



Mr Chris Page
Senior Environmental Planner
Delivery
Transgrid
180 Thomas Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Decision to approve Snowy 2.0 Transmission Connection Project, NSW (EPBC 2018/8363)

Dear Mr Page

I am writing to you about a proposal to construct and operate the Snowy 2.0 Transmission Connection Project, NSW.

I have considered the proposal in accordance with Part 9 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) and have decided to grant an approval to NSW Electricity Networks Operations Pty Limited (Transgrid). The details of my decision are attached. The proposal must be undertaken in accordance with the conditions specified in the approval.

Any plans required to be implemented under the conditions of approval will be regarded as public documents unless the approval holder provides sufficient justification to warrant a commercial-in-confidence status.

Approval under the EPBC Act does not affect obligations to comply with any other laws of the Commonwealth, state or territory that are applicable to the action. Neither does this approval confer any right, title or interest that may be required to access land or waters to take the action.

The National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) commented on the project on behalf of the Minister for Indigenous Australians. The NIAA recommended Transgrid seek advice from the NSW Government on any future act regime requirements that may apply to the project under the *Native Title Act 1993* prior to commencing any works.

The NIAA encouraged Transgrid to continue to collaborate with all relevant Indigenous stakeholders and Traditional Owner groups to ensure all First Nations interests and concerns are identified and addressed prior to commencing works. In particular, the NIAA recommended Transgrid consult the following organisations:

- NSW NTSCorp on (02) 9310 3188 or information@ntscorp.com.au – on Native Title matters;
- NSW Aboriginal Land Council on (02) 9689 4444 – Mr Yuseph Deen, CEO;
- Tumut Brungle Local Aboriginal Land Council on (02) 6947 4518 or btlalc@bigpond.net.au – Ms Elsie Freeman and Ms Sue Bolger, CEO;

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- Wagga Wagga Local Aboriginal Land Council on (02) 6921 4095 – Ms Lorraine Lyons, CEO; and
- Southern Snowy Mountains Aboriginal Community (SSMAC) via the NSW NPWS Kosciuszko National Park Offices in Tumut on (02) 6947 7025 or Jindabyne on (02) 6450 5600.

The NIAA recommended the Cultural Heritage Management Plan proposed for the project include jointly considered protocols for the identification, protection, and management of tangible and intangible cultural heritage values, address the management of any Aboriginal cultural heritage values, and set out ongoing reporting to Traditional Owners.

To support First Nations economic participation in the project, the NIAA encouraged Transgrid to develop a First Nations employment and procurement plan and engage local Workforce Australia providers or Supply Nation, which maintains a free online directory to connect to First Nations jobseekers.

Section 142 of the EPBC Act requires an approval holder to comply with conditions attached to an approval. Penalties may apply to approval holders who contravene conditions.

The department actively monitors, and audits proposals referred or approved under the EPBC Act. The audit program aims to ensure approval holders comply with conditions of approval and implement any commitments made in management plans. Your project may be selected for audit by the department at any time and all related records and documents may be examined. Information about the department's compliance monitoring and auditing program is attached.

I have also written to the following parties to advise them of this decision:

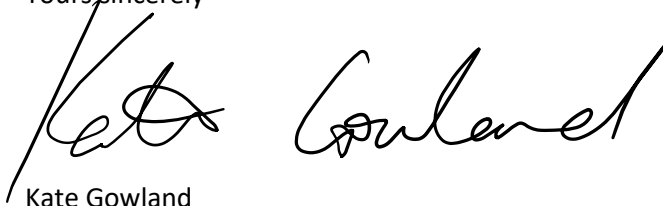
State/ territory authority/ authorities	The Hon Anthony Roberts MP, NSW Minister for Planning and Homes
Commonwealth Ministers	Senator the Hon Murray Watt, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Forestry; The Hon Linda Burney MP, Minister for Indigenous Australians; The Hon Catherine King MP, Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government; The Hon Chris Bowen MP, Minister for Climate Change and Energy.

Please advise the department when you commence the action and ensure you keep the details of the person responsible for administration of the approval decision up to date throughout the life of the approval via email to EPBCMonitoring@environment.gov.au.

You will soon receive a letter regarding the requirements of the approval conditions. For general enquiries regarding post approval matters, e.g., approval of management plans, please contact PostApproval@environment.gov.au.

If you have any questions about this decision, please contact the project manager, Angela Drew, by email to angela.drew@dceew.gov.au or telephone (02) 5156 3480 and quote the EPBC reference number shown at the beginning of this letter.

Yours sincerely



Kate Gowland
A/g Branch Head
Environment Assessments NSW and ACT Branch

21 October 2022

Attachments:

- Notice recording final approval decision
- Fact sheet on audit program