

Nicole Brewer
Director - Energy Assessments
4 Parramatta Square
12 Darcy Street
Parramatta NSW 2150

10 November 2023

Dear Nicole,

Re: Snowy 2.0 Main Works – Management Plan Staging

Overview

As required under the planning approval for Snowy 2.0 Main Works (CSSI 9687) Snowy Hydro Limited (Snowy Hydro) must prepare the following Management Plans (the Plans):

- Rehabilitation Management Plan (RMP);
- Recreation Management Plan (Rec MP);
- Long Term Roads Strategy (LTRS); and
- Visual Impact Management Plan (VMP).

Snowy Hydro is seeking approval from the Department of Planning and Environment (the Department) to submit the plans on a staged basis, as permitted under Schedule 4, Condition 3 of the planning approval (CSSI 9687).

As required by the conditions of approval Snowy Hydro is currently developing the required plans for Snowy 2.0 Main Works Project (the Project) in consultation with the relevant government agencies.

The need to stage the plans arises from:

- 1) Their complexity and interactions with other Snowy 2.0 management plans; and
- 2) The development stage of the project. The staged nature of the project means that detailed information may not be immediately available to include in a specific plan. Furthermore, to ensure that the works within the Kosciuszko National Park are consistent with the requirements of NPWS, there needs to be ongoing and extensive consultation with NPWS.

The plans have complex interactions with each other and also with existing approved management plans. This requires Snowy Hydro to co-ordinate the development and implementation of these plans to ensure consistency across interrelating activities, geographical areas and construction sequencing.

The plans will include provision for further updates and revisions that may occur during the delivery of the project. This includes:

- Finalisation of the design of permanent buildings;
- Rehabilitation of construction areas;
- Finalisation of the plan for recreational facilities for park users; and
- Finalisation of permanent access and infrastructure arrangements for all park users.

A detailed summary of the proposed staging for each plan is provided in Appendix A. An introduction and overview of each plan is provided in the sections below.

Rehabilitation Management Plan

The RMP is being prepared to satisfy the requirements of Schedule 3 Condition 10 of Development Consent CSSI-9687 and Conditions 24 and 25 of EPBC Approval 2018/8322.

The RMP will provide the overarching rehabilitation strategy and methodologies to be implemented across the entire Main Works project. The RMP will be prepared and updated on a staged basis to include rehabilitation requirements as the project progresses and additional areas become available for rehabilitation. As per Schedule 3 condition 10(g), site specific rehabilitation management plans must be prepared for the project, to cover the following areas:

- Talbingo Reservoir
- Lobs Hole
- Marica
- Plateau
- Tantangara Reservoir
- Rock Forest.

The staging of the RMP is proposed to be area-based, with Stage 1 to cover Marica, Plateau, Lobs Hole (site entrance) and early project activities.

Recreation Management Plan

The Rec MP has been prepared to satisfy the requirements of Schedule 3 Condition 38 and 39 of Development Consent CSSI-9687.

The Rec MP is being prepared to describe the proposed recreation facilities that will be constructed and provided to NPWS once construction of the project is completed. The plan will include detailed plans for the provision of recreational facilities, and future recreational use of the following sites:

- Talbingo Reservoir
- Lobs Hole
- Tantangara Reservoir.

The Plan will also include the requirements of Condition 38 that require the project to:

- keep Tantangara Road open to the public once it has been upgraded for the development and have suitable procedures in place to ensure it is safe for unrestricted use and to respond promptly to any temporary public safety risks;
 - minimise the impacts of the development on users of the Kosciuszko National Park both within and in the vicinity of the construction envelope;
 - minimise any disruption to the use of the Talbingo Boat Ramp;
 - minimise the dust and noise impacts of the development on the Wares Yards campground.
 - control the recreational activities of the workers staying in the accommodation camp to minimize the impacts of the development outside the approved disturbance area;
 - progressively reopen those areas of the Kosciuszko National Park that are closed to the public during construction as soon as possible following the completion of construction; and
 - keep the community informed about the temporary closure of areas or any recreational facilities within the Kosciuszko National Park.
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The key constraint that does not allow the plan to be developed as a whole, and therefore the requirement to stage the plan relates to condition 39(d), that requires detailed plans to be included that describe fully the provision of recreational facilities at each site.

Snowy Hydro is having ongoing and extensive consultation with NPWS to provide them with adequate time to review recreation designs and provide input. However, for the Tantangara site NPWS have requested that additional consultation be undertaken with user groups including fishing groups, horse riding groups and commercial operators. This will require a longer period of time to undertake.

The staging of the RECMP is proposed to be area-based (recreation precincts), with Stage 1 to cover Recreation Precinct 1 – Talbingo, Lobs Hole and Ravine Road.

Long-Term Roads Strategy

The LTRS is being prepared in accordance with Schedule 3 Condition 50 of Development Consent CSSI-9687.

The LTRS is being prepared to identify the road network within the Kosciuszko National Park required for the development during operations. This will also include the detailed specifications for the road network and identification of future road funding and maintenance responsibilities following construction.

