

# Snowy 2.0 Main Works Annual EPBC Compliance Report

EPBC 2018/8322

Reporting period 25 August 2022 to 24 August 2023

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# **Declaration of Accuracy**

In making this declaration, I am aware that sections 490 and 491 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cth)* (EPBC Act) make it an offence in certain circumstances to knowingly provide false or misleading information or documents. The offence is punishable on conviction by imprisonment or a fine, or both. I declare that all the information and documentation supporting this compliance report is true and correct in every particular. I am authorised to bind the approval holder to this declaration and that I have no knowledge of that authorisation being revoked at the time of making this declaration.

	DocuSigned by:					
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This document is the annual compliance report that is required by EPBC Act approval

## 1 - Purpose of report

The purpose of this document is to demonstrate that there has been compliance with the conditions of the EPBC approval for the Snowy 2.0 Main Works project (EPBC 2018/8322) and to satisfy Condition 33 of that approval which states:

The **approval holder** must prepare a **compliance report** for each 12 month period following the date of **commencement of the action**, or otherwise in accordance with an annual date that has been agreed in writing by the **Minister**.

The action commenced on 25 August 2020 with 'Pre-construction minor works'. The remainder of works commenced on 22 October 2020 after approval of all Main Works Environmental Management Plans were granted. The reporting period of the first report covered the period between 25 August 2020 and 24 August 2021 and subsequent years have also reported between 25 August and 24 August the following year.

# 2 - Description of activities

### 2.1 Project overview

Snowy Hydro Limited (Snowy Hydro) is constructing a pumped hydro-electric expansion of the Snowy Mountains Hydro-electric Scheme, called Snowy 2.0.

Snowy 2.0 is a pumped hydro-electric project that will link the existing Tantangara and Talbingo reservoirs through a series of new underground tunnels and a hydro-electric power station. Most of the project's facilities will be built underground, with approximately 27 kilometres of concrete-lined tunnels constructed to link the two reservoirs and a further 20 kilometres of tunnels required to support the facility. Intake and outlet structures will be built at both Tantangara and Talbingo Reservoirs.

Snowy 2.0 will increase the generation capacity of the Snowy Scheme by an additional 2,000 MW, and at full capacity will provide approximately 350,000 MWh of large-scale energy storage to the National Electricity Market (NEM). This will be enough to ensure the stability and reliability of the NEM, even during prolonged periods of adverse weather conditions.

WeBuild (formerly Salini Impregilo) through the Future Generation Joint Venture (Future Generation), are delivering the Snowy 2.0 Main Works.

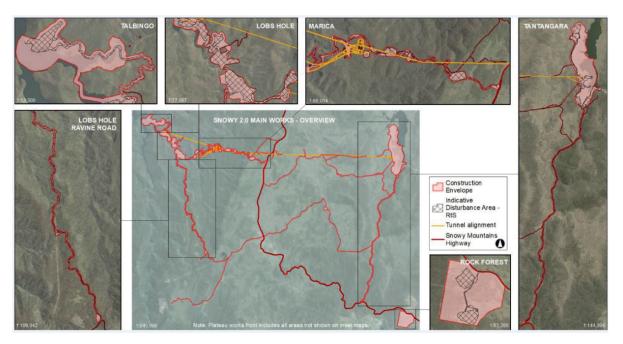


Figure 1: Snowy 2.0 project location

# 2.2 Works undertaken during the reporting period

In the reporting period works on the following key project elements have been progressed:

- Completion of tunnelling of the Main Access Tunnel (MAT);
- Tunnelling of the Emergency, Ventilation and Cable Tunnel (ECVT);
- Commencement of Excavation of the Power Station Complex;
- Tunnelling of the Headrace adit;
- Commencement of Tunnelling of the Tailrace adit;
- Excavation of the Headrace Surge shaft;
- Excavation of the the Talbingo Intake; and
- Excavation of the Tantangara Intake.

Construction of ancillary infrastructure such as construction compounds, access trunnels and adits to support tunnelling activities, accommodation camps at Lobs Hole, Marica and Tantangara, a Logistics site at Rock Forest, road upgrades, water supply and wastewater treatment facilities have also progressed or been completed.

