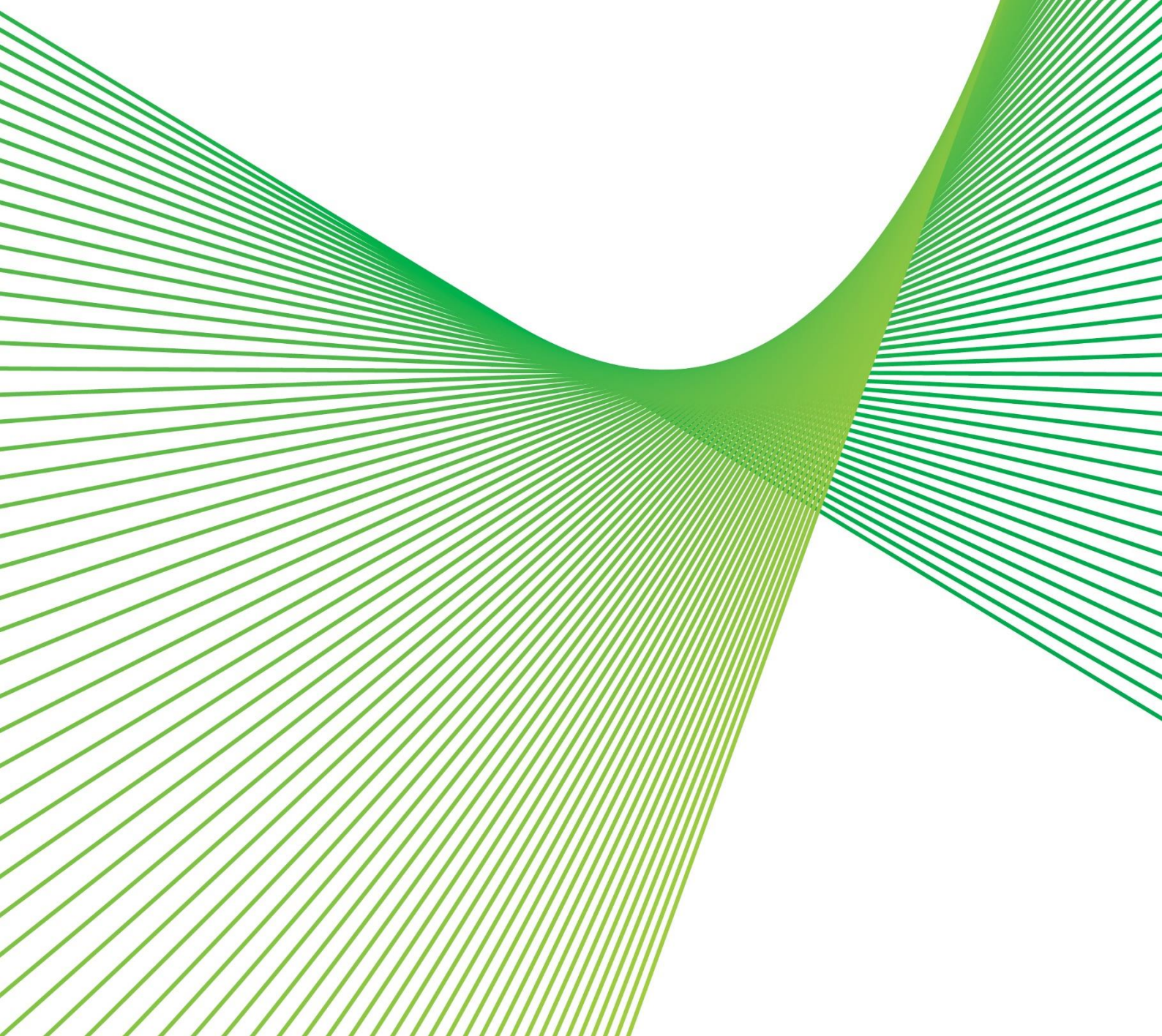


EPBC 2018/8363 – Snowy 2.0 Transmission Connection Project

Annual Compliance Report

21 October 2022 to 21 October 2023




Document Revision History

Revision	Date	Prepared by	Approved by	Remarks
1.0	10/01/2024	Jason Snape	Andrew Buttigieg	Initial issue for review and internal approval

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.