The key constraint that does not allow for the plan to be developed as a whole, and therefore the requirement to stage the plan relates to condition 50(e) - the future road maintenance and funding responsibilities:

- e) identify future road maintenance and funding responsibilities for the long-term road network following construction*

Snowy Hydro is consulting with NPWS and TfNSW to seek approval and agreement on the future funding and maintenance of roads once the project reaches completion. In some instances, this agreement will take a longer period to resolve and therefore those roads cannot meet the requirements of condition 50(e).

Snowy Hydro therefore intends to stage the plan to include only those roads that have reached funding and maintenance agreement with NPWS or TfNSW in each stage. These roads are typically exclusive roads which Snowy Hydro will contribute to 100% of maintenance, and roads which have a similar maintenance and funding arrangement to pre-project.

Visual Impact Management Plan

The VMP has been prepared to satisfy the requirements of Schedule 3 Condition 53 of Development Consent CSSI-9687.

The VMP has been prepared to describe the ways that visual impacts will be minimised on the Snowy 2.0 Main Works Project during design, construction and rehabilitation.

The key constraint that does not allow for the plan to be developed as a whole, and therefore the requirement to stage the plan relates to condition 54(c) – the requirement for detailed plans for areas:

- (c) include detailed plans for minimizing the visual impacts of the following permanent infrastructure:*

- *Lobs Hole substation;*
 - *Cable yard;*
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- *Water intakes and associated infrastructure at the Talbingo Reservoir and Tantangara Reservoir;*
- *Middle Bay barge ramp;*
- *Headrace surge shaft and ventilation shaft; and*
- *Fish screens and barrier.*

Detail on these areas has been provided in the VMP however further detail is required once the design of these areas has been finalised. This further detail will be provided in the form of an appendix for each area, within the VMP.

Detail on the following components is pending, based on the progression of the Rehabilitation Management Plan:

- Final planting and screening of permanent areas noted above; and
- Ravine Bay emplacement area – final land forming design must be completed prior to the rehabilitation objectives being set in the RMP, which will in turn influence the VMP content regarding reducing the visual and landscape impacts of excavated material

Closing

Snowy Hydro believes that the proposed staging strategy will ensure that the plans meet the requirements of the relevant conditions of approval whilst being appropriately detailed for the development stage of the project.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Emily Martin (emily.martin@snowyhydro.com.au or 0437 260 165).

Kind regards,

DocuSigned by:
Emily Martin
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Emily Martin
Snowy 2.0 Project Manager
Snowy Hydro Limited



