

Environmental Assessment Requirements

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

Application Number	SSI 9816
Project	The Shoalhaven Hydro Expansion Project – Geotechnical Explorations, which includes: • up to eight (8) boreholes to a depth of 650 metres; • up to eight (8) ancillary works areas (20 m x 20 m); and • new access tracks to the borehole sites, which will require vegetation clearing.
Location	Land between the Fitzroy Falls Reservoir and the Bendeela Power Station, within the Shoalhaven local government area.
Proponent	Origin Energy Eraring Pty Ltd
Date of Issue	25 January 2019
General Requirements	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). In particular, the EIS must include, but not necessarily be limited to, the following: • a stand-alone executive summary; • a full description of the project, including: - all components, materials and activities required to construct the project (including any infrastructure that would be required for the development, but the subject of a separate approvals process); - likely staging or sequencing of the project, including construction and rehabilitation; - a strategy for the management and rehabilitation of the boreholes and ancillary areas, following completion of geotechnical works, with regard to <i>National standards for the practice of ecological restoration in Australia</i> and the <i>Exploration Code of Practice: Rehabilitation</i>; - the likely interactions between the project and any other existing, approved or proposed development in the vicinity of the site, including the existing Shoalhaven Scheme and WaterNSW infrastructure; • 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; • statutory context for the project, including: - 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 with the <i>Water NSW Act 2014</i> and <i>Water NSW Regulation 2013</i>. • an assessment of the likely impacts of the project on the biophysical and socio-economic environment, focusing on the specific issues identified below, including: - 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, with regard to the <i>Exploration Code of Practice: Environmental Management</i>; 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 • an evaluation of the project as a whole having regard to: – 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. 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. The EIS must be accompanied by a signed report from a suitably qualified expert that includes an accurate estimate of the capital investment value (as defined in Clause 3 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000) of the project, including details of all the assumptions and components from which the capital investment value calculation is derived.
Key Issues	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. In particular, the EIS must address the following matters: • Biodiversity – including: - an assessment of the biodiversity values and the likely biodiversity impacts of the project (including consideration of the Morton National Park) 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); and - the BDAR must document the application of the avoid, minimise and offset framework including assessing all direct, indirect and prescribed impacts in accordance with the BAM; • Heritage – including: - an assessment of the Aboriginal and historic heritage (cultural and archaeological) impacts of the project; and - archival and oral history recording for any items with significant heritage values likely to be disturbed or impacted by the project; • Land – including: - an assessment of impacts of the project on soils, land capability and geotechnical stability of the site and surrounds; • Water – including: - an assessment of the impacts of the project on groundwater aquifers and groundwater dependent ecosystems having regard to the NSW <i>Aquifer Interference Policy</i> and relevant <i>Water Sharing Plans</i>; and - a detailed site water balance for the project, including water supply and wastewater disposal arrangements; and - an assessment of whether the project would have a neutral or beneficial effect on water quality; • Transport – including: - an assessment of the transport impacts of the project on the capacity, condition, safety and efficiency of the local road network (including

	Moss Vale Road, Jacks Corner Road, Lower Bendeela Road and Promised Lands Trail); • 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; and • 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.
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 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.
Further consultation after 2 years	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.

ATTACHMENT 1

Environmental Planning Instruments, Policies, Guidelines & Plans

Biodiversity	
	Biodiversity Assessment Method (OEH)
	Threatened Species Assessment Guidelines - Assessment of Significance (OEH)
	National standards for the practice of ecological restoration in Australia (SERA)
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)
	Australian and New Zealand Guidelines for Fresh and Marine Water Quality (ANZG)
	Guidelines for the Assessment & Management of Groundwater Contamination (EPA)
Surface Water	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)
	Approved Methods for the Sampling and Analysis of Water Pollutants in NSW (EPA)
	Technical Guidelines: Bunding & Spill Management (EPA)
	NSW Guidelines for Controlled Activities (NOW)
	Handbook for Sediment Quality Assessment (CSIRO, 2005)
Heritage	
	The Burra Charter (The Australia ICOMOS charter for places of cultural significance)
	Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigations of Objects in NSW (OEH)
	Guide to investigating, assessing and reporting on Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW (OEH)
	NSW Heritage Manual (OEH)
Noise	
	NSW Noise Policy for Industry (EPA)
	Interim Construction Noise Guideline (EPA)
	NSW Road Noise Policy (EPA)
	Assessing Vibration: a Technical Guideline (EPA)

Air	
	Approved Methods for the Modelling and Assessment of Air Pollutants in NSW (DEC)
	Approved Methods for the Sampling and Analysis of Air Pollutants in NSW (DEC)
	National Greenhouse Accounts Factors (Commonwealth)
	NSW Renewable Energy Action Plan
	NSW Climate Change Framework
Transport	
	Guide to Traffic Generating Developments (RTA)
	Road Design Guide (RMS) & relevant Austroads Standards
Waste	
	Waste Classification Guidelines (EPA)
Environmental Planning Instruments - General	
	State Environmental Planning Policy (State and Regional Development) 2011
	State Environmental Planning Policy (Infrastructure) 2007
	State Environmental Planning Policy (Sydney Drinking Water Catchment) 2011
	State Environmental Planning Policy No. 44 – Koala Habitat Protection
	State Environmental Planning Policy No. 55 – Remediation of Land
Other	
	Shoalhaven Local Environmental Plan 2014
	Exploration Code of Practice: Rehabilitation 2017 (DPE)
	Exploration Code of Practice: Environmental Management 2017 (DPE)