Signed	
Full name (please print)	Oliver King
Position (please print)	Project Director - Snowy 2.0 Connection
Organisation (please print including ABN/CAN if applicable)	Transgrid (NSW Electricity Networks Operations Pty Ltd) – ACN 609 169 959 as trustee for NSW Electricity Networks Operations Trust – ABN 70 250 995 390
Date	12/01/2024

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1. Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to demonstrate compliance with, and fulfilment of, the conditions attached to *Environmental Planning and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) approval EPBC 2018/8363 granted for the NSW Electricity Networks Operations Pty Ltd – ACN 609 169 959 as trustee for NSW Electricity Networks Operations Trust – ABN 70 250 995 390 (known as Transgrid) for construction and operation of the Snowy 2.0 Transmission Connection Project (the Project) on 21 October 2022.

2. Description of Activities

2.1. Project Overview

In 2020, Snowy Hydro Limited (SHL) obtained approval to expand the existing Snowy Mountains Hydro-electric Scheme (Snowy Scheme) by linking the existing Tantangara and Talbingo reservoirs through a series of underground tunnels and constructing a new underground hydro-electric power station (Snowy 2.0). Refer to **Figure 1** for project location.

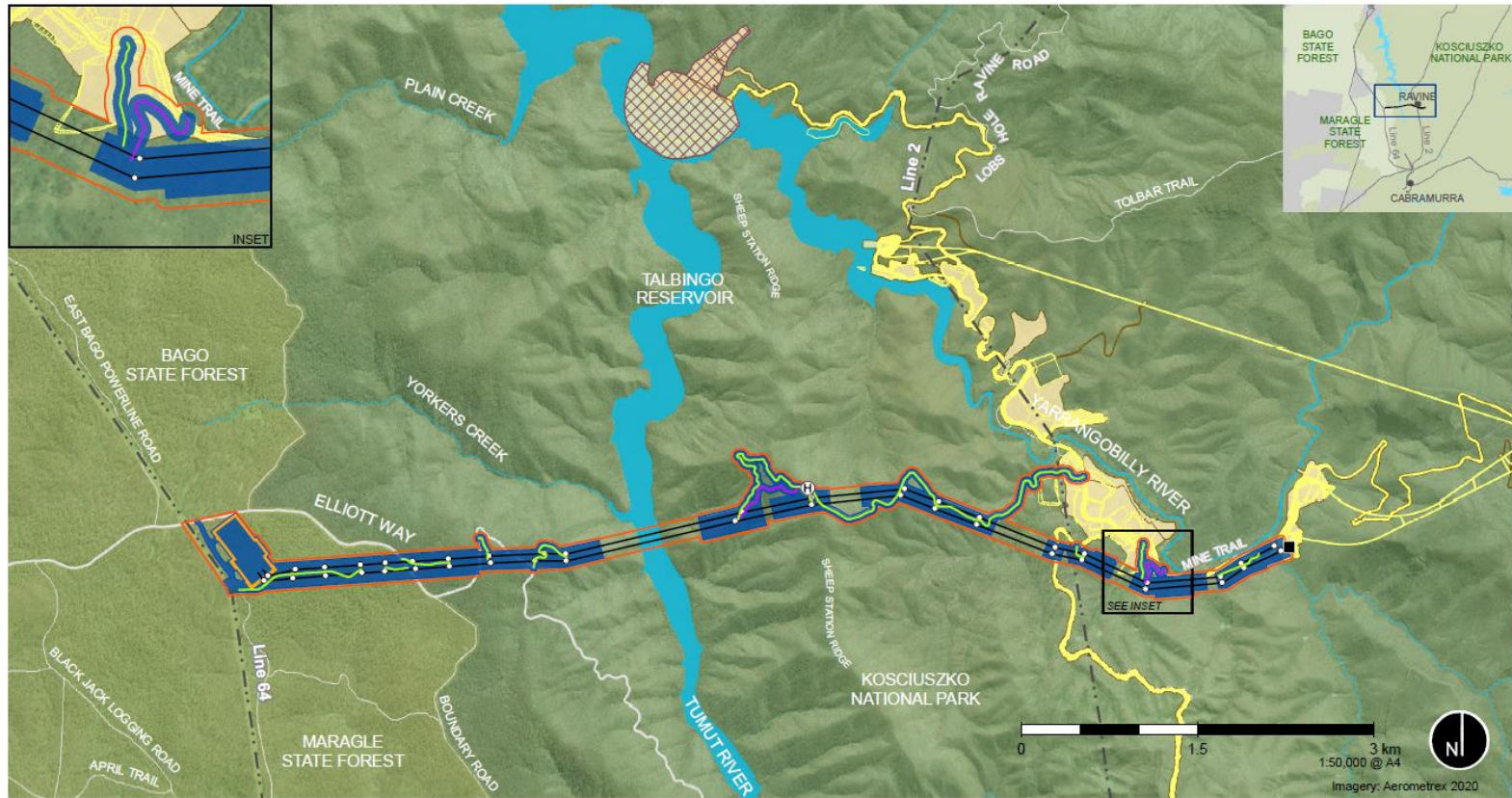
Snowy 2.0 is expected to increase the generation capacity of the Snowy Scheme by almost 50 percent, providing an additional 2000 megawatts (MW) of generating capacity, and making approximately 350,000 megawatt hours (MWh) of large-scale storage available to the National Electricity Market (NEM).

