

Bilateral Assessment

The Department notes that the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment has determined on 19 May 2026 that an action associated with the modification (EPBC 2026/10463) is likely to have a significant impact on matters of national environmental significance (MNES) and is a 'controlled action' under Part 7 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

The action will be assessed under the Bilateral Agreement between NSW and the Commonwealth as part of the modification application proposed under SSI-9687-MOD-4.

Please find enclosed in Attachment B the supplementary NSW Planning Secretary's environmental assessment requirements in relation to the MNES identified in the Commonwealth Minister's controlled action decision.

These requirements have been prepared as your proposed action falls within the scope of a declared 'class of action(s)' under Schedule 1 to the Assessment Bilateral Agreement made between the Commonwealth Government and the New South Wales Government.

The Assessment Bilateral Agreement streamlines assessment of environmental impacts, such that NSW assesses impacts on MNES for proposed actions that fall within the scope of the Agreement. However, NSW does not *determine* whether approval should be granted with respect to impacts on MNES under the EPBC Act. The Commonwealth Minister remains responsible for determining whether approval should be granted with respect to MNES under the EPBC Act, and if so, any conditions to be imposed on an approval granted under the EPBC Act.

Consultation

The Department emphasises the importance of consultation in preparing the modification report and refers you to the [Undertaking Engagement Guidelines for State Significant Projects](#).

Next Steps

Your next step will be to lodge your modification application through your dashboard on the Major Projects website (<http://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects>).

Please contact the Department at least two weeks before you plan to submit the modification application and note that the development application fee must be paid in full prior to the Department accepting and exhibiting the application.

If you wish to discuss the matter further, please contact Anthony Ko on 02 8217 2022 or anthony.ko@dpie.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely,

A blue ink signature, likely of Nicole Brewer, written in a cursive style.

Nicole Brewer
Director
Energy Assessments

Enclosed:

Attachment A: Additional Assessment Requirements

Attachment B: Bilateral Assessment Requirements

Attachment A – Additional Assessment Requirements

Matter	Required Assessment
Consultation	• Provide evidence of consultation with all relevant stakeholders, including details of how any issues raised by key agencies have been addressed by the modification.
Design, alternatives and justification	• Provide details of how the final disturbance footprint for the project would be confirmed, including an indicative final disturbance footprint. • Provide consideration of alternatives to the modification, including potential alternative routes (for example, between Link Road and Kings Cross Road).
Traffic, transport and access	• Assess traffic, transport and access impacts on recreation and other users, including around the Three Mile Dam and Selwyn area. Where relevant, outlined how these will be mitigated or managed. • Outline how recreational access would be facilitated around construction work areas, including pedestrian access.
Heritage	• In addition to the proposed assessment approach, ensure the historic heritage assessment considers built heritage, landscapes and archaeology.
Rehabilitation	• Outline approach to rehabilitation of areas impacted by works for the southern communication line.

Attachment B – Bilateral Assessment Requirements

Bilateral Assessment Requirements

Application Number	SS1-9687-Mod-4
EPBC Number	2026/10463
Project	Snowy 2.0 Main Works Modification 4 – Southern Communication Line
Location	Approximately 24 kilometres northwest of Adaminaby, primarily within the Kosciuszko National Park
Proponent	Snowy Hydro Limited
Date of Issue	29 May 2026
Desired Performance Outcome	Requirement
1. Environmental Impact Assessment Process	1. On 19 May 2026, a delegate of the Minister for the Environment, determined that the ‘Snowy 2.0 Main Works Modification 4 – Southern Communication Line’ project (the proposed action) is a controlled action under section 75 of the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (EPBC Act). The EPBC Act controlling provisions for the proposed action are: a. <i>National Heritage places (sections 15B and 15C)</i> b. <i>Listed threatened species and communities (sections 18 and 18A)</i> c. <i>Commonwealth action (section 28)</i> 2. The delegate confirmed that the proposed action will be assessed under the accredited bilateral agreement with New South Wales (<i>Amending Agreement No. 1</i>), and as such, is required to be assessed in the manner specified in Schedule 1 to that Agreement, including, addressing the matters outlined in Schedule 4 of the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2000</i> (EPBC Regulations). 3. The designated proponent must undertake an assessment of all protected matters that may be impacted by the proposed action under the controlling provisions identified in paragraph 1. The Australian Government Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (AG DCCEEW) considers that the proposed action is likely to have a significant impact on the protected matters listed in Appendix A. 4. The proponent must consider each of the protected matters under the triggered controlling provisions that may be impacted by the action. Note that this may not be a complete list and it is the responsibility of the proponent to undertake an analysis of the relevant impacts and ensure all protected matters that are likely to be impacted are assessed for the Commonwealth Minister’s consideration.
2. References	Guidelines for Biodiversity matters of National Environmental Significance Guidelines for Heritage Matters of National Environmental Significance

APPENDIX A - Significant impact on EBPC Act protected matters

The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water considers that the proposed action is likely to have a significant impact on the protected matters listed in **Table 1**.

Table 1 | Protected matters likely to be significantly impacted

MNES	Threatened category
National Heritage places	
Australian Alps National Parks and Reserves (AANP)	
Snowy Mountains Scheme	
Threatened species	
<i>Pimelea bracteata</i>	Critically Endangered
Bago Leek-orchid (<i>Prasophyllum bagoense</i>)	Critically Endangered
Alpine Sphagnum Bogs and Associated Fens	Endangered
Hoary Sunray (<i>Leucochrysum albicans</i> subsp. <i>tricolor</i>)	Endangered
Broad-toothed Rat (<i>Mastacomys fuscus mordicus</i>)	Endangered
Alpine Tree Frog (<i>Litoria verreauxii alpina</i>)	Vulnerable
Commonwealth action	
Snowy Hydro Limited is a Commonwealth agency.	
The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water consider there may be a risk of significant impacts to the whole of the environment and therefore an assessment of the impact of the proposed action on the whole of the environment is required.	

The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water considers that the protected matters listed in **Table 2** are at risk of being impacted by the proposed action.

Table 2 | Protected matters at risk of impact

MNES	Threatened category
Threatened species	
Mountain Pygmy-possum (<i>Burramys parvus</i>)	Endangered
Alpine She-oak Skink (<i>Cyclodomorphus praealtus</i>)	Endangered
Smoky Mouse (<i>Pseudomys fumeus</i>)	Endangered
Alpine Water Skink (<i>Eulamprus kosciuskoi</i>)	Vulnerable
Monaro Golden Daisy (<i>Rutidosis leiolepis</i>)	Vulnerable
Austral Toadflax (<i>Thesium australe</i>)	Vulnerable
Swamp Everlasting (<i>Xerochrysum palustre</i>)	Vulnerable