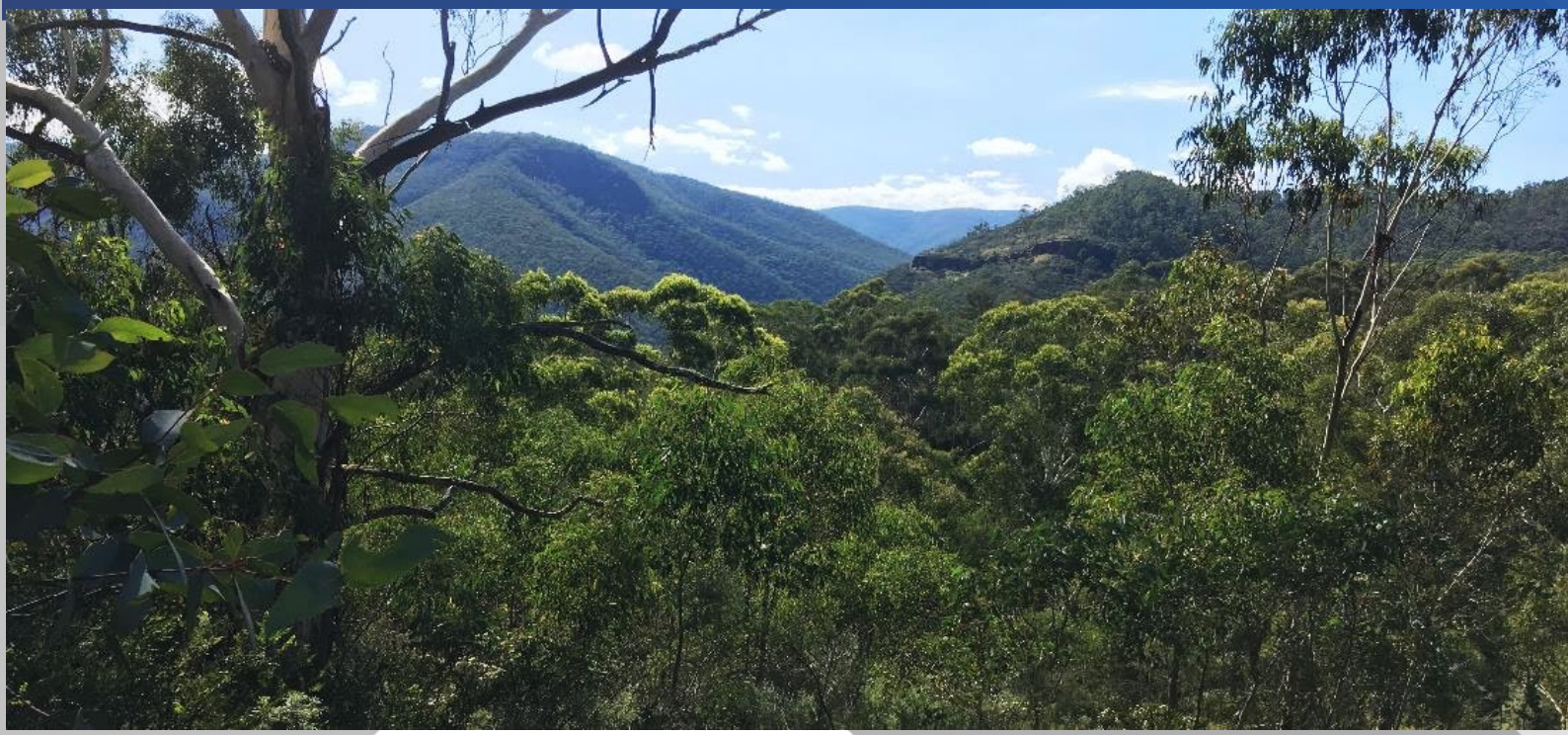


Appendix A SEARs and EP&A Regulations checklists

Snowy 2.0 Transmission Connection Project

Environmental Impact Assessment

(February 2021)



