



OUT19/12715

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

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Dear Mr Ko

**Snowy 2.0 Main Works (SSI 9687)
EIS Exhibition**

I refer to your email of 19 September 2019 to the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) – Water about the above matter. The following advice for you to consider is from DPIE –Water and the NSW Natural Resources Access Regulator (NRAR).

Prior to Project Determination

It is recommended that prior to project approval that the proponent:

1. Provide clarification that a successful registration of interest has been made in the project's recent Controlled Allocation Order for the necessary entitlement to account for the predicted water take.

The ability to account for the predicted maximum groundwater take in the Lachlan Fold Belt South Coast groundwater source is reliant on acquisition of a significant proportion of entitlement made available in a recent Controlled Allocation Order (under the *Water Management Act 2000*).

2. Complete an impact assessment of the operation of the production bores to meet the requirements of the relevant Water Sharing Plan rules and policy for impact assessment and trading criteria.

Reference is made in the EIS to existing production bores and test bores and the use of water from bores to supply the project. Uncertainty exists as to the level of impact assessment that has been completed in regards to the operation of these bores and the ability to comply with relevant water legislation and policy.

3. Continue groundwater monitoring (as outlined in the EIS) throughout the intervening period prior to commencement of construction. This information is to be assessed in conjunction with data gathered to date and to inform to the final design and construction assessment.

Post Project Determination

Should the project be approved, it is recommended that the proponent:

1. Prepare and provide a Water Management Plan, Groundwater Monitoring Programme (including Trigger Action Response Plan and Mitigation Measures Plan) to DPIE - Water for assessment prior to the commencement of construction and operation of the project.
2. The ability to accurately meter and monitor water take from surface and groundwater sources will need to be developed with ongoing review of actual versus modelled predictions. This will

be a key component to confirm impact predictions, the adequacy of mitigating measures and compliance for water take.

3. The design, construction and management of works within waterfront land including watercourse crossings (temporary and permanent), water management infrastructure, diversions and other surface infrastructure needs to be in accordance with the "Guidelines for Controlled Activities on Waterfront Land (NRAR 2018)".
4. The proponent must ensure sufficient water entitlement is held in a water access licence/s to account for the maximum predicted take for each water source prior to take occurring.
5. The proponent must comply with the rules of the relevant water sharing plans.

Any further referrals to DPIE – Lands, Water and DPI can be sent by email to:

landuse.enquiries@dpi.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Liz Rogers
Manager, Assessments
DPIE Water – Strategic Relations
13 November 2019