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Lodged via: Major Projects Portal

Subject: Snowy Hydro EIS Response - Waratah Super Battery Energy Storage System

Snowy Hydro Limited (**SHL**) owns and operates the Colongra Peaking Power Station (**Colongra**) which is located adjacent to the northeast of the Waratah Super Battery Energy Storage System (**the project**). Following a review of the EIS SHL would like to raise the below issues of concern which are discussed further in the following section.

- Management of Contamination (ground/surface water and air)
- Access and traffic management
- Impact on current and future SHL infrastructure (connection/transmission) and easements

1. Contamination

SHL notes there is existing contamination on the project site in the soil and groundwater. Therefore SHL requests that conditions be considered and imposed to ensure that the proposed works will not change or impact existing groundwater/surface water flows such that there is an increase in impacts to Colongra.

SHL also requests that conditions be considered and imposed to address all air quality impacts arising from the proposed project and in particular to ensure that there is no significant dust generation and potential for airborne contaminants (asbestos and contaminated dust).

2. Access and Traffic Management

SHL also has concerns regarding access to Colongra and the impact of the proposed development on the access roads over which Snowy Hydro has existing easement access rights. To address this Snowy requests that it be further consulted regarding traffic management plans and the location of key construction equipment and permanent infrastructure.

Specifically SHL wishes to understand and provide input regarding the following:

- potential impacts to existing access easements for the emergency evacuation route that is located in the proposed project zone
- potential impacts to critical communication assets (fibre optic cable) that run underground in the proposed project zone

- potential impacts to existing easements and critical protection assets (underground services) that interact with the proposed 330kV transmission corridor

It is noted that Colongra's alternate heavy haulage route is also likely to be heavily utilised by the project during and potentially after construction. SHL requests that conditions/management plans will be in place to ensure:

- the project construction and operation will not restrict/interrupt operations at Colongra.
- the new infrastructure would not impede SHL's current existing heavy haulage access for vehicles and equipment in particular with regard to necessary clearances and safe approach distances.

3. Connection/Transmission

Finally, SHL also has concerns regarding the location of the proposed 60m transmission easement and the impacts this may have for future requirements for transmission and connection to the Transgrid switchyard for Colongra assets. The figures and designs provided in the EIS are indicative and not final. SHL therefore considers it possible that infrastructure and easements to connect the battery into the existing substation may restrict future augmentation of Colongra.

As a peaking power station Colongra fills a critical role within the NEM that is likely to increase in the coming years. As such consideration should be given to the potential for Colongra to expand to meet the requirements of the NEM and ensuring that connection configurations are not unnecessarily restricted by the Project.

SHL thanks you for the opportunity to review and provide a submission in regards to the Waratah Super Battery Energy Storage System EIS and request a meeting to explain and elaborate further on the issues we have raised.

Yours sincerely


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Head of Environment and Lands

Snowy Hydro Limited