Environmental Assessment Requirements

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

Application Number	SSI 9717
Project	The Snowy 2.0 Transmission Connection Project, which includes the development of transmission lines and associated infrastructure to connect the Snowy 2.0 Hydro project to the electricity grid.
Location	The Kosciuszko National Park (Lobs Hole and Ravine) and Nurenmerenmong in the Bago State Forest.
Proponent	TransGrid
Date of Issue	1 November 2019
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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a stand-alone executive summary; • a summary of the background to the project, including alternatives that were considered to the project; • a full description of the project accompanied by suitable maps and plans, including the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - disturbance area; - physical layout of the project over time, including sections of key components; - key uses and activities to be carried out on site; - likely timing of the project including any stages, the key phases within each stage (site preparation, construction, commissioning, operation, decommissioning and rehabilitation) and the sequencing of these stages and phases; • the relevant strategic context for the project having regard to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - State and Commonwealth legislation, policies and guidelines, including the <i>Kosciuszko National Park Plan of Management 2006</i> and current initiatives to improve energy security and reliability in the National Electricity Market; - any other existing, approved or proposed projects that could result in cumulative impacts with the project; • the relevant statutory context for the project, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the assessment pathway for the project under the <i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i>; - the approvals required before the project may be carried out, including any approvals under the Commonwealth <i>Environment Protection & Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>; - the likely interactions between these approvals (if granted) and any obligations or rights under the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i>; and - any relevant matters for consideration; • a description of the engagement that was carried out during the preparation of the EIS, the key issues raised during this engagement and the proposed engagement strategy for the project if it is approved; • an assessment of the likely economic, social and environmental impacts of the project having regard to the requirements in any relevant Government legislation, policies and guidelines (see below), including:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the state of the existing environment; - community views; - the measures that would be implemented to avoid or minimise impacts, including a consolidated summary of the proposed mitigation measures for the project; - the predicted impacts of the project, including any cumulative impacts; - actions proposed to deal with any uncertainties associated with the assessment; • a detailed evaluation of the merits of the project as a whole. <p>In addition to the matters set out in Schedule 1 of the <i>EP&A Regulation</i>, the EIS must be accompanied by a signed report from a suitably qualified person that includes an accurate estimate of the capital investment value of the development (as defined in Clause 3 of the <i>EP&A Regulation</i>).</p>
Key Issues	<p>The level of assessment of key matters must be proportionate to the likely significance of the impacts on the matter.</p> <p>In particular, the EIS must include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - an assessment of the biodiversity impacts of the project on terrestrial, aquatic and groundwater-dependent ecosystems, including listed Commonwealth and State threatened species and communities and listed Commonwealth migratory species; - a strategy to offset any residual impacts of the project focusing on enhancing the biodiversity values of the Kosciuszko National Park in the medium to long term; • Heritage: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - an assessment of the cultural and heritage impacts of the project, including impacts on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the listed heritage values of the Australian Alps National Parks and Reserves National Heritage Place; ○ the listed heritage values of the Snowy Mountains Scheme National Heritage Place; ○ the cultural values of the Kosciuszko National Park; ○ Aboriginal and historic heritage items; • Water: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a site water balance for the project, including water supply and wastewater disposal arrangements; - an assessment of the impacts of the project on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the quantity of the region's surface and ground water resources, including Yarrangobilly River, Wallaces Creek, Talbingo Reservoir and the Tumut River; ○ hydrological flows on site, including any potential flooding impacts; • Land: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - an assessment of impacts of the project on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the soils and land capability of the site, including the potential impacts associated with the use of hydrocarbons and chemicals, disturbing land associated with naturally occurring asbestos; ○ the geodiversity values of the site, including potential impacts on Karst systems, fossil beds and boulder streams; - a strategy to manage the progressive rehabilitation of the land disturbed by the project and enhance any new landforms created; • Transport: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - an assessment of the impacts of the project on the capacity, condition, safety and efficiency of the local, national park and State road network, including a road safety audit of the proposed haulage route;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a strategy to enable regular and emergency management activities to be carried out on site within the Kosciuszko National Park during the project; - a strategy for managing these impacts having regard to existing road maintenance agreements (Original); • Amenity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - an assessment of the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o construction, operational and road noise impacts of the project; o visual impacts of the project, including lighting impacts and potential impacts on views of the project from key vantage points in the Kosciuszko National Park; • Air: an assessment of the air quality impacts of the project; • Hazards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - an assessment of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o any potentially hazardous impacts of the project, including electric magnetic fields (EMF) having regard to the latest advice of the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA); o any public safety risks, including bushfire and flooding risks; • Social: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - an assessment of the social impacts of the project on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o the demand for infrastructure and services in the Snowy Valleys local government area; and o users of the Kosciuszko National Park, including recreational fishing, bushwalking, camping and boating; • Economic: an assessment of the economic impacts of the project on the locality and NSW.
Legislation, Policies & Guidelines	<p>A list of some of the legislation, policies and guidelines that may be relevant to the assessment of the project can be found at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/assessments/policies-and-guidelines; and • http://www.environment.gov.au/epbc/publications#assessments
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.</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 requirements, you must seek revised requirements for the EIS for the project.</p>

