

**HSEF0301.1 – Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)**

Approved by: Head of Workplace Health and Safety

Revision: 3

Date: May 2019

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ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)

PROJECT SITE/LOCATION	Tribute Power Scheme	ANTICIPATED DURATION OF PROJECT	2 months
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**DESCRIBE THE WORK
ACTIVITY AND WORK
ENVIRONMENT**

As part of the Battery of the Nation initiative Hydro Tasmania is undertaking feasibility assessments of a potential pumped hydroelectric scheme (PHES) associated with Lakes Plimsoll and Murchison, termed the Tribute PHES. A Tribute PHES would include new power and tailrace tunnels linking Lake Plimsoll and Lake Murchison as well as an underground power station and intake/outlet structures on each lake. Further information on the Battery of the Nation and planned Tribute PHES feasibility assessments can be found on Hydro Tasmania's [website](#).

A critical component of the feasibility assessment is geotechnical investigations. Geotechnical investigations will be undertaken in phases. Phase 1 Geotechnical investigations will be used to assess the suitability of the potential PHES site for construction of underground infrastructure. Phase 1 geotechnical works completed to date have included drilling and test pitting in the vicinity of Lake Murchison and Lake Plimsoll (refer [EIA](#)). The next component of Phase 1 geotechnical works at the Tribute PHES, and the subject of this EIA, includes drilling at two sites on the proposed tunnel alignment between the Lake Plimsoll and Lake Murchison as well as establishing a foot track to access the two sites. Drilling will be completed using a heliportable drill rig.

A map showing the drill hole locations and access track is provided in Annex 1. Both sites are located within the Lukes Knob Regional Reserve on land managed by the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS).

Drilling

Drill holes will be drilled to a depth of approximately 500m and will be approximately 100mm in diameter. Core recovered from the drill holes will be analysed and removed from site. The drill hole will be either capped or grouted at the completion of drilling.

Drilling will use a heliportable [Boart Longyear LF-70 drill rig](#). The disassembled rig will be flown to proposed drill site and reassembled on site. The drill rig will be secured to the ground using rock bolts or an installed concrete anchor point. Other temporary infrastructure that will be installed at the drill site includes:

- Portable steel framed tent with inbuilt platform and self-levelling legs
- 10,000L water tank and platform
- Above ground sumps each approximately 1.5m³ (1500L)
- Skid mounted portable toilet
- Double walled approximately 1500L fuel tank
- Flyable baskets containing drill rods, tools and accessories.

The footprint of the drill site will be approximately 10m x 15m. No vegetation removal will be required to establish the drill site however, existing vegetation may be trimmed (e.g. using a brush cutter) to allow installation of equipment.

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Water source and management

Water will be required to facilitate drilling. Water will be pumped from Red Hills Creek (refer Annex 1) to the onsite water storage tank. No alteration to Red Hills Creek (e.g. excavation or weir) will be required for pumping. The pump and pipe will be placed by helicopter. Water will be circulated from the onsite water tank to the drill hole and back to a series of above ground sumps each approximately 1.5m³. Sumps allow solids such as naturally occurring rock and organic matter (e.g. tree roots) to fall out of suspension. Whenever possible water will be drawn from the second sump and recirculated through the drill hole. However, where insufficient water is returned from the drill hole water will be supplemented from the on-site water tank. Up to a maximum of 15,000L of water per day is anticipated to be required. Overflow from the second sump (e.g. in the event of high rainfall) will be dissipated over land and not directed down existing drainage channels. Sediment captured in the sumps will be flown from site at the completion of each drill hole or earlier as required.

Where required, drilling additives may be used (e.g. to control high hole torque, lubricate drill strings or stabilise the hole). Drilling additives will be used only when required and will be biodegradable (e.g. drill muds such as Mudex or Mudlogic).

Access tracks

A foot track will be established from Anthony Road to access the two drill sites and the pumping location as shown in Annex 1. The access track will be cut by hand and will seek to minimise disturbance wherever possible. Infrastructure such as wooden stairs will be installed only where required to meet minimum safety requirements and rope pull ups will be used instead of hand railing. Access to the track from the Anthony Road will be 'low key' and car parking will be located approximately 50m from the track entrance.