# **3** Approval conditions compliance table

Reference	Condition	Is the project compliant with this condition?	Evidence/comments
1	The <b>approval holder</b> must undertake the action as described in the <b>NSW approval</b> .	Partially compliant	The action commenced on 25 August 2020 with pre-construction minor works. Construction works commenced on 22 October 2020. During the reporting period of 25 August 2022 and 24 August 2023, the proponent engaged an auditor to undertake an audit within 18 months of the commencement of construction in accordance with the Department of Planning and Environment Independent Audit Post Approval Requirements (PAR). This is the fourth IEA (IEA #4) and covered the NSW Approval, the EPBC Act Approval and the Environmental Protection Licence (EPL). The findings from this audit are referred to in the remainder of the report as a means to demonstrate compliance with the NSW approval. Due to the overlap in conditions, this report lists the EPBC condition as partially compliant if there has been a non-compliance with the NSW approval. IEA #4 showed that substantive compliance with the NSW approval had been achieved with this report able to be found on the Snowy Hydro website.
2	The <b>approval holder</b> must not <b>clear</b> outside of the construction envelope as identified at <u>Appendix A.</u>	Non-compliant	The project has implemented procedures as detailed in the Biodiversity Management Plan as a mitigant to avoid clearing outside the boundary. However there was one instance in the reporting period where clearing outside the boundary occurred.

			<ol> <li>On 20 November 2022, an operator lost sight of boundary flagging and deviated from the construction envelope causing a small amount of disturbance.</li> </ol>
3	The <b>disturbance area</b> must not exceed 504 hectares (ha).	Compliant	The total area disturbed at the end of the reporting period (August 2023) was 352.9 ha.
4	The <b>approval holder</b> must submit the report required by condition 13 of the <b>NSW approval</b> to the <b>Department</b> on the same day as the submission to the <b>NSW Government.</b> The report submitted to the <b>Department</b> must include <b>shapefiles</b> of the 'final <b>disturbance area</b> ' and the final <b>clearance</b> areas for the entities listed in condition 5.	Not applicable	The condition was not triggered in the reporting period.
5	Terrestrial biodiversityWithin the construction envelope, the approvalholder must not clear more than:(a) 425 ha of native vegetation;(b) 84.29 ha of habitat for the Smoky Mouse;(c) 22.87 ha of habitat for the Alpine Tree Frog;(d) 61.47 ha of habitat for the Broad-toothedRat;(e) 80.83 ha of habitat for the Alpine She-oakSkink;(f) 197.95 ha of habitat for the EasternPygmy-possum;(g) 81.86 ha of habitat for the Latham's Snipe;and(h) 1.03 ha of the Alpine Bogs and Fens.	Compliant	The total area disturbed at August 2023 was: (a) 352.9 ha of native vegetation; (b) 50.04 ha of habitat for the Smoky Mouse; (c) 11.41 ha of habitat of Alpine Tree Frog; (d) 38.93 ha of habitat for the Broad-toothed Rat; (e) 50.29 ha of habitat for the Alpine She-oak Skink; (f) 157.98 ha of habitat for the Eastern Pygmy-possum; (g) 1.45 ha of habitat for the Latham's Snipe; and (h) 0.41 ha of the Alpine Bogs and Fens.
6	To compensate for direct impacts on <b>protected</b> <b>matters</b> , including the entities listed in condition 5, the	Compliant	Snowy Hydro paid a biodiversity offset payment on 14 October 2022, 24 November 2022 and 24 September 2023.

