

Our ref: DOC20/702266-9

Your ref: SSI-9837

Ms Mandana Mazaheri

Team Leader
Resource Assessments
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
Mandana.Mazaheri@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Ms Mazaheri

Response to Submissions Report Amendment Report – Newcastle Power Station, Tomago (SSI-9837)

I refer to your email dated 27 August 2020 in which Resources Assessments invited Biodiversity and Conservation Division (BCD) of the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (the Department) for comment on the Response to Submissions Amendment Report for the proposed Newcastle Power Station located at 1940 Pacific Highway (Lot 3 DP104356), Tomago, and associated gas pipelines and electricity infrastructure (within Lot 2 and 4 DP 1043561, Lot 1203 DP 1229590, Lot 1202 DP 1229590, and Lot 202 DP 1173564) (SSI-9837). BCD has previously (letter dated 15 May 2020) provided comments on the Response to Submissions Report for the project.

BCD has reviewed the '*Newcastle Power Station Project – Environmental Impact Statement Amendment Report*' (prepared by AGL Pty Ltd and dated August 2020), including relevant appendices, annexures and attachments in relation to impacts on biodiversity and flooding.

BCD's recommendations are provided in **Attachment A** and detailed comments are provided in **Attachment B**. If you require any further information regarding this matter, please contact Steve Lewer, Senior Regional Biodiversity Conservation Officer, on 4927 3158 or via email at rog.hcc@environment.nsw.gov.au

Yours sincerely



4 September 2020

STEVEN COX
Senior Team Leader Planning
Hunter Central Coast Branch
Biodiversity and Conservation Division

Enclosure: Attachments A and B

BCD's recommendations

Newcastle Power Station, Tomago (SSI-9837) – Response to RTS amendment report

Biodiversity

1. BCD is satisfied that the amendment report has satisfactorily addressed our previous comments on the RTS (dated 15 May - DOC20/334078-9) and no further assessment is required.

Flooding and flood risk

2. No further assessment is required.

BCD's detailed comments

Newcastle Power Station, Tomago (SSI-9837) – Response to RTS amendment report

Biodiversity

1. BCD is satisfied that the amendment report addresses our previous concern

BCD's review of the Response of Submissions (RTS) report recommended that vegetation zones 1 and 3 within PCT 1590 are mapped as Lower Hunter Spotted Gum – Ironbark Forest endangered ecological community (EEC) consistent with mapping of vegetation zone 2 and the BAM calculator is re-run to determine the updated credit yield for these two zones and that the BDAR is amended.

The proponent has adequately justified that vegetation zones 1 and 3 do not represent the EEC (as per above) and have supported this with advice from Dr. Stephen Bell, a recognised specialist on this community (Appendix 9 of the BDAR). The BDAR has been updated and revised (August 2020) with this advice as previously requested.

BCD is satisfied with the response and no further assessment on this matter is required.

Recommendation 1

BCD is satisfied that the amendment report has satisfactorily addressed our previous comments on the RTS (dated 15 May - DOC20/334078-9) and no further assessment is required.

Flooding and flood risk

2. BCD is satisfied with the assessment

BCD is satisfied that the proponent has adequately addressed previous concerns.

Recommendation 2

No further assessment is required.