

The Hon Robert Stokes MP
Minister for Planning and Public Spaces

6 November 2021

Dear Minister Stokes,

Snowy 2.0 – Main Works Modification (SSI-9687-Mod-1)

The National Parks Association of NSW (NPA) opposes the Snowy 2.0 project because it fails to stack up environmentally, economically or technically.

However, if the project continues, every opportunity should be taken to reduce its impact on Kosciuszko National Park. Accordingly, NPA offer conditional support for the proposed Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) between Lobs Hole and Marica as it involves less environmental impact than the alternate overhead lines.

The exhibited modification provides no details on estimated costs, contrary to standard practice for an EIS or modification. We request that this information, along with any change to the projected biodiversity offset costs, be provided.

NPA is concerned that the modification makes no mention of the electrical connection between Marica and Tantangara Reservoir. Our view is that this section should also be placed underground. We request confirmation of the proposed method for this section.

This amendment demonstrates the viability of HDD and other underground connection techniques in the geotechnical and operational conditions applying to this project. Nonetheless, NPA understands that TransGrid is still proposing to connect Snowy 2.0 to the main grid via four 330 kV overhead lines on two sets of double-circuit towers between Lobs Hole and the new Maragle 500/330 kV Substation.

NPA strongly opposes any new overhead transmission lines through Kosciuszko National Park. Our position is consistent with the statutory Plan of Management, which specifically states that *“any additional transmission is to be located underground”*. We and our energy experts have advocated for an underground connection to the existing Lower Tumut Switching Station rather than Maragle.

NPA suggests that the exhibited amendment confirms the viability of underground connections and asks that you direct TransGrid to modify their proposal for the connection through Kosciuszko National Park in favour of HDD or other underground technique.

We can be contacted at garyd@npansw.org.au or on 0432 757 059.

Yours sincerely,



Gary Dunnett
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protecting nature through community action

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