

BARNETT & MAY

Hunter Power Project (Kurri Kurri Gas Fired Power Station)

September 2024 Construction Phase
Independent Environmental Audit

Prepared for
Snowy Hydro Limited

Client representative
Angela van der Kroft

Date: 30 October 2024
Rev 0



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| | | |
|-------------------------|---|----------------------|
| Prepared by — K. Holmes |  | Date 30 October 2024 |
|-------------------------|---|----------------------|

Revision History

| Rev No. | Description | Prepared by | Reviewed by | Authorised by | Date |
|----------|-------------------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|------------|
| A | Draft for client Review | K Holmes | R Peterson | K Holmes | 4/10/2024 |
| 0 | Final | K Holmes | K Holmes | K Holmes | 30/10/2024 |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |

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1. Introduction

Barnett & May was engaged by Snowy Hydro Ltd, to conduct the fifth construction phase Independent Environmental Audit (IEA) of the Hunter Power Project (Kurri Kurri Gas Fired Power Station). The development is located at 73 Dickson Road, Loxford, NSW. This IEA was required under Part C, Conditions C15 to C19 the Project Approval 12590060.

The audit was undertaken in accordance with the Barnett and May's the requirements of the New South Wales Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) Independent Audit Post Approval Guidelines (May 2020). The Audit was commissioned in March 2023 following approval of the auditor by DPE on 10 February 2023.

The audit was undertaken by Ken Holmes (Accredited Lead Auditor) of Barnett & May on 19 March 2024 and reviewed by Richard Peterson (Accredited Lead Auditor).

1.1 Project Description and Status of Construction

The Hunter Power Project (Kurri Kurri Gas Fired Power Station) will comprise two heavy-duty, open cycle gas turbines (OCGT). The OCGTs will operate on natural gas. While the units will be hydrogen-ready, diesel will be used as back-up fuel. The power station will have a capacity of 660 megawatts.

Construction of the Power Station commenced on 29 March 2022. At the time of this IEA:

- Civil works were substantially complete;
- the power station and associated infrastructure was close to 70% complete; and
- Surface water drainage and stormwater retention infrastructure was in place, however the two key construction phase stormwater retention basins were being modified.

1.2 Audit Objectives

The objectives of this Independent Environmental Audit, in accordance with the Post Approval Audit Guidelines, were to:

1. Assess compliance against the conditions of the Project Approval.
2. Review all relevant post approval documentation required by the Project Approval(s) including an assessment of the implementation of Environmental Management Plans and Sub-plans.
3. Review compliance against other environmental licences and approvals excluding any Environmental Protection Licence issued under the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997.
4. Review the environmental performance of the development including:
 - a. A high-level comparison of actual impacts against predicted impacts as documented in the environmental impact assessment.
 - b. The physical extent of the development in comparison with the approved project boundaries.
 - c. Review of environmental incidents, non-compliances, and complaints relevant to the audit period.
 - d. Performance against any applicable environmental policy or environmental issue identified through consultation with the relevant Regulatory Authorities.
 - e. Feedback received from DPE, other Agencies or Stakeholders including the community Consultative Committee (or equivalent body if applicable) relating to environmental performance of the development.
5. Review of the status of non-compliances and recommendations made in the preceding Independent Environmental Audit.
6. A high-level assessment of the adequacy of the Environmental Management Plans and Sub-plans required by the Approval.
7. Review performance of the development against any other matters considered relevant by the auditor or the Department, considering relevant regulatory requirements and legislation, knowledge of the development's past performance and comparison to industry best practices.

1.3 Audit Scope

The audit provides an assessment of the compliance of the project with the conditions of Project Approval 12590060 and EPBC Approval 2021/8888. Note that no other relevant environmental licences or approvals were identified for this development.

The scope of this audit was developed to meet the requirements of the New South Wales Department of Planning, and Environment (DPE) Independent Audit Post Approval Guidelines May 2020 (as specified in the Approval). The audit scope was therefore developed with consideration of:

- Requirements of the Project Approval(s)
- Relevant correspondence from DPE (provided by the Auditee);
- Inputs provided by the Stakeholders consulted as part of this IEA;
- Review of the findings of the previous IEA; and
- The Auditor's experience in relation to relevant industry practices.

1.4 Audit Period

This audit of the construction phase of the project covers the period of 18 March 2024 to 3 September 2024.

1.5 Limitations of this Report

In preparing this Independent Environmental Audit Report, Barnett and May has assessed the activities appropriate and necessary to evaluate the compliance status against the conditions contained in the Auditee's Project Approval. Barnett and May has addressed the general technical matters which might reasonably be considered to be relevant to such an assessment.

The findings of this Independent Environmental Audit are based on observations of the site, interviews with personnel nominated by the Auditee and review of the documentation provided by the Auditee. Barnett and May has relied on the accuracy and completeness of the documentation and other information provided by the Auditee.


Barnett and May can only advise based on the information provided to them and therefore cannot dismiss the possibility that compliance or environmental performance issues, other than those presented in the report existed at the time of this Audit.

The audit findings presented in this report are professional opinions based solely upon Barnett and May's visual observations of the site, and upon Barnett and May's interpretation of the documentation reviewed, interviews and conversations with personnel nominated by the Auditee, as referenced in this report. These conclusions are intended exclusively for the purposes stated herein, at the site listed, and for the project indicated. Opinions presented in this report apply to the site's conditions and features as they existed at the time of the audit, and those reasonably foreseeable. They necessarily cannot apply to conditions and features which Barnett and May is unaware of and has not had the opportunity to evaluate. This report does not, and does not purport to, give legal advice on the actual or potential environmental liabilities of any individual or organisation.

2. Definitions

| Acronyms | Description |
|-----------------|---|
| AQMP | Air Quality Management Plan |
| ASS | Acid Sulphate Soils |
| BCA | Australian Building Codes |
| BCS | Biodiversity, Conservation and Science Directorate (DPE) |
| BMP | Biodiversity Management Plan |
| CCS | Community Consultation Strategy |
| CEMS | Construction Environmental Management Strategy |
| CAQMP | Construction Air Quality Management Plan |
| CNVMP | Construction Noise and Vibration Management Plan |
| CTMP | Construction Traffic Management Plan |
| CWMP | Construction Waste Management Plan |
| DCCEEW | Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water |
| DCCEEW | Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water |
| DECC | Department of Environment and Climate Change (now DPHI) |
| DPE | Department of Planning and Environment (known as DPHI from 1 January 2024) |
| DPHI | Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (formerly the Department of Planning and Environment / Department of Planning, Infrastructure and Environment) |
| EA | Environmental Assessment |
| EIS | Environmental Impact Statement |
| EP&A | Act Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 |
| EPA | NSW Environment Protection Authority |
| ER | Environmental Representative |
| ERSED | Erosion and Sediment Control |
| ESD | Ecological Sustainable Development |
| HMP | Heritage Management Plan |
| IEA | Independent Environmental Audit |
| ICNG | EPA Interim Construction Noise Guideline |
| MOD | Modification to the Conditions of Consent |
| OEH | NSW Office of Environment and Heritage |
| SHL | Snowy Hydro Limited |
| SSD | State Significant Development |
| TfNSW | Transport for New South Wales |
| VOC | Volatile Organic Carbon |

3. Auditor Certification

| Independent Audit Certification Form | |
|---|--|
| Development Name | Hunter Power Project (Kurri Kurri Gas Fired Power Station) |
| Application Number | 12590060 |
| Description of Development | Gas Fired Power Station |
| Development Address | 73 Dickson Road, Loxford, NSW |
| Proponent | Snowy Hydro Limited |
| Title of Audit | Hunter Power Project (Kurri Kurri Gas Fired Power Station) March2024 Independent Environmental Audit |
| <p><i>I certify that I have undertaken the independent audit and prepared the contents of the attached independent audit report and to the best of my knowledge:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The audit has been undertaken in accordance with relevant approval condition(s) and in general accordance with the auditing standard AS/NZS ISO 19011:2011 and in general conformance with the DPE’s Independent Audit Post Approval Requirements (May 2020).</i> • <i>The findings of the audit are reported truthfully, accurately and completely;</i> • <i>I have exercised due diligence and professional judgement in conducting the audit;</i> • <i>I have acted professionally, in an unbiased manner and did not allow undue influence to limit or over-ride objectivity in conducting the audit;</i> • <i>I am not related to any owner or operator of the development as an employer, business partner, employee, sharing a common employer, having a contractual arrangement outside the audit, spouse, partner, sibling, parent, or child;</i> • <i>I do not have any pecuniary interest in the audited development, including where there is a reasonable likelihood or expectation of financial gain or loss to me or to a person to whom I am closely related (i.e. immediate family);</i> • <i>Neither I nor my employer have provided consultancy services for the audited development that were subject to this audit except as otherwise declared to the lead regulator prior to the audit; and</i> • <i>I have not accepted, nor intend to accept any inducement, commission, gift or any other benefit (apart from fair payment) from any owner or operator of the development, their employees or any interested party. I have not knowingly allowed, nor intend to allow my colleagues to do so.</i> <p><i>Note.</i></p> <p><i>a) The Independent Audit is an ‘environmental audit’ for the purposes of section 122B (2) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979. Section 122E provides that a person must not include false or misleading information (or provide information for inclusion in) an audit report produced to the Minister in connection with an environmental audit if the person knows that the information is false or misleading in a material respect. The maximum penalty is, in the case of a corporation, \$1 million and for an individual, \$250,000.</i></p> <p><i>b) The Crimes Act 1900 contains other offences relating to false and misleading information: section 192G (Intention to defraud by false or misleading statement—maximum penalty 5 years imprisonment); sections 307A, 307B and 307C (False or misleading applications/information/documents—maximum penalty 2 years imprisonment or \$22,000, or both).</i></p> | |
| Signature |  |
| Name of Lead/Principal Auditor | Ken Holmes |
| Address | 49 Coba Point, Berowra Waters, NSW |
| Email Address | ken@baeckea.com.au |
| Auditor Certification | Exemplar Global 14065 |
| Date | 30 October 2024 |

3.1 Audit Details

Table 1 - Audit Details

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Audit Title: | Hunter Power Project – 5th Construction Phase Independent Environmental Audit |
| Site: | Hunter Power Project (Kurri Kurri Gas Fired Power Station) |
| Client Contact: | Angela van der Kroft |
| Position: | Senior Environmental Advisor |
| Client: | Snowy Hydro Limited |
| Client Address: | Monaro Highway, Cooma, NSW 2630 |
| Client Phone Number | 02 64532888 |
| Client Email: | Angela.vanderKroft@snowyhydro.com.au |
| Auditor: | Ken Holmes (Certified Lead Auditor) |
| Auditor's Telephone: | 0438 046 261 |
| Auditor's Email: | ken@baeckea.com.au |
| Date of Audit Commencement | 3 September 2024 |

4. Audit process

4.1 Audit Guidelines

This audit report has been prepared in accordance with the 'Independent Audit Post Approval Requirements (2020) as required by Conditions C15- C19 of the project approval and specifically with the audit frequency specified in that edition of the audit guidelines. For consistency with current audit scopes, this audit also satisfies the general scope specified in the current edition of the DPE Independent Audit Post Approval Requirements (2020).

Table 2 lists key requirements from the Audit Guidelines, the relevant Section of the Guidelines which references the requirement and indicates where each is addressed in this report.

Table 2 - Post Approval Audit Guidelines

| Section | Independent Audit Report Requirements | Addressed |
|---------|---|--|
| 4.1 | Version Control <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) the application number of the project; 2) each version or revision number of the report; 3) the date on which the report was prepared and issued to the Department; and 4) the title and name of the person who certified the Independent Audit Report. | Section 3 Page iii Page iii Section 3.1 |
| 4.2 | Contents | |
| 4.2.1 | Introduction – a brief overview of the audit including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) background of the project; 2) the audit team (including qualifications and experience); 3) the objectives of the audit; 4) the audit scope; and 5) the temporal period covered by the audit. | Section 1.1 Section 4.3.1 and Appendix E Section 1.2 Section 1.3 Section 1.4 |
| 4.2.2 | Audit Methodology <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) documentation from the Planning Secretary agreeing to the auditor and any technical specialist(s); 2) how the audit scope was developed; 3) a summary of the audit process adopted to determine the compliance status and assess if documents are adequate; 4) site personnel interviewed including their name and position title (and including if access was not granted or possible with any required personnel and why); 5) details of site inspections undertaken (including any areas where access was not granted or possible and why); 6) a summary of the consultation undertaken; and 7) meanings of compliance status descriptors used, as set out in this document. | Appendix C Section 1.3 Section 4 Section 4.5.3 Section 4.5.2 Section 5 Section 4.6 |
| 4.2.3 | Audit Findings <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) a list of the approvals and documents audited; 2) a summary of the assessment of compliance i.e. comparison between the total number of compliance requirements and any non-compliances identified during the reporting period. Graphics | Appendix A Section 6.1 |

| Section | Independent Audit Report Requirements | Addressed |
|---------|---|-------------|
| | can be used to summarise project performance in relation to compliance requirements; | |
| | 3) a summary of any notices, orders, penalty notices or prosecutions issued in relation to the consent during the audit period; | Section 7.3 |
| | 4) exception reporting of all non-compliances identified during the audit period. Details must include the relevant consent condition, the condition reference number, a unique non-compliance identification number, details of the non-compliance and the auditor's recommended actions that are proposed to be taken or have been taken to address the non-compliance; | Section 6.2 |
| | 5) a brief discussion or table of the status of actions arising from previous audits and the progress or outcomes of each action. Details must include the source of the action, reference (condition number), action proposed, proposed completion date, the status (date completed, if relevant) and the action complete. | Section 7.6 |
| | 6) a brief discussion of whether the Environmental Management Plans, Sub-plans and compliance documents are adequate, implemented and whether there are any opportunities for improvement; | Section 7.5 |
| | 7) a discussion of other matters considered relevant by the auditor or the Department taking into account relevant regulatory requirements and legislation and knowledge of the development's past performance; | Section 7.9 |
| | 8) documentation of any feedback received as a result of consultation undertaken with the Department, and other agencies or stakeholders including the community and Community Consultative Committee for the audit and the outcomes of this consultation; | Section 5 |
| | 9) a summary of complaints, and the adequacy of the response to, and management of complaints; | Section 7.2 |
| | 10) details of any incidents (including any enforcement action by any agency) and the adequacy of the response to, and management of such incidents; | Section 7.1 |
| | 11) an assessment of the compliance between actual and predicted impacts documented in environmental impact assessment, including an assessment of the physical extent of the development in comparison with the approved boundary and any potential off-site impacts of the development required under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979; | Section 7.8 |
| | 12) evidence collected through site inspections undertaken during the audit; | Appendix A |
| | 13) evidence to support compliance assessment provided by the personnel interviewed during the audit; | Appendix A |
| | 14) a brief discussion of any continual environmental management improvement opportunities identified as part of the audit; and | Section 6.2 |
| | 15) key strengths of the development's environmental management and performance identified by the auditor. | Section 7.4 |

| Section | Independent Audit Report Requirements | Addressed |
|---------|--|----------------------------|
| 4.2.4 | Recommendations and opportunities for Improvement | Section 6.3 |
| 4.2.5 | Appendices 1) a completed Independent Audit Table with all relevant conditions of consent, identifying each requirement, compliance status assessed, documenting verified evidence and providing recommendations for any non-compliance that is identified; | Appendix A |
| | 2) a copy of documentation from the Planning Secretary agreeing to the auditor and any technical specialist(s); | Appendix C |
| | 3) documentation detailing consultation with the Department, and other agencies or stakeholders including the community and Community Consultative Committee; | Appendix D |
| | 4) completed and signed Independent Audit Declaration Form(s); | Section 3 |
| | 5) any reports prepared by the agreed technical specialist(s), as required; and 6) site inspection photographs. | Not required Appendix B |

4.2 Overview

The audit process and methodology are summarised in this section, and comprised the following key undertakings:

- Preliminary planning activities
- Review of information and preparation of a compliance register (audit protocol / checklist)
- Site inspection and interviews:
- Opening and Closing meetings
- Site inspection
- Review of relevant records
- Review of additional information provided after the site inspection
- Preparation of this audit report.

4.3 Preliminary activities

Off-site planning for the site audit comprised:

- Initial discussions with client representative, to organise the site inspection and access to audit documentation
- Update the audit compliance checklist.
- Completion of a project specific Risk Assessment
- Review of online information
- Submission of a preliminary document / record request
- Consultation with relevant agencies.

4.3.1 Approval of audit teams

Proponent sought the Secretary's endorsement for the audit team to undertake this Independent Environmental Audit. The Secretary approved the appointment of the Auditor (Ken Holmes) on 10 February 2023 (Appendix C):

4.3.2 Consultation with Agencies

The Auditor consulted with the following agencies during the audit planning stage:

- Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI).
- NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA)
- Cessnock City Council
- Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW)

Emails were initially sent (via Email) to each of the above agencies advising them of the audit and the scope of the audit and inviting them to provide comments/requirements or specific environmental issues they required the audit to target. Where required (where no response was provided by the nominated stakeholder organisation, a follow up email was sent to repeat the invitation to provide input into the audit. Details of the responses from each group / organisation is provided in Section 5 with the Auditor's findings in relation to the issues raised in Section 7.9.

4.4 Information Review and Compliance Register

Prior to the site inspection the Auditor prepared a detailed audit checklist (spreadsheet) that was used to assess and track compliance. This spreadsheet formed the basis of the compliance register presented in Appendix A of this report.

4.5 Site audit

The site inspection component of the audit was undertaken on 3 September 2024.

4.5.1 Opening Meeting

The opening meeting was held and attended by the following personnel:

- Angela van der Kroft – Senior Environmental Advisor (SHL)
- Cristina Lang – Senior Environmental Advisor (UGL)
- Joe Hobbs – HSE Lead (SHL)
- Ken Holmes (Lead Auditor)

Introductions were made, and the purpose and scope of the audit was outlined. An explanation of the audit process was communicated. That is, a site inspection, site interviews and detailed review of records to identify compliance with the approval conditions relevant to the current operations at the site.

4.5.2 Site Inspections

The site inspection included observation of:

- Site access and security;
- Construction works;
- Equipment Laydown areas;
- Fuel and Chemical Storage areas;
- Waste storage areas; and
- Surface water management infrastructure.

4.5.3 Site Interviews

Audit interviews comprised of a series of meetings with:

- Angela van der Kroft – Senior Environmental Advisor (SHL)
- Cristina Lang – Senior Environmental Advisor (UGL)
- Joe Hobbs – HSE Lead (SHL)

4.5.4 Closing Meeting

The closing meeting was held at the completion of the site inspection and attended by the following personnel:

- Angela van der Kroft - Environmental Assurance Advisor (SHL)
- Cristina Lang – Environmental Advisor (UGL)
- Joe Hobbs – HSE Lead (SHL)
- Ken Holmes (Lead Auditor)

Preliminary audit findings were presented and tasks and timeline for completion of the audit agreed.

4.5.5 Document review

Compliance related documents that were not available prior to were requested to be provided following the audit. The Auditee's personnel assisted with the provision of documentation following the audit, through secure file transfer mechanisms. The key documents reviewed during this audit are listed in the Compliance Registers against specific conditions.

4.6 Reporting

The compliance register was completed using notes and observations recorded during the site inspection / interviews and review of appropriate documentation. The completed compliance register is presented in **Appendix B**. A summary of the non-compliances identified during this audit are provided in Table 6. The audit criteria used to determine compliance for this audit is defined in Table 3.

Table 3 - Compliance Assessment Matrix

| Assessment | Criteria |
|--|---|
| <p style="text-align: center;">Complies</p> | <p>Compliance</p> <p>The site complies with the requirements of applicable pre-operational Consent Conditions.</p> <p>A judgment made by an auditor that the activities undertaken, and the results achieved fulfil the specified requirements of the audit criteria. While further improvements may still be possible, the minimum requirements are being met.</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Non-Compliance</p> | <p>Non-Compliance</p> <p>Clear evidence has been collected to demonstrate the requirement has not been complied with and is within the scope of the audit.</p> <p>Site displays little or no evidence of compliance with the requirements of the regulatory documentation.</p> <p>Note: Where the auditor has not been able to collect enough verifiable evidence to demonstrate that the intent and all elements of the requirement of the regulatory approval have been complied with within the scope of the audit. In the absence of enough verification, the auditor may in some instances be able to verify by other means (visual inspection, personal communication, etc.) that a requirement has been met. In such a situation, the requirement should still be assessed as not verified. As the condition cannot be verified it is treated as a non-compliance.</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Not Triggered</p> | <p>Not Applicable / Not Triggered</p> <p>The respective condition / requirement was not activated within the scope of the audit.</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Noted</p> | <p>A statement or fact, where no assessment of compliance is required.</p> |

Risk levels for each non-compliance identified have been assessed in accordance with Table4.

Table 4 - Risk Assessment Matrix

| Risk Level | Description |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| High | Non-compliance with potential for significant environmental consequences, regardless of the likelihood of occurrence. |
| Medium | Non-compliance with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • potential for serious environmental consequences, but is unlikely to occur; or • potential for moderate environmental consequences but is likely to occur. |
| Low | Non-compliance with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • potential for moderate environmental consequences, but is unlikely to occur; or • potential for low environmental consequences but is likely to occur. |
| Administrative non-compliance | Only to be applied where the non-compliance does not result in any risk of environmental harm (e.g. submitting a report to government later than required under approval conditions). |

5. Stakeholder Consultation

Table 5 provides a summary of the Stakeholder Consultation undertaken by the Auditor.

Table 5 - Summary of Stakeholder Inputs

| Department | Contact | Stakeholder Comments | Auditor's Response |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| <p>NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure</p> | <p>Jennifer Sage / Joel Flemming</p> | <p>Thank you for consulting with NSW Planning, in accordance with the IAPAR (2020), for the upcoming Hunter Power Project (Kurri Kurri Gas-Fired Power Station) independent environmental audit.</p> <p>I understand that Snowy Hydro have made physical changes to the site surface water management, including a reduction to the sediment basin. In your audit, please consider whether the Water Management Plan is still adequate and able to be implemented to effectively capture and manage all surface water.</p> | <p>The Auditor has inspected the surface water management system and reviewed the design basis for on-site water retention. SHL provided the Auditor with the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Email from G Fletcher (CPESC) dated 28 October 2024. Mr Fletcher verified the surface water management system and related design calculations against the requirements of the Blue Book. • Email from G Wilkinson (Hunter Power Project Site Engineer). The email provided the results from the recent volumetric surveys of the Lot 1 Basin (0.389 MI) and the Lot 2 Basin (0.810 MI). • Email from A van der Kroft dated 22 October 2024 providing details for the runoff calculations and site retention volume calculations (required to assess conformance with the blue book requirements). |

| Department | Contact | Stakeholder Comments | Auditor's Response |
|--|------------------|---|---|
| | | | <p>Through conducting a Blue Book calculation for Type D basins using the data provided by SHL and my observations made during the site inspection, the site water management and controls meet the requirements for surfacewater runoff and comply with Blue Book Standards and enhanced controls guidelines Best Practice Erosion and Sediment Control (IECA 2008).</p> |
| <p>Environmental Representative</p> | <p>Alex Gale</p> | <p>Fortuitously I was on site yesterday and had a good look around. With regard to your focus areas, I've provided a brief summary below.</p> <p>Surface water management:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ERSED plans have been developed and are reviewed by the project's CPESC • On ground implementation is generally good • The capacity of the basin adjacent to the WTP area has been decreased, however supplemented by the oil water separator. My main concern here is the usability of the oil separator as there is often a lot of gear stored in the separator. I've spoken to SH about this but there is a reluctance to remove equipment unless there's a significant predicted rain event. • The project is progressively desilting sediment basins, proving reinstated capacity will be important here <p>Air quality:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generally, this is good, yesterday the wind was very strong and the project had 4 watercarts on continuous rotation | <p>The Auditor noted that at the time of the site inspection, no equipment or other materials were stored within the oil separator pit.</p> |

| Department | Contact | Stakeholder Comments | Auditor's Response |
|------------------------------|--------------------|--|--------------------|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I keep reminding them of their Blue Book requirements re stockpiles (unworked stockpiles existing for more than 10 days must have cover) <p>Waste:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project is disposing all waste at licenced facilities. I've challenged this from a sustainability point of view asking if they've looked an any possibilities for reuse under the waste exemptions and orders. I haven't had any uptake in this area. Given the history of the site I realise that there is limited opportunity to move unsuitable material within this project or to the adjacent KKLPP project • In my inspection yesterday I requested a copy of their waste register (I haven't checked it yet), but did say that I'd be happy to wait until Angela got back from leave • There is a stockpile of GSW that is to be disposed off site. I generally don't have a problem with this except I do think that this may be a stockpile that may qualify for cover (polymer etc) | |
| Cessnock City Council | Peter Giannopoulos | The project is the subject of a state significant development approval, accordingly Council's role in respect to compliance and monitoring is undertaken by the Department of Planning. Furthermore, Council's environmental health team does not become involved when matters are controlled by the EPA. I have searched our records looking for any complaints on file but have not found any. | Noted |
| NSW EPA | Jessica Goodwin | I refer to your email, dated 5 August 2024, to the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) requesting consultation as part of an Independent Environmental Audit for the Hunter Valley Power Station in accordance with Condition C15 of Project Approval 12590060. | Noted |

| Department | Contact | Stakeholder Comments | Auditor's Response |
|------------|-------------------|---|--------------------|
| | | <p>The EPA regulates the Hunter Valley Power Station under Environment Protection Licence 21627, issued to Snowy Hydro Limited.</p> <p>The EPA encourages the preparation of audits as useful tools for industry to determine how to meet statutory obligations and identify potential or actual risks towards achieving these obligations.</p> <p>As a regulatory authority, the EPA administers and regulates statutes for environmental management and protection. As such the EPA is not directly involved in the carrying out of audits to achieve those objectives and does not review or comment on such documents.</p> <p>As a result, the EPA has no comment to provide for this request but directs you to the EPA's public register at https://apps.epa.nsw.gov.au/prpoeoapp/ to view the Licence's associated notices.</p> <p>If you have any further questions about this issue, please contact Jess Godwin on 0429 272 760 or at info@epa.nsw.gov.au.</p> | |
| DCCEEW | Victoria Bartlett | <p>The Kurri Kurri Gas Fired Power Station (EPBC 2021/8888) was approved with 15 conditions under the Environment Protection Biodiversity and Conservation Act 1999 on 6 February 2022 (see attached). In accordance with condition 7, in March 2023 the approval holder submitted the first annual compliance report to the department, and there were no breaches of the EPBC Act approval conditions reported. On this basis, DCCEEW does not have any information, comments or concerns to raise regarding the environmental performance of the project, nor details of any specific issues that we wish the auditor to consider.</p> | Noted |

6. Statutory Compliance and Recommendations

Compliance with the Conditions of Consent have been reviewed by assessing compliance against the various documentation related to project approval, as listed in section 2.2 of this report. The Compliance Register presented in Appendix A provides a detailed review of the compliance status of the site, including recommendations to address non-conformances.