	<b>approval holder</b> must comply with conditions 12-16 of the <b>NSW approval</b> relating to biodiversity offset payments.		
7	The <b>approval holder</b> must notify the <b>Department</b> in writing within 10 <b>business days</b> of making a biodiversity offset payment to the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service. Each notification must state the date of payment and the amount paid.	Partially compliant	One notification was provided to the Department on 25 October 2022. Notification of payment was not provided to the Department following the invoice paid on 24 November 2022. Corrective action: Snowy Hydro to provide notification within 10 days for future payments.
8	To minimise impacts on <b>protected matters</b> , the <b>approval holder</b> must comply with conditions 17-19 of the <b>NSW approval</b> relating to biodiversity management.	Partially compliant	<ul> <li>Condition 17-19 of the NSW approval have been met with exception of the following minor non-compliance under Condition 19 of the NSW approval:</li> <li>1. IEA #4 found that the Annual Report required under the Biodiversity Management Plan had not been completed. Action addressed through the IEA process.</li> </ul>
9	<ul> <li>The Biodiversity Management Plan required under condition 18 of the NSW approval must: <ul> <li>(a) be consistent with relevant statutory documents; and</li> <li>(b) include provisions to make biodiversity monitoring data (excluding sensitive ecological data) available as part of the monitoring, evaluation and reporting program required by condition 18d of the NSW approval.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Compliant	<ul> <li>(a) The Biodiversity Management Plan was approved on 15 October 2020 by the NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPE).</li> <li>(b) Provisions to make biodiversity monitoring data available were included in section 6.5 of the Biodiversity Management Plan.</li> </ul>
10	The <b>approval holder</b> must implement the Biodiversity Management Plan approved by the NSW Planning Secretary until the end date of this approval, unless	Compliant	The Biodiversity plan was approved by DPE on 15 October 2020 and has been implemented since 21 October 2020 when construction commenced.

	otherwise agreed by the <b>Minister</b> in writing.		
11	Prior to the commencement of the action, the approval holder must provide the Department with shapefiles of all records of threatened species and communities recording during surveys undertaken for the assessment of the action.	Compliant	Shapefiles containing all records of threatened species and communities recorded during surveys undertaken as a part of the biodiversity assessment for Snowy 2.0 were provided to the Department on 25 August 2020.
12	Aquatic ecology and biosecurity To minimise impacts to the aquatic environment, the approval holder must comply with conditions 20-25 of the NSW approval relating to biosecurity and fish management.	Partially compliant	<ul> <li>IEA #4 found no non-compliances in relation to condition 20 of the NSW approval.</li> <li>IEA #4 found a non-compliance with Condition 22 and 24 as the Biodiversity Risk Management Plan and the Threatened Fish Management Plan had not been approved in the required timeframe</li> <li>Conditions 21, 23 and 25 were not triggered in the reporting period.</li> </ul>
13	<ul> <li>To minimise potential impacts of pest fish movement on protected matters, the approval holder must, in addition to conditions 22c and 24d of the NSW approval:         <ul> <li>(a) investigate reasonable measures, including the installation of secondary fish barriers, to protect tributaries identified as priority receiving sites for the establishment of stocking insurance populations of the Macquarie Perch and Stocky Galaxias;</li> <li>(b) include the findings of the investigation in the Biosecurity Risk Management Plan required by condition 22 of the NSW approval, and the Threatened Fish Management Plan required by condition 24 of the NSW approval; and</li> <li>(c) before undertaking any stocking of insurance</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Compliant	<ul> <li>Work for conditions 22c and 24d of the NSW approval has been completed and is under approval</li> <li>(a) Investigation completed.</li> <li>(b) Management Plans include these findings.</li> <li>(c) The condition was not triggered in the reporting period.</li> </ul>

