



Professor Mary O'Kane AC
Chair
Independent Planning Commission
Level 3, 201 Elizabeth Street
Sydney NSW 2000



Dear Professor O'Kane

Eraring Power Station – Ash Dam Expansion Modification (07_0084 Mod 1)

The Department has received an application from Origin Energy Eraring Pty Limited to modify the project approval for the Eraring Power Station under Section 75W of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. The project is located on the western shore of Lake Macquarie approximately 40 kilometres (km) southwest of Newcastle.

The proposed modification involves changes to the approved ash deposition strategy, development and use of a new ash emplacement area and upgrading ancillary ash deposition infrastructure.

The Department publicly exhibited the modification application and accompanying Environmental Assessment from 13 – 27 September 2018. It received 32 submissions on the proposal, including 7 from public authorities and 25 submissions from the community, which comprised 22 objections and 3 comments.

The Independent Planning Commission is the approval authority for the modification application under delegation, as Origin Energy Eraring Pty Limited has made a political donations disclosure.

The Department considers that the proposal would provide essential ash storage capacity for the continued operation of the power station, which in turn would assist in ensuring energy security for the State. Associated local benefits include improvements to the way water is managed at the ash depository to avoid groundwater pollution. These benefits would be achieved without additional adverse environmental or community impacts.

Based on its assessment, the Department considers that the modification request is approvable, subject to the recommended revisions to the project approval conditions. I have attached a copy of the Department's assessment report, recommended revised conditions and other relevant documents for the Commission's consideration.

I would be happy to brief the Commission on the proposal at your convenience. If further information is required, please contact Paul Freeman on 9274 6587.

Yours sincerely

Mike Young
A/Executive Director
Energy & Resources

1/10/19