A.2 SEARs compliance table

Table A-1 SEARs and where they are addressed in the EIS

Requirement	Location in EIS
General requirements	
The EIS for the project must comply with the requirements in Schedule 2 of the EP&A Regulation. In particular, the EIS must include:	This EIS and Appendix A.3 .
a stand-alone executive summary	Executive Summary
a summary of the background to the project, including alternatives that were considered to the project;	The background to the project is provided in Section 1.1 . The alternatives that were considered are discussed in Chapter 3 .
a full description of the project accompanied by suitable maps and plans, including the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > disturbance area; > physical layout of the project over time, including sections of key components; > key uses and activities to be carried out on site; > likely timing of the project including any stages, the key phases within each stage (site preparation, construction, commissioning, operation, decommissioning and rehabilitation) and the sequencing of these stages and phases. 	<p>Section 1.3 provides an overview of the project. A full description of the project is contained in Chapter 5 including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > A project overview in Section 5.1 > Description of project elements including key uses and activities to be carried out on site in Section 5.2 > Project staging and timing in Section 5.3 including construction activities > Figure 1-2 illustrates the disturbance area, physical layout of the project and key project components.
the relevant strategic context for the project having regard to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > State and Commonwealth legislation, policies and guidelines, including the Kosciuszko National Park Plan of Management 2006 (KNP MoP) and current initiatives to improve energy security and reliability in the National Electricity Market; > any other existing, approved or proposed projects that could result in cumulative impacts with the project. 	<p>The assessment pathway for the project under the EP& Act is discussed in Section 4.1.</p> <p>The approach to use the Bilateral Agreement and approvals under the EPBC Act is discussed in Section 4.1.3.1. As a consequence of using the Bilateral Agreement, both State and Commonwealth matters are considered in an integrated and interrelated manner.</p> <p>The proposal to amend the KNP PoM is outlined in Section 4.1.2, including the provisional measures that have been included in the SHC Act.</p> <p>The EPBC listed matters for consideration have been addressed as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Listed threatened species and communities (section 18 & section 18A) (refer to Section 7.1 and Appendix B); > Listed migratory species (section 20 & section 20A) (refer to Section 7.1 and Appendix B); and > The heritage values of a National Heritage place (section 15B & section 15C) (refer to Section 7.3).

Requirement	Location in EIS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > the relevant statutory context for the project, including: > the assessment pathway for the project under the <i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i>; > the approvals required before the project may be carried out, including any approvals under the Commonwealth <i>Environment Protection & Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>; > the likely interactions between these approvals (if granted) and any obligations or rights under the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i>; and > any relevant matters for consideration. 	<p>The relevant statutory context including a discussion on the EP&A Act, EPBC Act and NPW Act is provided in Section 4.</p>
<p>a description of the engagement that was carried out during the preparation of the EIS, the key issues raised during this engagement and the proposed engagement strategy for the project if it is approved</p>	<p>The engagement activities are discussed in Chapter 6.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > an assessment of the likely economic, social and environmental impacts of the project having regard to the requirements in any relevant Government legislation, policies and guidelines (see below), including: > the state of the existing environment; > community views; > the measures that would be implemented to avoid or minimise impacts, including a consolidated summary of the proposed mitigation measures for the project; > the predicted impacts of the project, including any cumulative impacts; > actions proposed to deal with any uncertainties associated with the assessment 	<p>Chapter 7 provides a summary of assessments of likely economic, social and environmental impacts. Chapter 7 also presents the state of the existing environment, predicted impacts of the project and proposed mitigation measure to help reduce or remove the project impacts.</p> <p>Community views are documented in Chapter 6.</p> <p>Cumulative impacts are assessed in Section 7.13.</p> <p>Chapter 7 provides mitigation measures that are to be implemented to avoid or minimise impacts. A consolidated summary of mitigation measures is provided in Chapter 8.</p> <p>The actions proposed to deal with any uncertainties are provided in Section 5.7.</p>
<p>a detailed evaluation of the merits of the project as a whole.</p>	<p>The merits of the project and justification are discussed in Chapter 9.</p>