Rehabilitation

All infrastructure will be removed at the completion of works. Infrastructure installed on the access track (e.g. wooden stairs) will also be removed.

PROJECT MANAGER	Joe Booth	EIA PREPARED BY	David Procter
FINAL COPY APPROVED BY	Ian Jones	SIGNATURE 	DATE 20/03/2020

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LEGAL ASSESSMENT*Does this activity require a permit or the requirement to notify a regulatory body?**Refer to HSEP0201 – Legal and Other Requirements Procedure for further information***Local Council/State Requirements**

- ☒ Council Development Planning/Building Permits
- ☒ Heritage Permits (Aboriginal/Cultural)
- ☐ Permit to Take Threatened Species
- ☐ Mining Lease or Licence
- ☐ Forest Practices Plan
- ☒ Reserve Activity Assessment (TWWHA and other reserves)
- ☐ Dam Works Permit
- ☐ Crown Land Works Authority
- ☒ Scientific Research Permit
- ☐ Environment Management Pollution Control Act Permit (Level 2 activities or other)

Commonwealth Requirements

- ☐ Referral under *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* for significant impacts on matters of National Environmental Significance

Further Advice

- ☐ Seek assistance with identifying applicable legal requirements and obligations from Subject Matter Experts including the Environment & Engagement and Legal Teams, if required

If any of the above are required, please describe requirements and attach a copy of the documents:

The proposed geotechnical works are exempt from the requirement to obtain a planning permit in accordance with section 60A(2) of the *Land Use and Planning Approvals Act 1993*.

An ecological survey has been completed that included the proposed geotechnical sites and did not identify the requirement to obtain a Permit to Take under the *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995* (Annex 2).

An Aboriginal and historic heritage survey has been completed that included the proposed geotechnical sites and did not identify the requirement to obtain a permit to move or destroy any Aboriginal or historic heritage (Annex 3).

The proposed works are not subject to any other Local Council or State requirements and do not require referral under the Commonwealth *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

The works are located within the Lukes Knob Regional Reserve and require a Reserve Activity Assessment (RAA). Through consultation with the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS) it has been determined that this EIA will be submitted to PWS prior to the commencement of work for assessment against the requirements of an RAA.

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WORKING WITHIN THE TASMANIAN WILDERNESS WORLD HERITAGE AREA (TWWHA) AND OTHER PWS RESERVES*Refer to HSEP0911 - Operations in the TWWHA for further information**Skip this section if the works are not within the TWWHA or other PWS reserves*

- **Maintenance work** in the TWWHA will require notification to Parks & Wildlife Services in the form of a cover letter (see *HSEP0911.1 - WHA Notification of Works*).
- **New work** in the TWWHA and other reserves may require the completion of a Parks & Wildlife Services *Reserve Activity Assessment*. Refer to a Subject Matter Expert within the Environment & Engagement Team for further advice.

What is the zoning of the land under the TWWHA Management Plan?	N/A
What is the Wilderness Quality Rating of the land?	N/A
What is the Reserve Category of the land?	Regional Reserve
Is the land vested in Hydro Tasmania?	No
What distance are the works from a public road, designated walking track or other public access route (e.g. Franklin River)?	The access track commences on Anthony Rd. The drill holes are approximately 700m from Anthony Rd.

LIFECYCLE CONSIDERATIONS*As an example - Does this activity have the opportunity to consider and influence more sustainable acquisition of raw materials, end of life treatment and final disposal of waste?***If yes, describe the considerations and how to influence these through proposed actions (please note a lifecycle assessment isn't required):** N/A

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Refer to [IBRM Operation Information](#) for further information regarding operational impacts including probability and impact (consequence).