To connect Snowy 2.0 to the NEM, a new transmission connection is required. Transgrid received development approval on 2nd September 2022 under Part 5 Division 5.2 of the NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act) for the construction and operation of the Snowy 2.0 Transmission Connection Project to enable the grid connection of Snowy 2.0 to the NEM. The Project has been declared Critical State Significant Infrastructure (CSSI) under NSW State Environmental Planning Policy (State and Regional Development) 2011 as part of the CSSI declaration for the Snowy 2.0 and Transmission Project in Clause 9, Schedule 5.

Transgrid (the Proponent) has engaged UGL Projects Division (UGL) as the Principal Contractor to construct the Maragle 330kV Switching Station and 330kV Transmission Line Connection Project as part of the broader Snowy 2.0 Project.

2.2. Works Undertaken During the Reporting Period

Nil activities undertaken during the reporting period met the definition of Commencement of the Action in accordance with EPBC 2018/8363. Activities undertaken during the reporting period were limited to minor physical disturbance necessary to undertaken pre-clearance surveys or monitoring programs including pre-construction geotechnical investigations at the proposed Maragle substation site in Bago State Forest, Nurenmerenmong.



- | | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Project area | Snowy 2.0 cable yard | Electricity transmission line |
| Disturbance area | Snowy 2.0 element | Waterway |
| Proposed 500kV substation | Ravine Bay Emplacement Area | Water body |
| Potential helipad location | Snowy 2.0 Disturbance footprint | State forest |
| Proposed structure | NPWS estate | |
| Proposed transmission line | | |
| Proposed access track - Option A | | |
| Proposed access track - Option B | | |

Figure 1 Project location and footprint (Jacobs, 2021)

3. Approval Conditions Compliance Table

Condition Number/reference	Condition	Is the project compliant with this condition?	Evidence/Comments
1	To minimise the impacts of the action on protected matters, the approval holder must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. not clear more than: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. 1.67 ha of habitat for Booroolong Frog; and ii. 118.34 ha of habitat for Spot-tailed Quoll; and b. minimise the impacts of the Action on hollow-bearing trees. 	Not Applicable	Action not commenced during reporting period. No clearing undertaken.
2	The approval holder must not clear outside the project area.	Not Applicable	Action not commenced during reporting period. No clearing undertaken.
3	To mitigate impacts on protected matters, the approval holder must implement conditions B21, B41 and C1 of the State Infrastructure Approval, in so far as they relate to monitoring, mitigating and avoiding impacts to protected matters.	Not Applicable	Action not commenced during reporting period. No clearing undertaken.