A.2 SEARs compliance table

Table A-1 SEARs and where they are addressed in the EIS

Requirement	Location in EIS
General requirements	
The EIS for the project must comply with the requirements in Schedule 2 of the EP&A Regulation. In particular, the EIS must include:	This EIS and Appendix A.3 .
a stand-alone executive summary	Executive Summary
a summary of the background to the project, including alternatives that were considered to the project;	The background to the project is provided in Section 1.1 . The alternatives that were considered are discussed in Chapter 3 .
a full description of the project accompanied by suitable maps and plans, including the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > disturbance area; > physical layout of the project over time, including sections of key components; > key uses and activities to be carried out on site; > likely timing of the project including any stages, the key phases within each stage (site preparation, construction, commissioning, operation, decommissioning and rehabilitation) and the sequencing of these stages and phases. 	<p>Section 1.3 provides an overview of the project. A full description of the project is contained in Chapter 5 including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > A project overview in Section 5.1 > Description of project elements including key uses and activities to be carried out on site in Section 5.2 > Project staging and timing in Section 5.3 including construction activities > Figure 1-2 illustrates the disturbance area, physical layout of the project and key project components.
the relevant strategic context for the project having regard to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > State and Commonwealth legislation, policies and guidelines, including the Kosciuszko National Park Plan of Management 2006 (KNP MoP) and current initiatives to improve energy security and reliability in the National Electricity Market; > any other existing, approved or proposed projects that could result in cumulative impacts with the project. 	<p>The assessment pathway for the project under the EP& Act is discussed in Section 4.1.</p> <p>The approach to use the Bilateral Agreement and approvals under the EPBC Act is discussed in Section 4.1.3.1. As a consequence of using the Bilateral Agreement, both State and Commonwealth matters are considered in an integrated and interrelated manner.</p> <p>The proposal to amend the KNP PoM is outlined in Section 4.1.2, including the provisional measures that have been included in the SHC Act.</p> <p>The EPBC listed matters for consideration have been addressed as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Listed threatened species and communities (section 18 & section 18A) (refer to Section 7.1 and Appendix B); > Listed migratory species (section 20 & section 20A) (refer to Section 7.1 and Appendix B); and > The heritage values of a National Heritage place (section 15B & section 15C) (refer to Section 7.3).

Requirement	Location in EIS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > the relevant statutory context for the project, including: > the assessment pathway for the project under the <i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i>; > the approvals required before the project may be carried out, including any approvals under the Commonwealth <i>Environment Protection & Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>; > the likely interactions between these approvals (if granted) and any obligations or rights under the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i>; and > any relevant matters for consideration. 	<p>The relevant statutory context including a discussion on the EP&A Act, EPBC Act and NPW Act is provided in Section 4.</p>
<p>a description of the engagement that was carried out during the preparation of the EIS, the key issues raised during this engagement and the proposed engagement strategy for the project if it is approved</p>	<p>The engagement activities are discussed in Chapter 6.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > an assessment of the likely economic, social and environmental impacts of the project having regard to the requirements in any relevant Government legislation, policies and guidelines (see below), including: > the state of the existing environment; > community views; > the measures that would be implemented to avoid or minimise impacts, including a consolidated summary of the proposed mitigation measures for the project; > the predicted impacts of the project, including any cumulative impacts; > actions proposed to deal with any uncertainties associated with the assessment 	<p>Chapter 7 provides a summary of assessments of likely economic, social and environmental impacts. Chapter 7 also presents the state of the existing environment, predicted impacts of the project and proposed mitigation measure to help reduce or remove the project impacts.</p> <p>Community views are documented in Chapter 6.</p> <p>Cumulative impacts are assessed in Section 7.13.</p> <p>Chapter 7 provides mitigation measures that are to be implemented to avoid or minimise impacts. A consolidated summary of mitigation measures is provided in Chapter 8.</p> <p>The actions proposed to deal with any uncertainties are provided in Section 5.7.</p>
<p>a detailed evaluation of the merits of the project as a whole.</p>	<p>The merits of the project and justification are discussed in Chapter 9.</p>

