

Monday July 8th, 2019

Director- Resource and Energy Assessments
NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Attention: Anthony Ko

Dear Mr Ko,

Objection to Modification Application for Snowy 2.0 Exploratory Works (SSI 9208 MOD 1)

The test to determine approval for a modification of any development consent in a national park is that it must improve environmental outcomes. This proposed modification to Snowy 2 does not improve environmental outcomes for Kosciuszko National Park.

This proposed major project modification winds back the original protections under the consent for exploratory works within Kosciuszko National Park, our only alpine national park.

A pristine reach of the Yarrangobilly River should not be further compromised. The riparian buffer must be retained as it stands. Snowy Hydro must be required to work out another way to develop the portal without reduction of the buffer.

Any consent should decline to allow an additional four hectares of national park destruction (clearing) and a tripling of heavy vehicle movements originally associated with the proposal. Snowy Hydro must work out how to not clear another four hectares and how to reduce vehicle movements back to what was originally proposed.

The widening of existing tracks and additional new tracks should have been anticipated by the original proposal. Each of the 15 bore holes shall cause significant clearing and compaction of the site. Recovery in a sub-alpine area of these disturbances will be slow. Each site will be present as a disturbed area in the national park for decades after this temporary drill site use. How does Snowy Hydro propose to reduce the recovery time and further limit the disturbance area at each bore hole site. Where are the detailed site management plans and restoration plans?

This regulatory authority should really care about national parks. They are not afterthought to the mechanical regulation of this project. This proposal is set to run many times over its original approved budget. It should be refused consent to stop the damage it will do to our only alpine national park.

Sincerely,

Keith Muir

Director

The Colong Foundation for Wilderness Ltd