Condition Number/ reference	Condition	Is the project compliant with this condition?	Evidence/Comments
4	<p>The Biodiversity Management Plan required under condition B21 of the State Infrastructure Approval must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. be consistent with relevant statutory documents; b. demonstrate how the approval holder will minimise erosion and control sediment generation; c. demonstrate how the approval holder will take all reasonable and feasible measures to prevent any discharge to waters; d. in respect of all watercourses which contain habitat for Booroolong Frog, as indicated by the areas within the yellow polygons designated 'Booroolong Frog' within the designated "Study area' in the map at Attachment B, specify: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. what and how detailed baseline data on surface water flows and quality will be collected prior to the commencement of the Action; and ii. a program to augment data regarding surface water flows and quality data over time; e. specify detailed criteria for determining surface water impacts (in respect of flows, quality and flooding) of the Action on the Booroolong Frog, including criteria for triggering remedial action (if necessary); f. specify a monitoring program capable of detecting any specified criteria for triggering remedial action, if they occur; and g. include a description of the measures that will be implemented to minimise the surface water impacts of the Action on the Booroolong Frog. 	Not Applicable	Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP) in preparation during reporting period.

Condition Number/ reference	Condition	Is the project compliant with this condition?	Evidence/Comments
5	The approval holder must submit the Biodiversity Management Plan and Environmental Management Strategy required by conditions B21 and C1 of the State Infrastructure Approval to the department for the Minister's approval before they are approved by the NSW Planning Secretary.	Not Applicable	Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP) in preparation during reporting period. Environmental Management Strategy in preparation during reporting period.
6	The approval holder must implement the Biodiversity Management Plan and Environmental Management Strategy approved by the Minister until the end date of this approval, unless otherwise agreed by the Minister in writing.	Not Applicable	Action not commenced during reporting period.
7	To offset the impacts of the Action on protected matters , the approval holder must implement conditions B18, B19 and B20 of the State Infrastructure Approval .	Compliant	Conditions B18, B19 and B20 of SSI-9717 implemented. B18: Action not commenced during reporting period. No clearing undertaken. B19: Bank guarantee of \$24,869,236 lodged 27-09-2023. B20: \$10,586,027 paid to NPWS by Snowy Hydro Limited on 31-08-2023. Evidence of payment (remittance advice) provided to DCCEEW on 26-09-2023.

Condition Number/ reference	Condition	Is the project compliant with this condition?	Evidence/Comments
8	The approval holder must notify the department in writing within 10 business days of making a biodiversity offset payment to the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service. Each notification must state the date of payment, the amount paid, and the component of the biodiversity offset obligations in respect of which the payment is made.	Compliant	Notification of payment to the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service provided to the department on 26-09-2023.
9	The approval holder must submit all plans required by these conditions electronically to the department.	Compliant	All plans required by these conditions submitted electronically to the department.
10	Unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the Minister, the approval holder must publish each plan on the website within 15 business days of the date: a. the plan is approved by Secretary of the NSW Department of Planning and Environment as required under a state/territory government condition which must be complied with in accordance with these EPBC Act conditions.	Compliant	Each plan published on the project website (https://www.lumea.com.au/projects/snowy-2-0-transmission-connection-project) within 15 days of the date the plan is approved by Secretary of the NSW Department of Planning and Environment as required under a state/territory government condition which must be complied with in accordance with these EPBC Act conditions.
11	The approval holder must keep all published plans required by these conditions on the website until the expiry date of this approval.	Compliant	All published plans required by these conditions available on the project website.

Condition Number/ reference	Condition	Is the project compliant with this condition?	Evidence/Comments
12	The approval holder is required to exclude or redact sensitive ecological data from plans published on the website or otherwise provided to a member of the public.	Compliant	All plans prepared in accordance with the department's Guidelines for biological survey and mapped data (2018) and Guide to providing maps and boundary data for EPBC Act projects (2021).
13	If sensitive ecological data is excluded or redacted from a plan in accordance with condition 12, the approval holder must notify the department in writing what exclusions and redactions have been made in the version published on the website.	Not Applicable	No exclusion or redaction of plans have been made in the versions of plans published on the project website.
14	The approval holder must notify the department electronically of the date of commencement of the Action, within 5 business days of commencement of the Action.	Not Applicable	Action not commenced during reporting period.
15	If the commencement of the Action does not occur within 5 years from the date of this approval, then the approval holder must not commence the Action without the prior written agreement of the Minister.	Not Applicable	The condition was not triggered during the reporting period.
16	The approval holder must maintain accurate and complete compliance records.	Compliant	Compliance records are maintained by the approval holder and its principal contractor.