Requirement	Location in EIS
In addition to the matters set out in Schedule 1 of the EP&A Regulation, the EIS must be accompanied by a signed report from a suitably qualified person that includes an accurate estimate of the capital investment value of the development (as defined in Clause 3 of the EP&A Regulation).	The capital investment value cover letter is provided in Appendix K .
Key Issues	
Biodiversity	
an assessment of the biodiversity impacts of the project on terrestrial, aquatic and groundwater-dependent ecosystems, including listed Commonwealth and State threatened species and communities and listed Commonwealth migratory species;	The BDAR is provided in Appendix B and summarised in Section 7.1 .
a strategy to offset any residual impacts of the project focusing on enhancing the biodiversity values of the Kosciuszko National Park in the medium to long term;	Section 7.1.5 provides the strategy to offset any residual impacts of the project through a Biodiversity Offset Strategy discussed further in BDAR provided in Appendix B .
Heritage	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > an assessment of the cultural and heritage impacts of the project, including impacts on: > the listed heritage values of the Australian Alps National Parks and Reserves National Heritage Place; > the listed heritage values of the Snowy Scheme National Heritage Place; > the cultural values of the Kosciuszko National Park; > Aboriginal and historic heritage items; 	The ACHAR and non-Aboriginal Heritage Assessment are provided in Appendix C and Appendix G . The findings of these assessments are summarised in Section 7.2 and Section 7.3 respectively.
Water	
a site water balance for the project, including water supply and wastewater disposal arrangements;	The site water balance is provided in Section 7.4.3 .
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > an assessment of the impacts of the project on: > the quantity of the region's surface and ground water resources, including Yarrangobilly River, Wallaces Creek, Talbingo Reservoir and the Tumut River; > hydrological flows on site, including any potential flooding impacts; 	The hydrology assessment is summarised in Section 7.4 and provided as Appendix I .

Requirement	Location in EIS
Land	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > an assessment of impacts of the project on: > the soils and land capability of the site, including the potential impacts associated with the use of hydrocarbons and chemicals, disturbing land associated with naturally occurring asbestos; > the geodiversity values of the site, including potential impacts on Karst systems, fossil beds and boulder streams; 	The assessment of land is provided in Section 7.5 .
a strategy to manage the progressive rehabilitation of the land disturbed by the project and enhance any new landforms created;	The rehabilitation strategy is provided in Section 5.4.10 . This rehabilitation strategy would form the basis of the Rehabilitation Plan which would be prepared to guide the long term rehabilitation of the project area.
Transport	
an assessment of the impacts of the project on the capacity, condition, safety and efficiency of the local, national park and State road network, including a road safety audit of the proposed haulage route;	The assessment of impacts to the road network is summarised in Section 7.6 and the TTIA is provided in Appendix D .
a strategy to enable regular and emergency management activities to be carried out on site within the Kosciuszko National Park during the project;	<p>Access for management and emergency management activities would be unaffected as there are no plans to close any of the roads to management or emergency vehicles. The measures and strategies to maintain access at all times for management and emergency management activities would be further developed as part of the CTMP:</p> <p>Consultation with NPWS and emergency service providers would be required as part of the finalisation of the CTMP.</p> <p>The assessment of impacts to the road safety is summarised in Section 7.6 and the TTIA is provided in Appendix D.</p>
a strategy for managing these impacts having regard to existing road maintenance agreements (Original);	<p>Routine defect identification and rectification of the access roads and tracks would be managed as part of the project maintenance procedure in accordance with existing road maintenance agreements (i.e. access tracks within KNP would be maintained in accordance with the MOU between TransGrid and NPWS for the Procedure for the Undertaking of Inspection, Maintenance and Emergency Works of TransGrid Network Assets and Associated Infrastructure).</p> <p>A Road Dilapidation Report will be prepared and approved prior to and following construction of the project. Any impacts identified as caused by the project will be rectified as specified in existing road maintenance</p>

