



**HUMANE SOCIETY  
INTERNATIONAL**  
AUSTRALIA

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Planning and Assessment  
Department of Planning and Environment  
LOCKED BAG 5022  
PARRAMATTA NSW 2124

5<sup>th</sup> December 2022

**Re: Objection to the Shoalhaven Hydro Expansion Project (SSI-10033) in Kangaroo Valley, NSW**

Dear Sir or Madam,

I write today on behalf of Humane Society International (HSI), the world's largest conservation and animal protection organisation with more than 10 million supporters globally. Humane Society International is a leading advocate for the protection of native species and habitats, with over 25 years of experience in Australia working to achieve an ecologically sustainable and humane world for animals.

Humane Society International Australia (HSI) appreciates the opportunity to provide an objection to the Main Works of the Shoalhaven Hydro Expansion Project in Kangaroo Valley, NSW (Application no. SSI-10033). We have particular concerns over the impacts of pollution, traffic and increased development on the native wildlife and habitat in Kangaroo Valley, NSW.

We have reviewed the project's Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and noted several key concerns with the proposal and its effect on the natural features of the Kangaroo Valley site.

One of our primary issues is with the development's impact on native vegetation, with up to 29.5 hectares of high-quality vegetation scheduled to be removed, 75% of which is undisturbed remnant vegetation. This clearing is expected to impact 10 threatened species and many other native species. We also note the long-term impacts of the indirect effects of clearing, such as edge effects and the introduction of weed and pest species into previously undisturbed habitat.

We are also concerned with the effects of increased activity during the construction and operation of the project, with an increase in noise, light and air pollution expected to have detrimental effects on residents and local native species. The increase in traffic on the small roads leading to the project will impact wildlife as well, with higher incidences of roadstrike expected to kill threatened pygmy possums and greater gliders, as well as wombats which are released into the area after rehabilitation at a nearby sanctuary.

**US Office** Washington DC

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And finally, we have strong reservations on the impacts this project will have on threatened species in the region. Many threatened plants and animals are found in this area, including glossy black cockatoos, gang-gang cockatoos, grey-headed flying-foxes and spotted-tailed quolls. The damaging effects that this development will have on their habitat and the disturbances caused by noise, light and human activity will be long-lasting and severe. We are also opposed to the removal of hollow-bearing and significant habitat trees, noting that dispersal activities can have severe effects on wildlife and nestboxes make poor substitutes for nesting hollows.

Humane Society International strongly opposes the Shoalhaven Hydro Expansion Project construction and operation due to the impacts it will likely have on remnant and regrowth vegetation, threatened species and other wildlife, which we believe have not been adequately addressed and mitigated in the EIS. We implore the Council to consider the adverse effects of the proposed construction works on native wildlife and habitat, and urge the Council to undertake a complete reconsideration of viable alternatives to this project.

If you require any further information or would like to discuss this matter directly, please contact me via email at [helen@hsi.org.au](mailto:helen@hsi.org.au) or on 1800 333 737.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H Church', written in a cursive style.

Helen Church  
Project Officer