

29 March 2023

NSW Department of Planning & Environment
Director Resource Assessments
Attention: Steve O'Donoghue

Dear Steve,

SSI 12590060 – Hunter Power Project: Snowy Hydro's Response to the Independent Environmental Audit 2022 findings

Ken Holmes of Barnett & May was engaged by Snowy Hydro to conduct the August 2022 Independent Audit of the Hunter Power Project as required by Conditions C15 to C19.

The audit was undertaken in accordance with the Department's Independent Audit Post Approval Guidelines (May 2020) and covered the period from 29 March 2022 (commencement of construction) to 1 August 2022. The revised Independent Environmental Audit Report dated 28 March 2023 is attached.

The audit made two Observations (both of which have subsequently been addressed and closed out by the Department) and two Administrative non-compliances.

The first Administrative non-compliance relates to Condition C20a (ix) which requires that a complaints register, updated monthly must be made publicly available on the project website. While no complaints have been lodged, the audit finding was that the complaints register was not on the website and the audit recommended that a copy is uploaded to the website whether or not complaints have been received. Snowy Hydro have now uploaded a complaints register to their website, see <https://www.snowyhydro.com.au/hunter-power-project/documents/> and will update it monthly as required.

The second Administrative non-compliance relates to Condition C15 which requires that Independent Audits of the development be carried out in accordance with the current version of the Independent Audit Post Approval Requirements (PAR). The audit finding was that the audit was not commissioned or undertaken within 12 weeks of commencement of construction in accordance with the PAR. Snowy Hydro will endeavour to ensure that all future audits are commissioned within the timeframes specified in the PAR.

Yours sincerely,

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Isaac Strachan
Health Safety and Environment Lead
Hunter Power Project