	populations required by condition 24d of the <b>NSW approval</b> , implement those measures determined under condition 13a to protect tributaries identified as priority receiving sites for the establishment of stocking insurance populations of the <b>Macquarie Perch</b> and <b>Stocky Galaxias</b> .		
14	<ul> <li>The Biosecurity Risk Management Plan required by condition 22 of the NSW approval, and the Threatened Fish Management Plan required by condition 24 of the NSW approval, must be peer reviewed by an independent, suitably-qualified expert/s approved by the Department.</li> <li>(a) The peer review must be made publicly available on the approval holder's website within 10 business days of finalisation; and</li> <li>(b) The peer review must be undertaken prior to approval of the Biosecurity Risk Management Plan and Threatened Fish Management Plan by the Director-General of the NSW Department of Primary Industries.</li> </ul>	Compliant	<ul> <li>The Peer review process for the Threatened Fish Management Plan was completed however the plan was then changed due to Department comments and will now be Peer Reviewed again.</li> <li>This condition with respect to the Biodiversity Management Plan not triggered in the reporting period as the Plan is still in the final stages of review by the Department of Planning and Environment. Once approved, the Peer Review Process will commence.</li> </ul>
15	The Biosecurity Risk Management Plan and the Threatened Fish Management Plan must include provisions to make <b>monitoring data</b> (excluding <b>sensitive ecological data</b> ) available as part of the monitoring, evaluation and reporting programs required by condition 22d and 24g of the <b>NSW</b> <b>approval</b> .	Compliant	Provisions to make this monitoring data available have been included in the plans.
16	The <b>approval holder</b> must implement the Biosecurity Risk Management Plan and Threatened Fish Management Plan approved by the Director-General	Not applicable	The condition was not triggered in the reporting period.

	of the NSW Department of Primary Industries until the end date of this approval, unless otherwise agreed by the <b>Minister</b> in writing.		
17	Water resources To minimise impacts on water resources, the <b>approval</b> <b>holder</b> must comply with conditions 30 - 32 of the <b>NSW approval</b> relating to water management.	Partially compliant	<ul> <li>Condition 30 - 32 of the NSW approval have been met with the exception of the following minor non-compliances:</li> <li>1. IEA #4 found a non-compliance against Condition 30(f) due to there being sediment-laden water incidents on site in the period.</li> <li>2. IEA #4 found a non-compliance against Condition 30(p) due to issues relating to chemical management.</li> </ul>
18	The <b>approval holder</b> must prepare the Water Management Plan required by condition 31 of the <b>NSW approval</b> in consultation with the <b>Department</b> , before it is approved by the NSW Planning Secretary	Compliant	The Water Management Plan includes evidence of consultation with the department in <i>Table 1-4: Consultation undertaken for the WMP</i> in Section 1.9.
19	The Water Management Plan must include provisions to make <b>monitoring data</b> (excluding <b>sensitive</b> <b>ecological data</b> ) available as part of the monitoring, evaluation and reporting programs required by condition 31c and 31d of the <b>NSW approval</b> .	Partially compliant	Provisions to make water monitoring data available were included in Appendix A and Appendix B of the Water Management Plan.
20	The <b>approval holder</b> must implement the Water Management Plan approved by the NSW Planning Secretary until the end date of this approval, unless otherwise agreed by the <b>Minister</b> in writing.	Compliant	The Water Management plan was approved by DPE on 19 October 2020 and has been implemented since 22 October 2020 when construction commenced.
21	Heritage To minimise impacts on heritage items and values, the approval holder must comply with conditions 33-36 of the NSW approval relating to the protection and management of heritage items.	Compliant	IEA #4 did not find any non-compliances with Schedule 3 Conditions 33-36 of the NSW approval.

22	<ul> <li>The approval holder must prepare the Heritage</li> <li>Management Plan required by condition 35 of the</li> <li>NSW approval in consultation with the Department,</li> <li>before it is approved by the NSW Planning Secretary.</li> <li>The Heritage Management Plan must: <ul> <li>(a) be prepared in accordance with the National Heritage Management Principles; and</li> <li>(b) include a consultation plan that outlines key indigenous stakeholders and when they are to be consulted; and update the consultation plan to record consultation and how feedback has been implemented during the action.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Compliant	IEA #4 found that Schedule 3 Condition 35 of the NSW approval was compliant.
23	The <b>approval holder</b> must implement the Heritage Management Plan approved by the NSW Planning Secretary until the end date of this approval, unless otherwise agreed by the <b>Minister</b> in writing.	Compliant	The Heritage Management plan was approved by DPE on 14 August 2020 and has been implemented since 25 August 2020 when the action commenced.
24	<b>Amenity and landscape</b> To minimise impacts to the environment in Kosciuszko National Park, the <b>approval holder</b> must comply with conditions 4-11 of the <b>NSW approval</b> relating to spoil management and site rehabilitation.	Partially compliant	<ul> <li>Condition 4 - 11 of the NSW approval have been met with the exception of the following minor non-compliance:</li> <li>1. IEA #4 found a non-compliance against Condition 10 as the Rehabilitation Management Plan had not yet been approved.</li> </ul>
25	The Rehabilitation Management Plan required by condition 10 of the <b>NSW approval</b> must include provisions to make <b>monitoring data</b> (excluding <b>sensitive ecological data</b> ) available as part of the monitoring, evaluation and reporting program required by condition 10k of the <b>NSW approval</b> .	Compliant	Provisions to make this monitoring data available has been included in the Rehabilitation Management Plan.
26	Changes to the NSW approval The approval holder must notify the Department in writing of any proposed change to the NSW approval	Non-compliant	The Department was not notified of the proposed Modification 2 to the NSW approval.

