

ASSESSMENT REPORT

TUMUT PULP AND PAPER MILL MP 06_0159 MOD 2

1. INTRODUCTION

This report is an assessment of a request to modify the Project Approval (MP06_0159) for the Visy Tumut Pulp and Paper Mill expansion at 1302 Snowy Mountains Highway, Tumut in the Tumut local government area. The request has been lodged by Visy Pulp and Paper Pty Ltd pursuant to section 75W of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act). It seeks to modify the approval by constructing new storage buildings and a new coating kitchen facility.

2. SUBJECT SITE

The subject site is located at 1302 Snowy Mountains Highway, which is located approximately 8 km West of Tumut and 7 km east of Adelong in the South West Slopes region of NSW (**Figure 1**).

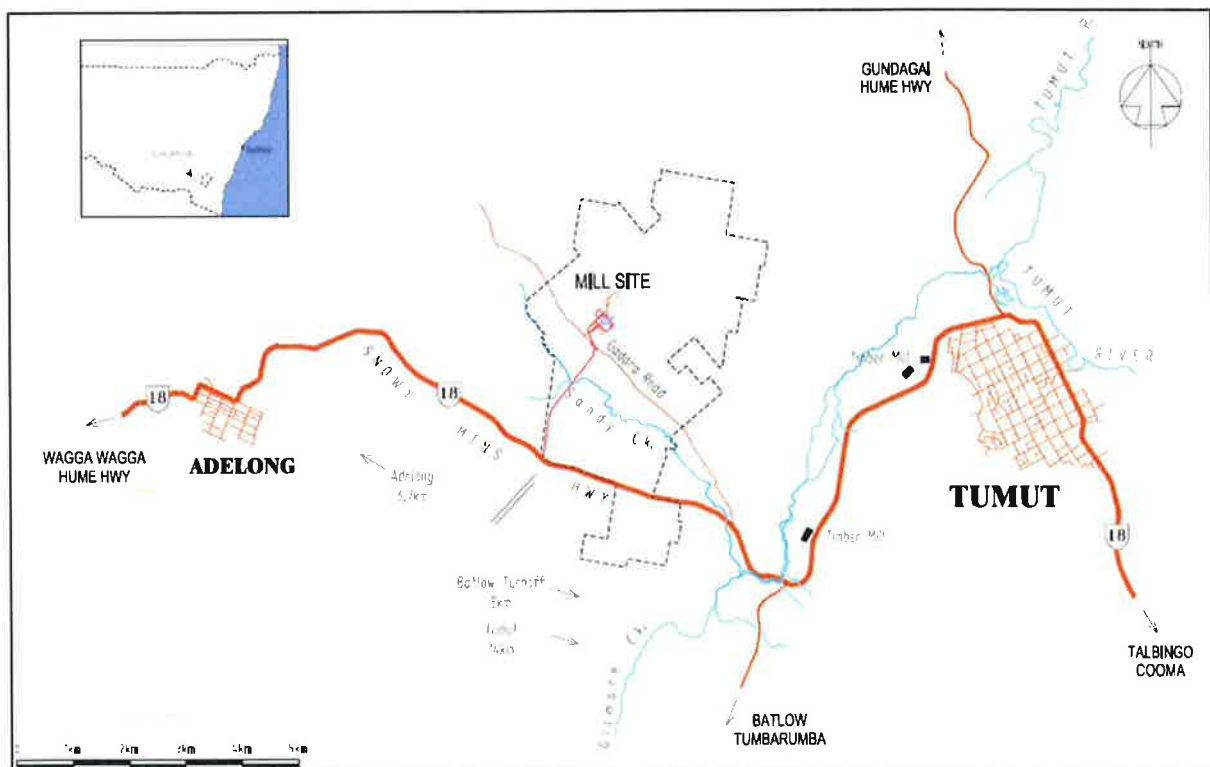


Figure 1: Site Location

3. APPROVAL HISTORY

On 29 November 1998, the then Minister for Urban Affairs and Planning granted development consent (DA 6/98) to Visy Industries Pty Ltd for the construction and operation of a pulp and paper mill at Tumut. This Development Consent has been subject to 3 modifications, relating to amendments to water supply, auxiliary fuel source, use of certain fuels in the power boiler and installation of a diesel refuelling facility on the site.

On 1 May 2007, the then Minister for Planning granted Concept and Project Approval (MP 06_0159) to increase paper-manufacturing capacity from an approved 300,000 tonnes per annum to 700,000 tonnes per annum. This approval operates in conjunction with the Development Consent (DA6/98).

Major Project Approval (MP 06_0159) has been modified on one occasion to change the emission limit for main stack 2.

4. PROPOSED MODIFICATION

On 19 August 2015, the Proponent lodged a section 75W modification application (MP 06_0159 MOD 2) seeking approval to construct: a White Pulp Storage Facility; a Coating Kitchen; and Storage Sheds.

