



DOC19/1005962-29

The Senior Environmental Assessment Officer
Planning and Assessment Division
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
Locked Bag 5022
PARRAMATTA NSW 2124

By Major Projects Portal

EPA Advice on Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Ms Homsey

Thank you for the request for advice from Public Authority Consultation (PAE-10425625), requesting the review by the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Project Energy Connect - SA/NSW electricity interconnector (Application SSI 10040) between the South Australian border near Chowilla to Buronga.

The EPA has reviewed the following documents.

- EnergyConnect (NSW- Western Section) Environmental Impact Statement (Volume 1 – Main Volume) – WSP Australia Pty Ltd – 26 October 2020;
- EnergyConnect (NSW-Western Section) Technical paper 6 Hydrology, flooding and water quality – Volume 1 – WSP Australia Pty Ltd - 21 October 2020;
- EnergyConnect (NSW – Western Section) Technical paper 7 Air Quality impact assessment – Volume 2 – WSP Australia Pty Ltd - 21 October 2020;
- EnergyConnect (NSW-Western Section) Technical paper 8 Noise and vibration impact assessment - - Volume 1 - WSP Australia Pty Ltd – 21 October 2020; and
- EnergyConnect (NSW-Western Section) Technical paper 13 Groundwater impact assessment – Volume 1- WSP Australia Pty Ltd – 21 October 2020.

The EPA understands the proposal is for:

- The construction of new 330 kilovolt (kV) double circuit transmission line and associated infrastructure between the SA/NSW border near Chowilla and the existing Buronga substation.
- An upgrade and expansion of the existing Buronga substation and upgrade to existing single circuit transmission line between the Buronga substation and the NSW/Victoria border.

Based on the information provided, the proposal does not appear to require an environment protection licence under the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997*. However, the proposal is being undertaken on behalf of a NSW public authority and therefore the EPA is the appropriate regulatory authority for the proposal.

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The EPA has reviewed the EIS and notes that the EIS does provide the information required by the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements SSI-10040. In view of these factors, the EPA has no comments to provide on this project.

If you have any questions about this request, please contact Nick Vlasoff on 02 6969 0700 or via email at riverina.farwest@epa.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

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

18 November 2020

DARREN WALLETT
Unit Head Regional West Operations
Regulatory Operations Regional