Condition Number/ reference	Condition	Is the project compliant with this condition?	Evidence/Comments
17	<p>If the department makes a request in writing, the approval holder must provide electronic copies of compliance records to the department within the timeframe specified in the request.</p> <p><i>Note: Compliance records may be subject to audit by the department, or by an independent auditor in accordance with section 458 of the EPBC Act, and/or be used to verify compliance with the conditions. Summaries of the results of an audit may be published on the department's website or through the general media.</i></p>	Not Applicable	The condition was not triggered during the reporting period.
18	The approval holder must ensure that any monitoring data (including sensitive ecological data), surveys, maps, and other spatial and metadata required under the conditions of this approval are prepared in accordance with the department's Guidelines for biological survey and mapped data (2018), or any subsequent official version or as otherwise specified by the Minister in writing.	Compliant	All plans prepared in accordance with the department's Guidelines for biological survey and mapped data (2018) and Guide to providing maps and boundary data for EPBC Act projects (2021).
19	The approval holder must ensure that any monitoring data (including sensitive ecological data), surveys, maps, and other spatial and metadata required under the conditions of this approval are prepared in accordance with the department's Guide to providing maps and boundary data for EPBC Act projects (2021), or any subsequent official version or as otherwise specified by the Minister in writing.	Compliant	All plans prepared in accordance with the department's Guidelines for biological survey and mapped data (2018) and Guide to providing maps and boundary data for EPBC Act projects (2021).
20	The approval holder must submit all monitoring data (including sensitive ecological data), surveys, maps, other spatial and metadata and all species occurrence record data (sightings and evidence of presence) electronically to the department within 12 months of the approval.	Compliant	All monitoring data (including sensitive ecological data), surveys, maps, other spatial and metadata and all species occurrence record data (sightings and evidence of presence) submitted

Condition Number/ reference	Condition	Is the project compliant with this condition?	Evidence/Comments
			electronically to the department within 12 months of the approval.
21	The approval holder must prepare a compliance report for each 12-month period following the date of this approval, or as otherwise agreed to in writing by the Minister.	Compliant	This is the first annual compliance report.
22	Each compliance report must be consistent with the department's Annual Compliance Report Guidelines (2014), or any subsequent official version	Compliant	This compliance report has been prepared in accordance with the department's Annual Compliance Report Guidelines (2014).
23	<p>Each compliance report must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Accurate and complete details of compliance and any non-compliance with the conditions and the plans, and any incidents. b. One or more shapefile showing all clearing of any protected matters, and/or their habitat, undertaken within the 12-month period at the end of which that compliance report is prepared. c. A schedule of all plans in existence in relation to these conditions and accurate and complete details of how each plan is being implemented. 	Compliant	<p>This compliance report includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Accurate and complete details of compliance and any non-compliance with the conditions and the plans, and any incidents. b. One or more shapefiles showing all clearing of any protected matters, and/or their habitat, undertaken within the 12-month period at the end of which that compliance report is prepared. c. A schedule of all plans in existence in relation to these conditions and accurate and complete details of how each plan is being implemented.

Condition Number/ reference	Condition	Is the project compliant with this condition?	Evidence/Comments
24	<p>The approval holder must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Publish each compliance report on the website within 60 business days following the end of the 12-month period for which that compliance report is required. b. Notify the department electronically, within 5 business days of the date of publication that a compliance report has been published on the website. c. Provide the weblink for the compliance report in the notification to the department. d. Keep all published compliance reports required by these conditions on the website until the expiry date of this approval. e. Exclude or redact sensitive ecological data from compliance reports published on the website or otherwise provided to a member of the public. f. If sensitive ecological data is excluded or redacted from the published version, submit the full compliance report to the department within 5 business days of its publication on the website and notify the department in writing what exclusions and redactions have been made in the version published on the website. <p><i>Note: Compliance reports may be published on the department's website.</i></p>	Not Applicable	<p>The condition was not triggered during the reporting period.</p> <p>This compliance report will be published and notifications undertaken in accordance with Condition 24.</p>
25	<p>The approval holder must notify the department electronically, within 2 business days of becoming aware of any incident and/or potential non-compliance and/or actual non-compliance with the conditions or commitments made in a plan.</p>	Compliant	<p>One incident notification issued to the department electronically within 2 business days of becoming aware of any incident and/or potential non-compliance and/or actual non-compliance with the conditions or commitments made in a plan.</p> <p>Incident reference: 20230523-Geotechnical_work breach.</p>