6.1 Summary of Compliance Status

A summary of compliance with pre-operations statutory requirements is provided in Table 6 - Summary of Statutory Compliance. The number of conditions include sub-clauses within each approval document.

Table 6 - Summary of Statutory Compliance

| Approval/ Licence | No. of Conditions | Compliant | Non- Compliant | Noted | Not Triggered |
|--|----------------------|------------|-------------------|-----------|---------------|
| Project Approval 12590060 | 227 | 133 | 0 | 12 | 82 |
| EPBC 2021/8888 | 28 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 23 |

6.2 Non-Compliances and Recommendations for Improvement.

No non-compliances were identified during the site inspection, interviews and document reviews that are recorded in detail in the Compliance Registers in **Appendix A**.

6.2.1 Recommendation for Improvement

At the time of the audit inspection the works on Basin 1 that resulted in a decrease in capacity of that basin were complete (Photograph 5). That basin was almost empty (water level) although sediment was observed in the basin. It is noted that a sediment depth indicator was not installed in the basin.

The works on Basin 2 were nearing completion. The basin contained a significant quantity of sediment and likewise it is noted that sediment depth indicator was not installed in that basin.

It is recommended that sediment depth indicators be installed in both basins and that inspections of each basin are undertaken following each major rainfall event to ensure that the available volume of both basins are maintained.

7. Independent Audit Post Approval Requirements

This audit focused on the compliance requirements established by the Conditions of Approval. This section of the report covers the specific requirements contained in the DPE Guidelines.

7.1 Summary of Environmental Incidents

During the audit period, twelve minor environmental incidents were recorded. The incidents are summarised in Table 7.

Table 7 – Incident Summary

| Date | Incident | Reportable |
|-----------|---|------------|
| 3/08/2024 | CEMP non-compliance | No |
| 3/14/2024 | Hydrocarbon leakage | No |
| 3/16/2024 | Riger crane spill oil | No |
| 3/20/2024 | Effluent spill | No |
| 4/08/2024 | Effluent spill | No |
| 4/08/2024 | Fuel drum(s) left in un-bunded locations around site | No |
| 4/17/2024 | Effluent spill GT1 | No |
| 5/09/2024 | Diesel tank nozzle dripping/tear in the fuel bund | No |
| 5/14/2024 | Equipment serviced in unapproved location | No |
| 5/16/2024 | Housekeeping failure | No |
| 5/19/2024 | Red Back Spiders in Laydown Area 77A | No |
| 5/20/2024 | Unidentified substance on the ground | No |
| 7/04/2024 | Hazard- Lighting in Carpark entry | No |
| 7/07/2024 | Hazard - Chemicals incorrectly stored in Tanks Area - Site East | No |
| 7/19/2024 | Minor oil leakage from EWP (damage not caused by work) | No |
| 8/11/2024 | Blocked wastewater tank resulting in spill to ground | No |
| 8/21/2024 | Hazard - Septic tank odour | No |
| 8/24/2024 | Oil spill to ground identified post machine repairs | No |

Those incidents were managed and investigated appropriately. None of the incidents recorded resulted in any off-site impact and did not meet the threshold as “*material environmental impacts*” and therefore were not required to be reported to DPHI, EPA or any other Authority.

7.1.1 Incident Response Assessment

During this IEA the Auditor accessed the incident management system and reviewed the Incident Register. The system implemented as documented in the EMS includes:

- Incident reporting;
- Implementation of immediate response actions;
- Incident investigation;
- Development of corrective and preventative actions;
- Reporting (internal and external);
- Incident record management.

The Auditor sighted evidence that the incident management system is well understood and fully implemented.

7.2 Summary of Complaints

No complaints have been received by the Proponent over the Audit Period.

7.2.1 Compliant Management System Assessment

During this IEA the Auditor accessed the complaints management system. The system implemented as documented in the EMS includes:

- Complaint reporting;
- Communication protocol (initial and on-going contact with complainants);
- Compliant investigation;
- Development of corrective and preventative actions (where appropriate);
- Reporting (internal and external);
- Complaint record management.

The system as described in the EMS is considered appropriate for the project.

7.3 Summary of Notices

No compliance related notices, orders, penalty notices or prosecutions were issued to the project during the audit period:

7.4 Project Environmental Management System

The Hunter Power Project operates in accordance with the Environmental Management Strategy that was prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Project Approval. The EMS, as documented, generally satisfies the intent of ISO 14001.

The Auditor has concluded that the high degree of compliance identified in this audit indicates the Environmental Management System is appropriate and is being implemented.

7.5 Implementation of the Environmental Management Plan and Sub-plans

The Conditions of Approval required the preparation and implementation of the following management plans:

- Environmental Management Strategy
- Biodiversity Management
- Water Management Plan
- Cultural Heritage Management Plan
- Construction Pedestrian and Traffic Management Plan
- Waste Management Plan
- Air Quality Management Plan

During the document review phase of the project the contents of each of the plans were reviewed and were found to reflect the requirements of the Approval.

7.6 Status of Previous IEA Findings

No on-compliances were identified during the last Independent Environmental Audit.

7.7 Specialist Auditor Reports

No specialist auditor reports were required as part of this audit.

7.8 Environmental Impacts

The assessment of construction impacts against those predicted in the Environmental Impact Assessment, prepared by Ethos Urban (28 October 2018), are summarised in [Table 8](#).

Table 8 - Predicted vs Actual Impacts

| Category | Predicted Impact | Actual Impacts to Date |
|-----------------|---|--|
| Biodiversity | <p>Proposal would result in the direct removal of some native vegetation. The estimated native vegetation clearing is approximately 1.54 ha consisting of the following:</p> <p>Parramatta Red Gum – Narrow-leaved Apple – Prickly-leaved Paperbark shrubby woodland in the Cessnock-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kurri Kurri area (PCT 1633) – 1.49 ha Typha Brushland (PCT 1737) – 0.05 ha. <p>One Threatened Ecological Community (TEC) listed under the BC Act would be impacted by the Proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parramatta Red Gum – Narrow-leaved Apple – Prickly-leaved Paperbark shrubby woodland in the Cessnock- Kurri Kurri area (PCT 1633) – 1.49 ha. | <p>The clearing to date resulted in the removal of slightly less vegetation than proposed in the EIS. No clearing was undertaken during this audit period.</p> |
| Aquatic Biology | <p>The Proposal is unlikely to result in a significant impact as no channel works are proposed and as no significant impacts to water quality or hydrology are predicted.</p> | <p>The earthworks associated with the proposal were substantially complete with robust erosion and sediment controls and chemical storage facilities in place. There were no reported chemical spills or water releases during the audit period that would result in an impact to aquatic ecology.</p> |
| Surface Water | <p>The following potential impacts were identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Erosion of soils and sedimentation of waterways Reduced water quality from elevated turbidity, increased nutrients and other contaminants associated with construction (ie. heavy metals which are bound to sediment or fuels, oils and grease from accidental spills) Smothering of aquatic organisms from increased sediments and associated low dissolved oxygen levels Potential increased occurrence of algal blooms associated with reduced water quality Migration of litter off-site Contamination due to accidental leaks or spills of chemicals and fuels. | <p>No material surface water impacts have been identified during the audit period.</p> |
| Groundwater | <p>The groundwater impact assessment (see Chapter 12) does not predict any measurable changes in</p> | <p>No impacts on groundwater have been</p> |

| Category | Predicted Impact | Actual Impacts to Date |
|--------------------------|--|--|
| | groundwater levels or flows beyond the Proposal Site, and therefore impacts to GDE are not predicted. | identified. |
| Heritage | <p>Most impacts that would result from the Proposal are located within already disturbed and impacted areas and the Proposal is unlikely to further harm Aboriginal objects, if present.</p> <p>No known or listed non-Aboriginal heritage items have been identified within or near the Proposal Site.</p> | No heritage artifacts have been identified during the excavation works. No unexpected heritage finds were discovered during the audit period |
| Soil Contamination | <p>The following potential impacts could occur during construction of the Proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Risks associated with soil erosion during the earthworks associated with site regrading, the stormwater basin, foundation excavation and services installation Construction of the Proposal would also involve the storage, treatment or handling of fuels, chemicals, building materials, wastes and other potential contaminants. Potential for chemical and fuel spills during construction may result in localised contamination of soils and/or groundwater. | No significant erosion or sediment control issues have been reported during the audit period. No incidents relating to fuel or chemical management have been reported during the audit period. |
| Construction Noise | The construction phases which were predicted to result in the highest noise levels at the nearest sensitive receiver are the initial site earthworks, and the surfacing works (i.e. Phases 1 and 8). These works would result in noise levels of 51 dB(A) and 49 dB(A) at the nearest residential receiver, respectively. | No noise or vibration related complaints have been received during the audit period. No noise impacts in excess of the predicted impacts have been recorded. |
| Construction Air Quality | <p>Construction of the Proposal would generate fugitive emissions in the form of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dust from handling of soils and exposed excavations, including the site excavations for the gas turbine facility and switchyard, construction of on-site access roads, overall site grading activities and vehicle movements Emissions generated by combustion of fuel from construction plant including small volumes of particulates, carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, hydrocarbons and nitrogen oxides. | No air quality related complaints have been received during the audit period. No air quality impacts from construction have been identified. |
| Traffic and access | <p>Additional construction vehicle movements generated by the Proposal are not expected have a large impact on the operation of the Hart Road interchange. The interchange currently carries low traffic volumes and has spare capacity to accommodate additional construction traffic.</p> <p>No impacts to road access are expected as no public roads are proposed to be closed during construction of the Proposal. Existing access to surrounding land uses and for emergency vehicles would be maintained throughout construction works.</p> | No traffic impacts exceeding the predictions in the EIS have been identified. |

7.8.1 Extent of Project Operations

The original Environmental Assessment and modifications defined the proposed project boundaries. A review of current

aerial imagery (Google Maps) and the Auditor's observations during the site inspection found that the construction works are confined to the approved site boundaries, with the exception of an equipment laydown that is outside the approved site boundary. The laydown area is located within the area known as Precinct 3B. That land is owned by Hydro Aluminum. The Kurri Regrowth project holds access rights to the area as part of their development of the site.

The Auditor considers that the use of an off-site temporary construction material storage area that is appropriately licensed and consistent with the planning approvals for the area does not conflict with the Hunter Power Project Planning Approval.

7.9 Other Matters

7.9.1 Surface Water Management

All surface (rainwater) water generated on site is directed to either the sediment basin on Lot 1 or the sediment basin on Lot 2. Prior to this IEA, the size of each of those basins were decreased to make way for the installation power poles. A review of the water retention system was provided to the Auditor by Grant Fletcher. Mr Fletcher's findings were:

"I visited the site on Tuesday, the 22nd, to discuss the current requirements for surface water runoff with the project team and to evaluate the detention sumps for compliance with the existing site conditions. In addition to the stormwater detention sumps for Lot 1 and Lot 2, the site also features an OW Interceptor Pit, drains, and pipe trenches that can serve as additional measures to enhance holding capacities during rain events.

Please note that water quality from the catchments will be visibly impacted by runoff during rain events, whether it occurs in a designed rainfall scenario or flows through Type 2 controls such as sediment fences on site.

For legal compliance, the controls must be designed, installed, and maintained according to the Blue Book standards. The water from Lots 1 and 2 is transferable via pumping, and the site has capacity to hold water within the project drainage system also a water treatment plant in place for treating and releasing water as required. The Blue Book – Volume 2D (Main Road Construction, Landcom 2008) specifies on page 24 that sediment controls should remain in place until disturbed surfaces achieve a C-factor of 0.05, which corresponds to approximately 70% ground cover. Furthermore, the Best Practice Erosion and Sediment Control (IECA 2008) Book 2, Appendix B, page B.7 indicates that soil disturbance should only be considered during periods with less than 70% effective ground cover (C-factor of 0.05 or higher).

Table A3 of the Blue Book Volume 1 (Landcom 2004) outlines the C-factors for various stabilisation methods, including batter stabilisation measures. According to section 6.3.2 of the Blue Book, flat sites may not require the construction of a sediment basin, particularly when an ESCP (rather than a SWMP) is applicable for disturbed areas less than 2,500 square meters. If there's uncertainty, the average annual soil loss from the disturbed area can be calculated; if it's less than 150 cubic meters per year, constructing a sediment retention basin may be unnecessary. In such cases, alternative measures can be taken to protect the receiving water.

The Hunter Power Project calculates the retention basin for Lot 1 has a capacity of 389.3 m³, and Lot 2 has a capacity of 810 m³, not including the additional holding capacities from the OW Interceptor Pit, drains, and pipe trenches".

Through conducting a Blue Book calculation for Type D basins to manage dirty water runoff for an 85% capture rate during a 31 mm rain event, and using a runoff coefficient of 0.64, the Lot 1 sump would require 386 m³ and Lot 2 sump would require 826 m³—both of which are below the threshold for soil loss of 150 cubic meters per year. As a result in my view, the site's water management and controls meet the requirements for surface water runoff and comply with Blue Book Standards and enhanced controls guidelines Best Practice Erosion and Sediment Control (IECA 2008).

The Auditor reviewed the calculations made by Mr Fletcher and inspected the surface water controls during this audit and concurs with Mr Fletcher's assessment.

At the time of the audit inspection the works on Basin 1 that resulted in a decrease in capacity of that basin were complete (Photograph 5). That basin was almost empty (water level) although sediment was observed in the basin. It is noted that a sediment depth indicator was not installed in the basin.

The works on Basin 2 were nearing completion. The basin contained a significant quantity of sediment and likewise it is noted that sediment depth indicator was not installed in that basin.

It is recommended that sediment depth indicators be installed in both basins and that inspections of each basin are undertaken following each major rainfall event to ensure that the available volume of both basins are maintained.

Compliance Table



Appendix A

| Project Approval 12590060 | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|--|---|---|--|--|--|--------------------|----------------|
| Cond. | Title | Condition | Documents Reviewed | Interviews / Conversations | Inspections / Observations | Assessment | Compliance Finding | Recommendation |
| S2 A1 | Obligation to Minimise harm to the Environment | In addition to meeting the specific performance criteria established under this approval, the Proponent must implement all feasible and reasonable measures to prevent, and if prevention is not feasible and reasonable, minimise any material harm to the environment that may result from the construction, operation, decommissioning or rehabilitation required under this approval. | Documents as noted in this audit report. | | Reasonable and feasible measures observed during the audit site inspection on 3/9/24 | All reasonable and feasible measures were observed during the audit site inspection with documented evidence provided to demonstrate their effective implementation. | Noted | |
| S2 A2 | Terms of Approval | The Proponent must carry out the Development in accordance with the: | | SHL Senior Environmental Advisor No consistency assessments were undertaken during this audit period. Some works were undertaken outside the project boundary behalf of Regrowth (the landowner) under their approvals. | | The assessment of compliance in relation to this approval has been undertaken against the requirements of the consolidated approval and is presented in detail below. It is noted that some works were undertaken by the Proponent outside of the project boundary, however those works were undertaken under the Approvals for that development. | Complies | |
| | | a. EIS; | | | | | | |
| | | b. In accordance with all written directions of the Secretary; and | | SHL Senior Environmental Advisor – no directions have been issued to Snowy hydro during the audit period. | | No directions related to the construction phase of the have been issued to Snowy hydro during the audit period. | Not Triggered | |
| | | c. site plan and building elevation drawings at Appendix 1 and Appendix 6 | Appendix 1 and Appendix 6 of the EIS. | | Administration and workshop buildings have commenced construction. | The location of the workshop and administration buildings is generally consistent with the site plan shown in Appendix 1 and Appendix 6. | Complies | |
| S2 A3 | Terms of Approval | If there is any inconsistency between the documents in condition A2 above, the most recent document must prevail to the extent of the inconsistency. However, the conditions of this approval prevail to the extent of any inconsistency. | | | | | Noted | |
| S2 A4 | Terms of Approval | The Proponent must comply with any reasonable requirement/s of the Secretary arising from the Department's assessment of: | | SHL Senior Environmental Advisor– no directions have been issued to Snowy hydro during the audit period. | | | Not Triggered | |
| | | a) any reports, plans, strategies, programs or correspondence that are submitted in accordance with this consent; and | | | | | | |
| | | b) any reports, reviews or audits undertaken or commissioned by the Department regarding compliance with this approval; and | Letter from DPE (H Watters) to SHL (I Strachan) Hunter Power Project (SSI-12590060)2022 Independent Environmental Audit - Request for Additional Information dated 14 March 2023. 2022 Independent Environmental Audit, Barnett, and May 28 March 2023 2023 Independent Environmental Audit, Barnett and May, 30 May 2023 2023 Independent Environmental Audit, Barnett and May, 5 December 2023 | SHL Senior Environmental Advisor– no directions have been issued to Snowy hydro during the audit period. | | No written directions have been issued by DPHI | Not Triggered | |

| Project Approval 12590060 | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------|--|--|--|---|--|--------------------|----------------|
| Cond. | Title | Condition | Documents Reviewed | Interviews / Conversations | Inspections / Observations | Assessment | Compliance Finding | Recommendation |
| S2 A4 | Terms of Approval | c) the implementation of any actions or measures contained in these documents. | | SHL Senior Environmental Advisor—no directions have been issued to Snowy hydro during the audit period. | | | Not Triggered | |
| S2 A5 | Terms of Approval | Any document that must be submitted within a timeframe specified in or under the terms of this approval may be submitted within a later timeframe agreed with the Secretary. This condition does not apply to the immediate written notification required in respect of an incident under condition C6. | Letter from DPE (S O'Donoghue) to SHL (I Smith) titled "Hunter Power Project (SSI-1290060) Management Plan Staging", dated 22 December 2021. | | | DPE approved the submission of management plans in two stages, construction, and operations. The Auditor sighted DPE approval letters for each of the construction stage plans required under this Approval. Extensions of time have been granted from DPE for several conditions including the Voluntary Planning Agreement with Council (A5) and the installation of met equipment (B26). | Complies | |
| S2 A6 | Lapse of Approval | This approval will lapse five years after the date on which it is granted unless construction has physically commenced on or before that time. | Letter from DPE (H Watters) to SHL (I Smith) titled "Hunter Power Project (SSI-1290060) Notification of commencement of construction", dated 4 April 2022. | SHL Senior Environmental Advisor—construction works commenced on 29 March 2022. | Construction works were well advanced at the time of the audit site inspection. | Construction of the project has commenced and were well advanced at the time of the audit. | Not Triggered | |
| S2 A7 | Limits on Approval | The development must be a dual fuel power station using natural gas and/or liquid fuel (diesel) and shall comprise of two open cycle gas turbine power plants with a total nominal output capacity of up to 750 megawatts. | https://www.snowyhydro.com.au/hunter-power-project/ | SHL Senior Environmental Advisor—the power station is designed to operate on both natural gas (primary fuel) and diesel (backup fuel). | | The description of the power station provided on the Snowy Hydro website is for a 660-megawatt dual fuel power station. These criteria were confirmed by the SHL Environmental Assurance Advisor | Complies | |
| S2 A8 | Limits on Operations | Fuel burning equipment must not be operated for the purpose of generating electrical power at the premises for more than 1,100 cumulative hours per calendar year. | | | | Operations of the power station have not commenced. This condition has not yet been triggered. | Not Triggered | |
| S2 A9 | Limits on Operations | Fuel burning equipment must not be fired on diesel for the purpose of generating electrical power at the premises for more than 175 cumulative hours per calendar year. | | | | Operations of the power station have not commenced. This condition has not yet been triggered. | Not Triggered | |
| S2 A10 | Limits on Operations | Diesel fuel used in the power station must comply with the <i>Australian Government's Fuel Quality Standards (Automotive Diesel) Determination 2019</i> made under the <i>Fuel Quality Standards Act 2000</i> . | | | | Operations of the power station have not commenced. This condition has not yet been triggered. | Not Triggered | |
| S2 A11 | Limits on Operations | The Proponent is permitted to exceed the maximum hours specified in A8 and A9 in the event that operation, or continued operation, is required if: (a) the AEMO, or a person authorised by AEMO, directs the Proponent, under the National Electricity Law and the National Electricity Rules, to take relevant actions to maintain or restore the security or reliability of the electricity network; (b) the relevant AEMO direction referred to above remains in force; and (c) the Proponent takes all practical measures to prevent or minimise air pollution. | | | | Operations of the power station have not commenced. This condition has not yet been triggered. | Not Triggered | |

| Project Approval 12590060 | | | | | | | | |
|---|------------------------|---|---|---|---|--|--------------------|----------------|
| Cond. | Title | Condition | Documents Reviewed | Interviews / Conversations | Inspections / Observations | Assessment | Compliance Finding | Recommendation |
| S2 A12 | Limits on Operations | The Proponent must notify the Secretary and the EPA of any and all limit exceedances of conditions A8 to A10 or activation of condition A11. | | | | Operations of the power station have not commenced. This condition has not yet been triggered. | Not Triggered | |
| S2 A13 | Statutory Requirements | The Proponent must ensure that all licences, permits and approvals are obtained and maintained as required throughout the life of the development. No condition of this approval removes the obligation for the Proponent to obtain, renew or comply with such licences, permits or approvals. The Proponent must ensure that a copy of this approval and all relevant environmental approvals are available on the site at all times during the life of the development. | Planning Approval SSI-12590060. Environment Protection Licence No. 21627 EPBC 2021/8888. Documents - Snowy Hydro. | | | Copies of the Planning Approval, EPL and EPBC approval were in place. No other environmental license or approval is required for the construction of the project. The project website includes copies of the Commonwealth Controlled Action approval and the EPL in addition to EPL specific documents including the Pollution Incident Response Management Plan and environmental monitoring data. | Complies | |
| S2 A14 | Statutory Requirements | For the purpose of section 198 of the EP&A Regulation, the relevant provisions, as defined in section 198(1) of the EP&A Regulation, apply to this approval. | | | | | Noted | |
| S2 A15 | Notification | At least two weeks prior to the commencement of the following activities, unless otherwise agreed by the Secretary, the Proponent must notify the Department in writing of the date of commencement of: | Letter from DPE (H Watters) to SHL (I Smith) titled "Hunter Power Project (SSI-1290060) Notification of commencement of construction", dated 4 April 2022. | SHL Senior Environmental Advisor– construction works commenced on 29 March 2022. | | DPE's letter of 4 April 2022 acknowledged SHL's original notification (7 February 2022) of commencement of construction on or after 23 February 2022. The letter also acknowledges SHL's updated advice (28 March 2022) that construction start was to start on 29 March 2022. | Complies | |
| | | a) construction of the development; | | | | | | |
| | | b) commissioning of the gas power station; | | | | | | |
| | | c) operations; and | | | | | | |
| d) the decommissioning of the development and rehabilitation of the site. | | | | Operations of the power station have not commenced. This condition has not yet been triggered. | Not Triggered | | | |
| | | Operations of the power station have not commenced. This condition has not yet been triggered. | Not Triggered | | | | | |
| | | Operations of the power station have not commenced. This condition has not yet been triggered. | Not Triggered | | | | | |
| S2 A16 | Structural Adequacy | The Proponent must ensure that all new buildings and structures, and any alterations or additions to existing buildings and structures, are constructed in accordance with the relevant requirements of the BCA. | Occupation Certificate issued by the GMA Certification Group to Australian Portable Camps Pty Ltd for New Construction of Accommodation Buildings, Office, Amenities Blocks, Dining Hall, Gymnasium, Wet Mess & Workshop, dated 19 December 2023. | | Construction of the temporary accommodation facility was complete and operating at the time of the IEA. | The temporary accommodation facility OC has been issued, confirming compliance with the relevant codes and standards. | Complies | |
| S2 A17 | Demolition | The Proponent must ensure that all demolition work is carried out in accordance with Australian Standard AS 2601:2001: The Demolition of Structures, or its latest version. | | SHL Senior Environmental Advisor– No demolition works were undertaken during this audit period. | | No demolition works were undertaken during this audit period. | Not Triggered | |

| Project Approval 12590060 | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|--|---|--|--|--------------------|----------------|
| Cond. | Title | Condition | Documents Reviewed | Interviews / Conversations | Inspections / Observations | Assessment | Compliance Finding | Recommendation |
| S2 A18 | Protection of Public Infrastructure | The Proponent must: a) repair, or pay the full costs associated with repairing, any public infrastructure that is damaged by the project. | UGL Incident Register for the period 1 March 2024 to 1 September 2024. Complaints Register. | SHL Senior Environmental Advisor–no incidents relating to damage to public infrastructure occurred during this audit period. | | No incidents relating to damage to public infrastructure occurred during this audit period. | Not Triggered | |
| | | b) relocate, or pay the full costs associated with relocating, any public infrastructure that needs to be relocated as a result of the project. | | SHL Senior Environmental Advisor–no incidents relating to damage to public infrastructure occurred during this audit period. | | No public infrastructure has required relocation due to the project | Not Triggered | |
| S2 A19 | Operation of Plant and Equipment | The Proponent must ensure that all plant and equipment used on the site is: a) maintained in a proper and efficient condition. | Machine Inspection Checklist, dated 20 July 2024, Much Shifting Solutions Gato Repairs Oty Ltd, Invoice for maintenance works on Kobelco plant, dated 11 April 2024. CPESC work sheets (documenting inspections of the ERSED system by G Fletcher), dated 4 April 2024, 24 April 2024 and 30 April to 9 May 2024 | SHL Senior Environmental Advisor–UGL have been commissioned as construction contractor and are responsible for maintaining their own equipment on site. | All plant and equipment observed was operational and appeared to be appropriately maintained. No evidence of leaks or excessive fumes. Construction works were being undertaken by UGL at the time of the IEA. | Records of inspections and maintenance covering the audit period were sighted by the Auditor. Plant and equipment sighted during the audit were operational and appeared to be good condition with no visible leaks, excessive noise or exhaust fumes observed by the Auditor. | Complies | |
| | | b) operated in a proper and efficient manner. | Machine Inspection Checklist, dated 20 July 2024, Much Shifting Solutions Gato Repairs Oty Ltd, Invoice for maintenance works on Kobelco plant, dated 11 April 2024. CPESC work sheets (documenting inspections of the ERSED system by G Fletcher), dated 4 April 2024, 24 April 2024 and 30 April to 9 May 2024 | SHL Senior Environmental Advisor–UGL have been commissioned as construction contractor and are responsible for the maintenance of their own equipment. | All plant and equipment observed was operational and appeared to be appropriately maintained. No evidence of leaks or excessive fumes. Construction works were being undertaken by UGL at the time of the IEA. | Records of inspections and maintenance covering the audit period were sighted by the Auditor. Plant and equipment sighted during the audit were operational and appeared to be good condition with no visible leaks, excessive noise or exhaust fumes observed by the Auditor. | Complies | |
| S2 A20 | Environmental Representative | Prior to commencing the development, an environmental representative (ER) must be approved by the Secretary and engaged by the Proponent. | Letter from DPHI (S O'Donoghue) to SHL (A van der Kroft) titled "Replacement of Environmental Representative – Hunter Power Project (SSI-12590060)", dated 22 July 2024. | Senior Environmental Advisor – DPHI approved the appointment of a replacement ER in July this year. | | Approval of the appointment of the replacement Environmental Representative (and alternates) was provided by DPHI on 22 July 2024. | Complies | |
| S2 A21 | Environmental Representative | The Secretary's approval of an ER must be sought no later than one (1) week before commencing the development. | Letter from DPHI (S O'Donoghue) to SHL (A van der Kroft) titled "Replacement of Environmental Representative – Hunter Power Project (SSI-12590060)", dated 22 July 2024. | Senior Environmental Advisor – DPHI approved the appointment of a replacement ER in July this year. | | Approval of the appointment of the replacement Environmental Representative (and alternates) was provided by DPHI on 22 July 2024. | Complies | |
| S2 A22 | Environmental Representative | The proposed ER must be a suitably qualified and experienced person who was not involved in the preparation of the documents listed in condition A2 and is independent from the design and construction of the development. The ER must meet only the requirements set out in sections 2.2, 2.3, 2.4 and 3 in the <i>Environmental Representative Protocol</i> (Department of Planning and Environment, October 2018). | Letter from DPHI (S O'Donoghue) to SHL (A van der Kroft) titled "Replacement of Environmental Representative – Hunter Power Project (SSI-12590060)", dated 22 July 2024. | Senior Environmental Advisor – DPHI approved the appointment of a replacement ER in July this year. | | The CV's of the Environmental Representative (and alternates) have been reviewed and are appropriately qualified and experienced. | Complies | |