Probability Table		
Description	Probability Range	Example Probability
7. Almost Certain	91% – 100%	Event is expected
6. Likely	61% – 90%	Event is likely to occur
5. Possible	21% – 60%	Event may occur, but not likely
4. Unlikely	6% – 20%	Event not expected
3. Rare	1% – 5%	Event extremely unlikely
2. Extremely Rare	< 1%	May only occur in extreme and exceptional circumstances

Probability	Impact (Consequence)					
	1.Insignificant	2.Minor	3.Moderate	4.Major	5.Extreme	6.Catastrophic
7. Almost Certain 91% - 100%	7	14	21	28	35	42
6. Likely 61% - 90%	6	12	18	24	30	36
5. Possible 21% - 60%	5	10	15	20	25	30
4. Unlikely 6% - 20%	4	8	12	16	20	24
3. Rare 1% - 5%	3	6	9	12	15	18
2. Extremely Rare <1%	2	4	6	8	10	12

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POTENTIAL HAZARD AND RISK	INHERENT RISK (probability x impact)	CONTROL MEASURES	RESIDUAL RISK (probability x impact)	PERSON WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR MANAGING THE CONTROL MEASURE	HOW OFTEN WILL THE CONTROL MEASURE BE CHECKED TO ENSURE IT IS IN PLACE & EFFECTIVE
LAND see HSEP0913 Land Management Procedure <input type="checkbox"/> N/A					
<input type="checkbox"/> Importation of gravel from a quarry <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Air and noise quality / pollution <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Land clearing and contamination <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Storage of equipment and / or construction of site shed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excavation <input type="checkbox"/> Noise from works of normal business hours					
Land clearing for foot track and/or disposal of water from the drill site leading to erosion and sedimentation.	15 - Moderate	Erosion control measures (e.g. drainage) will be installed to control surface water runoff and prevent erosion of the foot track. Vegetation disturbance will be confined to the minimum practicable area to maintain OH&S requirements to ensure that the minimum land area is exposed to erosion for the shortest possible time Any discharge of water from above ground sumps shall be to vegetated land and not directed into existing drainage channels. Drill holes will be either capped or grouted at the completion of sampling.	8 - minor	Hydro Tasmania site manager	Daily visual inspection of sediment control structures
Noise emissions from drill rig and machinery impacting amenity of visitors	12 - moderate	Ensure that machinery used on site is fitted with the required exhaust and noise suppression systems and it is in manufacturers recommended operating condition. Vehicles and machinery will not be left running when not in use. Site working hours will typically be from 0730 – 1730 from Monday to Friday. Work outside these	8 - minor	Hydro Tasmania site manager	Daily – visual inspection of machinery.

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		times shall only be undertaken with the approval of the Hydro Tasmania Site Supervisor.			
FLORA – LAND AND AQUATIC <input type="checkbox"/> N/A					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vegetation clearing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Threatened Species, Communities & Habitat nearby <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Disturbance / removal of habitat					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Weed and disease spread					
Clearance/disturbance of listed threatened flora and vegetation communities at drill hole sites or for the establishment of foot track.	20 - Major	<p>An ecological survey has been completed at both drill sites and the access tracks (Annex 2).</p> <p>All infrastructure is located in TASVEG vegetation community Western buttongrass moorland (MBW). Small patches of Western wet scrub (SWW) and <i>Eucalyptus nitida</i> forest over <i>Leptospermum</i> WNL are avoided by the drill holes and access tracks. None of these vegetation communities is listed under the NC Act.</p> <p>No flora species listed under the <i>Threatened Species Protection Act 1995</i> or <i>Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> have been recorded at the proposed sites and none are expected to be disturbed by the geotechnical works.</p> <p>If it is determined at the time of the works that additional disturbance is required or that the site is not suitable an appropriately qualified ecologist will inspect the additional / alternative site. If threatened species are located the site will be relocated if possible. If not a permit to take</p>	8 - minor	Hydro Tasmania site manager	Once – visual inspection of site clearance

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		application will be completed for the threatened species prior to the commencement of works. Vegetation clearance shall be kept to the minimum required to safely undertake the geotechnical works. Wherever possible vegetation will be trimmed rather than removed.			
Disturbance of aquatic flora down stream of the water supply extraction point on Red Hills Creek.	12 - moderate	Red Hills Creek below Anthony Road has been impacted by the Red Hills Diversion does not contain significant ecological values. The temporary minor reduction in flow is not expected to have any significant impact on aquatic species.	8 - minor	N/A	N/A
Introduction of weeds or disease via importation of contaminated equipment (including PPE), helicopter, machinery or material.	10 - minor	Equipment and machinery will be washed down in accordance with the requirements of DPIWPE's Weed and Disease Planning and Hygiene Guidelines and the Keeping it Clean manual to prevent the spread of phytophthora and other weeds and diseases. Equipment used for the geotechnical investigations will be clean prior to transport to the site and free of mud and dirt that could harbour weeds and diseases prior to commencing work at the site.	8 - minor	Hydro Tasmania site manager	As required – visual inspection of Phytophthora compliance and vehicles and machinery entering site.