Condition Number/ reference	Condition	Is the project compliant with this condition?	Evidence/Comments
26	<p>The approval holder must specify in the notification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Any condition or commitment made in a plan which has been or may have been breached. b. A short description of the incident and/or potential non-compliance and/or actual non-compliance. c. The location (including co-ordinates), date, and time of the incident and/or potential non-compliance and/or actual non-compliance. <p><i>Note: If the exact information cannot be provided, the approval holder must provide the best information available.</i></p>	Compliant	<p>One incident notification issued to the department within the reporting period including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Any condition or commitment made in a plan which has been or may have been breached. b. A short description of the incident and/or potential non-compliance and/or actual non-compliance. c. The location (including co-ordinates), date, and time of the incident and/or potential non-compliance and/or actual non-compliance. <p>Incident reference: 20230523-Geotechnical_work breach.</p>

Condition Number/ reference	Condition	Is the project compliant with this condition?	Evidence/Comments
27	<p>The approval holder must provide to the department in writing, within 12 business days of becoming aware of any incident and/or potential non-compliance and/or actual non-compliance, the details of that incident and/or potential non-compliance and/or actual non-compliance with the conditions or commitments made in a plan. The approval holder must specify:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Any corrective action or investigation which the approval holder has already taken. b. The potential impacts of the incident and/or non-compliance and/or non-compliance. c. The method and timing of any corrective action that will be undertaken by the approval holder. 		<p>One incident notification issued to the department within the reporting period within 12 days of becoming aware of the incident and/or potential non-compliance and/or actual non-compliance, including details of that incident and/or potential non-compliance and/or actual non-compliance with the conditions or commitments made in a plan, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Any corrective action or investigation which the approval holder has already taken. b. The potential impacts of the incident and/or non-compliance and/or non-compliance. c. The method and timing of any corrective action that will be undertaken by the approval holder. <p>Incident reference: 20230523-Geotechnical_work breach.</p>
28	<p>The approval holder must ensure that an independent audit of compliance with the conditions is conducted for every five-year period following the commencement of the Action until this approval expires, unless otherwise specified in writing by the Minister.</p>	Not Applicable	<p>The condition was not triggered during the reporting period.</p>

Condition Number/ reference	Condition	Is the project compliant with this condition?	Evidence/Comments
29	For each independent audit, the approval holder must: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Provide the name and qualifications of the nominated independent auditor, the draft audit criteria, and proposed timeframe for submitting the audit report to the department prior to commencing the independent audit. Only commence the independent audit once the nominated independent auditor, audit criteria and timeframe for submitting the audit report have been approved in writing by the department. Submit the audit report to the department for approval within the timeframe specified and approved in writing by the department. Publish each audit report on the website within 15 business days of the date of the department's approval of the audit report. Keep every audit report published on the website until this approval expires. 	Not Applicable	The condition was not triggered during the reporting period.
30	Each audit report must report for the five-year period preceding that audit report.	Not Applicable	The condition was not triggered during the reporting period.
31	Each audit report must be completed to the satisfaction of the Minister and be consistent with the department's Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 Independent Audit and Audit Report Guidelines (2019), or any subsequent official version.	Not Applicable	The condition was not triggered during the reporting period.
32	The approval holder must notify the department electronically 60 business days prior to the expiry date of this approval, that the approval is due to expire.	Not Applicable	The condition was not triggered during the reporting period.