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| S2 A23 | Environmental Representative | From commencing the development, until commencing operation, or as agreed with the Secretary, the approved ER must: a) review the documents identified in conditions B5, B8, B12, B13, B19, B29, B33, B40, B43, B48 and C1 and any other documents that are identified by the Secretary, to ensure they are consistent with requirements in or under this approval and if so: (i) make a written statement to this effect before submission of such documents to the Secretary (if those documents are required to be approved by the Secretary); or (ii) make a written statement to this effect before the implementation of such documents (if those documents are required to be submitted to the Department for information or are not required to be submitted to the Department); | Letter from HBI (G.Byrne) to SHL (I Strachan) dated "Hunter Power Project Biodiversity Management Plan Approved Version 4 " dated 29 May 2023. Letter from HBI (G.Byrne) to SHL (I Strachan) titled "Construction Environmental Management Strategy Approved Version 2 (10 May 2023) " dated 29 May 2023. Letter from HBI (G.Byrne) to SHL (I Strachan) titled "Hunter Power Project Cultural Heritage Management Plan Approved Version 3 (10 May 2023) " dated 29 May 2023. Letter from HBI (G.Byrne) to SHL (I Strachan) titled "Hunter Power Project Water Management Plan Approved Version 2 (10 May 2023) " dated 29 May 2023. Email from DPE to SHL (I.Smith) titled "Hunter Power Project (Kurri Kurri Power Station) – Revision of Management Plans – Mod 1) dated 6/6/12. | Environmental Representative– the ER undertakes monthly inspections and provides an inspection report. The ER has been involved in the review of documents throughout the audit period in accordance with this condition. | | Correspondence from the ER to SHL endorsing the documents specified in this Condition. The Auditor notes that the documents referred to in Conditions B8, B12, B13, B19 (this report has been finalised but not yet endorsed by the ER), and B29 have not yet been triggered. | Complies | |
| | | b) as may be requested by the Secretary, assist the Department in the resolution of community complaints; and | | Environmental Representative – DPHI did not request the ER to assist in the resolution of any community complaints during the audit period. | | DPHI did not request the ER to assist in the resolution of any community complaints during the audit period. | Not Triggered | |
| | | c) consider any minor amendments to be made to the plans / strategies in conditions B5, B8, B12, B13, B19, B29, B33, B40, B43, B48 and C1 that involve updating or are of an administrative nature and do not increase impacts to nearby sensitive receivers, and ensure they are consistent with the terms of this approval and, if satisfied such amendment is necessary, approve the amendment. This does not include any modifications to the terms of this approval. | | | | No amendments were made to the management plans during this audit period. | Not Triggered | |
| S2 A24 | Environmental Representative | The Proponent must provide the ER with all documentation requested by the ER in order for the ER to perform their functions specified in condition A23, as well as the complaints register for any complaints received (on the day they are received) | ER site inspection reports covering the audit period. | Environmental Representative - SHL provided the ER with all information required by the ER to allow them to perform their functions under this Approval. | | SHL provided the ER with all information required by the ER to allow them to perform their functions under this Approval. The ER inspects the site monthly. The site inspection and meeting provide a forum for the ER to discuss issues, complaints, and information requirements to enable them to perform their functions in accordance with condition A23 and A24. | Complies | |

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| Cond. | Title | Condition | Documents Reviewed | Interviews / Conversations | Inspections / Observations | Assessment | Compliance Finding | Recommendation |
| S3 A25 | Planning Agreement | Within 6 months of the date of commencement of development under this approval, or other timeframe agreed by the Secretary, the Proponent must enter into a Planning Agreement with Council: (a) in accordance with Division 7.1 of Part 7 of the EP&A Act; and | Letter from DPE (G Lucas) to SHL (D Young) titled "Extension Request to enter into Planning Agreement (SSI-12590060)", dated 29 August 2023 Hunter Power Project (Kurri Kurri Power Station) Planning Agreement – Cessnock City Council / Snowy Hydro Limited, signed and dated 22 November 2023. Email from DPHI (Major Projects) to SHL (I Smith) titled "Hunter Power Project (Kurri Kurri Power Station) – Planning Agreement - Extension of time", dated 30 August 2023. | | | On 29 August 2023, DPE approved an extension of time for the finalisation of the planning agreement till the 29 February 2024. The planning agreement was executed in November 2023. | Complies | |
| | | b) the terms of the Proponent's offer to Council in Appendix 3. | Hunter Power Project (Kurri Kurri Power Station) Planning Agreement – Cessnock City Council / Snowy Hydro Limited, signed and dated 22 November 2023. | | | The planning agreement was executed in November 2023 in accordance with the offer to council (Appendix 3). | Complies | |
| S2 A26 | Planning Agreement | If the Proponent and Council do not enter into a Planning Agreement within the timeframe under condition A25, then prior to the commencement of operation of the development, the Proponent must make a Section 7.12 of the EP&A Act contribution to Council of \$880,000. The amount to be indexed in accordance with the provisions of the Council's <i>City Wide Infrastructure Contributions Plan 2020</i> . | Hunter Power Project (Kurri Kurri Power Station) Planning Agreement – Cessnock City Council / Snowy Hydro Limited, signed and dated 22 November 2023. | | | The planning agreement was executed in November 2023. | Not Triggered | |
| S2 A27 | Planning Agreement | If there is any dispute between the Proponent and Council in regard to conditions A25 and A26 then either party may refer the matter to the Secretary for resolution. | Hunter Power Project (Kurri Kurri Power Station) Planning Agreement – Cessnock City Council / Snowy Hydro Limited, signed and dated 22 November 2023. | | | The planning agreement was executed in November 2022. | Not Triggered | |
| S2 A28 | Temporary Additional Construction Area | Prior to the operation of the development, unless otherwise agreed by the Secretary, the Proponent may utilise the temporary additional construction area identified as Precinct 3B in Figure 2 of Appendix 2 of this approval for construction activities. | | | Audit site inspection, 3/9/24 – activities in precinct 3B were observed to be undertaken in an environmentally responsible manner. | Noted, activities in precinct 3B were observed to be undertaken in an environmentally responsible manner. | Complies | |

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| S3 B1 | Air Quality General Operating Conditions | The premises must be maintained and operated in a manner that minimises or prevents dust emissions from the premises. | Complaints Register. UGL Incident Register Hunter Power Project Site Familiarisation Induction (prepared by UGL). | SHL Senior Environmental Advisor – – no dust complaints were received during the audit period. No notices or directions have been received from the EPA or DPHI in relation to nuisance dust or air quality issues during the audit period. | During the site inspection an operating water cart was observed on site. No dust emissions were observed. The majority of the site is cleared, and stabilised. The site speed limit is 20 kmh. Signage advising of the speed limit was sighted. | No dust complaints or dust related incidents were reported during the audit period. No dust related issues were observed during the site inspection. An air quality management plan has been prepared for the project and has been substantially implemented (for further information please refer to Condition C1 below). Mobile plant and equipment are regularly maintained to minimise air (exhaust) emissions, refer to Condition S2 A19 above. The environmental induction provided to site (construction personnel) includes appropriate information regarding dust and air quality management including site speed restrictions. Appropriate controls implemented on site include stabilised access and egress, vehicle speed restrictions, site watering as well as vehicle washdown to prevent mud tracking and dust generation. | Complies | |
| S3 B2 | Air Quality General Operating Conditions | The Proponent must carry on any activity, or operate any plant, in or on the premises by such reasonably practicable means as may be necessary to prevent or minimise air pollution. | Complaints Register. Incident Register. Machine Inspection Checklist, dated 20 July 2024, Much Shifting Solutions Gato Repairs Pty Ltd, Invoice for maintenance works on Kobelco plant, dated 11 April 2024. Hunter Power Project Site Familiarisation Induction (prepared by UGL). | SHL Senior Environmental Advisor – – no dust complaints were received during the audit period. No notices or directions have been received from the EPA or DPHI in relation to nuisance dust or air quality issues during the audit period. | During the site inspection an operating water cart was observed on site. No dust emissions were observed. The majority of the site is cleared, and stabilised. The site speed limit is 20 kmh. Signage advising of the speed limit was sighted. | No dust complaints or dust related incidents were reported during the audit period. No dust related issues were observed during the site inspection. An air quality management plan has been prepared for the project and has been substantially implemented (for further information please refer to Condition C1 below). Mobile plant and equipment are regularly maintained to minimise air (exhaust) emissions, refer to Condition S2 A19 above. The environmental induction provided to site (construction personnel) includes appropriate information regarding dust and air quality management including site speed restrictions. Appropriate controls implemented on site include stabilised access and egress, vehicle speed restrictions, site watering as well as vehicle washdown to prevent mud tracking and dust generation. | Complies | |

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| Cond. | Title | Condition | Documents Reviewed | Interviews / Conversations | Inspections / Observations | Assessment | Compliance Finding | Recommendation |
| S3 B3 | Air Quality General Operating Conditions | Trucks entering and leaving the premises that are carrying loads of dust generating materials must have their loads covered at all times, except during loading and. | Hunter Power Project Construction Air Quality Management Plan, Revision 3, dated 29 December 2023. Complaints Register. | | Trucks were observed entering and leaving the site during the site inspection. All trucks leaving the site were covered. | The CAQMP specifies the requirement that all trucks entering and leaving the site must be covered. No dust complaints were received during this audit period. | Complies | |
| S3 B4 | Air Quality General Operating Conditions | The Proponent shall not permit any offensive odour to be emitted beyond the boundary of the site. | Complaints Register. | SHL Senior Environmental Advisor–no odour complaints were received during the audit period. | No offensive odours were encountered during the site inspection. | No odour complaints were received during the audit period. | Complies | |
| S3 B5 | Final Design Verification | Prior to the commencement of the installation of the gas turbines, the Proponent must provide a revised Air Quality Impact Assessment (AQIA) to the Secretary and EPA that is based on the detailed design of the plant and includes emission specifications (emission rates and concentrations) based on manufacturer performance guarantees. Should the plant design and emissions characteristics differ from what was assessed previously (Hunter Power Project, Air Quality Impact Assessment, Jacobs, 30 July 2021), the revised AQIA must include remodeling of emissions based on final design and reassessment of impacts. | Letter from ER (G Byrnes) to SHL (I Smith) titled "Hunter Power Project Final Design: Updated Air Quality Impact Assessment (4 August 2022)", dated 15 August 2022. Hunter Valley Project Updated Air Quality Impact Assessment, Revision 3, dated 4 August 2022. | SHL Senior Environmental Advisor–There have been no design changes made during this audit period, however the final design verification is not yet available. | | There have been no design changes made during this audit period. The Auditor has reviewed the Revised AQIA. The assessment concludes "that the detailed design has resulted in negligible changes to slight reductions in ground level concentrations of pollutants, when compared with the air quality modelling results produced for the Project EIS". The revised assessment satisfies the requirements of Condition B5. The ER endorsed the revised AQIA on 15 August 2022. The AQIA was submitted to EPA via email on 16 August 2022. DPE comments on the AQIA were received on 30 September 2022. In their letter dated 29 September 2023, DPE acknowledged that the revised air quality assessment: | Complies | |
| S3 B6 | Final Design Verification | The final design, installation and operation of the power station must not preclude the ability for air pollution emissions controls to be retrofitted. | Email from Jacobs (M. Luger) to SHL (I Smith) dated 30 September 2022. Letter from DPE (S' ODonohue) to SHL dated 29 September 2022 Email from DPE (J Turner) to SHL (I Smith) dated 30 September 2022. | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is based on the final land design including the increased stack height and updated characteristics of the substation demonstrates that the proposed final design will result in a reduction in air quality impacts compared to the approved project has been provided to the NSW Environment Protection Authority who advised the Department it had no comment on the revised assessment. | Complies | |

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| S3 B7 | Air Quality Verification | Within six months of commissioning the power station (unless otherwise agreed by the Secretary in consultation with the EPA) and during a period in which the development is operating under high design loads, the Proponent must undertake a monitoring program to confirm the air emission performance of the power station. | | | | Operation of the power station has not commenced; therefore, this condition has not yet been triggered. | Not Triggered | |
| | | The monitoring program must include, as a minimum (or as otherwise permitted by the applicable EPL): (a) two rounds of post-commissioning monitoring of the pollutants and parameters in Table 1 below for each discharge point; | | | | Operation of the power station has not commenced; therefore, this condition has not yet been triggered. | Not Triggered | |
| | | (b) consideration of the dual-fuel and peaking operability of the power station in capturing representative air pollutant emission concentrations and normal operating parameters; and | | | | Operation of the power station has not commenced; therefore, this condition has not yet been triggered. | Not Triggered | |
| | | (c) sampling methods as per the NSW EPA's <i>Approved Methods for the Sampling and Analysis of Air Pollutants in New South Wales</i> (latest version). | | | | Operation of the power station has not commenced; therefore, this condition has not yet been triggered. | Not Triggered | |
| S3 B8 | Air Quality Verification | Within six weeks of completing post-commissioning testing (unless otherwise agreed by the Secretary in consultation with the EPA), the Proponent must submit a Post-Commissioning Verification Report (the Report) to the EPA. | | | | Operation of the power station has not commenced; therefore, this condition has not yet been triggered. | Not Triggered | |
| | | The Report must: a) include all analytical results of post-commissioning monitoring required for all discharge points. Any external report must be reproduced in full; | | | | Operation of the power station has not commenced; therefore, this condition has not yet been triggered. | Not Triggered | |
| | | b) include all the information listed in section 4 of the <i>Approved Methods for the Sampling and Analysis of Air Pollutants in New South Wales</i> (latest version); | | | | Operation of the power station has not commenced; therefore, this condition has not yet been triggered. | Not Triggered | |
| | | c) describe all the operational parameters during post-commissioning testing; | | | | Operation of the power station has not commenced; therefore, this condition has not yet been triggered. | Not Triggered | |
| | | d) compare analytical results from post-commissioning monitoring against final design emission specifications and modelled emission parameters (emission rates and concentrations) in the AQIA required under condition B5 (final design verification assessment); and | | | | Operation of the power station has not commenced; therefore, this condition has not yet been triggered. | Not Triggered | |

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| S3 B8 | Air Quality Verification | <p>e) should any comparison under B8(d) identify monitored discharge concentrations or emission rates above the emissions characteristics in the revised AQIA or the <i>Protection of the Environment Operations (Clean Air) Regulation 2021</i> standards of concentration, the Proponent must:</p> <p>(i) re-assess and evaluate both the emissions concentrations against the <i>Protection of the Environment Operations (Clean Air) Regulation 2021</i> standards of concentration and the impacts against the relevant impact assessment criteria in the <i>Approved Methods for the Modelling and Assessment of Air Pollutants in NSW</i> (latest version); and/or</p> <p>(ii) identify actions and measures to be implemented to reduce emissions of air pollutants to no greater than those predicted in the AQIA. Details of the actions and measures and a timetable for implementation must be submitted to the Secretary and the EPA for approval.</p> | | | | | Operation of the power station has not commenced; therefore, this condition has not yet been triggered. | Not Triggered | |
| S3 B9 | Monitoring / Discharge Points | The following points referred to in Table 2 below (or alternative points as permitted by the applicable EPL) are identified for the purposes of monitoring and/or setting of limits for the emission of pollutants to the air from the point. | | | | | | Noted | |
| | Table 2 | Emission Point | Type of Monitoring Point | Type of Discharge Point | Description of Location | | | | |
| | | 1 | Air Emissions | Discharge to Air | Gas Turbine Stack 1 | | | | |
| | | 2 | Air Emissions | Discharge to Air | Gas Turbine Stack 1 | | | | |
| S3 B10 | Discharge Limits | For each monitoring/discharge point specified by Table 3 below (or alternative points as permitted by the applicable EPL) the concentration of a pollutant discharged at that point, must not exceed the concentration limits specified for that pollutant in the table (or alternative limits as permitted by the applicable EPL). | | | | | Operation of the power station has not commenced; therefore, this condition has not yet been triggered. | Not Triggered | |
| | Table 3 | Pollutant | Fuel Type | 100 percentile limit (mg/m ³) | Reference Conditions | Averaging Period | | | |
| | | Nitrogen dioxide (NO ₂) or Nitric Oxide (NO) or both as NO ₂ Equivalent | Natural Gas | 51 | Dry, 273 °K, 101.3 kPa, 15% O ₂ | 1 hr. | | | |
| | | | Diesel | 86 | | | | | |
| Carbon Monoxide (CO) | | Natural Gas | 12.5 | Dry, 273 °K, 101.3 kPa, 15% O ₂ | 1 hr. | | | | |
| | Diesel | 63 | | | | | | | |

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| S3 B11 | Monitoring Conditions | The Proponent must, for each air monitoring/discharge point, determine the pollutant concentrations and emission parameters specified in Table 4 below. For each pollutant, the Proponent must use the sampling method, units of measure, and sample at the frequency specified opposite in the other columns. Sampling methods as per the NSW EPA's <i>Approved Methods for the Sampling and Analysis of Air Pollutants in New South Wales</i> (latest version) (or alternative methods as permitted by the applicable EPL). | | | | | Not Triggered | | |
| | Table 4 | Pollutant / Parameter | Units of Measure | Frequency | Sampling Method | | | | |
| | | Nitrogen dioxide (NO ₂) or Nitric Oxide (NO) or both as NO ₂ Equivalent | mg/m ³ | Continuous | CEM-2 and US EPA Procedure 1 | | | | |
| | | Carbon Monoxide (CO) | mg/m ³ | Continuous | CEM-4 and US EPA Procedure 1 | | | | |
| | | Moisture | % | Continuous | Special Method 1 and US EPA Procedure 1 | | | | |
| | | Oxygen | % | Continuous | CEM-3 and US EPA Procedure 1 | | | | |
| | | Temperature | °C | Continuous | TM-2 and US EPA Procedure 1 | | | | |
| | | Velocity | m/s | Continuous | CEM-6 and US EPA Procedure 1 | | | | |
| | | Volumetric flow rate | m ³ /s | Continuous | CEM-6 and US EPA Procedure 1 | | | | |
| Selection of sampling positions | | - | - | TM-1 | | | | | |
| S3 B12 | Hazards and Risks Preconstruction | <p>Prior to the commencement of the installation of the gas turbines, unless otherwise agreed by the Secretary, the Proponent must prepare and submit to the satisfaction of the Secretary:</p> <p>a) A Fire Safety Study based on the detailed design of the development. This study must cover the relevant aspects of the Department's Hazardous Industry Planning Advisory Paper No. 2, 'Fire Safety Study' and the New South Wales Government's Best Practice Guidelines for Contaminated Water Retention and Treatment Systems. The study must be prepared in consultation with NSW Rural Fire Service to verify the required Asset Protection Zone (APZ) in view of up to 14 MPa gas releases from the gas receiving station. The study must also be submitted for the approval of Fire and Rescue NSW.</p> | <p>Fire Safety Study, AECOM dated 5 October 2022.</p> <p>Email from Jacobs (M Luger) to RFS (general email address) titled "Hunter Power Station: Fire Safety Study - request for feedback from NSW Rural Fire Service" dated 11 October 2022.</p> <p>Letter from RFS (J O'Carroll) to SHL (I Smith) titled "Review of Fire Safety Study (FSS) – Kurri Kurri Power Station – Hart Road Loxford", dated 17 November 2022.</p> <p>Letter from ER (G Byrnes) to SHL (I Strachan) titled Hunter Power Project Fire Safety Study (Rev 0 5th October 2022), dated 13 December 2022.</p> <p>Letter from DPE (Stephen O'Donoghue) to SHL (I Strachan) titled Hunter Power Project (SSI-12590060) – Fire Safety Study dated 20 December 2022.</p> <p>DPE Post Approval form (ref 20221117001755).</p> | SHL Senior Environmental Advisor-Draft report has been prepared by AECOM and is currently being reviewed by SHL. | | <p>The Fire Safety Study was issued to RFS on 11 October 2022</p> <p>The RFS responded on 17 November 2022 and confirmed the Fire Safety Study would meet the requirements of FRNSW subject to a number of conditions relating to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An Emergency Response Plan • Emergency Services Information Package • Emergency Responders Induction Package <p>SHL noted that these recommendations will be implemented by the operational readiness team prior to the commencement of operations. SHL are aware of these obligations and are tracking progress through existing compliance programs.</p> <p>The Fire Safety Study was endorsed by the ER on the 13 December 2022 and approved by DPE on 20 December 2022</p> <p>Evidence of how the RFS comments have been addressed will be required to fully meet the requirements of this condition.</p> <p>No changes to the Fire Safety Study during the audit period.</p> | Complies | | |

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| S3 B12 | Hazards and Risks Preconstruction | <p>b) A Hazard and Operability Study based on the detailed design of the development, chaired by a qualified person independent of the development, approved by the Secretary prior to the commencement of the study. The study must be carried out in accordance with the Department's Hazardous Industry Planning Advisory Paper No. 8, 'HAZOP Guidelines'. The study report must be accompanied by a program for the implementation of all recommendations made in the report. If the Proponent intends to defer the implementation of a recommendation, reasons must be documented. The scope of the study must include and not be limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) components and processes associated with the power station, including the storage, handling and use of diesel fuel; and (ii) the supply tie-in at the gas receipt station. | <p>Letter from DPE (S O'Donoghue) to SHL (I Smith) titled "Hunter Power Project (SSI-1290060) HAZOP Chairperson Approval", dated 21 December 2021.</p> <p>Hunter Power Project Hazop Report Revision 0 dated 16 October 2022.</p> | | | <p>DPE approved the appointment of D Lockley as Chairperson of the HAZOP study in December 2021. The HAZOP Study has now been completed and is available on the project website.</p> <p>No changes to the Hazop study during the audit period.</p> | Complies | |
| S3 B12 | Hazards and Risks Pre-commissioning | <p>c) A Final Hazard Analysis based on the detailed design of the development, prepared in accordance with the Department's <i>Hazardous Industry Planning Advisory Paper No. 6, 'Hazard Analysis'</i>. The scope of the study must include and not be limited to specifying all design variations between the final detailed design and the conceptual design described in the EIS.</p> | <p>Letter from ER (G Byrnes) to SHL (I Smith) titled "Hunter Power Project Final Hazard Analysis (22 February 2022)", dated 8 August 2022.</p> <p>Hunter Power Project Final Hazard Analysis, Revision C, dated 22 July 2022.</p> | | | <p>The Final Hazard Analysis report – Revision C (prepared by Jacobs) was issued on 22 July 2022.</p> <p>The report was endorsed by the ER on 8 August 2022.</p> <p>No changes to the Final Hazard Analysis during the audit period.</p> | Complies | |
| S3 B13 | Hazards and Risks Pre-commissioning Pre-startup | <p>Prior to the commencement of operations, unless otherwise agreed to by the Secretary, the Proponent must prepare and submit to the satisfaction of the Secretary:</p> <p>a) A comprehensive Emergency Plan and detailed emergency procedures for the development. The Emergency Plan must include consideration of the safety of all people outside of the development who may be at risk from the development. The plan must be prepared in accordance with the Department's <i>Hazardous Industry Planning Advisory Paper No. 1, 'Emergency Planning'</i>.</p> | | | | <p>Operation of the power station has not commenced. This condition has not yet been triggered.</p> <p>SHL are aware of this pre-operational requirement and are planning on commencing the preparation of the Emergency Management Plan in 2024.</p> | Not Triggered | |

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| S3 B13 | Hazards and Risks Pre-commissioning Pre-startup | b) A document setting out a comprehensive Safety Management System , covering all on-site operations and associated transport activities involving hazardous materials. The document must clearly specify all safety related procedures, responsibilities and policies along with details of mechanisms for ensuring adherence to the procedures. Records must be kept on-site and must be available for inspection by Secretary upon request. The Safety Management System must be developed in accordance with the Department's <i>Hazardous Industry Planning Advisory Paper No. 9, 'Safety Management'</i> . The Safety Management System must also include Safety and Operating Plans required under AS 2885. | | | | Operation of the power station has not commenced. This condition has not yet been triggered. SHL are aware of this pre-operational requirement and are planning on commencing the preparation of the Safety Management System in 2024. | Not Triggered | |
| S3 B14 | Hazards and Risks Pre-startup | One month prior to the commencement of operation of the development, the Proponent must submit to the Secretary, a Pre-Startup Compliance Report detailing compliance with conditions B12 and B13, including: | | | | Operation of the power station has not commenced. | Not Triggered | |
| | | a) dates of study/plan/system submission, approval, commencement of installation of the gas turbines and commissioning | | | | | | |
| | | b) actions taken or proposed, to implement recommendations made in the studies/plans/systems; and | | | | Operation of the power station has not commenced. | Not Triggered | |
| | | c) responses to any requirement imposed by the Secretary under condition A2. | | | | Operation of the power station has not commenced. | Not Triggered | |
| S3 B15 | Hazards and Risks Post-startup | Three months after the commencement of operation of the development, the Proponent must submit to the Secretary, a Post-Start-up Compliance Report verifying that: a) the Emergency Plan required under condition B13(a) is effectively in place and that at least one emergency exercise has been conducted; and | | | | Operation of the power station has not commenced. This condition has not yet been triggered. | Not Triggered | |
| S3 B16 | Hazards and Risks Post Commissioning Requirements | b) the Safety Management System required under condition B13(b) has been fully implemented and that records required by the system are being kept. | | | | Operation of the power station has not commenced. This condition has not yet been triggered. | Not Triggered | |

