

DOC19/969478-2

Mr Anthony Ko  
Senior Environmental Assessment Officer – Resource Assessments  
NSW Department of Planning, Industry & Environment  
GPO Box 39  
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Mr Ko,

**Request for advice – Snowy 2.0 Exploratory Works Modification 2**

I refer to your correspondence dated 2 November 2019, requesting advice from the NSW Environment Protection Authority's ("EPA") on Snowy 2.0 Exploratory Works Modification 2 lodged with the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment ("DPIE").

The EPA understands the proposed modification includes amongst other things, altering the exploratory works tunnelling method from drill and blast to predominately tunnel boring machine ("TBM"). The EPA has reviewed the Modification 2 Assessment Report (EMM, October 2019) and provides the following comments for consideration by DPIE.

Although the assessment report describes a change in tunnelling methodology, it does not fully describe the changes in the physical and chemical properties of the resultant excavated material. Furthermore, the report references storage, management and disposal of the excavated material, including an initial trial program of rock emplacement within Talbingo Reservoir of up to 50,000 m<sup>3</sup>. The report does not however provide sufficient information to robustly quantify or assess the environmental impacts of the proposed changes, particularly in relation to the proposed trial subaqueous rock emplacement program.

As a result, the environmental impacts arising from the management and disposal of excavated material proposed in the assessment report are not able to be determined. The EPA recommends that additional information be requested from the proponent so that the potential impacts of excavated material storage and disposal can be thoroughly assessed.

If you have any queries or wish to discuss these matters further, please contact Ellie Dean or myself on (02) 6229 7002 or via email to [queanbeyan@epa.nsw.gov.au](mailto:queanbeyan@epa.nsw.gov.au)

Yours sincerely,



**NIGEL SARGENT**  
**Manager Regional Operations – South East Region**  
**NSW Environment Protection Authority**

18/11/2019