



A message from

Customer Network Solutions

13/2025

Changes to Environmental Approvals for Electricity Works Linked to State Significant Development (SSD)

We wanted to let you know about an important update that may affect how environmental approvals are handled for electricity works related to State Significant Development (SSD) applications.

At Endeavour Energy, we've traditionally approved environmental aspects of electricity works carried out by Accredited Service Providers (ASPs) and Developers under Part 5 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (NSW) (EP&A Act), where it was appropriate.

However, following a recent decision by the NSW Court of Appeal and changes to the EP&A Act ([effective from 2 December 2024](#)), any 'enabling infrastructure' - like electricity works - must now be included in the SSD application itself. For clarity, the term "enabling infrastructure" for State Significant Development projects encompasses essential services and facilities that are integral to the operation of the primary development. This infrastructure may include transport and utility components such as roads, railways, water supply systems, sewage networks, and energy transmission lines.

[Click here](#) to find more information about SSD types and sites or [click here](#) to view Schedules 1 and 2, Chapter 2 of the State Environmental Planning Policy (Planning Systems) 2021.

What this means for you

If you're working on an SSD project that was approved after 2 December 2024, or you're planning a new one, here's what you'll need to do:

1. Include electricity network connection works in your SSD application if they fall under the new rules
2. Assess the environmental impacts of those works in your Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)—this includes substations and both above-ground and underground infrastructure

What if you want Endeavour Energy to handle the approvals?

If you still want Endeavour Energy to review and approve the environmental impacts using our Part 5 rights, you'll need to:

- Get a 'determination' (development consent) from the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPCI) to use an alternative assessment pathway

At this time, the process for requesting a determination from DPCI hasn't been finalised. That's why we recommend the following:

For SSD Projects Approved After 2 December 2024:

- Let us know if planning approval for the electricity works has been carved out for Endeavour Energy to assess
- Confirm whether we can proceed with the environmental review once a determination from DPCI is available
- If needed, begin the process to obtain a determination from DPCI

For SSD Projects Still Seeking Approval:

- Consider including electricity works in the EIS from the beginning, or
- Follow the same steps as above to explore an alternate pathway

More Good News: A new renewable energy planning framework

The NSW Government has also launched a [Renewable Energy Planning Framework](#) to guide State significant renewable energy projects under the EP&A Act. It includes helpful guidelines and tools that support the state's emissions reduction goals and the Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap.

Here's a quick look at what's included:

- **Wind Energy Guidelines** – site selection, visual impact, decommissioning advice.
- **Transmission Guidelines** – best practices for route planning, community consultation, and visual impact.
- **Solar Energy Guidelines** – updates on decommissioning and planning advice.
- **Benefit Sharing Guidelines** – ensuring local communities share in the benefits.
- **Private Agreement Guidelines** – key considerations for landholders and developers when making agreements.

If you're working on a renewable energy SSD project, don't forget to include enabling infrastructure in your EIS.

If you have any questions regarding this process, please contact us at cwadmin@endeavourenergy.com.au or call 02 9853 7977.

Kind regards,

Customer Network Solutions