



Snowy 2.0 Main Works

Annual EPBC Compliance Report

EPBC 2018/8322

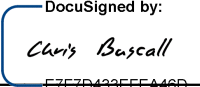
Reporting period 25 August 2023 to 24 August 2024

Document Information			
Title	Compliance Report - Snowy 2.0 Main Works - EPBC 2018/8322		
Number	S2-SHL-ENV-REP-0002		
Revision	Revision B		
Review Information			
	Name	Position	Date
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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.

Signed:  _____
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Full Name: Chris Buscall

Position: Environment Manager Snowy 2.0

Organisation: Snowy Hydro Limited (ABN 17 090 574 431)

Date: 24 October 2024 | 15:31 AEDT

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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), Clough and Lane have formed the Future Generation Joint Venture (Future Generation), and have been engaged to deliver Snowy 2.0 Main Works.

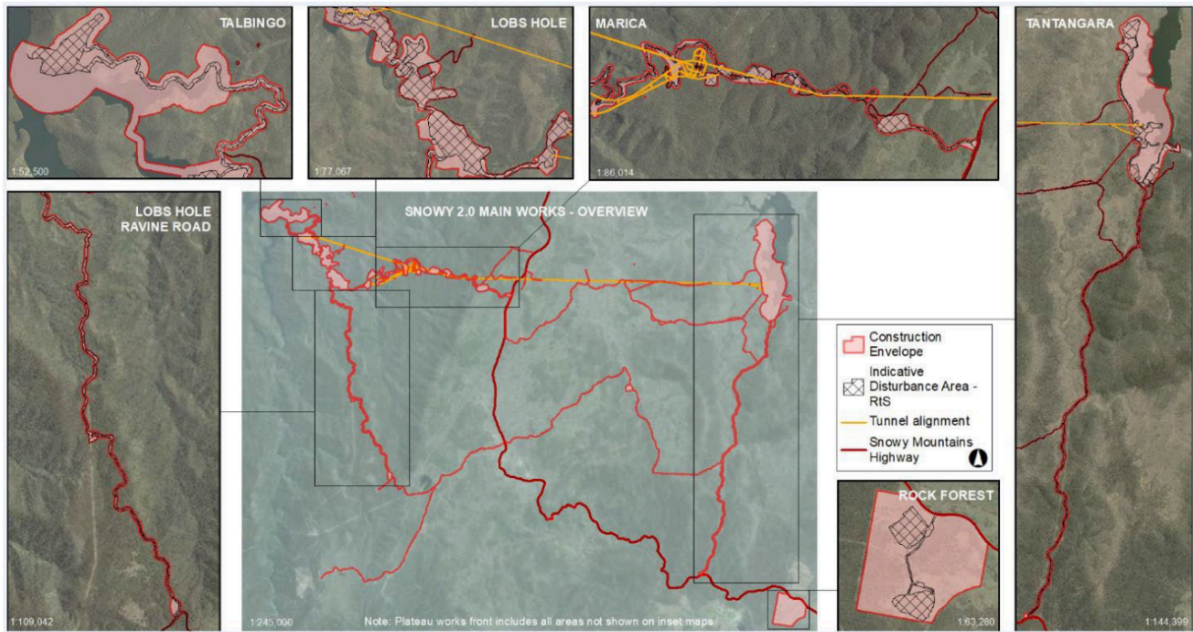


Figure 1: Snowy 2.0 project location

2.2 Works undertaken during the reporting period

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

- Tunnelling of the Headrace adit;
- Construction of the Tailrace adit portal and tunnelling;
- Construction of the Headrace Surge shaft pad in preparation for excavation;
- Construction of the the Talbingo Intake;
- Construction of the Tantangara Intake.
- Construction of Marica surge shaft

Operations and Maintenance of ancillary activities including 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 approval holder must undertake the action as described in the NSW approval .	Compliant	<p>The action commenced on 25 August 2020 with pre-construction minor works. Construction works commenced on 22 October 2020.</p> <p>During the reporting period of 25 August 2021 and 24 August 2022, the proponent engaged an auditor to undertake an audit within one year of the commencement of construction as required by Schedule 4 Condition 9 of the NSW Approval. This is the third IEA (IEA #3) and covered the NSW Approval, the EPBC Act Approval and the Environmental Protection Licence (EPL).</p> <p>IEA #3 showed that substantive compliance with the NSW approval had been achieved with this report able to be found on the Snowy Hydro website.</p> <p>SHL was not required to undertake an Independent Environmental Audit in the 2023-2024 reporting period.</p>
2	The approval holder must not clear outside of the construction envelope as identified at <u>Appendix A</u> .	Compliant	The project has implemented procedures as detailed in the Biodiversity Management Plan which has enabled there to be no instances where clearing outside of the boundary occurred.
3	The disturbance area must not exceed 504 hectares (ha).	Compliant	The total area disturbed at the end of the reporting period (August 2024) was 438.9ha.

