

Andrew Buttigieg
Project Manager
The Trustee for the NSW Electrical Networks Operations
180 Thomas Street
Haymarket, NSW, 2000

17/02/2023

Subject: Snowy 2.0 Transmission Connection – Pre-Construction Approval

Dear Mr Buttigieg

I refer to your Pre-Construction Commencement letter request dated 1 February 2023, submitted in accordance with Schedule 2 Condition C4 of the Infrastructure Approval for the Snowy 2.0 - Transmission Connection project (SSI-9717).

The Pre-Construction Commencement letter requests the commencement of Pre-construction minor works (as defined in the Infrastructure Approval), being the following tasks which Transgrid considers as environmental impact mitigation measures:

1. Installation of:
 - a. nest boxes
 - b. song meters for monitoring of fauna activity
2. Collection of seed material
3. Investigation and recovery of potential archaeological artefacts
4. Spraying of weeds
5. Translocation of endangered flora species e.g., Caladenia Montana.

The Department has carefully reviewed the document and other relevant conditions of the Infrastructure Approval.

Schedule 2 Condition A5 allows the timeframe specified in or under the terms of the Infrastructure Approval to be submitted within a later timeframe as agreed with the Planning Secretary. Accordingly, the Planning Secretary agrees Tasks 1b and 2 can be commenced prior to the approval of the project's Environmental Management Strategy.

Tasks 1a, 3, 4 and 5 however have potential to directly impact both biodiversity and heritage items. Consistent with the Summary of Reporting Requirements, Tasks 3, 4 and 5 can be commenced following approval of the Environmental Management Strategy, Biodiversity Offset Strategy, Biodiversity Management Plan and Heritage Management Plan.

Accordingly, as nominee of the Planning Secretary, I approve **only** the following prior to construction:

- installation of song meters for monitoring of fauna activity; and
- collection of seed material.

The Department notes that Transgrid proposes to undertake these tasks across several land parcels along the project alignment. Transgrid should confirm land access agreements with each landowner, prior to undertaking each task.

Please note, the Pre-Construction Commencement letter request did not include a proposed date for the commencement of development. In future correspondence related to Schedule 2 Condition 4 please specify a proposed commencement date for the construction, operation, upgrading or decommissioning of the development.

If you wish to discuss the matter further, please contact Wayne Jones on (02) 6575 3406.

Yours sincerely



Nicole Brewer
Director
Energy Assessments
As nominee of the Planning Secretary