	conditions referred to in these conditions within 10 <b>business days</b> of formally proposing a change or becoming aware of any proposed change.		
27	The <b>approval holder</b> must notify the <b>Department</b> in writing of any change to the <b>NSW approval</b> conditions referred to in these conditions, within 10 <b>business days</b> of a change to conditions being finalised.	Non-compliant	As above.
28	Notification of date of commencement of the action The approval holder must notify the Department in writing of the date of commencement of the action within 10 business days after the date of commencement of the action.	Compliant	The Department was notified on 27 August 2020 that the action had commenced on 25 August 2020.
29	<b>Compliance records</b> The <b>approval holder</b> must maintain accurate and complete <b>compliance records.</b>	Compliant	Compliance records are maintained by the approval holder and its principal contractor.
30	If the <b>Department</b> makes a request in writing, the <b>approval holder</b> must provide electronic copies of <b>compliance records</b> to the <b>Department</b> within the timeframe specified in the request. <i>Note:</i> Compliance records may be subject to audit by the Department or an independent auditor in accordance with section 458 of the EPBC Act, and or used to verify compliance with the conditions. Summaries of the result of an audit may be published on the Department's website or through the general	Not applicable	The condition was not triggered in the reporting period.
	media.		
31	Preparation and publication of plans The approval holder must: (a) submit <b>plans</b> required by conditions 18, 22	Partially compliant	Plans required under (a) have been submitted to the Department however the IEA #4 found non-compliances in

	<ul> <li>and 24 of the NSW approval and conditions 18 and 22 of this approval for consultation purposes, electronically to the Department;</li> <li>(b) publish each plan approved by the NSW Planning Secretary or Director-General of NSW Department of Primary Industries on the website within 20 business days of the date the plan is approved, unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the Minister;</li> <li>(c) exclude or redact sensitive ecological data from plans published on the website or provided to a member of the public; and</li> <li>(d) keep plans published on the website until the end date of this approval, unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the Minister.</li> </ul>		relation to overdue approval of these plans. Conditions (b) - (d) have not been triggered.
32	The approval holder must ensure that any <b>monitoring</b> <b>data</b> (including <b>sensitive ecological data</b> ), surveys, maps, and other spatial and metadata required under a <b>plan</b> , is prepared in accordance with the <b>Department'</b> s Guidelines for biological survey and mapped data (2018) and submitted electronically to the <b>Department</b> in accordance with the requirements of the <b>plan</b> .	Compliant	All data was prepared in accordance with the Department's Guidelines for biological survey and mapped data (2018) and provided to the Department on 25 August 2020.
33	<ul> <li>Annual compliance reporting</li> <li>The approval holder must prepare a compliance</li> <li>report for each 12 month period following the date of</li> <li>commencement of the action, or otherwise in</li> <li>accordance with an annual date that has been agreed</li> <li>to in writing by the Minister. The approval holder</li> <li>must: <ul> <li>(a) publish each compliance report on the</li> <li>website within 60 business days following</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Partially compliant	<ul> <li>This report has been prepared for the 2022/23 period, with compliance with (a) - (e) to be stated in the next report.</li> <li>With respect to the previous reporting period of 2021/22:</li> <li>(a) The EPBC Annual Compliance Report was published on the website on 24 October 2022 which was 61 days from the end of the reporting period.</li> <li>(b) Compliant with the Department notified on the 25 October 2022.</li> </ul>

