

# Planning and Development (Environmental Significance Opinion – Block 21 Cotter River– Remote Area Power Supply System) Notice 2019

Notifiable instrument NI2019–535

made under the

**Planning and Development Act 2007, s 138AD (Requirements in relation to environmental significance opinions)**

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## 1 Name of instrument

This instrument is the *Planning and Development (Environmental Significance Opinion – Block 21 Cotter River– Remote Area Power Supply System) Notice 2019*.

## 2 Environmental Significance Opinion

- (1) On 12 August 2019, the Conservator of Flora and Fauna, pursuant to section 138AB(4) of the *Planning and Development Act 2007* (the **Act**), gave the applicant an environmental significance opinion in relation to installation of a Remote Area Power Supply system at the Park Ranger’s residence at Corin Dam in Namadgi National Park.

- (2) In this section:

*Environmental significance opinion* means the opinion in the schedule.

*Note* Under section 138AD(6) of the Act, the environmental significance opinion and this notice expire 18 months after the day the notice is notified.

George Cilliers  
Delegate of the planning and land authority  
20 August 2019

## Schedule

See section 2(2)

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### **ENVIRONMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE OPINION**

In accordance with section 138AB(4) of the *Planning and Development Act 2007* (the Act), I provide the following environmental significance opinion:

#### **APPLICANT**

Evoenergy, as represented by Charlotte Roberts, Senior Environmental Officer.

#### **APPLICATION and DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL**

The applicant has applied under section 138AA of the Act to the Conservator of Flora and Fauna for an environmental significance opinion to the effect that the development proposal set out in the submission is not likely to have a significant adverse environmental impact (the application).

The development proposal is for the installation of a Remote Area Power Supply (RAPS) system at the Park Ranger's residence at Corin Dam in Namadgi National Park as described in the submission.

#### **LOCATION**

Block 21, District of Cotter River – Park Ranger's residence.

#### **MATTERS TO WHICH THIS OPINION APPLIES**

This opinion applies only the development proposal as described in the application.

#### **OPINION**

Provided the works are undertaken in the manner consistent with the submitted documentation, they are unlikely to cause a significant adverse environmental impact.

Attached is a Statement of Reasons for the decision.



Ian Walker  
Conservator of Flora and Fauna

12th August 2019

## STATEMENT OF REASONS REASONS FOR THE DECISION

The proposed development is a proposal mentioned in Schedule 4 of the *Planning and Development Act 2007* – Development proposal for an activity requiring an EIS Schedule 4, being:

*Part 4.3, item 3 proposal for development on land reserved under s 315 for the purpose of a wilderness area, national park, nature reserve or special purpose reserve.*

The proposed works are within an area reserved as public land national park within Namadgi National Park.

The proponent wants the application for the development approval assessed in the merit track on the grounds that the proposal is not likely to have a significant adverse environmental impact, and has applied to the Conservator of Flora and Fauna to that effect.

### **Meaning of *significant* adverse environmental impact**

An adverse environmental impact is ***significant*** if—

- (a) the environmental function, system, value or entity that might be adversely impacted by a proposed development is significant; or
- (b) the cumulative or incremental effect of a proposed development might contribute to a substantial adverse impact on an environmental function, system, value or entity.

In deciding whether an adverse environmental impact is ***significant***, the following matters must be taken into account:

- (a) the kind, size, frequency, intensity, scope and length of time of the impact;
- (b) the sensitivity, resilience and rarity of the environmental function, system, value or entity likely to be affected.

In deciding whether a development proposal is likely to have a significant adverse environmental impact it does not matter whether the adverse environmental impact is likely to occur on the site of the development or elsewhere.

It has been determined that the proposal is unlikely to have a significant environmental impact, based on the documentation submitted, known values of the site, and provided the works and ongoing management are carried out in accordance with the conditions attached to this ESO.

### **Project description**

The proposal involves the installation of a Remote Area Power Supply (RAPS) system at the Park Ranger's residence at Corin Dam in Namadgi National Park. The RAPS will provide an electricity supply to the Corin Dam precinct, which includes the Park Ranger's house and backyard, the Ranger's work shed and gravelled storage yard, and Icon Water's dam operations facility.

These three sites are currently connected to Evoenergy's distribution network via overhead high voltage power lines which have been identified as posing a high risk of causing bushfires within the national park. The installation of a RAPS will allow the lines to be deenergised and decommissioned to reduce bushfire risk.

The proposed RAPS is comprised of:

- 32 solar panels to be installed onto the roof of the existing residence;
- A three-phase solar inverter to be mounted inside the existing garage;
- Three off-grid inverters to be stored in a storage container; and
- Solar batteries to be stored in a storage container.

Construction involves the removal of two areas of trees and the installation of the storage container.

### **Documentation Submitted**

- Corin Dam Remote Area Power Supply – Application for an Environmental Significance Opinion - 19/06/2019;
- Letter of Authorisation; and
- Form 1M.

### ***Natural conservation values present***

Namadgi National Park conserves a wide variety of ecosystems and species and contributes to regional ecological connectivity through its links to reserves within NSW.

Two species listed as threatened under the Nature Conservation Act 2014 may be present in the vicinity of the project site:

- Smoky Mouse (*Pseudomys fumeus*); and
- Two-spined Blackfish (*Gadopsis bispinosus*).

### **Impact on the Reserve**

The proposed works are unlikely to have long-term impacts on the national park as:

- The works are minor in nature;
- The works occur within an area already subject to infrastructure and house disturbance;

- The small loss of vegetation and habitat is of a type that is common and widespread within Namadgi National Park;
- No threatened species are known to be present within the area to be directly impacted; and
- The application includes a commitment to weed hygiene mitigation measures.

The installation of the RAPS will allow the risk of unplanned bushfires to be reduced which will have long-term benefits for the national park and surrounding areas.

**Potentially Significant Environmental Impacts**

It has been determined that if the works are undertaken in a manner consistent with the submitted documentation, they are unlikely to cause a significant adverse environmental impact.