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| S3 B17 | Hazards and Risks General | Twelve months after the commencement of operations of the development and every three years thereafter or at such intervals as the Secretary may agree, the Proponent must carry out a comprehensive Hazard Audit of the development and within two months of each audit submit a report to the satisfaction of the Secretary for approval. The audits must be carried out at the Proponent's expense by a qualified person or team, independent of the development and approved by the Secretary prior to commencement of the audit. Hazard Audits must be carried out in accordance with the Department's <i>Hazardous Industry Planning Advisory Paper No. 5, 'Hazard Audit'</i> . The audit must include a review of the site Safety Management System and a review of all entries made in the incident register since the previous audit. The audit report must be accompanied by a program for the implementation of all recommendations made in the audit report. If the Proponent intends to defer the implementation of a recommendation, reasons must be documented. | | | | Operation of the power station has not commenced. This condition has not yet been triggered. | Not Triggered | |
| S3 B17 | Hazards and Risks General | The Proponent must store all chemicals, fuels and oils used in accordance with: | HPP Site Plan – location of all construction related fuels and chemicals | SHL Senior Environmental Advisor- Fuels stored on site include petrol and diesel fuel, oil for small plant such as generators, large mobile plant is fuelled by a mobile fuel truck that brings spill mats to place under vehicles during the refuelling process. There are also chemicals stored at the water treatment area – that is in a chemical container with a bund. | At the time of this IEA, construction works were underway. No significant storage of fuels and oils was present at the site. Photographs 1, 2 and 3 shows a self-bunded dangerous goods storage, chemical and construction stage fuel storage. | There is (during this construction phase) no bulk storage of fuel on-site. Minor fuel, oil and chemicals are stored appropriately in bunded containers. Construction of the bulk fuel tanks was underway at the time of this IEA. The bunding for those tanks meets the requirement of Condition B17 b). | Complies | |
| | | a) the requirements of all relevant Australian Standards; | | | | | Complies | |
| | | b) within a bunded area with a minimum bund capacity of 110% of the volume of the largest single stored vessel within the bund; and | Complies | | | | | |
| | | c) the NSW EPA's Storing and Handling of Liquids: Environmental Protection – Participants Handbook if the chemicals are liquids. | Complies | | | | | |
| | | d) In the event of an inconsistency between the requirements in (a) to (c) above, the most stringent requirement shall prevail to the extent of the inconsistency. | | | | | Noted | |
| S3 B18 | Hazards and Risks General | For the purpose of condition B17, any tanks or other storage vessels that are interconnected and may distribute their contents either by gravity or automated pumps must be considered a single vessel. | | | | | Noted | |

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| Cond. | Title | Condition | Documents Reviewed | Interviews / Conversations | Inspections / Observations | Assessment | Compliance Finding | Recommendation |
| S3 B18A | Temporary Workforce Accommodation Facility | The proponent must: a) minimise the fire risks of the development, including managing vegetation fuel loads on-site; | | | Fire extinguishers were available at the facility. There is no vegetation on the facility. | Firefighting equipment has been installed at the facility. | Complies | |
| | | b) ensure that the development; i) complies with the relevant asset protection requirements in the Rural Fire Service's Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2019 (or equivalent) and Standards for Asset Protection Zones. The entire site must be managed as an Inner Protection Area in accordance with the requirements of Appendix 4 of Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2019; and ii) is suitably equipped to respond to any fires on site, including connection to the Hunter Water reticulated system or provision of a 20,000 litre water supply tank fitted with a 65 mm Storz fitting and a Fire and Rescue NSW compatible suction connection; | P1906 Snowy Hydro Project BAL-12.5 Rectification Works ITR, signed and dated 4 January 2024. | | Asset protection buffer zone (between buildings and site boundary) is in place. Fire fighting equipment and water supply available (static water supply). | BAL requirements and Asset protection requirements were verified on 4 January 2024. Firefighting equipment and static water supply is available. | Complies | |
| | | c) ensure that the Temporary Workforce Accommodation Facility is designed and constructed to ensure that: i) all accommodation units are located within the 10 kW/m2 setback from bushfire prone land ii) all other building structures within the facility site are located within the 12.5 bush fire attack level and are constructed to the relevant construction standard of Australian Standard AS3959-2018 Construction of buildings in bushfire-prone areas; iii) there is an on-site shelter located within the 12.5 bush fire attack level capable of housing all potential occupants that is constructed to a minimum of a BAL-12.5 construction standard of Australian Standard AS3959-2018 Construction of buildings in bushfire-prone areas iv) there is a 10 metre defensible space around the perimeter that permits unobstructed vehicle access and is managed as an asset protection zone (including the defensible space). The vehicular access to the site must be compliant with Table 6.8C of Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2019; and v) a minimum 2.1 metre high radiant heat shield made of non-combustible materials must be constructed along the eastern and southern boundary of the limit of significant vegetation. All posts and rails must be constructed of steel. The bottom of the fence is to be in direct contact with the finished ground level or plinth; | Occupation Certificate issued by the GMA Certification Group to Australian Portable Camps Pty Ltd for New Construction of Accommodation Buildings, Office, Amenities Blocks, Dining Hall, Gymnasium, Wet Mess & Workshop, dated 19 December 2023. | | The temporary accommodation facility was operating at the time of the IEA. | The temporary accommodation facility Occupation Certificate has been issued, confirming compliance with the relevant codes and standards. | Complies | |

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| Cond. | Title | Condition | Documents Reviewed | Interviews / Conversations | Inspections / Observations | Assessment | Compliance Finding | Recommendation |
| S3 B18A | Temporary Workforce Accommodation Facility | d) assist the Rural Fire Service and emergency services as much as practicable if there is a fire in the vicinity of the site; and | | | | | Noted | |
| | | e) notify the relevant local emergency management committee following construction of the development, and prior to commencing operations. | Email from SHL (A van der Kroft) to Local Emergency Management Committee (P McLachlan) titled "Hunter Power Project – Bushfire Emergency Management and Evacuation Plan", dated 18 December 2023. | Senior Environmental Advisor – Sent by email to LEMC on 18/12/2023 "Snowy Hydro Limited Mail - Hunter Power Project - Bush Fire Emergency Management and Evacuation Plan.pdf". | | The temporary accommodation facility commenced operations (first occupant arrival) on 2 January 2024. A Copy of the Bushfire Emergency Management and Evacuation Plan was sent to the Local Emergency Management Committee representative on 18 December 2023. | Complies | |
| S3 B18B | Temporary Workforce Accommodation Facility | Prior to occupying the Temporary Workforce Accommodation Facility, the Proponent must prepare a Bush Fire Emergency Management and Evacuation Plan for the Temporary Workforce Accommodation Facility consistent with the NSW Rural Fire Service document, A Guide to Developing a Bush Fire Emergency Management and Evacuation Plan. The plan must: a) be prepared by a suitably qualified bushfire planning and design accredited level 3 bushfire expert; | Emergency Management and Evacuation Plan Temporary workforce accommodation facility Hunter Power Project, Revision 1.0, dated 13 December 2023. | Senior Environmental Advisor -The Plan was prepared by Nicole van Dorst (B. App. Sc., Grad. Dip., BPAD-L3 23610). Note that the first HPP Occupants commenced their stays at the Facility on 2 January 2024. | | The Emergency Management and Evacuation Plan was prepared by Waratah Bushfire, an accredited bushfire planning consultant. | Complies | |
| | | b) include contact details for the local Rural Fire Service District Office; | Emergency Management and Evacuation Plan Temporary workforce accommodation facility Hunter Power Project, Revision 1.0, dated 13 December 2023. | | | A list of emergency contacts, including the RFS is provided in Section 4 of the plan. | Complies | |
| | | c) include procedures for coordinated evacuation of the site in consultation with local emergency services; | Emergency Management and Evacuation Plan Temporary workforce accommodation facility Hunter Power Project, Revision 1.0, dated 13 December 2023. | | | The Evacuation Procedures are provided in Section 5 of the plan. Those procedures include consultation with local emergency services. | Complies | |
| | | d) include procedures for the use of an on-site shelter in the case where evacuation routes cannot be accessed; and | Emergency Management and Evacuation Plan Temporary workforce accommodation facility Hunter Power Project, Revision 1.0, dated 13 December 2023. | | | Trigger for on-site shelter is detailed in Section 6 of the plan. | Complies | |
| | | e) adopt an early evacuation approach and include detailed plans of all emergency assembly areas, including on-site and off-site arrangements as stated in AS 3745 Planning for emergencies in facilities, are clearly displayed. | Emergency Management and Evacuation Plan Temporary workforce accommodation facility Hunter Power Project, Revision 1.0, dated 13 December 2023. | | | Early evacuation is discussed Section 1.1 of the Plan with detailed procedure given in Section 5 and includes plans showing emergency assembly areas. | Complies | |
| S3 B18C | Temporary Workforce Accommodation Facility | A copy of the Bush Fire Emergency Management and Evacuation Plan must be provided to the Local Emergency Management Committee and the Secretary prior to occupying the Temporary Workforce Accommodation Facility. | Email from SHL (A van der Kroft) to Cessnock Council (P McLachlan) titled "Hunter Power Project – Bushfire Emergency Management and Evacuation Plan", dated 18 December 2023. Email from DPHI (Major Projects) to SHL (A van der Kroft) titled "Hunter Power Project (Kurri Kurri Power Station) - Post Approval Document Received - (SSI-12590060-PA-68)", dated 29 December 2023. | Senior Environmental Advisor – Sent by email to LEMC on 18/12/2023 "Snowy Hydro Limited Mail - Hunter Power Project - Bush Fire Emergency Management and Evacuation Plan.pdf" Submitted via Planning Portal as SSI-12590060-PA-68 "Snowy Hydro Limited Mail - Hunter Power Project (Kurri Kurri Power Station) - Post Approval Document Received - (SSI-12590060-PA-68).pdf". | | The temporary accommodation facility commenced operations (first occupant arrival) on 2 January 2024. A Copy of the Bushfire Emergency Management and Evacuation Plan was sent to the representative (P McLachlan) on 18 December 2023. DPE acknowledged receipt of a copy of the plan on 29 December 2023. | Complies | |

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| Cond. | Title | Condition | Documents Reviewed | Interviews / Conversations | Inspections / Observations | Assessment | Compliance Finding | Recommendation |
| S3 B19 | Aviation Safety | <p>Prior to the commencement of installation of the gas turbines, the Proponent must provide an updated plume rise assessment report based on the final generator design to the satisfaction of the Secretary. The report must:</p> <p>a) be prepared in consultation with Civil Aviation Safety Authority, Department of Defence and RAAF Base Williamstown;</p> | <p>Hunter Power Project Revised Plume Rise Assessment for Final Design, Revision 1, dated 3 June 2022.</p> <p>Letter from DoD (C Mangion) to SHL (I Smith) titled "Hunter Power Project (Kurri Kurri Power Station), Hart Road, Loxford NSW – updated plume rise assessment", dated 27 June 2022.</p> <p>Letter from CASA (B Parker) to DPE (C Preshaw) titled "Hunter Power Project - Kurri Kurri Power Plant", dated 27 June 2022.</p> | | | <p>The Revised Plume Assessment Report has been reviewed by the Auditor.</p> <p>Letters from DoD and CASA evidencing consultation in accordance with this Condition was sighted by the Auditor.</p> <p>There was no change to the Plume Assessment Report during the audit period.</p> | Complies | |
| | | <p>b) demonstrate that the critical plume extent is consistent with the predictions in the EIS; and</p> | <p>Hunter Power Project Revised Plume Rise Assessment for Final Design, Revision 1, dated 3 June 2022.</p> | | | <p>The Revised Plume Rise Assessment report concludes that the plume rise heights are consistent (in fact having a slightly lower impact) compared to the predictions in the Environmental Impact Statement.</p> | Complies | |
| | | <p>c) demonstrate that reasonable and feasible at source mitigation measures have been applied to further minimise the critical plume extent.</p> | <p>Hunter Power Project Revised Plume Rise Assessment for Final Design, Revision 1, dated 3 June 2022.</p> | | | <p>The Revised Plume Rise Assessment report concludes that the plume rise heights are consistent (in fact having a slightly lower impact) compared to the predictions in the Environmental Impact Statement.</p> | Complies | |
| S3 B20 | Aviation Safety | <p>Prior to the commencement of installation of the gas turbines, the Proponent must submit final design drawings to the following organisations:</p> <p>a) Department of Defence – Land Planning and Regulation Branch;</p> | <p>Letter from SHL (I Smith) to the Department of Defence – Land Planning and Regulation Branch (T Hogan) titled "Hunter Power Project – Final Design Drawings", dated 7 July 2022.</p> <p>Letter from DPE (S O'Donoghue) to SHL (I Smith) titled "Hunter Power Project (SSI-12590060) – Final Design Drawings" dated 22 September 2022.</p> | | | <p>SHL has provided a copy of the final stack design drawings to DoD as required by this Condition.</p> <p>The DPE Letter confirms that the Final Design was issued to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Defence – Land Planning and Regulation Branch • RAAF Base – Williamstown • Aeronautical Information Service – Air Force • Air Services Australia • Newcastle Airport Pty Ltd • Cessnock Airport and • Maitland Airport. | Complies | |
| | | <p>b) RAAF Williamstown</p> | <p>Letter from SHL (I Smith) to the Department of Defence – Land Planning and Regulation Branch (T Hogan) titled "Hunter Power Project – Final Design Drawings", dated 7 July 2022.</p> | <p>SHL Senior Environmental Advisor– We worked with our specialist aeronautical subcontractor to understand those entities within DoD as well as various telephone enquiries and emails with CASA and DoD and were satisfied that these entities are covered by DoD Land Planning and Regulation/ CASA processes.</p> | | <p>SHL has provided a copy of the final stack design drawings to RAAF Williamstown as required by this Condition.</p> | Complies | |
| | | <p>c) Aeronautical Information Services – Air Force</p> | | | | <p>SHL has provided a copy of the final stack design drawings to Aeronautical Information Services as required by this Condition.</p> | Complies | |
| | | <p>d) Air Services Australia</p> | <p>Letter from SHL (I Smith) to Air Services Australia (D Jackson) titled "Hunter Power Project – Final Design Drawings", dated 7 July 2022.</p> | | | <p>SHL has provided a copy of the final stack design drawings to Air Services Australia as required by this Condition.</p> | Complies | |

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| Cond. | Title | Condition | Documents Reviewed | Interviews / Conversations | Inspections / Observations | Assessment | Compliance Finding | Recommendation |
| S3 B20 | Aviation Safety | e) Newcastle Airport Limited | Letter from SHL (I Smith) to Newcastle Airport (B Kochanski) titled "Hunter Power Project – Final Design Drawings", dated 7 July 2022. | | | SHL has provided a copy of the final stack design drawings to Newcastle Airport as required by this Condition. | Complies | |
| | | f) Cessnock Airport; and | Letter from SHL (I Smith) to Cessnock Airport (T Allan) titled "Hunter Power Project – Final Design Drawings", dated 7 July 2022. | | | SHL has provided a copy of the final stack design drawings to Cessnock Airport as required by this Condition. | Complies | |
| | | g) Maitland Airport | Letter from SHL (I Smith) to Maitland Airport (G Thompson) titled "Hunter Power Project – Final Design Drawings", dated 7 July 2022. | | | SHL has provided a copy of the final stack design drawings to Maitland Airport as required by this Condition. | Complies | |
| | | Evidence of notification/ provision of detailed design drawings must be submitted to the Secretary prior to the commencement of installation of the gas turbines. | Post Approval Submission Form – Evidence of submission Aviation. | | | Document transmission (Post Approval) form evidencing submission of final design drawings was sighted by the Auditor. | Complies | |
| S3 B21 | Noise Limit Conditions | Operational noise generated at the premises must not exceed the noise limits at the times and locations in Table 5 below (or alternative limits as permitted by the applicable EPL). | | | | Operation of the power station has not commenced. This monitoring condition has not yet been triggered. | Not Triggered | |
| | Table 5 | Location | Noise Limits in dB(A) | | | | | |
| | | | Day | Evening | Night | Night | | |
| | | L _{Aeq} (15 minute) | L _{Aeq} (15 minute) | L _{Aeq} (15 minute) | L _{AFmax} | | | |
| | | 13 Bishops Bridge Road, Sawyers Creek | 50 | 58 | 41 | 52 | | |
| | | 10 Dawes Road, Loxford | 45 | 45 | 43 | 53 | | |
| | | 20 Bowditch Ave, Loxford | 43 | 43 | 38 | 52 | | |
| | | 464 Cessnock Road, Gilleston Heights | 40 | 35 | 35 | 52 | | |
| 58 Sawyers Gully Road, Sawyers Gully | 42 | 42 | 38 | 52 | | | | |
| S3 B22 | Noise Limit Conditions | | | | | | | |
| S3 B22 S3 B23 | Table 6 | The noise limits set out in condition B21 apply under the meteorological conditions described in Table 6. | | | | | Noted | |
| | Table 6 Noise Limit Conditions | Assessment Period | Meteorological Conditions | | | | | |
| | | Day | Stability Categories A, B, C and D with wind speeds up to and including 3 m/s at 10 m above ground level | | | | | |
| | | Evening | Stability Categories A, B, C and D with wind speeds up to and including 3 m/s at 10 m above ground level | | | | | |
| Night | Stability Categories A, B, C and D with wind speeds up to and including 3 m/s at 10 m above ground level; or Stability Category E with wind speeds up to and including 2 m/s at 10 m above ground level | | | | | | | |
| S3 B24 | Noise Limit Conditions | For those meteorological conditions not referred to in condition B22, the noise limits that apply are the noise limits in condition B21 plus 5 dB(A). | | | | | Noted | |

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| S3 B25 | Noise Limit Conditions | For the purposes of condition B22, the meteorological conditions are to be determined from meteorological data obtained from the meteorological weather station (point to be established) and the stability category shall be determined using the sigma-theta data method (section D1.4) from Fact Sheet D of the <i>Noise Policy for Industry</i> (NSW EPA, 2017), or latest version. | | | | Operation of the power station has not commenced. This monitoring condition has not yet been triggered. | Not Triggered | |
| S3 B26 | Meteorological Monitoring | For the purpose of determining the noise generated from the premises, the modifying factor corrections in Table C1 in Fact Sheet C of the <i>Noise Policy for Industry</i> (NSW EPA, 2017), or latest version, must be applied, if appropriate, to the noise measurements by the noise monitoring equipment. | | | | Operation of the power station has not commenced. This monitoring condition has not yet been triggered. | Not Triggered | |
| S3 B26 | Meteorological Monitoring | Prior to the commencement of the installation of the gas turbines, unless otherwise agreed by the Secretary, the Proponent must ensure there is a suitable meteorological weather station operating located on the premises or at a location approved by the EPA that: | SHL Letter to DPE dated 19 December 2022. DPE Letter to SHL dated 22 December 2022. | SHL Senior Environmental Advisor – The Meteorological Station can't be built until the end of construction so either a temporary one will be installed, or as the met station data is only required for commissioning and operation, it is most likely that SHL will apply to the Secretary to delay this requirement. | A meteorological monitoring station has not yet been installed at the site. | DPE have approved an extension of time for the meteorological weather station prior to the operation of the development. The operation of the development has not commenced. Therefore, this condition has not yet been triggered. | Not Triggered | |
| | | a) complies with the NSW EPA's <i>Approved Methods for Sampling and Analysis of Air Pollutants in New South Wales</i> (or latest version); | | | | | Not Triggered | |
| | | b) is capable of continuous real-time measurement of wind speed, wind direction, sigma theta, air temperature, rainfall and relative humidity; and | | | | | Not Triggered | |
| | | c) is capable of measuring meteorological conditions in accordance with the <i>Noise Policy for Industry</i> (EPA 2017 or latest version). | | | | | Not Triggered | |
| S3 B27 | Noise Monitoring | Within six months of full operation post commissioning attended noise validation monitoring must be undertaken during a period of full load and must: | | | | Operation of the power station has not commenced. This monitoring condition has not yet been triggered. | Not Triggered | |
| | | a) occur at <i>each</i> receiver location listed in condition B21; | | | | Operation of the power station has not commenced. This monitoring condition has not yet been triggered. | Not Triggered | |
| | | b) occur annually in a reporting period; | | | | Operation of the power station has not commenced. This monitoring condition has not yet been triggered. | Not Triggered | |
| | | c) occur during day, evening and night period as defined in the <i>Noise Policy for Industry</i> (or latest version) over two 15-minute compliance measurements during each period; | | | | Operation of the power station has not commenced. This monitoring condition has not yet been triggered. | Not Triggered | |
| | | d) occur for three consecutive operating days. | | | | Operation of the power station has not commenced. This monitoring condition has not yet been triggered. | Not Triggered | |

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| Cond. | Title | Condition | Documents Reviewed | Interviews / Conversations | Inspections / Observations | Assessment | Compliance Finding | Recommendation |
| S3 B28 | Noise Monitoring Report | On completion of post commissioning attended noise validation monitoring required in condition B27, that shows compliance with conditions B21 and B23, ongoing attended noise monitoring must be undertaken to the satisfaction of the EPA. | | | | Operation of the power station has not commenced. This monitoring condition has not yet been triggered. | Not Triggered | |
| S3 B29 | Noise Monitoring Report | A noise compliance assessment report must be submitted to the EPA and the Secretary within 30 days (or an alternative timeframe agreed by the Secretary) of the completion of the post commissioning validation monitoring and any annual monitoring. | | | | Operation of the power station has not commenced. This monitoring condition has not yet been triggered. | Not Triggered | |
| | | The assessment must be prepared by a qualified person and include: a) an assessment of compliance with noise limits presented in conditions B21 and B23; and | | | | Operation of the power station has not commenced. This monitoring condition has not yet been triggered. | Not Triggered | |
| | | b) an outline of any management actions taken within the monitoring period to address any exceedances of the limits contained in conditions B21 and B23. | | | | Operation of the power station has not commenced. This monitoring condition has not yet been triggered. | Not Triggered | |
| S3 B30 | Hours of Construction | All construction work at the premises must be conducted between 7 am and 6 pm Monday to Friday and between 8 am and 1 pm Saturdays and at no time on Sundays and public holidays. | Hunter Power Project Site Familiarisation Induction (prepared by UGL). Complaints Register. | SHL Senior Environmental Advisor – no complaints related to out of hours work were received during the audit period. | | No complaints related to out-of-hours work were received during the audit period. No evidence of breaches of the work hours limits was found during this IEA. Note that approval for the extension of working hours was requested and approved, Refer to Condition B32 below. The environmental induction provided to site (construction personnel) includes appropriate information regarding construction working hours. | Complies | |
| S3 B31 | Exceptions to Construction Hours | The following activities may be carried out outside the recommended construction hours: a) construction that causes $L_{Aeq(15minute)}$ noise levels that are: (i) no more than 5 dB above Rating Background Level at any residence in accordance with the <i>Interim Construction Noise Guideline</i> (DECC, 2009); and (ii) no more than the Noise Management Levels specified in Table 3 of the <i>Interim Construction Noise Guideline</i> (DECC, 2009) at other sensitive land uses; or b) for the delivery of materials required by the police or other authorities for safety reasons; or c) where it is required in an emergency to avoid the loss of lives, property and/or to prevent environmental harm; or d) as approved through the process outlined in condition B32 of this approval. | Hunter Power Project Site Familiarisation Induction (prepared by UGL). | SHL Senior Environmental Advisor – There were no OS/OM deliveries during the audit period | | | Noted | |

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| Cond. | Title | Condition | Documents Reviewed | Interviews / Conversations | Inspections / Observations | Assessment | Compliance Finding | Recommendation | |
| S3 B32 | Variation of Construction Hours | <p>The hours of construction activities specified under condition B30 of this approval may be varied with the prior written approval of the Secretary. Any request to alter the hours of construction shall be:</p> <p>a) considered on a case-by-case or activity-specific basis;</p> | <p>Hunter Power Project 24/6 Construction Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment, prepared by Jacobs Group (Australia) Pty Ltd, dated 28 February 2024.</p> <p>Letter from SHL (D Young) to DPHI (J Turner) titled "Hunter Power Project 12590060 – variation of construction hours", dated 4 March 2024.</p> <p>Letter from SHL (E Bayliss) to DPHI (J Turner) titled "Hunter Power Project 12590060 – variation of construction hours", dated 12 June 2024.</p> <p>Letter from SHL (E Bayliss) to DPHI (J Turner) titled "Hunter Power Project 12590060 – variation of construction hours", dated 3 September 2024.</p> <p>EPA Licence variation notice 21627, dated 8 May 2023.</p> <p>EPA Licence variation notice 1640085, dated 2 July 2023.</p> <p>Letter from DPHI (R Hawkeswood) to SHL (D Young) titled "Hunter Power Project Extension to Variation of Construction Hours" dated 26 March 2024.</p> <p>Letter from DPHI (S O'Donoghue) to SHL (E Bayliss) titled "Hunter Power Project Extension to Variation of Construction Hours" dated 28 June 2024.</p> | <p>SHL Senior Environmental Advisor – We continue to have OOHW Approvals in place.</p> <p>Where the OOHW approvals lapsed, HPP continued to work outside of standard construction hours under the an exception to these construction hours which is provided for in both the EPL and SSI Approval (Conditions L5.2 and B31 respectively) which state that;</p> <p>The following activities may be carried out outside the construction hours:</p> <p>(a) construction that causes LAeq(15minute) noise levels that are:</p> <p>(i) no more than 5 dB above Rating Background Level at any residence in accordance with the Interim Construction Noise Guideline (DECC, 2009); and</p> <p>(ii) no more than the Noise Management Levels specified in Table 3 of the Interim Construction Noise Guideline (DECC, 2009) at other sensitive land uses....</p> <p>Given that we have completed 13 rounds of monthly noise monitoring with no exceedances identified, and no complaints have been received in that time, we are confident that our out of hours works are compliant with the above exception. Further, there is a noise monitor available on site for the use of the night shift supervisor to conduct checks of the noise levels should there be any potential issues.</p> | | | <p>During the Audit period, SHL submitted a request for approval (to both the EPA and DPHI) to extend the approved working hours for the remainder of the project to 30 December 2024.</p> <p>DPHI subsequently approved the extension of 24/hr. work to 30 September 2024.</p> <p>The EPA granted a licence variation to allow 24 hour work to the end of 2024.</p> | Complies | |
| | | <p>b) accompanied by details of the nature and justification for activities to be conducted during the varied construction hours</p> | | | | | <p>The SHL application for variation of working hours included an explanation of the work to be undertaken and justification for the variation.</p> | Complies | |
| | | <p>c) accompanied by written evidence that appropriate consultation with potentially affected sensitive receivers and notification of relevant Council(s) (and other relevant agencies) has been and will be undertaken</p> | <p>Consultation log 24/7 dated 7 July 2023.</p> | | | | <p>Records of consultation with potentially impacted residents was sighted by the Auditor.</p> | Complies | |
| S3 B32 | Variation of Construction Hours | <p>d) all feasible and reasonable noise mitigation measures have been put in place; and</p> | <p>Memorandum titled "Hunter Power Project 24/7 Construction Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment, Jacobs Group Australia, Pty Ltd dated 25 July 2023.</p> | | | <p>The construction noise and vibration impact assessment for the proposed out of hours work documents the proposed mitigation measures.</p> | Complies | | |