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4	<p>The approval holder must submit the report required by condition 13 of the NSW approval to the Department on the same day as the submission to the NSW Government. The report submitted to the Department must include shapefiles of the 'final disturbance area' and the final clearance areas for the entities listed in condition 5.</p>	Partially Compliant	<p>This information has not been provided however clearing is still ongoing therefore the extent of the disturbance area has not been finalised.</p>
5	<p>Terrestrial biodiversity Within the construction envelope, the approval holder must not clear more than:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (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-toothed Rat; (e) 80.83 ha of habitat for the Alpine She-oak Skink; (f) 197.95 ha of habitat for the Eastern Pygmy-possum; (g) 81.86 ha of habitat for the Latham's Snipe; and (h) 1.03 ha of the Alpine Bogs and Fens. 	Compliant	<p>The total area disturbed at August 2021 was:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) 388.19ha of native vegetation; (b) 56.84ha of habitat for the Smoky Mouse; (c) 16.68ha of habitat of Alpine Tree Frog; (d) 47.24ha of habitat for the Broad-toothed Rat; (e) 65.74ha of habitat for the Alpine She-oak Skink; (f) 178.70ha of habitat for the Eastern Pygmy-possum; (g) 3.93ha of habitat for the Latham's Snipe; and (h) 0.71ha of the Alpine Bogs and Fens.
6	<p>To compensate for direct impacts on protected matters, including the entities listed in condition 5, the approval holder must comply with conditions 12-16 of the NSW approval relating to biodiversity offset payments.</p>	Compliant	<p>Snowy Hydro paid a biodiversity offset payment on 20 October 2023.</p>
7	<p>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</p>	Non-compliant	<p>Notification of payments was not provided to the Department. Snowy Hydro to provide notification of all payments made to date and ensure this is done for future payments.</p>

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	date of payment and the amount paid.		
8	To minimise impacts on protected matters , the approval holder must comply with conditions 17-19 of the NSW approval relating to biodiversity management.	Compliant	The Biodiversity Management Plan was approved by DPE on 15 October 2020. Actions were undertaken in alignment with this plan to minimise impacts on protected matters.
9	The Biodiversity Management Plan required under condition 18 of the NSW approval must: (a) be consistent with relevant statutory documents ; and (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 .	Compliant	(a) The Biodiversity Management Plan was approved on 15 October 2020 by the NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPE). (b) Provisions to make biodiversity monitoring data available were included in section 6.5 of the Biodiversity Management Plan.
10	The approval holder must implement the Biodiversity Management Plan approved by the NSW Planning Secretary until the end date of this approval, unless otherwise agreed by the Minister in writing.	Compliant	The Biodiversity plan was approved by DPE on 15 October 2020 and has been implemented since 21 October 2020 when construction commenced.
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 recorded 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	Conditions 21 and 23 were not triggered in the reporting period. The Biosecurity Risk Management Plan was not completed within 2 years of the commencement of construction however an extension and staging approval was received from the

			<p>Department. This plan is currently being developed in consultation with project regulators.</p> <p>As determined in IEA#3 the Threatened Fish Management Plan was not completed within 12 months of the commencement of construction; however an extension was obtained. The Threatened Fish Management Plan has since been approved by DPE on 31 October 2023.</p>
13	<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (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; (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 (c) before undertaking any stocking of insurance populations required by condition 24d of the NSW approval, implement those measures determined under condition 13a to protect tributaries identified as priority receiving sites for the establishment of stocking insurance populations of the Macquarie Perch and Stocky Galaxias. 	Compliant	<p>Work is underway for conditions 22c and 24d of the NSW approval.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Investigation outcomes included in the Threatened Fish Management Plan approved 31 October 2023. (b) The Threatened Fish Management Plan was approved 31 October 2023 and includes these findings in Section 3.3 and 4.3 .The Biosecurity Management Plan is under development and will include these findings. (c) The condition was not triggered in the reporting period.