Requirement	Location in EIS
	agreements. This is discussed further in Section 7.6 and in the TTIA provided in Appendix D .
Amenity	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > an assessment of the: > construction, operational and road noise impacts of the project; > visual impacts of the project, including lighting impacts and potential impacts on views of the project from key vantage points in the Kosciuszko National Park; 	The NVA and LCVIA are provided in Appendix J and Appendix H . The findings of these assessments are summarised in Section 7.8 and Section 7.7 respectively.
Air	
an assessment of the air quality impacts of the project;	The impacts on air quality are discussed in Section 7.9 .
Hazards	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > an assessment of: > any potentially hazardous impacts of the project, including electric magnetic fields (EMF) having regard to the latest advice of the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA); > any public safety risks, including bushfire and flooding risks; 	<p>The hazards and risk of the project on public safety including EMF are discussed in Section 7.10.</p> <p>The flooding risks are discussed in Section 7.4 and Appendix I. While the bushfire assessment is provided as Appendix F and summarised in Section 7.10.</p>
Social	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > an assessment of the social impacts of the project on: > the demand for infrastructure and services in the Snowy Valleys local government area; and > users of the Kosciuszko National Park, including recreational fishing, bushwalking, camping and boating; 	The assessment of the social impacts of the project are summarised in Section 7.11 and the SEIA is provided in Appendix E .
Economic	
> an assessment of the economic impacts of the project on the locality and NSW.	The economic impacts discussed in Section 7.11 and the SEIA is provided in Appendix E .
Consultation	
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.	The engagement activities are discussed in Chapter 6 .

Requirement	Location in EIS
Further consultation after two years	
If you do not lodge the EIS for the project within 2 years of the issue date of these requirements, you must seek revised requirements for the EIS for the project.	Noted

A.3 Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000 checklist

Schedule 2 of the EP&A Regulation stipulates the process to obtain SEARs is addressed in the preparation of the EIS and the general form and content requirements. **Table A-2** identifies how this EIS addresses these form and content requirements.

Table A-2 General Form and Content Requirements for the environmental impact statement

EIS Requirement	Where addressed
An environmental impact statement must contain the following information:	
(a). the name, address and professional qualifications of the person by whom the statement is prepared	EIS Certification Page
(b). the name and address of the responsible person	
(c). the address of the land: (i) in respect of which the development application is to be made or (ii) on which the activity or infrastructure to which the statement relates is to be carried out	
(d). a description of the development, activity or infrastructure to which the statement relates	An overview of the project is provided in Section 1.3 and a full description is provided in Chapter 5
(e). an assessment by the person by whom the statement is prepared of the environmental impact of the development, activity or infrastructure to which the statement relates, dealing with the matters referred to in this Schedule	Chapter 7
(f). a declaration by the person by whom the statement is prepared to the effect that: (i) the statement has been prepared in accordance with this Schedule (ii) the statement contains all available information that is relevant to the environmental assessment of the development, activity or infrastructure to which the statement relates and (g). that the information contained in the statement is neither false nor misleading	EIS Certification Page
An environmental impact statement must also include each of the following:	
(a). a summary of the environmental impact statement	Executive Summary
(b). a statement of the objectives of the development, activity or infrastructure	Section 2.3
(c). an analysis of any feasible alternatives to the carrying out of the development, activity or infrastructure, having regard to its objectives, including the consequences of not carrying out the development, activity or infrastructure	Chapter 3

EIS Requirement	Where addressed
(d). an analysis of the development, activity or infrastructure, including:	
(i) a full description of the development, activity or infrastructure	An overview of the project is provided in Section 1.3 and a full description is provided in Chapter 5
(ii) a general description of the environment likely to be affected by the development, activity or infrastructure, together with a detailed description of those aspects of the environment that are likely to be significantly affected	Chapter 7
(iii) the likely impact on the environment of the development, activity or infrastructure	Chapter 7
(iv) full description of the measures proposed to mitigate any adverse effects of the development, activity or infrastructure on the environment and	Chapter 7 and Chapter 8
(v) a list of any approvals that must be obtained under any other Act or law before the development, activity or infrastructure may lawfully be carried out	Section 4.1.2 and Section 4.1.3
(e). a compilation (in a single section of the environmental impact statement) of the measures referred to in item (d) (iv)	Chapter 8
(f). the reasons justifying the carrying out of the development, activity or infrastructure in the manner proposed, having regard to biophysical, economic and social considerations, including the principles of ecologically sustainable development set out in subclause (4)	Chapter 9



TransGrid