FAUNA – LAND AND AQUATIC☐ N/A☒ Threatened fauna☒ Disturbance to spawning, nesting or breeding seasons☐ Pest Fish☒ Injury / death of fauna (stranding, drowning)☒ Disturbance to sensitive habitats



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Clearance and/or disturbance of listed threatened fauna habitat at drill hole site or for the establishment of access track and drill pads	20 - major	An ecological survey has been completed at both drill sites and the access tracks (Annex 2). No fauna species (or habitat for fauna species) listed under the <i>Threatened Species Protection Act 1995</i> or <i>Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> are expected to be disturbed by the geotechnical works.	8- minor	N/A	N/A
Disturbance of aquatic fauna and habitats down stream of the water supply extraction point on Red Hills Creek.	12 - moderate	Red Hills Creek below Anthony Road has been impacted by the Red Hills Diversion does not contain significant ecological values. The temporary minor reduction in flow is not expected to have any significant impact on aquatic species or habitats.	8 - minor	N/A	N/A
Disturbance of active wedge tailed eagle nests.	20 - major	There are no recorded wedgetailed eagle nests within 5 km of the works sites.	8 - minor	N/A	N/A
WATER QUALITY <div> <input type="checkbox"/> Changes in water quality for upstream/downstream users <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unnatural, extreme or long term changes to water levels or flows <input type="checkbox"/> Changes to recreational uses of water </div> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> Disturbance of fish passages / breeding / migration <input type="checkbox"/> Rapid drawdowns </div> <div style="text-align: right;"><input type="checkbox"/> N/A</div>					
Reduced flow in Red Hills Creek downstream of the extraction point of water supply for geotechnical works leading to a reduced water quality	12 - moderate	No hydrological data on flows within Red Hills Creek below Anthony Road was able to be found. However, the extraction of a maximum of 15,000L of water over an approximately 10hr	8 - minor	N/A	N/A



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		period (approx. 0.42L per second) is expected to have an insignificant impact on flows within Red Hills Creek.			
HERITAGE <i>see HSEP0912 Cultural Heritage Management Procedure</i> <input type="checkbox"/> N/A					
<input type="checkbox"/> Impacts to Hydro Tasmania historic heritage <input type="checkbox"/> High/Very High ranking on the HT Cultural Heritage Inventory <input type="checkbox"/> Site on the Tasmanian Aboriginal Heritage Register (AHR)					
<input type="checkbox"/> Impacts to non-Hydro historic heritage <input type="checkbox"/> Site listed on the National Heritage List, Tasmanian Heritage Register, Planning Scheme Heritage Code or external heritage database					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Impacts to artefacts (including concealment by rising water levels following planned maintenance drawdown)					
Disturbance of Aboriginal relics or sites due to test pit excavation or access track and drill pad establishment.	16 - major	<p>A desktop survey of Aboriginal and historic heritage was completed by Gondwana Heritage Solutions (Greg Jackman) (Annex 3). An onsite survey for Aboriginal heritage was completed for the initial Phase 1 works for the Tribute PHES and the results of this onsite assessment informed the desktop assessment.</p> <p>Potential impacts to Aboriginal heritage associated with the drill hole sites and access tracks were found to be minimal and to be able to be mitigated.</p> <p>All ground disturbance will be minimised.</p> <p>If it is determined at the time of the works that additional disturbance is required or that the site is not suitable an appropriately qualified heritage expert will inspect the additional / alternative sites prior to the commencement of work.</p>	8 - minor	Hydro Tasmania site manager	Inspection of recorded artefact protection – if required.