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| Cond. | Title | Condition | Documents Reviewed | Interviews / Conversations | Inspections / Observations | Assessment | Compliance Finding | Recommendation | |
| S3 B32 | Variation of Construction Hours | e) accompanied by a noise impact assessment consistent with the requirements of the Interim Construction Noise Guideline (DECCW, 2009), or latest version. | Memorandum titled "Hunter Power Project 24/7 Construction Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment, Jacobs Group Australia, Pty Ltd dated 25 July 2023. | | | The original SHL application for variation of working hours included a Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment that provided details of the works to be undertaken and justification for the variation. That assessment has been relied on for the 2024 applications. | Complies | | |
| S3 B33 | Biodiversity Management Plan | Prior to commencement of construction, unless otherwise agreed by the Secretary, the Proponent must prepare a Biodiversity Management Plan to the satisfaction of the Secretary. This plan must: | Hunter Power Project Biodiversity Management Plan, Amended Final Version 4, dated 29 December 2023. Letter from ER (G Byrnes) to SHL (I Smith) titled "Hunter Power Project Biodiversity Management Plan Amended Final 4 (21 February 2022)", dated 13 February 2024. Letter from DPPI (S O'Donoghue) to SHL (D Young) titled "Revision of Management Plans following Modification 2 and Independent Environmental Audit – Hunter Power Project (SS_-12590060)", dated 12 March 2024. | | | No changes were made to this plan during this audit period. A current version of the Biodiversity Management Plan was prepared by Jacobs (a suitably experienced and qualified consultant) as a result of Modification 2 to the Approval. The revised plan was endorsed by the ER on 13 February 2024. The plan was submitted to DPPI for review and approval in accordance with Condition C5. | Complies | | |
| | | a) be prepared by a suitably qualified and experienced biodiversity expert/s; | | | | | | | |
| | | (b) be prepared in consultation with the BCS; | Letter from DPPI (S O'Donoghue) to SHL (D Young) titled "Revision of Management Plans following Modification 2 and Independent Environmental Audit – Hunter Power Project (SS_-12590060)", dated 12 March 2024. | | | | Correspondence from BCS (dated 29 November 2021) demonstrated that BCS was consulted during the preparation of the original BMP. DPPI waived the consultation requirements of this Condition for the current revision of this plan. | Complies | |
| | | (c) describe the short, medium and long-term measures to be undertaken to manage vegetation and fauna habitat on the site; | Hunter Power Project Biodiversity Management Plan, Amended Final Version 4, dated 29 December 2023. | | | | Section 3 of the plan describes the management of flora and fauna on the site. | Complies | |
| | | (d) describe how biodiversity offsets required in condition B34 will be retired; | Hunter Power Project Biodiversity Management Plan, Amended Final Version 4, dated 29 December 2023. | | | | Section 2.6 of the plan describes the biodiversity off-sets required. | Complies | |
| | | (e) describe measures to be implemented within the site to minimise: (i) the amount of clearing; (ii) impacts on fauna, including undertaking pre-clearance surveys and maximising the salvage of resources for habitat enhancement; (iii) impacts on threatened flora and fauna species or ecological communities within the development footprint and its surrounds; (iv) the spread of weeds and fungal pathogens; (v) the generation and dispersion of sediment to watercourses; and (vi) light spill from night works; and | Hunter Power Project Biodiversity Management Plan, Amended Final Version 4, dated 29 December 2023. | | | | Section 3 of the plan describes the management of flora and fauna on the site. | Complies | |
| (f) include a program to monitor, evaluate and report on the effectiveness of the measures. | Hunter Power Project Biodiversity Management Plan, Amended Final Version 4, dated 29 December 2023. | | | | Section 4.2 of the plan describes the monitoring of flora and fauna on the site. | Complies | | | |
| S3 B34 | Biodiversity Offsets | The Proponent must implement the approved Biodiversity Management Plan. | Vegetation Clearing Checklists (25/7/22 and 27/7/2022). Vegetation Clearance Ecological Report, Hunter Power Project, Jacobs, Rev 2 dated 30 June 2023. | | Most of the site has been cleared, however a small section at the northern end of the site has been retained. | No vegetation clearing was undertaken during this audit period. | Complies | | |

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| S3 B34 | Biodiversity Offsets | Prior to the commencement of any construction activity that would impact on any of the vegetation communities or species identified in Tables 7 and 8 below, the Proponent must retire biodiversity credits of a number and class specified in Tables 7 and 8 below in consultation with the BCS and to the satisfaction of BCT. | Letter from DPE (R Hawkesbury) to SHL (I Smith) titled "Hunter Power Project (SSI-1290060) - Retirement of biodiversity credits (SSI-12590060)", dated 24 January 2022. | | | Correspondence from DPE (dated 24 January 2022) verified that the required biodiversity off-sets were retired prior to commencement of construction. | Complies | | |
| | | The retirement of these credits must be carried out in accordance with the <i>NSW Biodiversity Offsets Scheme</i> and can be achieved by: (a) acquiring or retiring 'biodiversity credits' within the meaning of the <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> ; | Letter from DPE (R Hawkesbury) to SHL (I Smith) titled "Hunter Power Project (SSI-1290060) - Retirement of biodiversity credits (SSI-12590060)", dated 24 January 2022. | | | Correspondence from DPE (dated 24 January 2022) verified that the required biodiversity off-sets were retired prior to commencement of construction. | Complies | | |
| | | (b) making payments into an offset fund that has been developed by the NSW Government; or | Letter from DPE (R Hawkesbury) to SHL (I Smith) titled "Hunter Power Project (SSI-1290060) - Retirement of biodiversity credits (SSI-12590060)", dated 24 January 2022. | | | Correspondence from DPE (dated 24 January 2022) verified that the required biodiversity off-sets were retired prior to commencement of construction and payments were made into the Biodiversity Conservation Fund. | Complies | | |
| | | (c) funding a biodiversity conservation action that benefits the threatened entity impacted by the development, consistent with the 'Ancillary Rules: Biodiversity conservation actions'. | Letter from DPE (R Hawkesbury) to SHL (I Smith) titled "Hunter Power Project (SSI-1290060) - Retirement of biodiversity credits (SSI-12590060)", dated 24 January 2022. | | | Payments to the Biodiversity Conservation Fund were made by SHL. Therefore, this condition was not triggered. | Not Triggered | | |
| S3 B34 | Table 7 | Written evidence of the retirement of these credits must be provided to the Department prior to commencing construction activity. | Letter from DPE (R Hawkesbury) to SHL (I Smith) titled "Hunter Power Project (SSI-1290060) - Retirement of biodiversity credits (SSI-12590060)", dated 24 January 2022. | | | Correspondence from DPE (dated 24 January 2022) verified that the required biodiversity off-sets were retired prior to commencement of construction. | Complies | | |
| S3 B34 | Table 7 Table 8 | Vegetation Community | | PCT ID | Credits Required | | | | |
| | | Parramatta Red Gum – Narrow-leaved Apple – Prickly-leaved Paperbark shrubby woodland in the Cessnock-Kurri Kurri area | | 1633 | 13 | | | | |
| | Table 8 | Species | Credits Required | | | | | | |
| | | Earp's Gum | 74 | | | | | | |
| | | Southern Myotis | 9 | | | | | | |
| Regent Honeyeater | 14 | | | | | | | | |
| Common Planigale | 9 | | | | | | | | |
| S3 B35 | Water Supply | The Proponent must ensure it has sufficient water for the development; and if necessary, adjust the scale of development on site to match its available water supply. | Hunter Power Project Water Management Plan, Final, dated 15 January 2024. | | | Site water balances for the construction phase and operational phase are presented in Sections 4.1 and 4a) of the Water Management Plan. Based on the details provided in the Plan the Auditor has concluded that the Proponent has identified water supply requirements appropriate to the scale of the development. Construction phase water is being sourced from the Hunter Water (municipal) system and on-site stormwater retention basins. | Complies | | |

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| S3 B36 | Water Quality | The Proponent must ensure that all surface water discharges from the site comply with all relevant provisions of the POEO Act, including any discharge limits (both volume and quality) set for the development in any EPL. | <p>UGL Incident Register.</p> <p>Environment Protection Licence No. 21627.</p> <p>Monthly Environmental Monthly Report dated 30 April 2024</p> <p>Hunter Power Project Environment Inspection Report Precinct 3B (completed by SHL), dated 3 June 2024.</p> <p>CPESC work sheets (documenting inspections of the ERSED system by G Fletcher), dated 4 April 2024, 24 April 2024 and 30 April to 9 May 2024</p> <p>Memo from Site Civil Engineer (G Williams) stating that the capacity of the sediment basin on Lot 1 would be reduced to 0.608 MI.</p> <p>Surface Water Monitoring Results are available on the project website.</p> <p>HPP Erosion & Sediment Control Plans (prepared by UGL, dated 20 September 2024.</p> | | <p>Surface water controls were inspected during the IEA. Surface runoff from the construction drain to two on-site retention basins (Photographs 4 and 5). Water collected in those basins is used for dust suppression or where necessary treated in an on-site water treatment plant and discharged from site in accordance with the requirements of the EPL.</p> <p>The controls observed on-site were consistent with the ERSED plans, with the following exception:</p> <p>Transmission Line pylon foundations were being installed were impinging on both basins. The main basin (located at the north-western end of the site volume was reduced to approximately 0.61MI and the volume of the Lot 2 basin decreased slightly. To compensate the (permanent) separator pit has been connected and can store 0.85 MI.</p> <p>The permanent site water discharge construction has been completed (Photograph 6).</p> | <p>Seven minor (not reportable) water related incidents were reported during this audit period.</p> <p>Fifteen controlled water discharges were undertaken during this audit period. Water testing results indicated that the discharges met all discharge criteria.</p> <p>The results of surface water monitoring (for pH, TSS, Oil and Grease and total solids) undertaken between February September 2023 and October 2024 are available on the project website. No exceedances were reported.</p> <p>The controls observed on-site were consistent with the ERSED plans, with the exception of the two retention basins, however with the addition of the permanent separator basin, adequate stormwater retention remains available. Refer to Section 7.9.1 above</p> <p>No evidence of off-site discharges of sediment laden water was observed during the site inspection.</p> | Complies | Refer to Section 6.2.1 above. |
| S3 B37 | Water Quality | All process operational wastewater generated by the activity must: | | | | Operation of the power station has not commenced. This monitoring condition has not yet been triggered. | Not Triggered | |
| | | <p>a) be discharged to the sewer network subject to a trade waste agreement with Hunter Water Corporation; or</p> <p>b) captured and stored at the premises and must only be disposed of by tanker transport to a licensed wastewater facility.</p> | | | | Operation of the power station has not commenced. This monitoring condition has not yet been triggered. | Not Triggered | |

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| S3 B38 | Water Quality | Prior to the commencement of any construction the Proponent must install and maintain suitable sediment and erosion controls onsite, in accordance with the relevant requirements of <i>Managing Urban Stormwater: Soils and Construction – Volume 2A Installation of Services</i> (DECC 2008). | <p>UGL Incident Register.</p> <p>Environment Protection Licence No. 21627.</p> <p>Monthly Environmental Monthly Report dated 30 April 2024</p> <p>Hunter Power Project Environment Inspection Report Precinct 3B (completed by SHL), dated 3 June 2024.</p> <p>CPESC work sheets (documenting inspections of the ERSED system by G Fletcher), dated 4 April 2024, 24 April 2024 and 30 April to 9 May 2024</p> <p>Memo from Site Civil Engineer (G Williams) stating that the capacity of the sediment basin on Lot 1 would be reduced to 0.608 MI.</p> <p>Surface Water Monitoring Results are available on the project website.</p> <p>HPP Erosion & Sediment Control Plans (prepared by UGL, dated 20 September 2024.</p> | | <p>Surface water controls were inspected during the IEA. Surface runoff from the construction drain to two on-site retention basins (Photographs 4 and 5). Water collected in those basins is used for dust suppression or where necessary treated in an on-site water treatment plant and discharged from site in accordance with the requirements of the EPL.</p> <p>The controls observed on-site were consistent with the ERSED plans, with the following exception:</p> <p>Transmission Line pylon foundations were being installed impinging on both basins. The main basin (located at the north-western end of the site volume was reduced to approximately 0.61MI and the volume of the Lot 2 basin decreased slightly. To compensate, the (permanent) separator pit has been connected and can store 0.85 MI.</p> <p>The permanent site water discharge construction has been completed (Photograph 6).</p> | <p>Seven minor (not reportable) water related incidents were reported during this audit period.</p> <p>Fifteen controlled water discharges were undertaken during this audit period. Water testing results indicated that the discharges met all discharge criteria.</p> <p>The results of surface water monitoring (for pH, TSS, Oil and Grease and total solids) undertaken between February September 2023 and October 2024 are available on the project website. No exceedances were reported.</p> <p>The controls observed on-site were consistent with the ERSED plans, with the exception of the two retention basins, however with the addition of the permanent separator basin, adequate stormwater retention remains available. Refer to Section 7.9.1 above</p> <p>No evidence of off-site discharges of sediment laden water was observed during the site inspection.</p> | Complies | Refer to Section 6.2.1 above. |
| S3 B39 | Acid Sulphate Soils | The Proponent must ensure that any construction activities in identified areas of acid sulphate soil risk are undertaken in accordance with the <i>Acid Sulphate Soil Manual</i> (Acid Sulphate Soil Management Advisory Committee, 1998). | <p>Acid Sulphate Soil Management Plan, Hart Road, Loxford NSW, prepared by ADE Consulting Group, Version v1f, dated 10 June 2022.</p> <p>UGL Incident Register.</p> | SHL Senior Environmental Advisor–no acid sulphate soils are currently being treated on-site at this time. | | <p>As noted by previous audits, an acid sulphate soils management plan has been prepared by the civil contractor (Robson Civil). The plan provides appropriate procedures for the identification and management of ASS.</p> <p>No acid sulfate soils were being treated on-site at the time of this IEA.</p> | Complies | |

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| S3 B40 | Water Management Plan | <p>Prior to the commencement of construction, unless the Secretary agrees otherwise, the Proponent must prepare a Water Management Plan for the development to the satisfaction of the Secretary. This plan must:</p> <p>a) be prepared by a suitably qualified and experienced person/s whose appointment has been endorsed by the Secretary;</p> | <p>Hunter Power Project Water Management Plan, Rev 3, dated 15 January 2024.</p> <p>Letter from ER (G Byrnes) to SHL (I Smith) titled "Hunter Power Project Water Management Plan Version 3 (15 January 2024)", dated 13 February 2024.</p> <p>Letter from DPHI (S O'Donoghue) to SHL (D Young) titled "Revision of Management Plans following Modification 2 and Independent Environmental Audit – Hunter Power Project (SS_-12590060)", dated 12 March 2024.</p> | | | <p>The Water Management Plan was revised during the previous audit period to include details of the temporary accommodation facility approved under Modification 2.</p> <p>The revised plan was reviewed and endorsed by the ER.</p> | Complies | |
| | | <p>b) be prepared in consultation with EPA, DPE Water, Hunter Water Corporation, and Council;</p> | <p>Letter from DPHI (S O'Donoghue) to SHL (D Young) titled "Revision of Management Plans following Modification 2 and Independent Environmental Audit – Hunter Power Project (SS_-12590060)", dated 12 March 2024.</p> | | | <p>Correspondence verifying that the required consultation was undertaken during the preparation of the original Construction Water Management Plan.</p> <p>DPHI waived the consultation requirements of this Condition for the current revision of this plan.</p> | Complies | |
| | | <p>c) include a: (i) Site Water Balance that includes details of:</p> <p>a) predicted annual inflows to and outflows from the site;</p> <p>b) sources and security of water supply, including reasonable and feasible measures to minimise potable water demand through detailed design and operations;</p> <p>c) water and wastewater storage capacity;</p> <p>d) water use and management on site including demineralisation water treatment and wastewater transfer; and</p> <p>e) reporting procedure;</p> | <p>Hunter Power Project Water Management Plan, Rev 3, dated 15 January 2024.</p> | | | <p>The site water balance (construction phase) is presented in Section 4.1 of the Water Management Plan.</p> | Complies | |
| | | <p>d) include a: (ii) Surface Water Management Plan that includes:</p> <p>a) baseline data on surface water flows and quality of watercourses and/or water bodies potentially impacted by the development;</p> | <p>Hunter Power Project Water Management Plan, Rev 3, dated 15 January 2024.</p> | | | <p>The elements of the Surface Water Management Plan are covered in the Water Management Plan, specifically:</p> <p>Section 5.1 the Water Management Plan states that the Principal Contractor will develop a Surface Water Management Plan including a Basin Discharge Procedure. UGL has prepared a CEMP covering the excavation stage of construction.</p> <p>Baseline surface water data is included in Section 3.2.3 of the WMP.</p> | Complies | |

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| S3 B40 | Water Management Plan | <p>d) include a: (ii) Surface Water Management Plan that includes:</p> <p>b) a detailed description of the surface water management system; including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - erosion control measures and pollution control measures which do not require an open basin excavated below the water table where practicable; and - measures to manage spills, off site flood impacts and stream erosion flows; | <p>Hunter Power Project Water Management Plan, Rev 3, dated 15 January 2024.</p> <p>UGL HPP Surface Water Management Plan – Revision 0, 7 September 2023.</p> | | | <p>A description of the Surface Water Management System and Erosion and Sediment Controls are described in Sections 16.1 and 16.2 of the UGL CEMP as well as UGL HPP/KNSS Erosion and Sediment Control Plan.</p> <p>The Progressive Erosion and Sediment Control Plans for Earthworks and Drainage works are provided in Appendix A of the UGL Surface Water Management Plan.</p> | Complies | |
| | | <p>c) a program to monitor and evaluate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - disturbance of acid sulphate soils; - surface water discharges, stormwater and storage volumes; - rainfall and flooding events; and - the effectiveness of the surface water management systems to minimise erosion and sediment impacts; | <p>Hunter Power Project Water Management Plan, Rev 3, dated 15 January 2024.</p> <p>UGL HPP Surface Water Management Plan – Revision 0, 7 September 2023.</p> | | | <p>Water quality monitoring is covered in Section 6.2 of the WMP and the UGL Surface Water Management Plan.</p> | Complies | |
| | | <p>d) reporting procedures for the results of the monitoring program; and</p> | <p>Hunter Power Project Water Management Plan, Rev 3, dated 15 January 2024.</p> <p>UGL HPP Surface Water Management Plan – Revision 0, 7 September 2023.</p> | | | <p>Daily and weekly environmental inspections and erosion and sediment control and water quality control inspections are covered in the CEMS, the UGL Surface Water Management Plan, Section 6.2 of the WMP and Section 2.5 CMP.</p> | Complies | |
| | | <p>e) a plan to mitigate any adverse surface water impacts of the development;</p> | <p>Hunter Power Project Water Management Plan, Rev 3, dated 15 January 2024.</p> <p>UGL HPP Surface Water Management Plan – Revision 0, 7 September 2023.</p> | | | <p>Measures to mitigate any adverse surface water impacts from the Project are identified in Section 5.2 and Table 5-2 of the WMP and the UGL Surface Water Management Plan.</p> | Complies | |

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| Cond. | Title | Condition | Documents Reviewed | Interviews / Conversations | Inspections / Observations | Assessment | Compliance Finding | Recommendation |
| S3 B40 | Water Management Plan | <p>e) include a: iii) Groundwater Management Plan that includes: a) detailed baseline data of hydrogeology and groundwater levels and quality of groundwater resources potentially impacted by the development;</p> <p>b) water licencing requirements;</p> <p>c) a detailed description of the groundwater management and monitoring system, including measures to reduce potential for contamination or take of groundwater and estimated groundwater take, if the base of the pollution and surface water management basin is located less than 1 m above the water table;</p> <p>d) a program to monitor and evaluate groundwater flows, groundwater quality and the effectiveness of groundwater management systems, including</p> <p>e) reporting procedures for the results of the monitoring program;</p> <p>f) a plan to respond to any probable or actual exceedances of the groundwater performance criteria and repair, mitigate and/or offset any adverse groundwater impacts of the development.</p> | Hunter Power Project Water Management Plan, Rev 3, dated 15 January 2024. | | | <p>Table 1.3 of the Water Management Plan states that the Groundwater Management Plan described in this condition is an operational requirement and will be included in the next revision of the Water Management Plan.</p> <p>The Auditor notes that this condition does not specify that the Groundwater Management Plan is solely an operational requirement. However, the groundwater issues covered in this Condition relate to the operational phase of the project.</p> | Not Triggered | |
| S3 B41 | Protection of Heritage Items | The Proponent must ensure the development does not cause any direct or indirect impacts on heritage items located outside the approved development footprint. | <p>Incident Register.</p> <p>Hunter Power Project Cultural Heritage Management Plan, Version 4, dated 29 December 2023.</p> | SHL Environmental Assurance Advisor) – no heritage sites outside of the project site have been impacted by the construction works. | | <p>No heritage sites outside of the project site have been impacted by the construction works.</p> <p>New South Wales Archaeology Pty Ltd has been commissioned by Snowy Hydro Limited to undertake a program of heritage impact mitigation for the Project. This report describes the work undertaken to meet the requirements of the CHMP.</p> <p>No direct or indirect impacts to Heritage Items have been reported during the audit period.</p> | Complies | |
| S3 B42 | Protection of Heritage Items | If Aboriginal archaeological heritage items are unexpectedly discovered during construction of the development, all works must cease, and a suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist be brought in to assess the find. Depending on the nature of the discovery, additional assessment, recording and management measures may be required prior to the recommencement of works in the affected area. Heritage NSW - ACH and/or members of the relevant Local Aboriginal Land Council must be notified of this discovery in writing. | Incident Register. | SHL Senior Environmental Advisor– no unexpected archaeological artifacts have been found during the construction works. | | No unexpected archaeological artifacts have been found during the construction works. | Not Triggered | |

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| Cond. | Title | Condition | Documents Reviewed | Interviews / Conversations | Inspections / Observations | Assessment | Compliance Finding | Recommendation |
| S3 B43 | Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan | <p>Prior to the commencement of construction, unless the Secretary agrees otherwise, the Proponent must prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan for the development to the satisfaction of the Secretary. The plan must:</p> <p>a) be prepared by suitably qualified and experienced persons;</p> | <p>Hunter Power Project Cultural Heritage Management Plan, Version 4, dated 29 December 2023.</p> <p>Letter from DPHI (S O'Donoghue) to SHL (D Young) titled "Revision of Management Plans following Modification 2 and Independent Environmental Audit – Hunter Power Project (SS_-12590060)", dated 12 March 2024.</p> <p>Hunter (Kurri Kurri) Power Project: Cultural Heritage Update, 13 December 2023.</p> | <p>SHL Senior Environmental Advisor– this plan was not revised during this audit period.</p> | | <p>The Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan has been prepared and the final version published on 24 February 2022. The plan was prepared by Jacobs, an appropriately qualified and experienced consultant.</p> <p>The CHMP was revised during the audit period in response to Modification 2. The document will be issued to the ER for endorsement and has been approved by DPHI.</p> <p>An update to the Registered Aboriginal Parties was provided on the 25th of November 2022</p> | Complies | |
| | | <p>b) be prepared in consultation with Registered Aboriginal Parties and Heritage NSW - ACH;</p> | <p>Letter from DPHI (S O'Donoghue) to SHL (D Young) titled "Revision of Management Plans following Modification 2 and Independent Environmental Audit – Hunter Power Project (SS_-12590060)", dated 12 March 2024.</p> | | | <p>Compliance with this condition for previous versions of the plan has been verified in previous IEAs.</p> <p>DPHI waived the consultation requirements of this Condition for the current revision of this plan.</p> | Complies | |
| | | <p>c) be submitted to the Secretary for approval prior to carrying out construction under this approval;</p> | | | | <p>The revised Cultural Heritage Management Plan was approved by DPHI on 12 March 2024.</p> | Complies | |
| | | <p>d) describe the measures to be implemented on the site to:</p> <p>(i) ensure all workers receive suitable Aboriginal cultural heritage inductions prior to carrying out any activities which may cause impacts to Aboriginal objects or Aboriginal places, and that suitable records are kept of these inductions;</p> <p>(ii) protect, monitor and/or manage Aboriginal objects, including an archaeological monitoring program which includes a methodology for test and/or salvage excavations of intact alluvial deposits, and measures for the long-term management of Aboriginal objects if discovered during construction;</p> <p>(iii) protect Aboriginal objects and Aboriginal places located outside the approved disturbance area from impacts of the development;</p> <p>(iv) manage the discovery of suspected human remains and any new Aboriginal objects or Aboriginal places, including provisions for burials, over the life of the development; and</p> <p>(v) facilitate ongoing consultation and involvement of Registered Aboriginal Parties in the conservation and management of Aboriginal cultural heritage on the site;</p> | <p>Hunter Power Project Cultural Heritage Management Plan, Version 4, dated 29 December 2023.</p> | | | <p>Section 4.2 of the plan describes the induction training to be undertaken in relation to cultural heritage.</p> <p>Section 4 describes the impact mitigation and monitoring program to be implemented.</p> <p>Section 4.7 describes the unexpected finds protocol.</p> <p>An update to the Registered Aboriginal Parties was provided on the 25th of November 2022.</p> | Complies | |