Condition Number/ reference	Condition	Is the project compliant with this condition?	Evidence/Comments
33	Within 20 business days after the completion of the Action, and, in any event, before this approval expires, the approval holder must notify the department electronically of the date of completion of the Action and provide completion data	Not Applicable	The condition was not triggered during the reporting period.
34	The approval holder must notify the department in writing of any proposed change to the State Infrastructure Approval that may relate to protected matters within 2 business days of formally proposing a change and within 5 business days of becoming aware of any proposed change.	Not Applicable	The condition was not triggered during the reporting period.
35	The approval holder must notify the department in writing of any change to the State Infrastructure Approval conditions that may relate to protected matters, within 10 business days of a change to conditions being finalised.	Not Applicable	The condition was not triggered during the reporting period.
36	The approval holder may, at any time, apply to the Minister for a variation to an action management plan approved by the Minister or as subsequently revised in accordance with these conditions, by submitting an application in accordance with the requirements of section 143A of the EPBC Act. If the Minister approves a revised action management plan (RAMP) then, from the date specified, the approval holder must implement the RAMP in place of the previous action management plan.	Not Applicable	The condition was not triggered during the reporting period.
37	The approval holder may choose to revise an action management plan approved by the Minister under condition 5 or as subsequently revised in accordance with these conditions, without submitting it for approval under section 143A of the EPBC Act, if	Not Applicable	The condition was not triggered during the reporting period.

Condition Number/ reference	Condition	Is the project compliant with this condition?	Evidence/Comments
	the taking of the Action in accordance with the RAMP would not be likely to have a new or increased impact.		
38	<p>If the approval holder makes the choice under condition 37 to revise an action management plan without submitting it for approval, the approval holder must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Notify the department electronically that the approved action management plan has been revised and provide the department with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. an electronic copy of the RAMP; ii. an electronic copy of the RAMP marked up with track changes to show the differences between the approved action management plan and the RAMP; iii. an explanation of the differences between the approved Action management plan and the RAMP; iv. the reasons the approval holder considers that taking the Action in accordance with the RAMP would not be likely to have a new or increased impact; and v. written notice of the date on which the approval holder will implement the RAMP (RAMP implementation date), being at least 20 business days after the date of providing notice of the revision of the action management plan, or a date agreed to in writing with the department. b. Subject to condition 40, implement the RAMP from the RAMP implementation date. 	Not Applicable	The condition was not triggered during the reporting period.
39	The approval holder may revoke its choice to implement a RAMP under condition 37 at any time by giving written notice to the department. If the approval holder revokes the choice under condition 37, the approval holder must implement the action	Not Applicable	The condition was not triggered during the reporting period.

Condition Number/ reference	Condition	Is the project compliant with this condition?	Evidence/Comments
	management plan in force immediately prior to the revision undertaken under condition 37.		
40	<p>If the Minister gives a notice to the approval holder that the Minister is satisfied that the taking of the Action in accordance with the RAMP would be likely to have a new or increased impact, then:</p> <p>a. Condition 37 does not apply, or ceases to apply, in relation to the RAMP.</p> <p>b. The approval holder must implement the action management plan specified by the Minister in the notice.</p>	Not Applicable	The condition was not triggered during the reporting period.
41	<p>At the time of giving the notice under condition 40, the Minister may also notify that for a specified period of time, condition 37 does not apply for one or more specified Action management plans.</p> <p>Note: Conditions 37, 38, 39 and 40 are not intended to limit the operation of section 143A of the EPBC Act which allows the approval holder to submit a revised Action management plan, at any time, to the Minister for approval</p>	Not Applicable	The condition was not triggered during the reporting period.

4. New Environmental Risks

No new environmental risks were identified during the reporting period.

5. Other Information

5.1. Pre-construction Water Quality Monitoring

The purpose of the pre-construction water quality monitoring is to address the requirements of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) (Jacobs 2020) that was prepared by the Proponent under Part 5, Division 5.2 of the NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 to assess the environmental impacts of the proposed Project. Subsequently, an Amendment Report (TransGrid 2021b) was submitted with the Response to Submissions (Transgrid 2021a) to the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) with updated mitigation measures for the Project.

The objective of the pre-construction surface water quality monitoring is to collect baseline data prior to Project construction works. Baseline data will be compared to ANZG (2018) guidelines to characterise the existing surface water quality. The data will be compared to the water quality objectives (WQO) for the Project area.

Pre-construction water quality monitoring reports including detailed baseline data are publicly available via <https://www.lumea.com.au/projects/snowy-2-0-transmission-connection-project/pre-construction-water-quality-monitoring-reports>.

6. References

Jacobs Pty Ltd. 2020. *Snowy 2.0 Transmission Connection Project EIS*.

Transgrid. 2021a. *Snowy 2.0 Transmission Connection Project Submissions Report*.

Transgrid. 2021b. *Snowy 2.0 Transmission Connection Project Amendment Report*.