Appendix A: Staging Strategy Summary



		Rehabilitation Management Plan (RMP)	Recreation Management Plan (RECOMP)	Long Term Roads Strategy (LTRS)	Visual Impact Management Plan (VMP)
Overall	Justification for staging	Due to stage of the project being that some areas have not had designs confirmed yet or have potential for changes to design to occur. Work also remains to finalise the proposed monitoring program and reference site selection with agencies. Stage 1 will cover monitoring of reference sites that have been agreed with NPWS. The suitability of the selected reference sites will then be reviewed with NPWS and incorporated into Stage 2.	Consultation with NPWS on scope of recreation areas is ongoing. NPWS have also requested additional consultation takes place with various recreation groups (horses, fishing), which impacts the ability for all recreation areas to be captured in the Stage 1 plan. Certain areas (eg - Tantangara) require further consultation and are dependent on third-party deliverables (eg - spoil emplacement design, currently being completed by FGJV).	Agreement on road maintenance and funding responsibilities with NPWS and TfNSW is an ongoing process. Stage 1 of the strategy will cover currently agreed roads. The strategy will be updated as agreement is reached on the remaining roads.	Finalisation of the VMP for the requisite areas is pending construction progress and completion of design for permanent site infrastructure.
Stage 1	Scope	Detailed plans for rehabilitation of Stage 1 areas Rehabilitation of roads with the Kosciuszko National Park (consistent with the LTRS) Detailed completion criteria Reference site monitoring, as per currently agreed sites with NPWS	Conceptual recreation strategy for the Stage 1 areas. Detailed plans for the Stage 1 areas.	Roads that have reached funding and maintenance agreement with NPWS or TfNSW. Identification of the future road maintenance and funding responsibilities for the long-term road network following construction.	Interim design for each area Description of the measures to minimise visual impacts associated with the projects temporary and permanent infrastructure.
	Snowy 2.0 Project Stage	Disturbed areas and areas of completed final earthworks will be rehabilitated in progressive sequence as soon as practicable following the completion of earthworks, or when disturbed areas (such as lay-down areas or access tracks) are no longer required for construction purposes. Staging aligns to project development	Construction, operation and rehabilitation (specified areas)	Construction, operation and rehabilitation (specified areas)	Construction, operation and rehabilitation (specified areas)
	Area	Plateau Marica Geotech boreholes and associated access tracks Spoil Emplacement area (GF01) Lobs Hole Site Entrance	Recreation precinct 1: Talbingo recreation area Lobs Hole recreation area Ravine Road	<u>Exclusive Roads</u> Upper Talbingo Intake Access Middle Talbingo Intake Access Lower Talbingo Intake Access Marica Trail Marica Trail West Ravine Bay Road <u>Park Management Roads</u> Goandra Fire Trail Bullocks Hill Fire Trail Nungar Creek Fire Trail (North)	Lobs Hole substation cable yard water intakes and associated infrastructure at the Talbingo Reservoir and Tantangara Reservoir Middle Bay barge ramp headrace surge shaft and ventilation shaft fish screens and barrier.
	Interaction with other plans	LTRS: Agreements to be sought with NPWS regarding the narrowing of certain roads and potential rehabilitation of roads that may be closed after construction. RMP will capture the road rehabilitation program and objectives. RECOMP: Alignment with RECOMP goals and objectives. Spoil MP: Reliant on the approved design to feed access tracks, drainage capping layer and PCT selection. Visual MP: Species selection will inform screening to mitigate visual impacts. Rehabilitation activities will also satisfy general objectives VMP objectives (eg - visual impact).	RMP: Describe the implementation and coordination of rehabilitation objectives from the RMP.	RMP: Describe the implementation and coordination of rehabilitation objectives from the RMP (notably associated with road rehabilitation program and objectives).	RMP: Species selection will inform screening to mitigate visual impacts. Rehabilitation activities will also satisfy general objectives VMP objectives (eg - visual impact). Biosecurity Risk Management Plan: Finalisation of design for fish screens and barriers
	Timing	As agreed with DPE - currently expecting submission in November 2023	As agreed with DPE - currently expecting submission in May 2024 however are actively targeting early 2024	As agreed with DPE - currently expecting submission in March 2024	This has been submitted to DPE
Stage 2	Trigger for updates	First round of monitoring results Agreement on reference site selection with NPWS (following Stage 1 monitoring results) Finalisation of recreation areas Agreement on road maintenance requirements (LTRS)	Stage 2 will be developed and submitted as agreement is reached with NPWS on Tantangara recreation area (including detailed plans)	Agreement on road maintenance and funding responsibilities with NPWS and TfNSW on outstanding roads.	Completion of final design for permanent infrastructure
	Scope	Detailed plans for rehabilitation of Stage 2 areas Rehabilitation of roads within the Kosciuszko National Park (consistent with the LTRS) Inclusion of Stage 2 Recreation MP areas (if available) Detailed completion criteria Reference sites, as per what is agreed with NPWS following Stage 1 monitoring	Conceptual recreation strategy for the Stage 1 areas. Detailed plans for the Stage 1 areas.	Roads that have reached funding and maintenance agreement with NPWS or TfNSW. Identify future road maintenance and funding responsibilities for the long-term road network following construction.	Finalisation of design for permanent site infrastructure and spoil emplacement areas.
	Snowy 2.0 Project Stage	Staging aligns to project development	Construction, operation and rehabilitation (specified areas)	Construction, operation and rehabilitation (specified areas)	Construction, operation and rehabilitation (specified areas)

	Area	Talbingo Reservoir Lobs Hole Tantangara Reservoir Rock Forest	Tantangara (recreation precinct 2)	Nungar Creek Trail (South) Alpine Creek Trail Lobs Hole Ravine Road Mine Trail Road Tantangara Road Quarry Trail Old Quarry Trail Tantangara Peninsula Road Tantangara Hill Trail Tantangara Dam Fire Trail Wares Yard Trail Wares Yard Trail Extension	Lobs Hole substation cable yard water intakes and associated infrastructure at the Talbingo Reservoir and Tantangara Reservoir Middle Bay barge ramp headrace surge shaft and ventilation shaft fish screens and barrier.
	Interaction with other plans	LTRS: Agreements to be sought with NPWS regarding the narrowing of certain roads and potential rehabilitation of roads that may be closed after construction. RMP will capture the road rehabilitation program and objectives. RECOMP: Alignment with RECOMP goals and objectives.	RMP: Describe the implementation and coordination of rehabilitation objectives from the RMP.	RMP: Describe the implementation and coordination of rehabilitation objectives from the RMP (notably associated with road rehabilitation program and objectives).	RMP: Species selection will inform screening to mitigate visual impacts. Rehabilitation activities will also satisfy general objectives VMP objectives (eg - visual impact). Biosecurity Risk Management Plan: Finalisation of design for fish screens and barriers
	Timing	TBC - target of 12 months following approval of Stage 1 however pending timing of project development	TBC - target of 12 months following approval of Stage 1 however pending success of consultation with NPWS and community groups and finalisation of the final landform design for Tantangara Spoil emplacement area.	TBC - target of 12 months following approval of Stage 1 however pending success of consultation with NPWS on implementing changes to funding structure/maintenance agreement.	TBC
	Trigger for updates	Monitoring results Modifications to design / disturbance footprint	Modifications to design / disturbance footprint	Changes to maintenance agreement.	Design progression