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| S3 B43 | Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan | e) an unexpected finds protocol; | Hunter Power Project Cultural Heritage Management Plan, Version 4, dated 29 December 2023. | | | Section 4.1 of the plan describes the processes for on-going consultation. | Complies | |
| | | f) include a strategy for the care, control and storage of Aboriginal objects salvaged on the site, both during the life of the development and in the long term. | Hunter Power Project Cultural Heritage Management Plan, Version 4, dated 29 December 2023. | | | Section 4.6 describes the program for on-going protection and care of artifacts salvaged from the site. | Complies | |
| | | The Proponent must implement the approved Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan. | Robson Civil Hunter Power Project Environmental Induction 6422 (dated 28 April 2022). UGL Hunter Power Project 3200-0663 Project Induction 2023. Hunter (Kurri Kurri) Power Project: Cultural Heritage Update, 25 November 2023. | SHL Senior Environmental Advisor– no unexpected archaeological artifacts have been found during the construction works. | | The site induction package delivered to all construction personnel describes the key requirements, including dealing with unexpected finds, for heritage management during construction. No unexpected finds were discovered during the audit period. An update to the Registered Aboriginal Parties was provided on the 25th of November 2022. | Complies | |
| S3 B44 | Waste | Any waste materials exposed or created in association with the constructions works and proposed to be disposed of to an offsite location, must be classified in accordance with the EPA's <i>Waste Classification Guidelines</i> . | UGL Waste offsite Report 1 March 2024 to 1 September 2024. | SHL Senior Environmental Advisor - JJ Richards provide most waste collection and disposal services for the project. Central Waste (contracted by Seymour White – main civil sub-contractor, engaged by UGL) deals with some construction wastes. | Waste collection / storage areas were provided with appropriate storage bins (Photograph 7). | Waste is being appropriately managed. Records were provided to the auditor that demonstrated the appropriate classification, transport and disposal of waste. | Complies | |
| S3 B45 | Waste | Chemicals, fuels and oils used on-site must be kept in appropriately bunded areas in accordance with the requirements of all relevant Australian Standards, and/or EPA's <i>Storing and Handling of Liquids: Environment Protection- Participants Manual</i> (Department of Environment and Climate change, 2007). | | SHL Senior Environmental Advisor - Fuels stored on site include petrol and diesel fuel, oil for small plant such as generators, large mobile plant is fuelled by a mobile fuel truck that brings spill mats to place under vehicles during the refuelling process. There are also chemicals stored at the water treatment area – that is in a chemical container with a bund. | At the time of this IEA, construction works were underway. No significant storage of fuels and oils were present at the site. Photographs 1, 2 and 3 shows a self-bunded dangerous goods storage containers and the fuel storage and refueling area. | There is (during this construction phase) no bulk storage of fuel on-site. Minor fuel, oil and chemicals are stored appropriately in bunded containers. | Complies | |
| S3 B46 | Contamination | Construction cannot commence until a copy of the Site Audit Statement that covers the site subject to the development is provided to the Secretary. The Site Audit Statement must demonstrate the site is suitable for the development. | NSW EPA NSW Site Auditor Scheme Site Audit Statement no, 2021/03, dated 4 February 2022. This audit statement covers the former switchyard. NSW EPA NSW Site Auditor Scheme Site Audit Statement no, 2015/01a, dated 21 December 2021. This audit statement covers the remainder of the development site. Letter from DPE (S O'Donoghue) to SHL (I Smith) titled "Hunter Power Project (SSI-1290060) – Site Audit Statement", dated 1 March 2022. | SHL Senior Environmental Advisor– construction works commenced on 29 March 2022. | | Two site audit statements were prepared for the site and provided to DPE. DPE confirmed that the Audit Statements were accepted on 1 March 2022. | Complies | |

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| S3 B47 | Traffic Management Requirements | The Proponent must: a) maintain all roads and utility-related infrastructure on site in a safe and serviceable condition; | | | | Condition B47 a) (maintenance of site roads) is applicable to the operational phase only. Therefore, this condition has not been triggered. | Not Triggered | |
| | | b) provide sufficient parking on site for all vehicles; | | | | Condition B47 b) (provision of parking) is applicable to the operational phase only. Therefore, this condition has not been triggered. | Not Triggered | |
| | | c) ensure heavy vehicles entering and leaving the site have loads covered or contained; | Hunter Power Project Construction Air Quality Management Plan, Revision 3, dated 29 December 2023 Hunter Power Project Traffic Management Plan Version 6 dated 15 January 2024. Hunter Power Project Site Familiarisation Induction (prepared by UGL). Training Records for heavy vehicle drivers were sighted. | SHL Senior Environmental Advisor– Heavy vehicle drivers are required to attend the UGL Site Induction and sign off on the contents of the Driver Code of Conduct as part of that induction. | | The CAQMP specifies the requirement that all trucks entering and leaving the site must be covered. It is noted that the Driver Code of Conduct does not specify that all incoming and outgoing loads must be covered, although this requirement is covered in the Environmental Induction. This is the key communication tool with heavy vehicle drivers during both the construction and operational phases. The Auditor reviewed the induction training register. | Complies | |
| S3 B47 | Traffic Management Requirements | d) minimise dust and/or sediment being tracked onto Hart Road and the public road network; | Hunter Power Project Construction Air Quality Management Plan, Revision 3, dated 29 December 2023. Hunter Power Project Traffic Management Plan Version 6 dated 15 January 2024. Hunter Power Project Environmental Induction (2023). | | A wheel wash has been installed at the site exit. Some accumulation of dust / dirt was observed on the public road servicing the site at the time of this IEA. | The CAQMP specifies the requirement that the public road servicing the site is regularly inspected and swept. A wheel wash has been installed at the site exit to remove dust / dirt from heavy vehicles. The Auditor reviewed the induction training register that verified training of heavy vehicle drivers. There was no significant accumulation of sediment at the site entrance or dust observed during the audit inspection. | Complies | |
| | | e) minimise the traffic noise impacts of the development; and | Drivers Code of Conduct. | SHL Senior Environmental Advisor– Heavy vehicle drivers are required to attend the UGL Site Induction and sign off on the contents of the Driver Code of Conduct as part of that induction. | No trucks were observed entering or leaving the site during the site inspection. | The TMP and Drivers Code of Conduct specifies the requirement that heavy vehicle noise is minimised. The Auditor reviewed the induction training register that verified training of heavy vehicle drivers. | Complies | |
| | | f) keep the public informed of any road or infrastructure upgrades, disruptions to traffic, the closure of roads or other infrastructure, oversize overmass vehicle use, peak construction periods, and any emergencies. | Complaints Register. | SHL Senior Environmental Advisor– No oversize / over mass deliveries were received during this audit period. | | No traffic related complaints were recorded during the audit period. No oversize / over mass deliveries were received during this audit period. | Complies | |

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| Cond. | Title | Condition | Documents Reviewed | Interviews / Conversations | Inspections / Observations | Assessment | Compliance Finding | Recommendation |
| S3 B48 | Traffic Management Plan | Prior to the commencement of construction, unless the Secretary agrees otherwise, the Proponent must prepare a Traffic Management Plan in consultation with Council and TfNSW for the development and to the satisfaction of the Secretary. | Hunter Power Project Traffic Management Plan Version 6 dated 15 January 2024. Letter from ER (G Byrnes) to SHL (I Smith) titled "Hunter Power Project Water Management Plan Version 3 (15 January 2024)", dated 13 February 2024. Letter from DPHI (S O'Donoghue) to SHL (D Young) titled "Revision of Management Plans following Modification 2 and Independent Environmental Audit – Hunter Power Project (SS_-12590060)", dated 12 March 2024. | SHL Senior Environmental Advisor– This plan was not revised during this audit period. | | The initial Traffic Management Plan was prepared and issued on 25 February 2022, prior to commencement of construction. During the previous audit period, the CTMP was reviewed and updated as a result of Mod 2. The minor amendments were approved by the ER. | Complies | |
| | | This plan must: a) describe the measures that would be implemented to comply with the transport management requirements in condition B47 above; | Hunter Power Project Traffic Management Plan Version 6 dated 15 January 2024. | | | Section 6 of the Traffic Management Plan describes the impact mitigation measures to be implemented to address the requirements of Condition B47. | Complies | |
| | | b) include details of the transport route to be used for all construction and operational traffic; | Hunter Power Project Traffic Management Plan Version 6 dated 15 January 2024. | | | Section 4.3 of the Traffic Management Plan describes the transport routes for light, heavy and oversize / over mass vehicles. | Complies | |
| | | c) include details of the measures that would be implemented to minimise traffic safety issues and disruption to local users of the transport route/s during construction and operations; | Hunter Power Project Traffic Management Plan Version 6 dated 15 January 2024. | | | Section 6 of the Traffic Management Plan describes the impact mitigation measures to be implemented. | Complies | |
| | | d) include oversize over mass requirements and management; | Hunter Power Project Traffic Management Plan Version 6 dated 15 January 2024. | | | Section 6.11 of the Traffic Management Plan describes the management of oversize / over mass vehicles. | Complies | |
| | | e) include a driver's code of conduct that addresses: (i) travelling speeds; (ii) driver fatigue; (iii) procedures to ensure that drivers adhere to the designated transport routes; and (iv) procedures to ensure that drivers implement safe drive practise (sic) | Hunter Power Project Traffic Management Plan Version 6 dated 15 January 2024. | | | The Driver Code of Conduct is provided in Appendix A and satisfies the requirements of Condition B48 e). | Complies | |
| | | f) include a program to: (i) record and track vehicle movements; and (ii) monitor the effectiveness of these measures; and | Hunter Power Project Traffic Management Plan Version 6 dated 15 January 2024. | | | Table 7-3 of the plan requires the recording of heavy vehicle movements to and from site. | Complies | |
| | | g) include a protocol for undertaking independent dilapidation surveys to assess the existing condition of Hart Road, prior to and following construction and decommissioning activities. | Hunter Power Project Traffic Management Plan Version 6 dated 15 January 2024. | | | Section 6.5 of the Traffic Management Plan describes the requirement for pre and post construction dilapidation surveys. | Complies | |

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| Cond. | Title | Condition | Documents Reviewed | Interviews / Conversations | Inspections / Observations | Assessment | Compliance Finding | Recommendation | |
| S3 B48 | Traffic Management Plan | h) include measures to ensure that there are no more than 80 light vehicle movements per hour through the Main Road and Hunter Expressway interchange associated with the development in the morning and afternoon peak periods respectively during the construction period, including a protocol for the monthly verification of the origin of light vehicle movements in the morning and afternoon peak period; and | Hunter Power Project Traffic Management Plan Version 6 dated 15 January 2024. | | | The traffic management plan was revised and updated to address these additional conditions from Mod 1. The revised TMP was endorsed by the ER on 3 April 2023. | Complies | | |
| | | i) describe measures to investigate opportunities to promote the use of shuttle buses and car-pooling during the construction period. | Hunter Power Project Traffic Management Plan Version 6 dated 15 January 2024. | | | Section 4.3.1 describes the management of light vehicles, and covers the promotion of carpooling and use of the shuttle bus. | Complies | | |
| | | The Proponent must implement the approved Traffic Management Plan. | Hunter Power Project Traffic Management Plan Amended Final, dated 25 February 2022 Hunter Power Project Dilapidation Survey Hart Road, Loxford, prepared by Streetwise Road Safety and Traffic Services Pty Ltd, dated 14 February 2022. | SHL Environmental Assurance Advisor) – Heavy vehicle drivers are required to attend the Site Induction and sign off on the contents of the Driver Code of Conduct as part of that induction. | | Induction training for heavy vehicle drivers is provided. The Auditor sighted sufficient evidence to confirm that the Traffic Management Plan is being implemented. | Complies | | |
| S3 B49 | Visual and Lighting | The Proponent must: a) minimise the off-site visual impacts of the development, including the potential for any glare or reflection; | Architectural Specification, Control and Administration Building, Workshop and Storage Building, Fire Pump Building, Chemical Storage Building, Aecom Rev E dated 31 March 2023. | | SHL Senior Environmental Advisor– Building colours will be matt and are being specified as such with the OEM. Lighting, such as aviation lighting, is being specified in accordance with CASA requirements which include directing the light sources upwards so as to minimise off-site impacts. Some temporary lighting has been utilized for OOH work. No complaints received due to the operation of temporary lighting. | Temporary lighting was observed during the site inspection. No residential areas were observed that would be visually impacted during OOH work. | An architectural specification has been prepared for the Control and Administration Building, Workshop and Storage Building, Fire Pump Building and the C Final design of visual and lighting elements is not yet complete, although design is progressing. Temporary mobile lighting is provided for OOH work with no complaints received. | Complies | |
| | | b) ensure the visual appearance of infrastructure (including paint colours) blends in as far as possible with the surrounding landscape; and | Hunter Power Station, Lighting and General Power, Lighting Site Design Parameters, Drawing No HPP-AEC-ELE-PR-GEN-DRG-0301 Rev 0. Hunter Power Station, Lighting and General Power, Lighting Site Design Parameters, Drawing No HPP-AEC-ELE-PR-GEN-DRG-0301 Rev 0. Hunter Power Station, Lighting and General Power, Lighting Site Design Parameters, Drawing No HPP-AEC-ELE-PR-GEN-DRG-0302 Rev 0. | | | An architectural specification has been prepared for the Control and Administration Building, Workshop and Storage Building, Fire Pump Building and the C Final design of visual and lighting elements is complete. The specifications, including paint colours were sighted by the Auditor and meet the requirements of this Condition. | Complies | | |
| | | c) not mount any commercial advertising signs or logos on site, except where this is required for identification or safety purposes. | Technical Design Note: Reference – Reference HPP-AEC-ELE-NC-TCS-DTN-0003, AECOM 14 April 2022. | | | No advertising signage has been erected at the site. The signage in place covers site identification, site access and safety. | Complies | | |

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| Cond. | Title | Condition | Documents Reviewed | Interviews / Conversations | Inspections / Observations | Assessment | Compliance Finding | Recommendation |
| S3 B50 | Visual and Lighting | The Proponent must: a) minimise the off-site lighting impacts of the development; and | | SHL Environmental Assurance Advisor) – final design of these elements is not yet complete. | | Final design of visual and lighting elements is not yet complete, although design is progressing. | Not Triggered | |
| | | b) ensure that any external lighting associated with the development: (i) is installed as low intensity lighting (except where required for safety or emergency purposes); (ii) does not shine above the horizontal; and (iii) complies with Australian Standard AS4282 (INT) 1997. | | SHL Environmental Assurance Advisor) – final design of these elements is not yet complete. | | Final design of visual and lighting elements is not yet complete, although design is progressing. | Not Triggered | |
| S5 C1 | Environmental Management Strategy | The Proponent must prepare and implement an Environmental Management Strategy for the project to the satisfaction of the Secretary. | Hunter Power Project Environmental Management Strategy Version 3, dated 29 December 2023. Letter from ER (G Byrnes) to SHL (A van der Kroft) titled "Hunter Power Project Construction Environmental Management Strategy Approved Version 3 (29 December 2024)", dated 13 February 2024. Letter from DPHI (S O'Donoghue) to SHL (D Young) titled "Revision of Management Plans following Modification 2 and Independent Environmental Audit – Hunter Power Project (SS_-12590060)", dated 12 March 2024. | SHL Environmental Assurance Advisor) – The Environmental Management Strategy was not revised during this audit period. | | The original Construction Environmental Management Strategy Plan was prepared by Jacobs. The plan was reviewed and endorsed by the ER on 2 March 2022, prior to the commencement of construction. During the last audit period, the CEMS was reviewed and updated to incorporate the MOD 2 requirements. The CEMS was endorsed by the ER and approved by DPHI. | Complies | |
| | | The Strategy must: a) provide the strategic framework for environmental management of the project; | Hunter Power Project Environmental Management Strategy Version 3, dated 29 December 2023. | | | Section 1 of the EMS describes the purpose and scope of the document and establishes an appropriate strategic framework for environmental management of the project. | Complies | |
| | | b) identify the statutory approvals that apply to the project; | Hunter Power Project Environmental Management Strategy Version 3, dated 29 December 2023. | | | Legislative requirements are detailed in Section 4 of the EMS. | Complies | |
| | | c) describe the role, responsibility, authority and accountability of all key personnel involved in the environmental management of the project; | Hunter Power Project Environmental Management Strategy Version 3, dated 29 December 2023. | | | Roles and responsibilities for environmental management are described in Section 7.2 of the EMS. | Complies | |
| | | d) describe the procedures that would be implemented to: - keep the local community and relevant agencies informed about the operation and environmental performance of the project; - receive, handle, respond to, and record complaints; - resolve any disputes that may arise during the course of the project; - respond to any non-compliance; and - respond to emergencies; | Hunter Power Project Environmental Management Strategy Version 3, dated 29 December 2023. | | | Community and stakeholder engagement is described in Section 6.2 of the EMS. | Complies | |

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| S5 C1 | Environmental Management Strategy | <p>e) include:</p> <p>(i) the following subplans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • construction air quality management plan prepared in consultation with the EPA; • construction noise management plan prepared in consultation with the EPA; and • construction and operational waste management plan, incorporating management of any contaminated materials disturbed during construction <p>(ii) references to any strategies, plans and programs approved under the conditions of this approval; and</p> <p>(iii) a clear plan depicting monitoring to be carried out under the conditions of this approval.</p> | <p>Hunter Power Project Environmental Management Strategy Version 3, dated 29 December 2023.</p> <p>https://www.snowyhydro.com.au/hunter-power-project/documents/</p> | | | <p>The EMS and all required subplans are available on the project website, including the Waste Management Plan, the Noise and Vibration Management Plan and Construction Monitoring Program.</p> | Complies | |
| | | <p>The Proponent must implement the approved Environmental Management Strategy.</p> | <p>Hunter Power Project Environmental Management Strategy Version 3, dated 29 December 2023.</p> <p>https://www.snowyhydro.com.au/hunter-power-project/documents/</p> | | | <p>The Auditor reviewed each management plan required under the Approval and was satisfied that the current construction works are being undertaken in accordance with those plans.</p> <p>Results of all monitoring undertaken (surface water, groundwater and noise) are on the website</p> | Complies | |

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| S5 C2 | Net Zero Power Generation Plan | Prior to the commencement of operations, the Proponent must prepare a Net Zero Power Generation Plan for the development, to the satisfaction of the Secretary. | | SHL Senior Environmental Advisor– The preparation of the Net Zero Generation Plan has commenced. | | Operation of the power station has not commenced; therefore, this condition has not yet been triggered, however the preparation of the plan has commenced. | Not Triggered | |
| | | The plan must: a) be prepared by a suitably qualified, experienced and independent person approved by the Secretary; | | | | Operation of the power station has not commenced; therefore, this condition has not yet been triggered, however the preparation of the plan has commenced. | Not Triggered | |
| | | b) be prepared in consultation with the EPA and the Department’s Climate and Atmospheric Science Group; | | | | Operation of the power station has not commenced; therefore, this condition has not yet been triggered, however the preparation of the plan has commenced. | Not Triggered | |
| | | c) investigate opportunities to achieve Net Zero greenhouse gas emissions from the development including consideration of: (i) contemporary best practice and continuous improvement measures; (ii) applicable Commonwealth and State greenhouse gas emissions targets and policies including a commitment to Net Zero by 2050, and 50% reduction compared to 2005 levels by 2030; (iii) latest technology for displacing natural gas or diesel as the fuel supply, such as use of green hydrogen; | | | | Operation of the power station has not commenced; therefore, this condition has not yet been triggered, however the preparation of the plan has commenced. | Not Triggered | |
| | | d) describe measures to displace or offset greenhouse gas emissions having regard to: (i) the investigations undertaken under condition C2(c); and (ii) the following Net Zero targets by calendar year: • from the commencement of operations until 2029: 10% of total Scope 1 greenhouse gas emissions; • from 2030 until 2039: all Scope 1 greenhouse gas emissions resulting from generating electrical power at the premises for more than 175 cumulative hours per calendar year (or 2% of the year); and • from 2040 onwards: all Scope 1 greenhouse gas emissions. | | | | Operation of the power station has not commenced; therefore, this condition has not yet been triggered, however the preparation of the plan has commenced. | Not Triggered | |
| S5 C3 | Net Zero Power Generation Plan | Every three years following the approval of the plan, or other timeframe agreed by the Secretary, a report shall be submitted to the Secretary to update the outcomes of the investigations and measures described in condition C2. | | | | Operation of the power station has not commenced; therefore, this condition has not yet been triggered, however the preparation of the plan has commenced. | Not Triggered | |

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| Cond. | Title | Condition | Documents Reviewed | Interviews / Conversations | Inspections / Observations | Assessment | Compliance Finding | Recommendation |
| S5 C4 | Net Zero Power Generation Plan | The Proponent must implement the approved Net Zero Power Generation Plan. | | | | Operation of the power station has not commenced; therefore, this condition has not yet been triggered, however the preparation of the plan has commenced. | Not Triggered | |
| S5 C5 | Revision of Strategies, Plans and Programs. Incident Notification, Reporting and Response | The Proponent must review, and if necessary revise, the strategies, plans, and programs required under this approval to the satisfaction of the Secretary within 3 months of the submission of an: | Incident Register. | SHL Senior Environmental Advisor– No reportable incidents occurred during the audit period. | | No incidents were reported during the audit period. | Not Triggered | |
| | | a) Submission of an incident report under condition 5 C6 below | | | | | | |
| | | b) Submission of an independent environmental audit report under Conditions C15 to C19 below 7 | Hunter Power Project Environmental Management Strategy Version 3, dated 29 December 2023. | SHL Senior Environmental Advisor– The CEMP and management plans were not during this audit period. | | The previous IEA did not detect any non-compliances or significant opportunities for improvement, there a revision of the plans was not required. | Complies | |
| | | c) the approval of any modification of the conditions of this approval; | Hunter Power Project Environmental Management Strategy Version 3, dated 29 December 2023. | SHL Senior Environmental Advisor– The CEMP and management plans were reviewed following the previous audit and the approval of Modification 2. | | No Modifications to the project were approved during this audit period. | Not Triggered | |
| | | d) the issue of a direction of the Planning Secretary | | SHL Senior Environmental Advisor– No directions to revise any plans were received from DPHI during the audit period. | | No directions were received from DPHI requiring the amendment of any plan required under the Approval during the audit period. | Not Triggered | |
| | | The Proponent must review and, if necessary, revise the studies, strategies or plans required under the conditions of approval to the satisfaction of the Secretary. Where this review leads to revisions in any such document, then within 4 weeks of the review the revised document must be submitted to the Secretary for approval, unless otherwise agreed with the Secretary. | | SHL Senior Environmental Advisor– No reportable incidents occurred during the audit period. | | No reportable incidents occurred during the audit period | Not Triggered | |
| S5 C6 | Non-compliance Notification | The Secretary must be notified in writing via the Major Projects website immediately after the Proponent becomes aware of an incident. The notification must identify the development (including the application number and the name of the development if it has one) and set out the location and nature of the incident. Subsequent notification requirements must be given, and reports submitted in accordance with the requirements set out in Appendix 4. | Incident Register. Complaints Register. | SHL Senior Environmental Advisor– An incident threatening material harm hasn't occurred during the course of the Project. | | Eighteen minoe environmental incidents were recorded during the audit period. Please refer to Section 7.1 of the main report for details of those incidents. None of the incidents recorded in the audit period triggered the criteria as "reportable incidents", i.e. incidents that have caused or had the potential to cause material environmental harm. | Not Triggered | |
| S5 C7 | Non-compliance Notification | The Secretary must be notified in writing via the Major Projects website within seven days after the Proponent becomes aware of any non-compliance. | Incident Register. Complaints Register. | SHL Senior Environmental Advisor– SHL is not aware of any compliance issues occurring during the audit period. | | SHL is not aware of any compliance issues occurring during the audit period. | Not Triggered | |

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| S5 C8 | Non-compliance Notification | A non-compliance notification must identify the development and the application number for it, set out the condition of approval that the development is non-compliant with, the way in which it does not comply and the reasons for the non-compliance (if known) and what actions have been, or will be, undertaken to address the non-compliance. | Incident Register. Complaints Register. | SHL Senior Environmental Advisor– SHL is not aware of any compliance issues occurring during the audit period. | | SHL is not aware of any compliance issues occurring during the audit period. | Not Triggered | |
| S5 C9 | Compliance Reporting | A non-compliance which has been notified as an incident does not need to also be notified as a non-compliance. | Incident Register. Complaints Register. | SHL Senior Environmental Advisor– SHL is not aware of any compliance issues occurring during the audit period. | | SHL is not aware of any compliance issues occurring during the audit period. | Not Triggered | |
| S5 C10 | Compliance Reporting | Compliance Reports of the development must be carried out in accordance with the Compliance Reporting Requirements outlined in the <i>Compliance Reporting Post Approval Requirements (2020)</i> or its latest version. | <i>Compliance Reporting Post Approval Requirements (May 2020)</i> . | | | Compliance reports are not required by the <i>Compliance Reporting Post Approval Requirements (2020)</i> for construction projects. | Not Triggered | |
| S5 C11 | Compliance Reporting | Compliance Reports must be submitted to the Department in accordance with the timeframes set out in the <i>Compliance Reporting Post Approval Requirements (2020)</i> or its latest version, unless otherwise agreed to by the Secretary. | <i>Compliance Reporting Post Approval Requirements (May 2020)</i> . | | | Compliance reports are not required by the <i>Compliance Reporting Post Approval Requirements (2020)</i> for construction projects. | Not Triggered | |
| S5 C12 | Compliance Reporting | The Proponent must make each Compliance Report publicly available within 60 days of submitting it to the Secretary, unless otherwise agreed by the Secretary. | <i>Compliance Reporting Post Approval Requirements (May 2020)</i> . | | | Compliance reports are not required by the <i>Compliance Reporting Post Approval Requirements (2020)</i> for construction projects. | Not Triggered | |
| S5 C13 | Compliance Reporting | Notwithstanding the requirements of the <i>Compliance Reporting Post Approval Requirements (2020)</i> or its latest version, the Secretary may approve a request for ongoing annual operational compliance reports to be ceased, where it has been demonstrated to the Secretary's satisfaction that an operational compliance report has demonstrated operational compliance. | <i>Compliance Reporting Post Approval Requirements (May 2020)</i> . | | | Compliance reports are not required by the <i>Compliance Reporting Post Approval Requirements (2020)</i> for construction projects. | Not Triggered | |
| S5 C14 | Notification to Department | Prior to commencing the construction, operations, upgrading or decommissioning of the development or the cessation of operations, the Proponent must notify the Department via the Major Projects website portal of the date of commencement, or cessation, of the relevant phase. If any of these phases of the development are to be staged, then the Proponent must notify the Department in writing prior to commencing the relevant stage, and clearly identify the development that would be carried out during the relevant stage. | Letter from DPE (S O'Donoghue) to SHL (I Smith) titled "Hunter Power Project (SSI-1290060) Management Plan Staging", dated 22 December 2021. Letter from DPE (H Watters) to SHL (I Smith) titled "Hunter Power Project (SSI-1290060) Notification of commencement of construction", dated 4 April 2022. Letter from DPE (S O'Donoghue) to SHL (I Smith) titled "Hunter Power Project (SSI-1290060) Staging Request", dated 10 February 2022. | | | SHL advised DPE of the commencement of construction as required by this Condition. SHL also requested approval for the staging of management plans. That request was approved by DPE. | Complies | |

