

9 Glenview Cres
Hunters Hill 2110

Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
Major Projects Team
Attention: Anthony Ko

5 November 2019

Re: Submission on Snowy 2.0 Main Works Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Mr Ko,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the Snowy 2.0 project as described in the Main Works Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

I am appalled that such a significant project with potentially such devastating environmental impacts is undergoing environmental assessment **after** government has entered into works contracts valued to around half the possible cost of the project.

The intense scale of this project within a sensitive and iconic alpine conservation area, with predicted damage to ground and surface water systems including rivers feeding karst areas is justified by super expensive infrastructure paid for by the taxpayer with arguably limited public benefit in the longer term.

Overall, the project presents as environmentally **unsustainable** development.

There appears limited consideration of alternatives to how the national energy market can be stabilised as renewable energy is added to the grid. The scope of the environmental impact is limited. The impact of the project on existing pumped hydro stations is unclear and waste disposal proposals further compromise the environmental values of nationally listed Kosciuszko National Park.

The significant cost of the project is not justified by any genuinely improved environmental, economic and community benefits. Rather the project will cause destruction of fragile sub-alpine areas and loss of habitat for threatened fauna, threatened flora and threatened ecological communities. The amenity of the national park will be compromised by kilometres of roads and transmission towers which will need constant maintenance.

I urge that this Main Works EIS be rejected, as it is not sustainable development and not in the broader public interest.

Thank you for (belated) opportunity to comment on the Snowy 2.0 project.

Yours sincerely,

Cathy Merchant