The Department notes that the proposal would not:

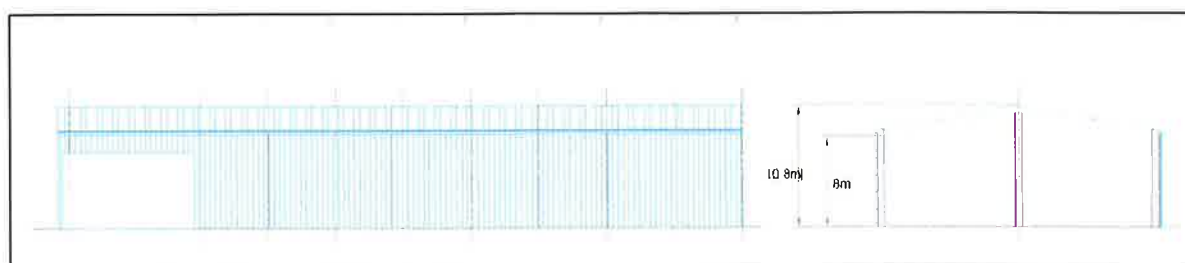
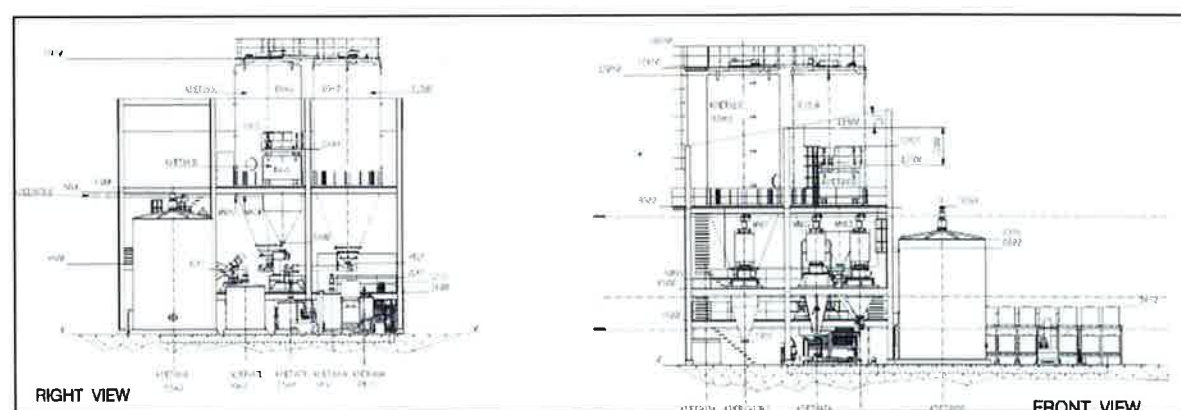
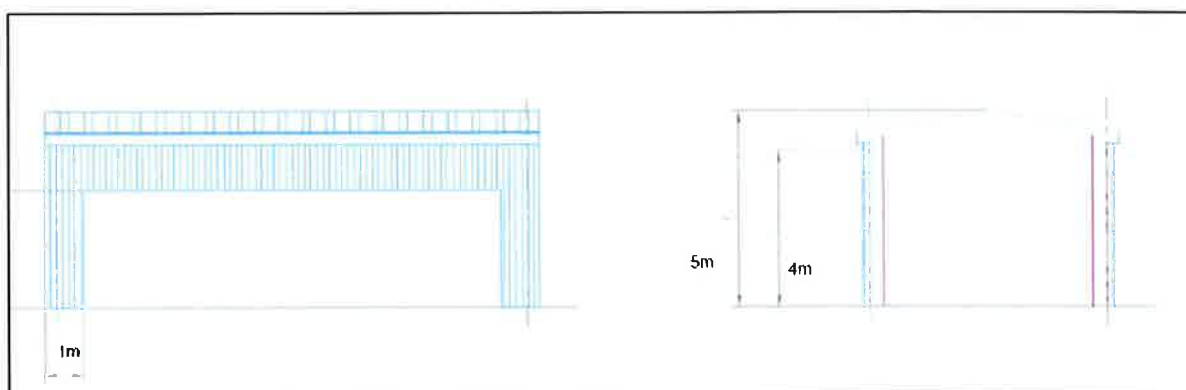
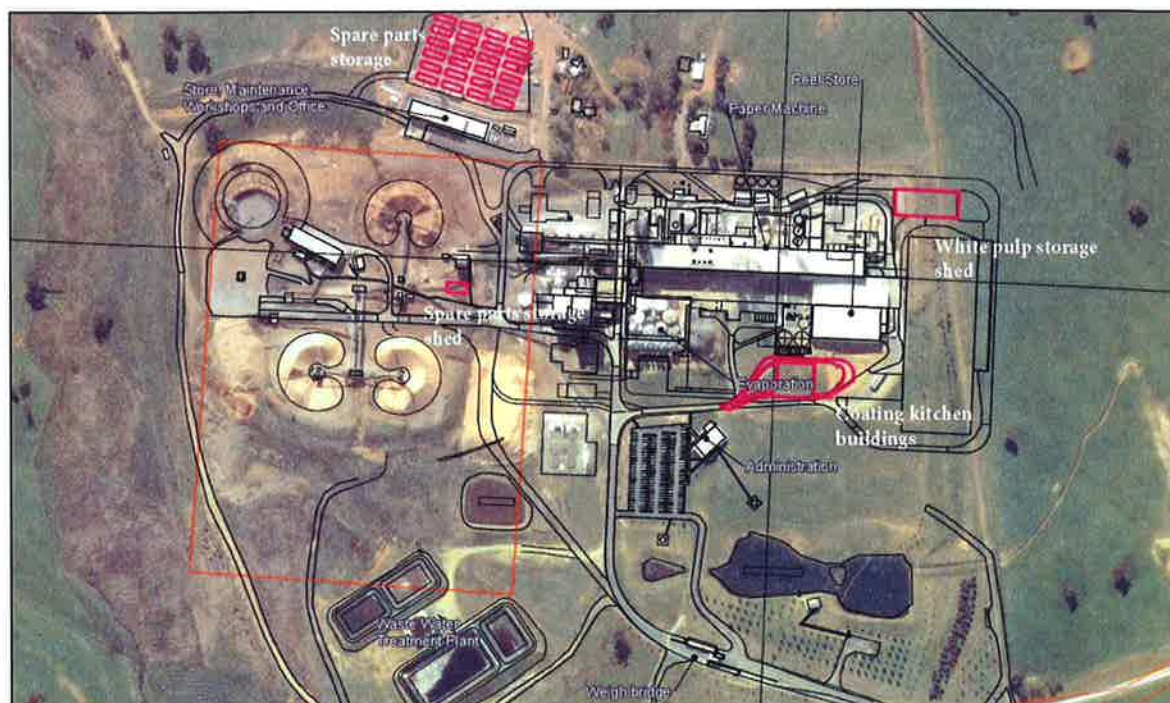
- increase production on the site;
- result in additional operational traffic movements;
- increase air or odour emissions from the site; or
- increase the level of wastewater generated on the site.

