

13 December 2019

Attention: Peter Duncan
Commissioner
Independent Planning Commission (IPC)

Dear Peter

Re: Eraring Power Station Ash Dam Augmentation Project (MOD1)

We have received a letter from the Independent Planning Commission (IPC) dated 6 December 2019. The letter requests information from Origin regarding the Eraring Ash Dam (ERAD) stability project and specifically:

- the proposed timeframe;
- the legislative authority; and
- how environmental impacts are being managed.

Origin provides the following response to the IPC on these matters:

1) Timeframe

Origin is in the process of engaging a Contractor to undertake the southern embankment stability works and is planning to commence construction works early next year and have these completed early in 2022.

2) Legislative Authority

The legislative authority for Origin to carry out the stability works is section 21 of the *Eraring Power Station Act 1981 (EPS Act)*.

It is important to note that the need for the stability works has arisen independently of the MOD1 application currently under consideration by the IPC.

In respect of the MOD1 application, given that the proposed augmentation of the ERAD involves an increase in footprint of the ERAD, Origin has taken a conservative approach and applied for a modification of the 2008 development consent to accommodate this, rather than relying on section 21 of the EPS Act.

3) Environmental Impacts

Origin is undertaking an assessment of environmental impacts associated with the proposed stability works to ensure the project is undertaken in way that minimises impacts to the environment and community. This includes identification of environmental management measures that will be incorporated into the construction and operation of the project such that we remain compliant with regulatory requirements as set out in our Environmental Protection Licence (EPL) No. 1429. A Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) will be prepared that outlines measures for environment and community protection. The existing Operational Environmental Management Plan

(OEMP) that will be updated as part of MOD1 project will also incorporate environmental management measures for the stability works.


We have identified the key environmental risks relevant to the project including surface and groundwater, contamination, ecology, air quality, noise and light impacts. A specialist environmental consultant has been engaged to assess these impacts using contemporary assessment methodologies applied on similar projects in NSW that are subject to an external approvals process.

Additionally, the project design is such that key environmental controls associated with managing impacts for the existing dam (including for example seepage control) are maintained and/or augmented to ensure that as a minimum the same level functionality and environmental protection is provided by the stability works for these aspects.

Successful completion of the stability works is essential to mitigate against the potential future risk of environmental impacts.

If you would like to discuss the information contained within, please do not hesitate to contact me on the details below.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lauren Barnaby', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Lauren Barnaby
Manager Environment and Community – Energy Supply and Operations

