

# Notice of decision – Shoalhaven Hydro Geotechnical Works (SSI 9816)

Section 2.22 and clause 20 of Schedule 1 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*

<b>Application type</b>	Critical State significant infrastructure
<b>Application number and project name</b>	Shoalhaven Hydro Geotechnical Works (SSI 9816)
<b>Proponent</b>	Origin Energy Eraring Pty Ltd
<b>Approving authority</b>	Minister for Planning and Public Spaces

## Decision

Under s. 5.19 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (**the Act**), the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces has approved the infrastructure application subject to the recommended conditions.

A copy of the Department of Planning and Environment's Assessment Report and the infrastructure approval is available [here](#).

## Date of decision

17 June 2019

## Reasons for decision

The following matters were taken into consideration in making this decision:

- the relevant matters listed in the statutory context section of the Department's assessment report;
- the objects of the Act;
- all information submitted to the Department during the assessment of the application;
- the findings and recommendations in the Department's Assessment Report; and
- the views of the community about the project (see Attachment 1).

The findings and recommendations set out in the Department's Assessment Report were accepted and adopted as the reasons for making this decision.

The key reasons for approving the application are as follows:

- the project would provide a range of benefits for the region and the State as a whole, including:
  - capital investment of \$1.42 million
  - creation of 20 construction jobs
  - obtain critical geological and groundwater information to inform the design of the Shoalhaven Hydro Expansion Project which is considered to be critical for the NSW economy;
- the works can be undertaken with minimal impact on the surrounding environment or community, subject; and
- the project is in the public interest.

### **Attachment 1 – Consideration of Community Views**

The Department exhibited the Geotechnical Works application from 22 February 2019 until 23 March 2019 and received 9 submissions. This included 8 submissions from government agencies and one public submission objecting to the project.

The public submission raised concerns about pumped hydro-electric development in general, including the Shoalhaven Hydro Expansion Project, but did not raise any specific concerns about the Shoalhaven Geotechnical Works Project. These concerns will be considered in more detail in any future assessment of the merits of the Shoalhaven Hydro Expansion Project.