

Newcastle Power Station Project

Environmental Impact Statement

AGL has undertaken a comprehensive assessment of the potential impacts of the Newcastle Power Station Project. A brief summary of some of the environmental assessments and mitigation strategies to manage any concerns for the Project are summarised below:



Water Use

The Project would not affect other water users in the region during operation. It is expected that the power station will use approximately 120,000m³ of water per year during operation.

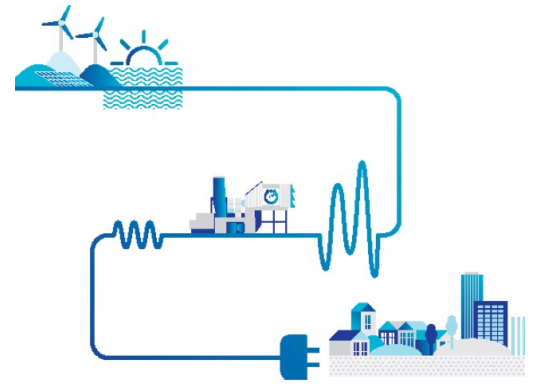
In a worst-case scenario of water demand for continuous operation of the power station, the consumed water would represent a small percentage of the total water supply available in the region (0.03%) and a fractional increase on current annual water usage (0.12%).

Wastewater

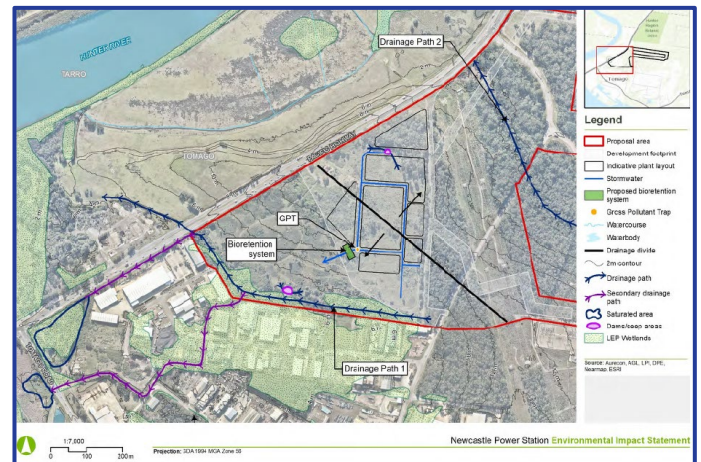
Wastewater from operation of the power station would be contained on site before being removed via tankers for disposal at a licensed trade waste facility.

Surface water

Several potential flooding scenarios were modelled. The only potential impact is when extreme events occur, as the underground pipelines will be covered by floodwater. The project is above flood levels, it's been determined that it will not result in a change to the flood levels, velocity or flow patterns.



During construction and operation, several mitigation measures are proposed to ensure that any chemicals or contaminated water are contained on site and cannot enter the surrounding waterways.



Groundwater

As the groundwater table is close to the surface in some sections of the Project (approximately 2 metres at the closest point), several mitigation measures have been proposed to reduce contamination, and ensure that it's managed and does not leave the site.

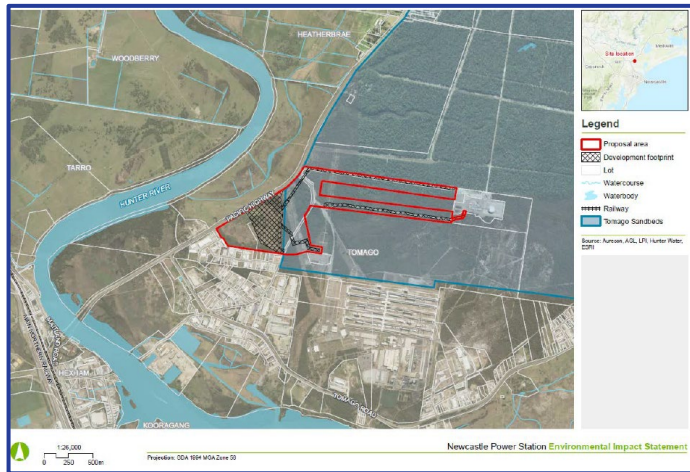
Several mitigation measures are proposed to ensure the Tomago Sandbeds are protected and any impacts are negligible.

One of the proposed mitigation measures is the use of Horizontal Directional Drilling to avoid areas of high ecological value. This pipeline installation uses underground tunnelling techniques instead of conventional trenching.

There may be some minor changes for the ability for rainfall to recharge groundwater systems due to surface alterations, such as impervious surfaces

and vegetation clearing. However, a large portion of the site has been previously cleared, meaning no significant impact is expected.

No impact to groundwater-dependent ecosystems is expected.



Soil

The potential for Acid Sulphate Soils has been identified on this project. This occurs when a specific type of waterlogged soil is disturbed and exposed to air, causing the soil to become acidic.

Care would be taken not to expose these specific soils, especially in shallow groundwater. In the event acid sulphate soils are uncovered during construction, they will be contained on site and treated in line with an acid sulphate soils Management Plan.

Due to the Hunter River potentially connecting the project to the RAMSAR wetland, the federal government will also be assessing the project to ensure no contaminated surface or groundwater reach the wetland.

Consultation

AGL has consulted extensively over the past 12 months with relevant State and Local government agencies as well as local residents, landowners and businesses potentially affected by the project. AGL will continue to liaise with stakeholders and the local community.

AGL is committed to establishing a local community investment program that will be developed in consultation with the community.

Exhibition Period

The Public Exhibition of the Environmental Impact Statement for the Project will take place from 20th November to 18th December 2019. A list of exhibition locations is available at the AGL website and all submissions are welcome.

To know more

Please contact AGL on:

Email: AGLCommunity@agl.com.au

Phone: 1800 039 600