	<ul> <li>the relevant 12 month period;</li> <li>(b) notify the Department by email that a compliance report has been published on the website and provide the weblink for the compliance report within five business days of the date of publication;</li> <li>(c) keep all compliance reports publicly available on the website until this approval expires, unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the Minister;</li> <li>(d) exclude or redact sensitive ecological data from compliance reports published on the website; and</li> <li>(e) where any sensitive ecological data has been excluded from the version published, submit the full compliance report to the Department within 5 business days of publication.</li> </ul>		<ul> <li>(c) The report from the previous reporting period is on the Snowy Hydro website.</li> <li>(d) The report that was uploaded to the website from the previous reporting period had sensitive ecological data redacted.</li> <li>(e) The original copy of the report was sent to the Department on 25 October 2022</li> </ul>
34	<ul> <li>Reporting incidents and non-compliances</li> <li>The approval holder must notify the Department in writing of any incident as soon as practicable after becoming aware of the incident and no later than two business days. The notification must specify: <ul> <li>(a) a short description of the incident; and</li> <li>(b) the location (including co-ordinates), date, and time of the incident. In the event the exact information cannot be provided, provide the best information available.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Compliant	Two incidents were reported to the Department during this time notice. However over this period there has been ongoing and extensive consultation with relevant state government agencies (NSW EPA, NPWS, DPE) about various incidents that have occurred on site.

35	<ul> <li>The approval holder must provide to the Department in writing the details of any incident or noncompliance with the conditions or commitments made in plans within 10 business days after becoming aware of the incident or non-compliance, specifying: <ul> <li>(a) any condition that is or may be in breach;</li> <li>(b) any corrective action or investigation which the approval holder has already taken or intends to take in the immediate future;</li> <li>(c) the potential impacts of the incident or non-compliance on protected matters; and</li> <li>(d) the method and timing of any remedial action that will be undertaken by the approval holder.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Partially compliant	The aforementioned incidents were not reported within 10 business days however the conditions (a) - (d) were met. Corrective action: Snowy Hydro to develop a process to ensure that incidents are reported within the required timeframe.
36	Independent audit The approval holder must ensure that independent audits of compliance with the conditions are conducted as requested by the Minister.	Not applicable	No Independent audits have been requested by the Department however given the sensitive nature of the environment that Snowy 2.0 is being constructed within, Snowy Hydro has followed recommendations of the PAR and has commissioned IEA #1,IEA #2 and IEA #4 of the NSW to ensure that compliance objectives are being met. The IEA #3 was undertaken in accordance with Schedule 4 Condition 9 of the NSW Approval which requires an Independent Audit to be carried out "within one year of the commencement of construction." This IEA covered the NSW Approval, the EPBC Act Approval and the Environmental Protection Licence (EPL).
37	<ul> <li>For each independent audit, the approval holder must:</li> <li>(a) provide the name and qualifications of the independent auditor and the draft audit criteria to the Department;</li> </ul>	Not applicable	As above, No independent audits have been requested by the Department however Snowy Hydro has completed IEA #1, IEA #2 and IEA #4 voluntarily, and has completed IEA #3 as per the NSW Approval requirement.

	<ul> <li>(b) only commence the independent audit once the audit criteria have been approved in writing by the Department; and</li> <li>(c) submit an audit report to the Department within the timeframe specified in the approved audit criteria.</li> </ul>		
38	The <b>approval holder</b> must publish the audit report on the <b>website</b> within 10 <b>business days</b> of receiving the <b>Department's</b> approval of the audit report and keep the audit report published on the <b>website</b> until the end date of this approval.	Not applicable	As above, no Independent audits have been requested by the Department and therefore this requirement is not applicable.
39	<b>Completion of the action</b> Within 30 days after the <b>completion of the action</b> , the <b>approval holder</b> must notify the <b>Department</b> in writing and provide <b>completion data</b> .	Not applicable	The condition was not triggered in the reporting period.

Table 1: Approval conditions compliance table