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| Cond. | Title | Condition | Documents Reviewed | Interviews / Conversations | Inspections / Observations | Assessment | Compliance Finding | Recommendation |
| S5 C15 | Independent Environmental Audit | Independent Audits of the development must be conducted and carried out in accordance with the <i>Independent Audit Post Approval Requirements (2020)</i> or its latest version. | Letter from DPE (I Strachan) titled "Hunter Power Project (SSI-12590060) - Independent Auditor Nomination to SHL dated 10 February 2023. | | | Ken Holmes of Barnett and May was approved by DPE Approval on the 10 th of February 2023. This sixth audit commenced on 3 September 2024 within 6 months of the previous audit and in compliance with this condition. | Complies | |
| S5 C16 | Independent Environmental Audit | Proposed independent auditors must be agreed to in writing by the Secretary prior to the commencement of an Independent Audit. | Letter from DPE (H Watters) to SHL (I Smith) titled "Hunter Power Project (SSI-1290060) Independent Auditor Nomination", dated 26 July 2022. | | | DPE approved the appointment of the Lead auditor for this IEA in February 2023 | Complies | |
| S5 C17 | Independent Environmental Audit | The Secretary may require the initial and subsequent Independent Audits to be undertaken at different times to those specified in the <i>Independent Audit Post Approval Requirements (2020)</i> or its latest version, upon giving at least 4 weeks' notice (or timing) to the Proponent of the date upon which the audit must be commenced. | | SHL Senior Environmental Advisor–DPHI have not requested audits to be undertaken at alternative timeframes in accordance with this condition | | DPHI have not requested audits to be undertaken at alternative timeframes in accordance with this condition | Not triggered | |
| S5 C18 | Independent Environmental Audit | Independent Audit Reports and the Proponent's response to audit findings must be submitted to the Secretary within 2 months of undertaking the independent audit site inspection, as outlined in the <i>Independent Audit Post Approvals Requirements (2020)</i> or its latest version, unless otherwise agreed by the Secretary. | Hunter Valley Power Station, October 2023 Independent Environmental Audit, Barnett and May, 5 December 2024 Rev 0 Email from DPE to SHL titled "Hunter Power Project (Kurri Kurri Power Station)- Post Approval Document Received – (SSI-12590060-PA-67). | | | The previous audit site inspection commenced on the 11 October 2023, and the Audit Report was submitted to DPE on the 8 December 2023 within the 2-month timeframe. | Complies | |
| S5 C19 | Independent Environmental Audit | Notwithstanding the requirements of the <i>Independent Audit Post Approvals Requirements (2020)</i> or its latest version, the Secretary may approve a request for ongoing independent operational audits to be ceased, where it has been demonstrated to the Secretary's satisfaction that independent operational audits have demonstrated operational compliance. | | | | | Noted | |

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| S5 C20 | Access to Information Updating and Staging of Studies, Strategies and Plans | <p>Before the commencement of construction until the completion of all rehabilitation required under this approval, the Proponent must:</p> <p>a) make the following information and documents (as they are obtained, approved or as otherwise stipulated within the conditions of this approval) publicly available on its website:</p> <p>(i) the EIS;</p> <p>(ii) all current statutory approvals for the development;</p> <p>(iii) all approved strategies, plans and programs required under the conditions of this approval;</p> <p>(iv) the proposed staging plans for the development if the construction, operation or decommissioning of the development is to be staged;</p> <p>(v) regular reporting on the environmental performance of the development in accordance with the reporting requirements in any plans or programs approved under the conditions of this approval;</p> <p>(vi) a comprehensive summary of the monitoring results of the development, reported in accordance with the specifications in any conditions of this approval, or any approved plans and programs;</p> <p>(vii) a summary of the current phase and progress of the development;</p> <p>(viii) contact details to enquire about the development or to make a complaint;</p> <p>(ix) a complaints register, updated monthly;</p> <p>(x) the Annual Reviews of the development;</p> <p>(xi) audit reports prepared as part of any Independent Environmental Audit of the development and the Proponent's response to the recommendations in any audit report;</p> <p>(xii) any other matter required by the Secretary; and</p> | <p>Snowy Hydro Website (https://www.snowyhydro.com.au/hunter-power-project/documents/)</p> | <p>SHL Senior Environmental Advisor– The Secretary has not directed SHL to place any additional materials on the project website.</p> | | <p>The following documents / records were available on the project website at the commencement of this IEA:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. EIS ii. Planning Approval (SSD 12590060), the EPL 21627 and EPBC Approval 2021/8888 iii. All plans and strategies required by the Approval iv. SHL does not plan to stage the construction of the power station, therefore no staging plans are required v. The EMS does not specify a specific program for reporting on environmental performance other than the IEA requirements of the Approval and monitoring results (vi below) vi. Monthly monitoring summary and noise monitoring results vii. The summary of the current status of the project (Progress and Approvals) has been updated in accordance with the recommendation made in the previous audit viii. Contact Details (Contact Tab) ix. Complaints Register x. Annual Reviews are not required by the Approval xi. Independent Audit Reports for all IEAs and Proponent's response xii. The Secretary has not requested that any other matters be reported on the website. | Complies | |
| | | <p>b) keep such information up to date, to the satisfaction of the Secretary.</p> | <p>SHL Website.</p> | | | <p>The documents available on the SHL website relating to the Hunter Power Project were up to date versions.</p> | Complies | |

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| Cond. | Title | Condition | Documents Reviewed | Interviews / Conversations | Inspections / Observations | Assessment | Compliance Finding | Recommendation |
|--------|---|---|--------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|---|--------------------|----------------|
| S5 C21 | Updating and Staging of Studies, Strategies and Plans | To ensure the studies, strategies and plans for the development are updated on a regular basis and incorporate any required measures to improve the environmental performance of the development, the Proponent may submit revised studies, strategies or plans required for the development under the conditions of approval at any time. With the agreement of the Secretary, the Proponent may also submit any study, strategy or plan required under the conditions of this approval on a staged basis. | | | | There were no management plan reviews triggered during this audit period. | Complies | |
| S5 C22 | Updating and Staging of Studies, Strategies and Plans | The Secretary may approve a revised strategy or plan required under the conditions of approval, or the stage submission of these documents, at any time. With the approval of the Secretary, the Proponent may prepare the revised or staged strategy or plan without undertaking consultation with all parties nominated under the applicable conditions in this approval. | | | | | Not triggered | |

| EPBC 2021/8889 | | | | | | | | |
|----------------|--|--|--|---|--|---|--------------------|----------------|
| Cond. | Title | Condition | Documents Reviewed | Interviews / Conversations | Inspections / Observations | Assessment | Compliance Finding | Recommendation |
| 1 | Action Specific Conditions | To ensure there is no adverse impact on the environment as a result of the action, the approval holder must comply with conditions A8-A12 of Part A, B1-B11, B19-B20, B35-40, B41-B43, B46 of Part B, C1-C4 of Part C of the State development consent (to the extent the conditions in Part C relate to environment). | | | | No non-compliances against Planning Approval Conditions at the time of this audit. The auditor notes that many of these conditions are not triggered and further assessment will be required at later stages in the project. | Complies | |
| 2 | Action Specific Conditions | The action must only occur within the boundary (shown in red) on the map at Attachment A. | | Refer to Section 7.8.1 above. | At the time of this IEA, other than the use of a temporary equipment laydown area, the construction works were confined to the approved Action boundary. | The construction works being undertaken within the approved Action boundary are consistent with the definition of construction works in the EPBC Approval. No works as defined in that Approval were being undertaken outside of the approved boundaries at the time of this IEA. Note that equipment storage (whether permanent or temporary) is not covered by the EPBC Approval definitions and as such the use of the temporary storage area outside of the approved Action boundaries is considered to be consistent with the requirements of the EPBC Approval. | Complies | |
| 3 | Notification 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 | Letter from SHL (M Bikil) to DAWE (Post Approvals Section) titled "Notification of commencement of action – Kurri Kurri Gas Fired Power Station, NSW (EPBC 2021/8888)", dated 29 March 2022. | SHL Senior Environmental Advisor– construction works commenced on 29 March 2022. | | SHL advised DAWE of the commencement of construction on 29 March 2022. | Complies | |
| 4 | Notification of Commencement of the Action | 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. | | | Construction activities were well advanced at the time of this audit. | The Action has commenced. | Not Triggered | |
| 5 | Compliance Records | The approval holder must maintain accurate and complete compliance records. | | | | All information (including documents and records relating to compliance) requested by the Auditor were available for review. | Complies | |
| 6 | Compliance Records | 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. | | SHL Senior Environmental Advisor– DAWE / DCCEEW did not requested copies of any compliance records during the audit period. | | DAWE / DCCEEW did not request copies of any compliance records during the audit period. | Not Triggered | |

EPBC 2021/8889

| Cond. | Title | Condition | Documents Reviewed | Interviews / Conversations | Inspections / Observations | Assessment | Compliance Finding | Recommendation |
|-------|-----------------------------|--|--------------------|---|----------------------------|--|--------------------|----------------|
| 7 | Annual Compliance Reporting | Following commencement of the action, the approval holder must prepare a compliance report addressing compliance with each of the conditions of this approval, including implementation of commitments made in all management plans and strategies required under any condition of the State development consent that is referred to in this approval, in respect of every calendar year, or otherwise in accordance with an annual date that has been agreed to in writing by the Minister. The approval holder must: | | | | No reports to the Department were triggered during this audit period. | Not Triggered | |
| | | a. publish each compliance report on a website within 3 months following the relevant 12 month period, | | | | No reports to the Department were triggered during this audit period. | Not Triggered | |
| 7 | Annual Compliance Reporting | 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 5 business days of the date of publication | | | | No reports to the Department were triggered during this audit period. | Not Triggered | |
| | | c. keep all compliance reports publicly available on the website until this approval expires | | | | No reports to the Department were triggered during this audit period. | Not Triggered | |
| | | d. exclude or redact sensitive ecological data from compliance reports published on the website | | | | No sensitive ecological data was included in the 2022 compliance report. | Not Triggered | |
| | | 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. | | | | No sensitive ecological data was included in the 2023 compliance report | Not Triggered | |
| 8 | Reporting Non-compliance | The approval holder must notify the Department in writing of any: incident; non-compliance with the conditions; or non-compliance with the commitments made in plans. The notification must be given as soon as practicable, and no later than 2 business days after becoming aware of the incident or non-compliance. The notification must specify: | | SHL Senior Environmental Advisor– SHL is not aware of any non-compliances against the EPBC Approval during the audit period. SHL Senior Environmental Advisor– An incident threatening material harm hasn't occurred during the Project. | | Twelve minor environmental incidents were recorded during the audit period. Please refer to Section 7.1 for details of those incidents. None of the incidents recorded in the audit period triggered the criteria as "reportable incidents", i.e. incidents that have caused or had the potential to cause material environmental harm. | Not Triggered | |
| | | a. any condition which is or may be in breach | | SHL Senior Environmental Advisor– SHL is not aware of any non-compliances against the EPBC Approval during the audit period. | | SHL was not aware of any non-compliances against the EPBC Approval during the audit period. | Not Triggered | |
| | | b. a short description of the incident and/or non-compliance | | SHL Senior Environmental Advisor– SHL is not aware of any non-compliances against the EPBC Approval during the audit period. | | SHL was not aware of any non-compliances against the EPBC Approval during the audit period. | Not Triggered | |
| 8 | Reporting Non-compliance | c. the location (including co-ordinates), date, and time of the incident and/or non-compliance. In | | SHL Senior Environmental Advisor– SHL is not aware of any non-compliances against the EPBC | | SHL was not aware of any non-compliances against the EPBC Approval during the audit period. | Not Triggered | |

EPBC 2021/8889

| Cond. | Title | Condition | Documents Reviewed | Interviews / Conversations | Inspections / Observations | Assessment | Compliance Finding | Recommendation |
|-------|--------------------------------|---|--------------------|--|----------------------------|--|--------------------|----------------|
| | | the event the exact information cannot be provided, provide the best information available. | | Approval during the audit period. | | | | |
| 9 | Reporting Non-compliance | The approval holder must provide to the Department the details of any incident or non-compliance with the conditions or commitments made in plans as soon as practicable and no later than 10 business days after becoming aware of the incident or non-compliance, specifying: | Incident Register. | SHL Senior Environmental Advisor – SHL is not aware of any incidents or non-compliances against the EPBC Approval during the audit period. | | SHL was not aware of any incidents or non-compliances against the EPBC Approval during the audit period. | Noted | |
| 9 | Reporting Non-compliance | a. any corrective action or investigation which the approval holder has already taken or intends to take in the immediate future | | | | SHL was not aware of any non-compliances against the EPBC Approval during the audit period. | Not Triggered | |
| | | b. the potential impacts of the incident or non-compliance | | | | SHL was not aware of any non-compliances against the EPBC Approval during the audit period. | Not Triggered | |
| | | c. the method and timing of any remedial action that will be undertaken by the approval holder. | | | | SHL was not aware of any non-compliances against the EPBC Approval during the audit period. | Not Triggered | |
| 10 | Independent Audit | The approval holder must ensure that independent audits of compliance with the conditions are conducted as requested in writing by the Minister. | | SHL Senior Environmental Advisor – SHL was not requested (by DAWE / DCCEEW to commission an independent audit during the audit period. | | SHL was not requested (by DAWE / DCCEEW to commission an independent audit during the audit period. | Not Triggered | |
| 11 | Independent Audit | For each independent audit, the approval holder must: | | | | SHL was not requested (by DAWE / DCCEEW to commission an independent audit during the audit period. | Not Triggered | |
| | | a. provide the name and qualifications of the independent auditor and the draft audit criteria to the Department | | | | SHL was not requested (by DAWE / DCCEEW to commission an independent audit during the audit period. | Not Triggered | |
| | | b. only commence the independent audit once the audit criteria have been approved in writing by the Department | | | | SHL was not requested (by DAWE / DCCEEW to commission an independent audit during the audit period. | Not Triggered | |
| | | c. submit an audit report to the Department within the timeframe specified in the approved audit criteria. | | | | SHL was not requested (by DAWE / DCCEEW to commission an independent audit during the audit period. | Not Triggered | |
| 12 | Independent Audit | 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. | | SHL Senior Environmental Advisor – SHL was not requested (by DAWE / DCCEEW to commission an independent audit during the audit period. | | SHL was not requested (by DAWE / DCCEEW to commission an independent audit during the audit period. | Not Triggered | |
| 13 | Completion of Action | Within 30 days after the completion of the Action the approval holder must notify the Department in writing and provide completion data. | | | | The Action was being undertaken during the audit period. | Not Triggered | |
| 14 | Changes to Development Consent | The approval holder must notify the Department in writing of any proposed change to the State development consent that may relate to environment within 2 business days of formally proposing a change or within 5 business days of becoming aware of any proposed change. | | | | No modifications to the approval occurred during this audit period. | Not Triggered | |

EPBC 2021/8889

| Cond. | Title | Condition | Documents Reviewed | Interviews / Conversations | Inspections / Observations | Assessment | Compliance Finding | Recommendation |
|-------|--------------------------------|--|--------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|---|--------------------|----------------|
| 15 | Changes to Development Consent | The approval holder must notify the Department in writing of any change to the State Development Consent conditions that may relate to environment, within 10 business days of a change to conditions being finalised. | | | | No modifications to the approval occurred during this audit period. | Not Triggered | |

Audit Photos



Appendix B



Photograph 1 - Hazardous Chemicals Storage Containers



Photograph 2 - Temporary Bunding for Hazardous Chemicals Storage



Photograph 3 - Fuel storage and refueling area



Photograph 4 - Area 2 Retention Basin



Photograph 5 - Area 1 Retention Basin



Photograph 6 - Site Water Discharge Infrastructure



Photograph 7 - Construction Waste Storage

DPE Auditor Approval

Appendix C

Isaac Strachan
Hunter Power Project
Wonnarua Country
1 Hart Rd
Loxford NSW 2326

10/02/2023

Dear Mr Strachan

Hunter Power Project (SSI-12590060) - Independent Auditor Nomination

I refer to your request (SSI-12590060-PA-57) for the Secretary's approval of suitably qualified persons to prepare the Independent Environmental Audit for the Hunter Power Project (SSI-12590060).

The Department of Planning and Environment (the department) has reviewed the nomination and information you have provided and is satisfied that this expert is suitably qualified and experienced.

Consequently, I can advise that the Secretary approves the appointment of Ken Holmes of Barnett and May Pty Ltd to prepare the Independent Environmental Audits (IEAs) for the construction phase of the development.

Please ensure this correspondence is appended to the Independent Audit Report.

The IEA must be prepared, undertaken and finalised in accordance with the *Independent Audit Post Approval Requirements (2020)*. Failure to meet these requirements will require revision and resubmission.

The department reserves the right to request an alternate auditor or audit team for future audits. Further, the department notes that the auditor's certification was not listed on the Exemplar Global register at the date of this letter. This approval of the above auditor is conditional upon them maintaining certification as a lead or principal auditor with a relevant industry body.

Should you wish to discuss the matter further, please contact Jennifer Sage, Senior Compliance Officer on 0400 245 170 or compliance@planning.nsw.gov.au

Yours sincerely



Heidi Watters
Team Leader Northern
Compliance

As nominee of the Planning Secretary

Stakeholder Consultation

Appendix D

From: [Joel Fleming](#)
To: [Ken Holmes](#)
Subject: Re: Hunter Valley Power Station - September 2024 Construction Phase Independent Environmental Audit - Consultation Request - DPHI
Date: Wednesday, 14 August 2024 4:52:38 PM
Attachments: [Outlook-tvzactk4.png](#)

Good afternoon Ken,

Thank you for consulting with NSW Planning, in accordance with the IAPAR (2020), for the upcoming Hunter Power Project (Kurri Kurri Gas-Fired Power Station) independent environmental audit.

I understand that Snowy Hydro have made physical changes to the site surface water management, including a reduction to the sediment basin. In your audit, please consider whether the Water Management Plan is still adequate and able to be implemented to effectively capture and manage all surface water.

Thanks.

Joel Fleming
Senior Compliance Officer

Development Assessment and Sustainability | Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure

T 02 6575 3416 | M 0467 715 429 | E joel.fleming@planning.nsw.gov.au

The Store, 6 Stewart Avenue, Newcastle West NSW 2302

www.dphi.nsw.gov.au



The Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure acknowledges that it stands on Aboriginal land. We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land and we show our respect for elders past, present and emerging through thoughtful and collaborative approaches to our work, seeking to demonstrate our ongoing commitment to providing places in which Aboriginal people are included socially, culturally and economically.

From: Ken Holmes <Ken@baeckea.com.au>

Sent: Monday, August 5, 2024 1:29 PM

To: DPE PSVC Compliance Mailbox <compliance@planning.nsw.gov.au>

Subject: Hunter Valley Power Station - September 2024 Construction Phase Independent Environmental Audit - Consultation Request - DPHI

Attention: Heidi Watters

Good Afternoon Heidi,

The NSW planning approval (PA 12590060) for the Hunter Valley Power Station requires that the project proponent commission an Independent Environmental Audit. I have been commissioned by the proponent, Snowy Hydro, to undertake the 2023 Independent Environmental Audit (**IEA**) of the project that is currently under construction. The audit will be undertaken accordance with the Project Approval (Condition C15) that requires:

C15. Independent Audits of the development must be conducted and carried out in accordance with the Independent Audit Post Approval Requirements (2020) or its latest version.

The Independent Audit Post Approval Requirements (DPIE 2020) require audits to be conducted during the construction of the project (initially within 12 weeks of commencement of construction and then at intervals of no more than 26 weeks). The Audit Guidelines also require that the Auditor consults with relevant agencies.

I would therefore appreciate if you could provide me with any information, comments or concerns that the Department may have regarding the environmental performance of the construction project and provide details of any specific issues you suggest that the Auditor consider.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any additional information.

Thanks and Regards,

Ken Holmes
Lead Auditor

Principal Environmental Consultant
Director

Barnett & May

P +61 [0]438 046 261

E ken@baeckea.com.au

A PO Box 365 Belrose NSW 2085

From: [Alex Gale](#)
To: [Ken Holmes](#)
Subject: RE: Hunter Power Project
Date: Tuesday, 3 September 2024 7:46:44 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Hi Ken,

Fortuitously I was on site yesterday and had a good look around. With regard to your focus areas, I've provided a brief summary below.

Surface water management

- ERSED plans have been developed and are reviewed by the project's CPESC
- On ground implementation is generally good
- The capacity of the basin adjacent to the WTP area has been decreased, however supplemented by the oil water separator. My main concern here is the usability of the oil separator as there is often a lot of gear stored in the separator. I've spoken to SH about this but there is a reluctance to remove equipment unless there's a significant predicted rain event.
- The project is progressively desilting sediment basins, proving reinstated capacity will be important here

Air quality

- Generally, this is good, yesterday the wind was very strong and the project had 4 watercarts on continuous rotation
- I keep reminding them of their Blue Book requirements re stockpiles (unworked stockpiles existing for more than 10 days must have cover)

Waste

- The project is disposing all waste at licenced facilities. I've challenged this from a sustainability point of view asking if they've looked at any possibilities for reuse under the waste exemptions and orders. I haven't had any uptake in this area. Given the history of the site I realise that there is limited opportunity to move unsuitable material within this project or to the adjacent KKLPP project
- In my inspection yesterday I requested a copy of their waste register (I haven't checked it yet), but did say that I'd be happy to wait until Angela got back from leave
- There is a stockpile of GSW that is to be disposed off site. I generally don't have a problem with this except I do think that this may be a stockpile that may qualify for cover (polymer etc)

That's a brief summary of my outlook and the recent discussions had. Feel free to get in touch if you need to discuss further.

Alex Gale
Environmental Representative

✉: alex.gale@hbi.com.au

☎: 0409 833 410

Healthy Buildings International Pty Ltd

Suite 2.06, Level 2, 29-31 Solent Circuit, Norwest NSW 2153

P: 02 9659 5433 | W: www.hbi.com.au



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From: Ken Holmes <Ken@baeckea.com.au>

Sent: Tuesday, 3 September 2024 10:32 AM

To: Alex Gale <Alex.Gale@hbi.com.au>

Subject: Hunter Power Project

Alex,

I'm the DPHI approved Independent Environmental Auditor for the Hunter Power Project and I am currently undertaking the 4th six monthly audit of the project. I'd appreciate it if you could provide me with information on any concerns or comments you may have regarding compliance and environmental performance of the project.

During this audit I will be focussing on surface water management, and in particular the adequacy of the storage capacity of the current sed basins, dust management and waste management.

Regards

Ken Holmes
Principal Environmental Consultant
Director

Barnett & May

P +61 [0]438 046 261

E ken@baeckea.com.au

A PO Box 365 Belrose NSW 2085

From: [Peter Giannopoulos](#)
To: [Mark Manning](#)
Cc: [Ken Holmes](#)
Subject: FW: Hunter Valley Power Station - September 2024 Construction Phase Independent Environmental Audit - Consultation Request Cessnock City Council
Date: Friday, 9 August 2024 8:58:47 AM

Dear Mark

Please see email trail and note that Mr Ken Holmes has asked for Council's comments regarding this matter.

The project is the subject of a state significant development approval, accordingly Council's role in respect to compliance and monitoring is undertaken by the Department of Planning. Furthermore Council's environmental health team does not become involved when matters are controlled by the EPA, so I am left scratching around trying to work out what I can offer by way of a response to his questions on matters that we are essential not involved in.

I have searched our records looking for any complaints on file but have not found any.

I note that you have provided comments to Mr Holmes in March 2023 and I have forwarded this to you in case you have anything to add.

Yours faithfully
Peter Giannopoulos

From: Ken Holmes <Ken@baeckea.com.au>
Sent: Thursday, 8 August 2024 10:04 AM
To: Peter Giannopoulos <Peter.Giannopoulos@cessnock.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Hunter Valley Power Station - September 2024 Construction Phase Independent Environmental Audit - Consultation Request Cessnock City Council

CAUTION: This email is an external email and may be malicious. Please take care before replying, clicking links, or opening attachments.

Peter,

Thank you for your quick response. The purpose of the consultation request is to give Council the opportunity to provide the Auditor with any information regarding the environmental performance of the project, for example:

- Concerns Council may have regarding the project and in particular compliance with any DA or planning approval;
- Information on any complaints Council has received relating to the project (for example: noise, traffic, dust etc);
- Comments, either positive or negative relating to environmental performance

of the project;

- Suggestions relating to issues the Auditor could consider addressing during the audit.

Please don't hesitate to call me if you need any further information .

Regards

Ken Holmes
Principal Environmental Consultant
Director

Barnett & May

P +61 (0)438 046 261

E ken@baeckea.com.au

A PO Box 365 Belrose NSW 2085

From: Peter Giannopoulos <Peter.Giannopoulos@cessnock.nsw.gov.au>

Sent: Tuesday, August 6, 2024 2:49 PM

To: Ken Holmes <Ken@baeckea.com.au>

Subject: RE: Hunter Valley Power Station - September 2024 Construction Phase Independent Environmental Audit - Consultation Request Cessnock City Council

Dear Ken

Can you please explain how Council may assist in this request.

Kind Regards

From: Ken Holmes <Ken@baeckea.com.au>

Sent: Monday, 5 August 2024 1:27 PM

To: council <council@cessnock.nsw.gov.au>

Subject: Hunter Valley Power Station - September 2024 Construction Phase Independent Environmental Audit - Consultation Request Cessnock City Council

CAUTION: This email is an external email and may be malicious. Please take care before replying, clicking links, or opening attachments.

The Responsible Officer,

The NSW planning approval (PA 12590060) for the Hunter Valley Power Station requires that the project proponent commission an Independent Environmental Audit. I have been commissioned by the proponent, Snowy Hydro, to undertake the 2023 Independent Environmental Audit (**IEA**) of the project that is currently under construction. The audit will be undertaken accordance

with the Project Approval (Condition C15) that requires:

C15. Independent Audits of the development must be conducted and carried out in accordance with the Independent Audit Post Approval Requirements (2020) or its latest version.

The Independent Audit Post Approval Requirements (DPIE 2020) require audits to be conducted during the construction of the project (initially within 12 weeks of commencement of construction and then at intervals of no more than 26 weeks). The Audit Guidelines also require that the Auditor consults with relevant agencies.

I would therefore appreciate if you could provide me with any information, comments or concerns that Council may have regarding the environmental performance of the construction project and provide details of any specific issues you suggest that the Auditor consider.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any additional information.

Thanks and Regards,

Ken Holmes
Principal Environmental Consultant
Director

Barnett & May

P +61 (0)438 046 261

E ken@baeckea.com.au

A PO Box 365 Belrose NSW 2085

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Our ref: DOC24/634654-1

Mr Ken Holmes
Principal Environmental Consultant Director
Barnett & May

By email: ken@baeckea.com.au

Attention: Mr Holmes

21 August 2024

I refer to your email, dated 5 August 2024, to the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) requesting consultation as part of an Independent Environmental Audit for the Hunter Valley Power Station in accordance with Condition C15 of Project Approval 12590060.

The EPA regulates the Hunter Valley Power Station under Environment Protection Licence 21627, issued to Snowy Hydro Limited.

The EPA encourages the preparation of audits as useful tools for industry to determine how to meet statutory obligations and identify potential or actual risks towards achieving these obligations.

As a regulatory authority, the EPA administers and regulates statutes for environmental management and protection. As such the EPA is not directly involved in the carrying out of audits to achieve those objectives and does not review or comment on such documents.

As a result, the EPA has no comment to provide for this request but directs you to the EPA's public register at <https://apps.epa.nsw.gov.au/prpoeoapp/> to view the Licence's associated notices.