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<p>14</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>(a) The peer review must be made publicly available on the approval holder's website within 10 business days of finalisation; and</p> <p>(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.</p>	<p>Compliant</p>	<p>Condition 22 was not triggered in this reporting period.</p> <p>As per condition 24 an independent peer review of the Threatened Fish Management Plan was undertaken by a suitably qualified expert in October 2023. The peer review is included in Appendix B of the Plan. The plan was approved by DPE on 31 October 2023 and is unavailable on Snowy Hydros website.</p>
<p>15</p>	<p>The Biosecurity Risk Management Plan and the Threatened Fish Management Plan must include provisions to make monitoring data (excluding sensitive ecological data) available as part of the monitoring, evaluation and reporting programs required by condition 22d and 24g of the NSW approval.</p>	<p>Compliant</p>	<p>Condition 22d was not triggered in this reporting period.</p> <p>As per condition 24g the Threatened Fish Management Plan was approved by DPE on 31 October 2023. Provisions to make monitoring data available were included in section 2.4 of the Threatened Fish Management Plan.</p>
<p>16</p>	<p>The approval holder must implement the Biosecurity Risk Management Plan and Threatened Fish Management Plan approved by the Director-General of the NSW Department of Primary Industries until the end date of this approval, unless otherwise agreed by the Minister in writing.</p>	<p>Compliant</p>	<p>This condition was not triggered in the reporting period for the Biosecurity Risk Management Plan.</p> <p>The Threatened Fish Management plan was approved by DPE on 31 October 2023.</p>

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17	<p>Water resources To minimise impacts on water resources, the approval holder must comply with conditions 30 - 32 of the NSW approval relating to water management.</p>	Compliant	<p>The Water management Plan was approved by the Department on 19 October 2020.</p> <p>Condition 30 - 32 of the NSW approval have been met.</p>
18	<p>The approval holder must prepare the Water Management Plan required by condition 31 of the NSW approval in consultation with the Department, before it is approved by the NSW Planning Secretary</p>	Compliant	<p>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.</p>
19	<p>The Water Management Plan must include provisions to make monitoring data (excluding sensitive ecological data) available as part of the monitoring, evaluation and reporting programs required by condition 31c and 31d of the NSW approval.</p>	Compliant	<p>Provisions to make water monitoring data available were included in Appendix A and Appendix B of the Water Management Plan.</p>
20	<p>The approval holder must implement the Water Management Plan approved by the NSW Planning Secretary until the end date of this approval, unless otherwise agreed by the Minister in writing.</p>	Compliant	<p>The Water Management plan was approved by DPE on 19 October 2020 and has been implemented since 22 October 2020 when construction commenced.</p>
21	<p>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.</p>	Compliant	<p>In IEA #3 no non-compliances with Schedule 3 Conditions 4-11 of the NSW approval.</p>
22	<p>The approval holder must prepare the Heritage Management Plan required by condition 35 of the NSW approval in consultation with the Department, before it is approved by the NSW Planning Secretary.</p>	Compliant	<p>(a) The Heritage Management plan was approved by DPE on 14 August 2020.</p>

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	<p>The Heritage Management Plan must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) be prepared in accordance with the National Heritage Management Principles; and (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. 		<p>(b) Consultation plan is included in Section 1.9 of the Heritage Management Plan.</p>
23	<p>The approval holder must implement the Heritage Management Plan approved by the NSW Planning Secretary until the end date of this approval, unless otherwise agreed by the Minister in writing.</p>	Compliant	<p>The Heritage Management plan was approved by DPE on 14 August 2020 and has been implemented since 25 August 2020 when the action commenced.</p>
24	<p>Amenity and landscape To minimise impacts to the environment in Kosciuszko National Park, the approval holder must comply with conditions 4-11 of the NSW approval relating to spoil management and site rehabilitation.</p>	Compliant	<p>In IEA #3 no non-compliances with Schedule 3 Conditions 4-11 of the NSW approval.</p>
25	<p>The Rehabilitation Management Plan required by condition 10 of the NSW approval must include provisions to make monitoring data (excluding sensitive ecological data) available as part of the monitoring, evaluation and reporting program required by condition 10k of the NSW approval.</p>	Not applicable	<p>The condition was not triggered in the reporting period.</p>
26	<p>Changes to the NSW approval The approval holder must notify the Department in writing of any proposed change to the NSW approval conditions referred to in these conditions within 10 business days of formally proposing a change or becoming aware of any proposed change.</p>	Compliant	<p>There was one proposed change to the NSW approval: Modification 3. A meeting was held on 9 of July 2024 followed by a notification in writing by email.</p>

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27	The approval holder must notify the Department in writing of any change to the NSW approval conditions referred to in these conditions, within 10 business days of a change to conditions being finalised.	Compliant	Planning Modification 3 has commenced. Should this receive approval then the Department will be made aware of any condition changes within the allocated time frames.
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	Compliance records The approval holder must maintain accurate and complete compliance records .	Compliant	Compliance records are maintained by the approval holder and its principal contractor.
30	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. <i>Note: 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 media.</i>	Not applicable	The condition was not triggered in the reporting period.
31	Preparation and publication of plans The approval holder must: (a) submit plans required by conditions 18, 22 and 24 of the NSW approval and conditions 18 and 22 of this approval for consultation purposes, electronically to the Department ;	Compliant	(a) The Biodiversity Management Plan as required under Schedule 3 Condition 18 of the NSW was submitted to the department on 26 June 2020 for review and comment and further consultation occurred on 28 August 2020 and 11 September 2020.