The Proponent advises that the modification is requested on the basis that it would enable the provision of buildings to house plant, machinery, and processes as well as storage of stock and spare parts associated with the approved expansion project (MP 06_0159).

A description of the structures is provided in **Table 1** below. Locations of the proposed structures are shown in **Figure 2**, and indicative elevations shown in **Figures 3 to 5**.

Table 1: Modification Description

Proposed Element	Description
White Pulp Storage Facility	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A storage facility with a roofed area of 1500m², achieved through either a single structure or multiple structures (indicative plans indicate a single shed approximately 60 metres x 25 metres x 10.8 metres). The storage facility would be constructed of galvanised steel and colourbond.• The purpose of the shed/s is to store purchased white pulp undercover to protect it from sunlight exposure and rain before it is used in the approved production processes.
Coating Kitchen	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The coating kitchen would have dimensions of approximately 36 metres x 18 metres x 13 metres high, with a tank popping through the roof to a height of 19 metres. The coating kitchen would be constructed of galvanised steel and colourbond.• The purpose of the coating kitchen is to house various storage silos, tanks, pumps, mixing system and controls needed to produce a coating mixture to be applied via an existing paper machine to the surface of new paper products developed in the context of the expansion approval.
Storage Sheds	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Storage sheds are proposed as modules of approximately 12 metres x 6 metres x 5 metres. The storage sheds would be constructed of galvanised steel and colourbond.• The purpose of the sheds is to store equipment and parts to support the Mill's approved upgraded operations.



5. STATUTORY CONSIDERATION

5.1 Section 75W

The project was originally approved under Part 3A of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act). Although Part 3A was repealed on 11 October 2011, the project remains a 'transitional Part 3A project' under Schedule 6A of the EP&A Act, and hence any modification to this approval must be made under the former Section 75W of the Act.

The Department is satisfied that the proposed changes are within the scope of section 75W of the EP&A Act, and do not constitute a new application.

5.2 Approval Authority

The Minister for Planning is the approval authority for the application. However, the A/Director, Regional Assessments may determine the application under delegation as:

- the relevant local council has not made an objection; and
- a political disclosure statement has not been made; and
- there are no public submissions in the nature of objections.

6. CONSULTATION

The Department made the modification application publicly available on its website, and consulted with the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) and Tumut Shire Council on the proposed modification.

