OUT21/2138

Anthony Ko
Planning and Assessment Group
NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

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Dear Ms Evans

Snowy 2.0 - Transmission Connection (SSI-9717)
EIS

I refer to your email of 17 February 2021 to the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) Water and the Natural Resources Access Regulator (NRAR) about the above matter.

The following recommendations are provided by DPIE Water and NRAR.

Prior to Approval

- Water demand for construction of the project is approximately 60 000 kilolitres. This is to be sourced from local town water supplies in the western section of the project, and from Lake Talbingo in the eastern section. No confirmation has been provided of the ability of the town water supplies to make this volume available or whether there is sufficient water entitlement available to access water from Lake Talbin. Confirmation should be provided of the ability to access the required water volume from relevant water utility providers and from within the existing water access licence held for the Snowy 2.0 project to access water from Lake Talbingo.

Post Approval

- Detailed design, construction and rehabilitation of works within waterfront land needs to address the requirements of the *Guidelines for Controlled Activities on Waterfront Land* (NRAR 2018). This should include the proposed watercourse crossing of Sheep Station Creek, in addition to disturbance near or within watercourses within the broader transmission corridor.
- The proposal should develop a Soil and Water Management Plan which should include an Erosion and Sediment Control Plan to manage potential impacts to watercourses. It is recommended these plans be developed in accordance with the guidelines, *Soils and Construction: Managing Urban Stormwater* (Landcom 2004) and *Guidelines for Controlled Activities on Waterfront Land* (NRAR 2018). The steep terrain, wide disturbance corridor and requirement to construct access tracks, supporting infrastructure and foundations represents a key risk to watercourses through the potential for erosion and sedimentation issues. The development and implementation of adequate controls to manage this risk combined with monitoring, maintenance and rehabilitation should be addressed in the proposed Soil and Water Management Plan.
- There is a potential to intercept groundwater through excavation works required for foundation construction and associated investigative work. The volume required is estimated to be less than 3ML. If further design work and/or construction work indicates this volume may be exceeded, the proponent will need to obtain sufficient entitlement in the groundwater source to account for the water take.

- Stream crossing design should include standard measures to protect water quality and stream function.
  Appropriate measures are outlined in the following documents:
  - Forest Soil and Water Protection – A Guide for Operators, State Forests of NSW 2000, pp 35-38.
  - NSW RFS (2017) Fire Trail Design, Construction and Maintenance Manual
  - Water sensitive design for rural subdivisions – WaterNSW

- Groundwater dependent ecosystems (GDEs) have been recognised along the proposed route of the transmission line and support tracks. These are mostly water course crossings and Alpine/sub-alpine fens. The proponent should undertake suitable studies of proposed positions of transmission towers and vehicular access to avoid, manage and mitigate impact to alpine fens or other Plant Community Types (PCT) or GDE's along the proposed alignment.

Any further referrals to DPIE Water and NRAR can be sent by email to: landuse.enquiries@dpie.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

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26 March 2021