If you have any further questions about this issue, please contact Jess Godwin on 0429 272 760 or at info@epa.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'KG', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

KAREN GALLAGHER
Unit Head – Operations

Lead Auditor CV

Appendix E

KEN HOLMES

Senior Principal Environmental Consultant



Contact

Email ken@baeckea.com.au

Mobile +61 0438 046 261

Qualifications & professional affiliations

- Bachelor of Science (Industrial Chemistry)
- Master of Applied Science (Waste Management)
- Master of Business Administration (MBA)
- Accredited Lead Environmental Auditor (Exemplar Global #: 14065)

Ken Holmes is an acknowledged industry leader in environmental management, impact assessment and project approvals. His career spans over 30 years and includes experience across Australia, Africa, Europe and South-east Asia.

Ken's extensive Environmental Audit, Infrastructure Planning and Approvals experience includes that preparation of environmental impact statements for major projects, pre-construction approvals, and operations environmental management experience.

He has led large scale projects on major road, rail, renewable energy, mining and water infrastructure projects across Australia. The projects presented below are a sample of the range and complexity of projects that Ken has delivered.

Project experience

Environmental Auditing (Audits completed in the recent years)

Project Energy Connect (2024 – 2025). Ken is currently undertaking the independent environmental audits of construction phase of this major (900km) electricity infrastructure project that consists of high voltage power line and associated infrastructure construction between Wagga Wagga and South Australia.

Hunter Power Project (Construction Phase IEA 2022 - 2025)- Ken has been commissioned to undertake the construction phase independent environmental audits on the Hunter Power Project. The Hunter Power Project is the construction of a new gas fired power station located in the Hunter Valley in NSW. The conditions of approval for the mine requires a three-yearly independent environmental audit of compliance against:

- DP&E Conditions of Approval / Development Approvals;
- Commonwealth Approvals;
- Environment Protection Licence;

The independent environmental audit are being undertaken in accordance with AS/NZS ISO 19011:2014 and the Department of Planning and NSW EPA audit guidelines.

As auditor, Ken's role covers all technical areas including construction management, waste, greenhouse gas, surface water management, air quality and noise management.

Kurri Kurri Lateral Pipeline Project (Construction Phase IEA 2023 - 2025)- Ken has been commissioned to undertake the construction phase independent environmental audits on this gas pipeline construction project. The Kurri Kurri pipeline Project is the construction of a new underground gas pipeline that will run from Beresford to the Hunter Power Project located in the Hunter Valley in NSW. The conditions of approval for the mine requires a three-yearly independent environmental audit of compliance against:

- DP&E Conditions of Approval / Development Approvals;
- Commonwealth Approvals;
- Environment Protection Licence;

The independent environmental audits are being undertaken in accordance with AS/NZS ISO 19011:2014 and the Department of Planning and NSW EPA audit guidelines.

As auditor, Ken's role covers all technical areas including construction management, waste, greenhouse gas, surface water management, air quality and noise management.

Dargues Gold Mine IEA (2023)- Ken led the independent environmental audit of environmental compliance audit of the this gold mining project located near Braidwood in southern NSW. The conditions of approval for the mine requires a two-yearly independent environmental audit of compliance against:

- o **DP&E Conditions of Approval / Development Approvals;**
- o **Water Licences;**
- o **Environment Protection Licences;**
- o **Mining Leases;**

The independent environmental audit was undertaken in accordance with AS/NZS ISO 19011:2014 and the Department of Planning audit guidelines.

In addition to his role as lead auditor managing a multidisciplinary team, Ken covered the role as technical expert in air quality and noise management.

Mt Thorley / Warkworth Mine IEA (2023)- Ken led the independent environmental audit of environmental compliance audit of the this large mining complex located in the Hunter Valley, NSW. The conditions of approval for the mine requires a three-yearly independent environmental audit of compliance against:

- o DP&E Conditions of Approval / Development Approvals;
- o Commonwealth Approvals;
- o Water Licences;
- o Environment Protection Licences;
- o Mining Leases;

The independent environmental audit was undertaken in accordance with AS/NZS ISO 19011:2014 and the Department of Planning and NSW EPA audit guidelines.

In addition to his role as lead auditor managing a multidisciplinary team, Ken covered the role as technical expert in air quality and noise management.

Hera Gold Mine (2019 and 2023)- Ken led the independent environmental audits for the environmental compliance audit of the Hera Gold Mine in western NSW. The conditions of approval for the mine requires a three-yearly independent environmental audit of compliance against:

- o DP&E Conditions of Approval / Development Approvals;
- o Commonwealth Approvals;
- o Water Licences;
- o Environment Protection Licences;
- o Mining Leases; and the
- o EIS (Statement of Commitments).

The independent environmental audit was undertaken in accordance with AS/NZS ISO 19011:2014 and the Department of Planning and NSW EPA audit guidelines.

In addition to his role as lead auditor managing a multidisciplinary team, Ken covered the role as technical expert in surface water management, air quality and noise

management.

Bingo Industries Eastern Creek Resource Recovery Facility and Landfill (2022) - Ken led the environmental compliance audit of Bingo's Resource Recovery Facility and Landfill located in western Sydney. The conditions of project's Planning Approval requires a three-yearly independent environmental audit of compliance against:

- o DP&E (NSW) Conditions of Approval / Development Approvals;
- o Environment Protection Licence.

The Audit also included an odour audit and surface water audits undertaken by specialists within the audit team.

The independent environmental audit was undertaken in accordance with AS/NZS ISO 19011:2014 and the Department of Planning and NSW EPA audit guidelines and the EPBC element of the audit against the DAWE Audit Guidelines.

In addition to his role as lead auditor managing a multidisciplinary team, Ken covered the role as technical expert in air quality and noise management.

McArthur River Mine (Northern Territory) (2022) - Ken is currently leading the environmental compliance audit of McArthur River Mine in the Cape of Carpentaria, NT. EPBC Approval requires an annual independent environmental audit of compliance against that Approval.

The independent environmental audit is being undertaken in accordance with AS/NZS ISO 19011:2014 and the DAWE Audit Guidelines.

Moolarben Coal Mine (2022) - Ken led the environmental compliance audit of Moolarben Coal Mine located near Mudgee in Western NSW. The conditions of project's Planning Approval requires a three-yearly independent environmental audit of compliance against:

- o EPBC Approval
- o DP&E (NSW) Conditions of Approval / Development Approvals;
- o Water Licences;
- o Environment Protection Licence; and all
- o Mining Leases.

The independent environmental audit was undertaken in accordance with AS/NZS ISO 19011:2014 and the Department of Planning and NSW EPA audit guidelines and the EPBC element of the audit against the DAWE Audit Guidelines.

In addition to his role as lead auditor managing a multidisciplinary team, Ken covered the role as technical expert in surface water management, air quality and noise management.

Bingo Industries Mortdale Resource Recovery Facility (2022) - Ken undertook the environmental compliance audit of waste recycling plant and transfer station located in Mortdale, NSW. The conditions of project's Planning Approval requires a three-yearly independent environmental audit of compliance against:

- o DP&E (NSW) Conditions of Approval / Development Approvals;
- o Environment Protection Licence.

The independent environmental audit was undertaken in accordance with AS/NZS ISO 19011:2014 and the Department of Planning and NSW EPA audit guidelines and the EPBC element of the audit against the DAWE Audit Guidelines.

Victoria Cross Station Over Station Development (2023 – ongoing series of annual independent audits to 2025) - Ken is currently undertaking the environmental compliance audits of this landmark construction project in the North Sydney CBD. The conditions of project's Planning Approval requires six monthly independent environmental audits of compliance against the DP&E (NSW) Conditions of Approval. The project is part of the development of Sydney's commuter rail network expansion.

Martin Place Over Station Development (2020 – 2023) - Ken undertook the environmental compliance audits of this landmark construction project in the Sydney CBD. The conditions of project's Planning Approval required annual independent environmental audit of compliance against the DP&E (NSW) Conditions of Approval. The project is part of the development of Sydney's commuter rail network expansion.

Client: Port Waratah Coal Loader (2018 and 2021)- Ken was the lead auditor for the last two independent environmental compliance audits of the Port Waratah Coal Loader located on Kooragang Island near Newcastle. The conditions of approval for the facility requires a three-yearly independent environmental audit of compliance against:

- DP&E Conditions of Approval / Development Approvals;
- Water Licences;
- Environment Protection Licence; and the
- EIS (Statement of Commitments).

These independent environmental audits were undertaken in accordance with AS/NZS ISO 19011:2014 and the Department of Planning and NSW EPA audit guidelines.

In addition to his role as lead auditor managing a multidisciplinary team, Ken covered the role as technical expert in surface water, air quality and noise management.

North Parkes Mine (2021)- Ken was the lead auditor for the environmental compliance audit of the North Parkes Mine in western NSW. The conditions of approval for the mine requires a three-yearly independent environmental audit of compliance against:

- DP&E Conditions of Approval / Development Approvals;
- Water Licences;
- Environment Protection Licence;
- Mining Leases; and the
- EIS (Statement of Commitments).

The independent environmental audit was undertaken in accordance with AS/NZS ISO 19011:2014 and the Department of Planning and NSW EPA audit guidelines.

Metropolitan Coal Mine (2018, 2021 and 2024)

Ken was the independent environmental auditor for the last three independent environmental compliance audits of the Metropolitan Coal Mine south of Sydney, NSW. These conditions of approval for the mine requires a three-yearly independent environmental audit of compliance against:

- DP&E Conditions of Approval / Development Approvals;
- Commonwealth Approvals;
- Water Licences;
- Environment Protection Licences;
- Mining Leases; and the
- EIS (Statement of Commitments).

The independent environmental audit was undertaken in accordance with AS/NZS ISO 19011:2014 and the Department of Planning and NSW EPA audit guidelines

In addition to his role as lead auditor managing a multidisciplinary team, Ken covered the role as technical expert in surface water management (covering the mine infrastructure areas), air quality and noise management.

Stratford and Duralie Coal Mines – (2020) Ken was the lead auditor for the environmental compliance audit of Ashton Coal Mine in the Hunter Valley. The conditions of approval for the mine requires a three-yearly independent environmental audit of compliance against:

- DP&E Conditions of Approval / Development Approvals;
- Water Licences;
- Environment Protection Licence;
- Mining Leases and the
- EIS (Statement of Commitments).

The independent environmental audit was undertaken in accordance with AS/NZS ISO 19011:2014 and the Department of Planning and NSW EPA audit guidelines.

Ashton Coal Mine (2020) - Ken was the lead auditor for the environmental compliance audit of Ashton Coal Mine in the Hunter Valley. The conditions of approval for the mine requires a three-yearly independent environmental audit of compliance against:

- DP&E Conditions of Approval / Development Approvals;
- EPBC Approvals;
- Water Licences;
- Environment Protection Licence;
- Mining Leases; and the
- EIS (Statement of Commitments).

The independent environmental audit was undertaken in accordance with AS/NZS ISO 19011:2014 and the Department of Planning and NSW EPA audit guidelines.

Newcastle Coal Infrastructure Group (2019 and 2022) - Ken was the lead auditor for the environmental compliance audits of the NCIG Coal Loader located on Kooragang Island near Newcastle. The conditions of approval for the mine requires a three-yearly independent environmental audit of compliance against:

- DP&E Conditions of Approval / Development Approvals;
- EPBC Approvals;
- Water Licences;
- Environment Protection Licence; and the
- EIS (Statement of Commitments).

The independent environmental audit was undertaken in accordance with AS/NZS ISO 19011:2014 and the Department of Planning and NSW EPA audit guidelines.

Kables Sand Quarry EPBC Audit (2019) – Ken was the auditor for the EPBC audit of Hansons Kables Sand Quarry

located in the Blue Mountains in NSW. The audit was a requirement of the project EPBC approval and was undertaken in accordance with the DAWE Audit Guidelines.

Benedicts Recycling Mayfield (2019)- Ken was the lead auditor for the environmental compliance audit of the Benedicts waste facility in Newcastle. The conditions of approval for the mine requires a three-yearly independent environmental audit of compliance against:

- DP&E Conditions of Approval / Development Approvals;
- Environment Protection Licence; and the
- EIS (Statement of Commitments).

The independent environmental audit was undertaken in accordance with AS/NZS ISO 19011:2014 and the Department of Planning and NSW EPA audit guidelines.

Triton Copper Mine (2018) - Ken was the lead auditor for the environmental compliance audit of the Triton Gold Mine in western NSW. The conditions of approval for the mine requires a three-yearly independent environmental audit of compliance against:

- DP&E Conditions of Approval / Development Approvals;
- Water Licences;
- Environment Protection Licence;
- Mining Leases; and the
- EIS (Statement of Commitments).

The independent environmental audit was undertaken in accordance with AS/NZS ISO 19011:2014 and the Department of Planning and NSW EPA audit guidelines.

Oberon Quarries (2019) - Ken was the lead auditor for the environmental compliance audit of this Gravel Quarry located in near Oberon in western NSW. The conditions of approval for the quarry requires a three-yearly independent environmental audit of compliance against:

- DP&E Conditions of Approval / Development Approvals;
- Environment Protection Licence; and the
- EIS (Statement of Commitments).

The independent environmental audit was undertaken in accordance with AS/NZS ISO 19011:2014 and the Department of Planning and NSW EPA audit guidelines.

Sibelco Dunes Sand Mine (2018 / 2019) – Ken was the auditor for the environmental compliance audit of the Sibelco Sand located near Nelson Bay in NSW. The conditions of approval for the mine required an independent environmental audit of against:

- DP&E Conditions of Approval / Development Approvals;
- EIS predications against actual impacts.

The Approval required that the audit be conducted within 12 months of completion of mining and focussed on mine site rehabilitation.

The independent environmental audit was undertaken in accordance with AS/NZS ISO 19011:2014 and the Department of Planning and NSW EPA audit guidelines

Ardglen Quarry (Daracon) (2018) - Ken was the lead

auditor for the environmental compliance audit of the Ardglen Gravel Quarry located in the upper Hunter Valley. The conditions of approval for the quarry requires a three-yearly independent environmental audit of compliance against:

- DP&E Conditions of Approval / Development Approvals;
- Environment Protection Licence; and the
- EIS (Statement of Commitments).

The independent environmental audit was undertaken in accordance with AS/NZS ISO 19011:2014 and the Department of Planning and NSW EPA audit guidelines.

Holcim Hume Quarry (2017/8) - Ken was auditor for the environmental compliance audit of Holcim' hard rock quarry located near Queanbeyan in NSW. Ken undertook the compliance audits of the quarry's Conditions of Approval. The conditions of approval required a detailed assessment of compliance against:

- DP&E Conditions of Approval / Development Approvals
- Water Licences
- Environment Protection Licences.

The independent environmental audit was undertaken in accordance with AS/NZS ISO 19011:2014 and the Department of Planning and NSW EPA audit guidelines.

PGH Bricks (2017/8) - Ken was the lead auditor for the environmental compliance audits of PGH's NSW, QLD, Vic and SA quarries. Ken undertook the compliance audits of the quarries as required by the Conditions of Approval for each site. The conditions of approval required a detailed assessment of compliance against:

- DP&E Conditions of Approval / Development Approvals (for non-NSW sites)
- Mining (and Exploration) Leases
- Environment Protection Licences (or equivalent)

Enviroking (2017/8) - Ken was the lead auditor for an independent environmental audit undertaken in accordance with AS/NZS ISO 19011:2014 "Guidelines for auditing management systems" for the liquid waste facility. The audit reviewed Enviroking's compliance with conditions of approval, made recommendations to address non-compliances and identified opportunities for improvement in the project's environmental management and performance.

Ken has also undertaken compliance audits for a wide range of industries and projects including:

- Cowal Gold Mine
- Manildra Limited / Castlereagh Coal
- Bougainville Copper Limited (Bougainville, PNG)
- News Limited
- Fairfax News Papers
- Norske Skog
- Alcoa
- Ok Tedi Mining (PNG)
- Albright & Wilson
- Seafood Specialities
- Rio Tinto
- Hunter Water
- Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

- Sydney Water
- Transport for NSW
- Mount Isa Mines
- Scott Transport
- Roads and Traffic Authority (now Roads and Maritime Services)
- AbiGroup (now LendLease)
- Leighton Contractors (now CPB Contractors)
- John Holland Group
- Queensland Transport
- PMP (Printing)
- Straits Resources
- Mount Isa Mines
- Philips (electronics)
- Bonlac Foods
- BHP

Ken has also led a wide range of Acquisition / Due Diligence audits for private sector clients in Australia, PNG, Africa, South Pacific, New Zealand, China, Singapore, Indonesia, Thailand.

Project Approvals

Central Station Re-development – Transport for NSW -

Ken led the team responsible for gaining the environmental approvals (preparation of EMPs /construction licences etc.) for the Sydney Central Station project. In this role, Ken was responsible for the interpretation of the Approval requirements (Minister's Conditions of Approval) and the provision of strategic advice on the approvals, licencing, construction environmental management and stakeholder management.

Sydney Metro – Transport for NSW - Transport for NSW (TfNSW) commissioned two demolition contractors to demolish a number of multistorey buildings within the Sydney CBD in preparation for the construction of the Sydney Metro project. Ken led the team responsible for the preparation of environmental management plans for these works (TfNSW was not comfortable that the demolition contractors had the appropriate skills to prepare the required plans and gain the required approvals for the works). Ken worked with the demolition contractors to streamline their internal management processes and to add the requisite environmental management functions within both their corporate and project management systems.

M2 Widening Project Approvals (Roads and Maritime Services) – Ken (Project Manager) led the environmental approvals team for the preparation of the Environmental Impact Assessment and construction approvals (preparation of EMPs /construction licence etc.) for the M2 widening project.

The management and minimisation of vegetation clearing on this project (along with the minimisation of impacts on residents a high priority. Ken oversaw all the specialist studies that supported the preparation of the Environmental Impact Assessment and subsequent Environmental Management Plans, including:

- Ecological survey;
- Tree reports;
- Noise and vibration impact assessments;
- Contamination assessments;
- Traffic impact assessments; and
- Ground and surface water impact assessments.

Sydney Light Rail – Acciona / Transport for NSW - Ken

led the team responsible for leading the construction approvals program and setting up the environmental management system for this significant brown fields infrastructure construction project. His responsibilities included:

- Establishing the project Environmental Management System;
- Interpreting the Conditions of Approval and the Project Deed and advising the Acciona management team on all aspects of compliance with those key approval and contractual documents;
- Gaining the construction environmental approvals (preparation of EMPs /construction licences etc.) for the Sydney Light Rail project. In this role, Ken provided strategic advice on the approvals, licencing, construction environmental management and stakeholder management. He was also responsible for all internal (Acciona / KMH) document quality control.
- Selecting, commissioning and supervising the wide range of specialist environment service providers including ecological survey, tree reports, and pre-construction vegetation clearance reports.
- Advising the design and construction teams on tree clearing and management and integration of construction requirements into the flora and fauna management plans.

Ken also led the consultation with the NSW Government regulators and supported and mentored the Acciona Construction Environmental Manager. In addition, Ken personally led the community and business reference group consultation process on behalf of the design and construction joint venture, successfully gaining signoff from these consultation bodies on the environmental plans and strategies.

Environmental Management Representative (ER) - The role of Independent Environmental Representative on major infrastructure projects in NSW was established in 1998 and continues to be a requirement of the Conditions of Approval for all major infrastructure projects in NSW. The appointees are nominated by the project proponent or construction consortium but are approved by and report to the Director General of the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE).

- The scope of the ER's role is broad range and includes:
 - Interpreting and advising on requirements of the Project Approval.
 - Reviewing and assessing the performance of the project against the Conditions of Approval, Project Deed and other relevant project related approvals. In that role, the ER reviews and approves all environmental related plans (EMPs), audits the implementation of environmental management plans and strategies, verifies (through audit and surveillance) compliance with the relevant project approval and project deed requirements, monitors and reports on regulatory compliance and provides reports to the Department and the project proponent on these matters.

- Reports on compliance related issues to the public and investigates environmental and compliance issues, complaints and incidents.
- Review and approval of vegetation clearing and other high (environmentally) impact activities.

Ken has fulfilled the role of Independent Representative on seven major infrastructure projects:

- Hunter Expressway (Motorway construction, Hunter Valley) - (2011 – 2013)
- Integral Energy 9JA Project (Transmission Line Construction Western Sydney) - (2006-2007)
- Westlink M7 (40km Motorway project, Western Sydney) - (2003-2005)
- Towra Beach Nourishment Project (Wet land protection, dredging project, Botany Bay) - (2004)
- Warragamba Dam Auxiliary Spillway Project- (1998 – 2013)
- Cronulla Sewage Treatment Plant Upgrade – (1998 – 2000)
- Liverpool Sewage Treatment Plant Upgrade – (2000)

Upper Hunter Valley Alliance (UHVA) – Leighton Contractors /ARTC - Ken led the team responsible for the provision of the environmental approvals (preparation of EMPs /construction licences etc.) on this major ARTC rail infrastructure program in the Hunter Valley of New South Wales. Ken's team on this project provided the entire environment and community and stakeholder team as a Sub-Alliance partner. In this role, Ken provides strategic advice on the approvals, licencing, construction environmental management and stakeholder management. His responsibilities included:

- Establishing the project Environmental Management System;
- Interpreting the Conditions of Approval and the Project Deed and advising the Leighton management team on all aspects of compliance with those key approval and contractual documents;
- Gaining the construction environmental approvals (preparation of EMPs /construction licences etc.) for range of projects delivered by the Alliance. In this role, Ken provided strategic advice on the approvals, licencing, construction environmental management and stakeholder management. He was also responsible for all internal document quality control.
- Selecting, commissioning and supervising the wide range of specialist environment service providers including ecological survey, tree reports, and pre-construction vegetation clearance reports.
- Advising the design and construction teams on tree clearing and management and integration of construction requirements into the flora and fauna management plans.

Other relevant Infrastructure Projects led by Ken include:

- Joint Defence Headquarter Construction Project (ACT) – Environment Approvals Manager
- Melbourne Desalination Plant Project – EMP preparation
- Ballina Bypass (Pacific Highway construction project) - Environment Approvals Manager
- Northern Hume Alliance (Hume Highway Duplication) -

- Environment Approvals and Community Manager
- Anvil Hill Coal Mine (Hunter Valley) - Environment Approvals Manager
- Shannon Creek Dam Construction Project - Environment Approvals and Community Manager
- Liverpool to Ashfield Pipeline Project (Sydney Water) - Environmental Approvals Manager
- Networks Alliance (Sydney Water –water and sewage mains renewals project) – KMH Management Representative
- Technical Reviewer and Economic Impact Analyst – DEC Construction Noise Management Guidelines (2006)
- Northwest Transit Way - Environment Approvals Manager
- Lane Cove Tunnel - Environment Advisor to Approvals and Construction Team
- North Connex – Environmental Management Plan preparation, consistency assessments and preparation of Environmental Impact Assessments to support variations to the project approvals
- Sydney Desal Plant -Internal QA Reviewer
- Keepit Dam Safety Upgrade – Project Director
- Cordeaux Water Treatment Plant – Lead Consultant and Project Manager

Investigative / Expert Roles

Minter Ellison – Expert Opinion / Report (2018/9) - Ken was commissioned by Minter Ellison on behalf of their client (a consortium of major construction contractors) to provide an expert opinion regarding the interpretation of impact of changes to the Conditions of Approval for a major Sydney linear infrastructure project on environmental investigation and reporting obligations and project cost impacts. This expert opinion was commissioned to support the resolution of a contractual dispute between the consortium and their client.

Environment Protection Authority — Investigation of Illegal Land Clearing and Waste Disposal Activities (April 2015 – July 2017) - Ken was the lead auditor for the investigations undertaken by the KMH team commissioned by the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) to investigate an alleged illegal vegetation clearing and waste disposal operations located in the Hunter Valley, Hawkesbury River Basin and Arcadia (north western Sydney). Ken developed and supervised the implementation site investigation strategies that included a series of investigative processes designed to identify the location and extent of vegetation clearing, and to determine the depth and volumes of buried construction and demolition wastes.

Environment Protection Authority — Expert Reports Illegal Land Clearing and Waste Disposal Activities (2018) - Ken was commissioned by the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) to provide expert opinion regarding the alleged illegal vegetation clearing and waste disposal at a site in the Hawkesbury River Basin and Arcadia (north western

Sydney).

Ken was subsequently briefed to provide expert opinion in the legal actions taken by the EPA in these matters.

Qenos Mandatory Environmental Audit - Ken was commissioned as the Expert Independent Environmental Auditor (Lead Auditor) for the Qenos Mandatory Audit. As a result of a series of environmental incidents, Qenos were required by the NSW EPA to commission an independent auditor to determine if the plant is capable of being operated and maintained and if the plant is being competently operated and maintained, in order to minimise the risk of environmental incidents and better protect the environment.

In doing this, the audit Assessed the:

- o adequacy of Risk Assessment procedures and practices
- o adequacy of maintenance and operational Systems
- o physical condition and reliability of the Plant
- o adequacy and suitability of environmental risk management
- o adequacy and suitability of performance monitoring equipment
- o processes and procedures for identifying and rectifying plant and equipment issues.

Incidents and assessed of the adequacy the investigations and responses to those incidents.

Orica Port Botany Ground Water Remediation Project – Expert Auditor - Ken was the lead auditor for the independent compliance audit of the Orica groundwater remediation project. These annual audits were a condition of licence established by the (then) Department of Environment and Climate Change and the Department of Planning.

Other

Kelian Equatorial Mining (Kalimantan, Indonesia) - Ken led a specialist environmental and social impact audit team that was established by Rio Tinto (and approved by the Government) to investigate and report on the environmental and social impacts associated with alluvial mining operations (downstream) from the Rio Tinto (major owner) operated gold mine located in the remote, mountainous region of Kalimantan. The audit team included Government representatives and was undertaken to address the concerns

of local village communities that were being impacted socially and economically.

Bougainville Copper Limited (Bougainville, PNG) - Ken led two specialist projects for Bougainville Copper Limited. Including Investigation of the Loloho Port Facility on Bougainville Island. Ken led the investigation team commissioned to identify and plan for the clean-up of hazardous chemicals left after BCL evacuated Bougainville at the commencement of the civil war in 1990. The investigation covered gases, PCBs, and minerals processing chemicals. The second project was clean up and destruction of chlorine and other compressed gases located at the Loloho Port facility on Bougainville Island.

Ken subsequently led a team dispatched to Bougainville to chemically destroy 1 tonne of chlorine and other toxic gases. The team built a treatment plant on site and successfully removed the toxic gas threat.

Waste Management

Review of Energy to Waste Technologies – Client Confidential (Australian Based Waste Management Company)

Ken participated (as technical reviewer) in the preparation of a technical review of energy to waste technologies for a major waste management group operating in Australia. The purpose of the review was to provide the client with a detailed assessment of all available and emerging energy to waste technologies available including determining the barriers to implementation within the Australian market, political and social framework.

Shredder Waste Disposal Assessment – Sims Metal

Metal shredders produce a complex waste stream consisting of a mixture of plastic, rubber, metal and other materials that is costly to dispose of. Ken led the KMH team that researched the options for management of this waste stream and prepared recommendations for the development of waste treatment and disposal options (including energy extraction) for Sims Metal.