



18 September 2025

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| To:                                                                                         | From:                                                      |
| Hon. Paul Scully<br>Minister for Planning and Public Spaces                                 | Anthony Ham<br>Group Manager – Generation Asset Operations |
| Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure<br>Locked Bag 5022<br>PARAMATTA NSW 2124 | Eraring Power Station,<br>PO Box 5044<br>ERARING NSW 2264  |

**Re: Submission regarding the Hunter Transmission Project – Application No. SSI-70610456**

Origin Energy Eraring Pty Ltd (**Origin**) refers to the Exhibition Notice for EnergyCo's proposed Hunter Transmission Project (**the Project**), which includes the expansion and upgrade of the Eraring Power Station (**EPS**) substation, relocation of generator connections from the EPS and adjustments to existing utilities and drainage infrastructure on land to be acquired by EnergyCo from land owned by Origin and located at the EPS.

We are writing to provide Origin's comments on the Project as described in the Environmental Impact Statement (**EIS**) which is currently on public exhibition.

Origin is Australia's leading integrated energy company with 4.7 million customer accounts, ~5,500 employees and a 7,800 MW generation portfolio which includes 1,755 MW owned and contracted renewables and storage. EPS has supplied power to New South Wales (**NSW**) for over 40 years and plays a crucial role in maintaining reliable support of electricity whilst supporting the market's transition to renewable energy resources. The Eraring Battery Energy Storage System (**EBESS**) located at Eraring plays an important role in the energy transition, by supporting renewable energy sources and providing firming capacity and stability to the National Electricity Grid.

Origin is identified in the EIS as a high impact, key stakeholder for the Project. In addition to the acquisition of Origin land by EnergyCo, construction of the Project will require outages of electricity generation at Units 1 and 2 of EPS and may also require outages of the EBESS. The Project will also have potential impacts associated with flooding, groundwater and surface water, traffic management and contamination both during construction and operation of the Project, and in relation to the closure and eventual demolition and rehabilitation of EPS.

Whilst EnergyCo has consulted with Origin regarding the Project on several occasions as identified in the EIS, the issues and feedback raised by Origin during this consultation is broader than the avoidance of operational areas and access areas, and integration with the EBESS TransGrid substation upgrades, as represented in the EIS.

Origin recognises EnergyCo's commitment within the EIS to ongoing coordination through detailed design and Third Party Agreements and therefore would like to provide this submission to ensure that all issues and feedback provided by Origin to date is captured.



With regards to interactions of the Project with the EPS, EnergyCo has advised Origin that construction of the Project is expected to commence in early 2027, with operations commencing in late 2029. In alignment with its agreement with the NSW Government, Origin has submitted a notice of intention to cease generation at EPS to the Australian Energy Market Operator in August 2027. Under that agreement, Origin retains the full control and flexibility on the closure schedule from August 2027 through to April 2029, which is when the plant must retire in full under the terms of the agreement.

Based on the above and EnergyCo's advice that construction of the Project will require outages of Unit 1 and 2 at EPS, Origin requires further consultation to understand how the Project will be constructed in parallel with an operating power station (including car park and land acquisition) and continue to ensure energy security in NSW.

Further to project logistics in relation to operations of the EPS, upon ceasing of power station operations Origin is planning for the decommissioning and eventual demolition and rehabilitation of the Eraring Site. Origin requires further consultation with EnergyCo on the proposed Project to understand how proposed final landform designs and demolition methodologies may need to be changed to consider the sensitive infrastructure proposed.

During an EIS briefing on 29 August 2025 between EnergyCo and Origin, EnergyCo provided an overview of environmental studies associated with groundwater, flooding, contamination and noise. Origin would welcome further consultation on those matters in respect to the Project and the EPS, particularly regarding the matters discussed including:

- Expanding identified contaminants of potential concern associated with upwelling of groundwater known to occur with the Project area.
- Reviewing of groundwater impacts and likely need for the Project to dewater and treat groundwater during construction.
- The flood model produced for the Project appears to have used incorrect assumptions associated with drainage at the EPS and EBESS and has not included additional catchment approved to be diverted under Project Approval 07\_0084.
- The increase in flooding depth due to the Project and potential impacts to the EPS infrastructure and the EBESS downstream.
- General site management, logistics and interactions between the Project, the EBESS and the EPS during construction, operation, decommissioning, eventual demolition and rehabilitation

Origin welcomes and encourages ongoing consultation with EnergyCo to ensure that these issues and feedback are understood, captured within Project detailed design and Third Party Agreements.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anthony Ham', written over a blue horizontal line.

[Anthony Ham \(Sep 19, 2025 09:59:21 GMT+10\)](#)

Anthony Ham  
Group Manager – Generation Asset Operations  
Origin Energy

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# 20250918 Origin Submission - Hunter Transmission Project (SSI-70610456)

Final Audit Report

2025-09-18

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