The EPA raised no objection to the proposed modification and noted that the proposal:

- is adequately covered by the existing Environmental Protection Licence (EPL);
- would not result in additional air emissions; and
- would be required to meet existing noise limits specified in the EPL.

Council raise no objection to the proposed modification.

There were no public submissions received on the proposal.

7. ASSESSMENT

The key assessment issues associated with the proposed modification are considered in Table 2 below.

Table 2: Assessment of Other Issues

Issue	Consideration	Recommendation
<i>Visual Impacts</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The proposed new buildings would have heights of between five metres (spare parts sheds) and 19 metres (kitchen coating facility), and would be relatively minor compared to the scale of the existing development on the site.• All of the proposed buildings would be constructed of galvanised steel and colourbond cladding which is consistent with the nature of the existing buildings on the site.• The Department also notes that the proposed buildings would be in excess of 1.2 kilometres from the nearest property boundary.• The Department is therefore satisfied that no significant visual impacts would arise from the proposal.	No additional conditions or amendments necessary.
<i>Hazards (SEPP 33)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The site is considered to be a potentially hazardous industry under State Environmental Planning Policy No 33 (SEPP33).• As such, a preliminary hazards assessment was considered as part of the assessment of the expansion application, and conditions incorporated into the approval to ensure hazards are appropriately managed on the site.• The Proponent has confirmed that no additional hazardous chemicals	Conditions are recommended requiring an updated Fire Safety Study and Emergency Plan.

<i>Issue</i>	<i>Consideration</i>	<i>Recommendation</i>
	<p>would be used in relation to the proposed modification. It is noted that the additional chemicals to be used in the Coating Kitchen are mainly for paper coating processes and include calcined clay and starch binder.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notwithstanding, the Department considers that the Fire Safety Study and Emergency Plan as required by existing conditions 2.32 and 2.32 of the approval, should both be updated to take into account the changes arising from the proposed modification. • Subject to these plans being updated, the Department is satisfied that the modification would not result in any additional safety concerns. 	
<i>Noise Impacts</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Proponent's environmental assessment indicates that the proposal would not result in any additional operational noise sources. The assessment also notes that the dominant noise source from the site is associated with the existing mill processes which have previously been assessed and approved. • The Department is satisfied that the proposed storage and kitchen coating facilities would not lead to any significant operational noise impacts beyond those already assessed and approved. The Department also notes that any potential noise impacts associated with the proposed modification would be appropriately managed through the EPL and existing conditions of approval which set strict operational noise limits. 	The Department considers that the existing conditions appropriately address any potential noise impacts.
<i>Construction Management</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Department is satisfied that potential construction impacts associated with the proposal would be minor and temporary in nature. • The Department also notes that existing conditions of approval would appropriately manage and mitigate potential dust, noise, soil, water and traffic issues during the construction phase. 	The Department considers that the existing conditions appropriately address potential construction impacts.
<i>Consistency with Concept Approval</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Given the modification is within the scope of the Mill expansion approved by the Concept Plan, and merely provides buildings to support the approved expansion, the Department is satisfied the proposed modification is generally in accordance with the terms of the Concept Plan Approval 	No additional conditions or amendments necessary.

8. CONCLUSION

The Department has assessed the modification application and supporting information in accordance with the relevant requirements of the EP&A Act. The proposed modification is considered appropriate on the basis that:

- the proposal is a relatively minor addition in the context of the existing operations;
- the proposed works are required to house and support processes previously approved as part of the Major Project (MP 06_0159) expansion project; and
- the proposal would not result in any adverse environmental impacts.

Consequently, it is recommended that the modification be approved subject to the recommended conditions.

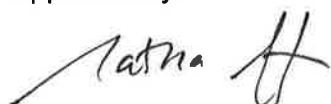
9. RECOMMENDATION

It is RECOMMENDED that the Acting Director, Regional Assessments, as delegate of the Minister for Planning:

- **considers** the findings and recommendations of this report;
- **approves** the application under section 75W, subject to conditions; and
- **signs** the notice of modification (**Appendix A**).

Prepared by:
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Approved by:



Natasha Harras
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Regional Assessments



Anthony Witherdin
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Regional Assessments

APPENDIX A: NOTICE OF MODIFICATION

The Notice of Modification can be found on the Department's website at the following address:

http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au/index.pl?action=view_job&job_id=7249

APPENDIX B: SUPPORTING INFORMATION

The following supporting documents and supporting information to this assessment report can be found on the Department of Planning and Environment's website as follows:

1. Modification request

http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au/index.pl?action=view_job&job_id=7249

2. Submissions

http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au/index.pl?action=view_job&job_id=7249

3. Response to Submissions

http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au/index.pl?action=view_job&job_id=7249