	<p>(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;</p> <p>(c) exclude or redact sensitive ecological data from plans published on the website or provided to a member of the public; and</p> <p>(d) keep plans published on the website until the end date of this approval, unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the Minister.</p>		<p>Schedule 3 Condition 22 of the NSW approval was not triggered in the reporting period.</p> <p>The Threatened Fish Management Plan was not submitted within 12 months of the commencement of construction as per Schedule 3 Condition 24. However, an extension was obtained by the relevant authorities for this matter. The Threatened Fish Management Plan was approved on 13 May 2023.</p> <p>(b) - (d) The Biodiversity Management Plan is on the Snowy Hydro website and will remain so until the end date of this approval. It does not contain sensitive ecological data. All other approval plans are available on Snowy Hydros website.</p>
32	<p>The approval holder must ensure that any monitoring data (including sensitive ecological data), surveys, maps, and other spatial and metadata required under a plan, is prepared in accordance with the Department's Guidelines for biological survey and mapped data (2018) and submitted electronically to the Department in accordance with the requirements of the plan.</p>	Compliant	<p>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.</p>
33	<p>Annual compliance reporting 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 to in writing by the Minister. The approval holder must:</p> <p>(a) publish each compliance report on the</p>	Partially compliant	<p>This report has been prepared and fulfils this requirement.</p> <p>With respect to the previous reporting period:</p> <p>(a) The EPBC Annual Compliance Report was not published on the website within the 60 days from the end of the reporting period which is a non-compliance.</p> <p>(b) As above the link to the website was not provided to the Department.</p>

	<p>website within 60 business days following the relevant 12 month period;</p> <p>(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;</p> <p>(c) keep all compliance reports publicly available on the website until this approval expires, unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the Minister;</p> <p>(d) exclude or redact sensitive ecological data from compliance reports published on the website; and</p> <p>(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.</p> <p><i>Note: Compliance reports may be published on the Department's website.</i></p>		<p>(c) The reports from all previous reporting periods are on the Snowy Hydro website.</p> <p>(d) The reports uploaded to the website from the previous reporting periods had sensitive ecological data redacted.</p> <p>(e) Where applicable the original copies of the reports were supplied to the department.</p>
34	<p>Reporting incidents and non-compliances</p> <p>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:</p> <p>(a) a short description of the incident; and</p> <p>(b) the location (including coordinates), date, and time of the incident. In the event the exact information cannot be provided, provide the best information available.</p>	Partially compliant	<p>There has also been ongoing and extensive consultation with relevant state government agencies (NSW EPA, NPWS, DPE) about various incidents that have occurred on site. Snowy Hydro and the Department are currently in dialogue regarding the reporting timeframes associated with an incident which occurred in February 2024.</p>

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35	<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) any condition that is or may be in breach; (b) any corrective action or investigation which the approval holder has already taken or intends to take in the immediate future; (c) the potential impacts of the incident or non-compliance on protected matters; and (d) the method and timing of any remedial action that will be undertaken by the approval holder. 	Partially Compliant	<p>IEA #3 report identifies any non-compliances and these are publicly available on the Snowy Hydro website.</p> <p>As outlined above Snowy Hydro and the Department are currently in dialogue regarding the reporting timeframes associated with an incident which occurred in February 2024.</p>
36	<p>Independent audit The approval holder must ensure that independent audits of compliance with the conditions are conducted as requested by the Minister.</p>	Not applicable	<p>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 and IEA #2 of the NSW to ensure that compliance objectives are being met.</p> <p>The IEA #3 was undertaken in the last reporting period 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).</p> <p>No additional audits were required to be conducted in the reporting period of this report.</p>
37	<p>For each independent audit, the approval holder must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) provide the name and qualifications of the 	Not applicable	<p>As above, No independent audits have been requested by the Department however Snowy Hydro has completed IEA #1 and</p>

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	<p>independent auditor and the draft audit criteria to the Department;</p> <p>(b) only commence the independent audit once the audit criteria have been approved in writing by the Department; and</p> <p>(c) submit an audit report to the Department within the timeframe specified in the approved audit criteria.</p>		<p>IEA 2 voluntarily, and has completed IEA #3 as per the NSW Approval requirement.</p>
38	<p>The approval holder must publish the audit report on the website within 10 business days of receiving the Department's approval of the audit report and keep the audit report published on the website until the end date of this approval.</p>	Not applicable	<p>As above, no Independent audits have been requested by the Department and therefore this requirement is not applicable.</p>
39	<p>Completion of the action Within 30 days after the completion of the action, the approval holder must notify the Department in writing and provide completion data.</p>	Not applicable	<p>The condition was not triggered in the reporting period.</p>

Table 1: Approval conditions compliance table