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		<p>If the site is assessed as medium or high risk an alternative site will be found.</p> <p>Ensure contractors/workers have access to, and understand, Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania's Unanticipated Discovery Plan (Annex 4).</p> <p>Any Aboriginal relics encountered during works will be reported immediately as per UDP protocols and Hydro Tasmania's Cultural Heritage Management Procedure (HSEP0912).</p>			
Disturbance of historic heritage sites due to access track and drill pad establishment	15 – moderate	No historic heritage values were identified or anticipated at the drill hole location or access track.	5 - insignificant	N/A	N/A
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WASTE & RECYCLING <i>see HSEP0914 Waste Management Procedure</i> <input type="checkbox"/> N/A					
<input type="checkbox"/> Waste oil / Hydrocarbons <input type="checkbox"/> Concrete slurry <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excavation spoil <input type="checkbox"/> Hazardous waste (e.g. PCB) <input type="checkbox"/> Asbestos / Coal Tar Enamel (CTE) waste <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Construction waste <input type="checkbox"/> Recycling opportunities including steel, paper/cardboard, plastics					
Contamination or erosion of surrounding land from discharge of drilling waste water	15 – moderate	Above ground sumps will be installed to collect and store water. Sump water will be recirculated through drill hole in preference to pumping more water. Overflow from the second sump will be dissipated over land and not directed down existing drainage channels. Sediment captured in the sumps will be flown from site at the completion of each drill hole or earlier as required.	5 - insignificant		
Site waste from geotechnical works contaminates surrounding environment.	10 - minor	Animal proof general rubbish bins will be available on drilling site for the duration of the works. A portable toilet to be kept on site for duration of works. General waste and sewage will be disposed of at an approved location by the waste management supplier. It is the responsibility of the contractor to ensure that all drilling related tools, equipment and rubbish is removed prior to leaving the site and	4 - insignificant	TBC	Daily – inspection of rubbish collection and site for rubbish.

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		that all drill hole collars, plugs or caps are clearly marked and communicated.			
HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES & CHEMICAL MANAGEMENT <i>see HSEP0921 - Hazardous Chemical Management Procedure</i> <input type="checkbox"/> N/A					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hazardous substances storage <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fire risk <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Oil / fuel spill to land, air and water <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Land contamination <input type="checkbox"/> Transport of hazardous substances required <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Waste					
Pollution of nearby land from release of drill slurry containing drilling additives	10 - minor	Drilling additives will only be used when absolutely required. All additives used will be biodegradable Safety Data Sheets (SDS) must be available onsite. Recommendations on the safe handling and storage of these substances must be followed.	5 - insignificant	TBC	
Contamination of nearby land from accidental spills (e.g. fuel or oils).	12 – moderate	Any hazardous materials (including hydrocarbons) stored onsite must be contained in a bund and in accordance with any relevant and applicable legislation, regulations or Australian Standard. Fuel stored at the pump site will be contained in a bund in accordance with any relevant and applicable legislation, regulations or Australian Standard and be placed as far away from Red Hills Creek as is practical. Staff must be trained in the use of spill kits and associated equipment.	6 - minor	TBC	

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		Ensure any fuel or oil spills contained immediately and reported in accordance with Hydro Tasmania's requirements. Oil and fuel spill kits adequate for the quantity and type of materials on site will be kept at each site. Any waste from oil spill clean ups will be double bagged, removed from site and disposed of at an appropriately licenced facility.			
Spark or heat from operation of machinery starts fire.	12 - major	Regular inspection of vehicles/machinery for defects likely to start a fire. Ensure separation of fuel supplies from machinery by suitable distance. Ensure vehicles/machinery are not left running unattended. Ensure fire extinguishers are kept on machinery and in vehicles.	6 - minor	TBC	Daily - vehicle and machinery check

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT*see WMS-FRM-060 Stakeholder Advice Checklist (found within the Works Management System)*

Has WMS-FRM-060 been completed?

☒ Yes ☐ No
If No, please complete

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Have any potential issues been identified?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If Yes, then as per the instructions on the form, please consult with the Engagement Team to confirm what, if any, additional stakeholder consultation should be completed prior, during and post the project.

PROJECT LEARNINGS*Lessons from the project to be completed during project and during the final review.*

Issue	Action/Resolution