Director-General's Requirements

Section 75F of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*

DUMARESQ TO LISMORE 330 kV TRANSMISSION LINE – INVERELL, TENTERFIELD, KYOGLE, RICHMOND VALLEY AND LISMORE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS UNDER PART 3A OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT ACT 1979

Project	Construction of 330 kV transmission line, between Dumaresq substation near Bonshaw and Lismore substation and associated works. The transmission line will be approximately 220 km in length and is divided into two sections: Study Area East – Lismore to Tenterfield – approximately 130 km in length, utilising the existing 132 kV transmission line easement wherever possible (the easement would be widened from 45 metres to 60 metres), and; Study Area West – Tenterfield to Dumaresq – approximately 90 km in length requiring a new 60 metre wide easement. The project includes: • site preparation and steel tower foundation work; • construction of 35-40 metre high steel towers at 250-300 metre intervals, and up to 400 metres over gullies; • decommissioning and removal of the existing 132 kV transmission line between Lismore and Tenterfield; • pre-construction activities; • access track upgrading and/or construction as required; • vegetation clearing along the 60 metre wide easement as required for access and safety clearance purposes; • conductor and earth wire stringing between each of the erected towers; • upgrade of the Lismore and Dumaresq substations including new 330 kV line switchbays and electrical equipment installed within switchyards; • other substation works; • possible upgrade works to other substations.
Site	Transmission easements and properties between Dumaresq and Lismore.
Proponent	TransGrid
Date of Issue	11 September 2009
Date of Expiration	11 September 2011
General Requirements	The Environmental Assessment must be prepared to a high technical and scientific standard and must include: • an **executive summary**. • a **detailed description** of the project clearly defining the proposal corridor including construction, staging, operation and the construction of access roads; • consideration of any **relevant statutory provisions** including the consistency of the project with the objects of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*; • an **assessment of the key issues** outlined below, during construction, operation and decommissioning; • a draft **Statement of Commitments** detailing measures for environmental mitigation, management and monitoring for the project; • a **conclusion justifying the project** taking into consideration the environmental social and economic impacts of the project, the suitability of the site, and the public interest; and • **certification by the author** of the Environmental Assessment that the information contained in the Assessment is neither false nor misleading.

Key Assessment Requirements	The Environmental Assessment (EA) must include assessment of the following key issues: • **Strategic Planning and Project Justification** – the Environmental Assessment must provide a strategic assessment for the project, including justification of the need, scale, scope and location of the project in relation to predicted electricity demand and reliability requirements, predicted transmission constraints, alternative strategies, and the strategic direction of the region and the State regarding the State electricity supply and demand and electricity generation technologies. Particular reference should be made to the outcomes of any Regulatory Test under the National Electricity rules, TransGrid's Annual Planning Review process and any non-network options proposed for the relief of identified transmission constraints. • **Land Use Planning Impacts** – the Environmental Assessment must provide an analysis of the suitability of the proposed transmission route with respect to potential land use conflicts with existing and future surrounding land uses including urban growth areas, agricultural uses, State forests/timber resources, highway upgrades, conservation areas including Special Management Zones in State forests, and areas of significant scenic or visual value. The EA must also include an assessment of the potential impacts of the project to influence changes to future land use character in proximity of the site. Reference should be made to the Far North Coast Regional Strategy. • **Ecological Impacts** – the Environmental Assessment must include a justified and tiered assessment approach for impacts of the project on native vegetation, threatened species, populations, ecological communities and their habitats for each bioregion (including both terrestrial and aquatic ecology, and all groundwater dependent ecosystems likely to be impacted). The Environmental Assessment must: ° identify bioregions that will be or may be impacted by the project; ° demonstrate a design philosophy of impact avoidance on ecological values, and in particular, ecological values of high significance; ° for each identified bioregion, include a screening of species, populations, ecological communities and habitats based on ecological significance and the potential for impact as a consequence of the project; ° for species, populations, ecological communities and habitats with high ecological significance and significant potential for impact, include sufficient information to demonstrate the likely impacts, consistent with *Guidelines for Threatened Species Assessment* (DEC & DPI, July 2005) ° for other species, populations, ecological communities and habitats, a general bioregion-based assessment of ecological impacts associated with the project; ° consider region-based ecological outcomes, including habitat connectivity and distribution of species, and how these may be impacted by the project; ° detail measures to avoid or mitigate impacts, including any proposed compensatory habitat or off-set strategy, that describes the scale, scope and timing of implementation; • **Heritage Impacts** – the Environmental Assessment must include sufficient information to demonstrate the likely impacts on Aboriginal heritage values/items and outline proposed mitigation measures in accordance with the Draft *Guidelines for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment and Community Consultation* (DEC, 2005). The Environmental Assessment must demonstrate effective consultation with Aboriginal communities has been undertaken in determining and assessing impacts, developing options and selecting options and mitigation measures. • **Human Amenity Impacts** – the Environmental Assessment must include a justified and tiered assessment approach for impacts on human amenity, including noise and vibration, air quality (dust and odour) and traffic impacts during construction and operation of the project. The Environmental Assessment must: ° identify human receptors that will be or may be impacted by the project; ° characterise potentially impacted human receptors in terms of receptor type

	(e.g. isolated receptors, receptor areas (such as residential zones) and sensitive receptors (such as schools, hospitals etc.)); ° identify those receptors and receptor types likely to be significantly impacted by the project; ° include a framework for the mitigation, management and monitoring of noise and air quality impacts during construction of the project, particularly with respect to receptors and receptor types likely to be significantly impacted by the project and with specific reference to noise- and vibration-intensive construction works/ activities (drilling, blasting, bulk excavation, heavy vehicle movements etc.) around receptors and major centres. • **Hazards and Risk Impacts** – the Environmental Assessment must include a screening of potential hazards on site to determine the potential for off site impacts, particularly at the substations, and any requirement for a Preliminary Hazard Analysis (PHA). The Environmental Assessment must include an identification of any contaminated land affected by the proposal. The Environmental Assessment must also include an assessment of the risk to human health from Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMFs) associated with the project, with reference to Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency standards. The Environmental Assessment should demonstrate the application of the principles of Prudent Avoidance in relation to EMFs. The Environmental Assessment shall specifically consider on-going maintenance and safety management of the project, including potential impacts on and from bushfires and floods. • **Noise Impacts** – the Environmental Assessment must include an assessment of the noise impacts of new and/or upgraded substations, in accordance with the *NSW Industrial Noise Policy* (EPA, 2000). • **Visual Amenity Impacts** – the Environmental Assessment must include an assessment of the visual impacts associated with the proposal, including the impact on local and regional views by transmission lines and substations. Impacts on the values of adjacent wilderness areas should be considered. Alternative pole designs should be presented and assessed and the potential for undergrounding in sensitive locations should also be assessed. • **Construction-related Impacts** – the Environmental Assessment must include details of construction-related impacts associated with the proposal, including noise impacts against the criteria provided in *Interim Construction Noise Guideline* (DECC, July 2009), water quality impacts, weed management and soil and erosion implications. The Environmental Assessment must also indicate how these impacts would be mitigated and managed, consistent with best environmental practice. • **Traffic and Transport Impacts** – the Environmental Assessment must address the construction and operational traffic impacts of the project including proposed routes, timing and traffic volumes. **General Environmental Risk Analysis** – notwithstanding the above key assessment requirements, the EA must include an environmental risk analysis to identify potential environmental impacts associated with the project (construction and operation), proposed mitigation measures and potentially significant residual environmental impacts after the application of proposed mitigation measures. Where additional key environmental impacts are identified through this environmental risk analysis, an appropriately detailed impact assessment of these additional key environmental impacts must be included in the EA.
Consultation Requirements	You must undertake an appropriate and justified level of consultation with the following parties during the preparation of the EA: • NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water • NSW Department of Industry and Investment • NSW Roads and Traffic Authority and Australian Rail Track Corporation • NSW Health • NSW Rural Fire Service • Land and Property Management Authority • Livestock, Health and Pest Authorities (Rural Lands Protection Board)

	• Inverell Shire Council • Tenterfield Shire Council • Kyogle Council • Richmond Valley Council • Lismore City Council • NSW Aboriginal Land Councils/NSW Native Title Service • Local Aboriginal Land Council • each landowner and land occupier within and adjacent to the corridor of the proposed development sites and transmission route, and • the local community The Environmental Assessment must clearly indicate issues raised by stakeholders during consultation, and how those matters have been addressed in the Environmental Assessment.