

## Project bulletin

August 2021

### PROJECT UPDATE

Neoen are continuing to progress the technical studies which are required as part of the planning approval process known as the Environmental Effects Statement (EES). More details of the EES process are outlined in additional information located on page 2.

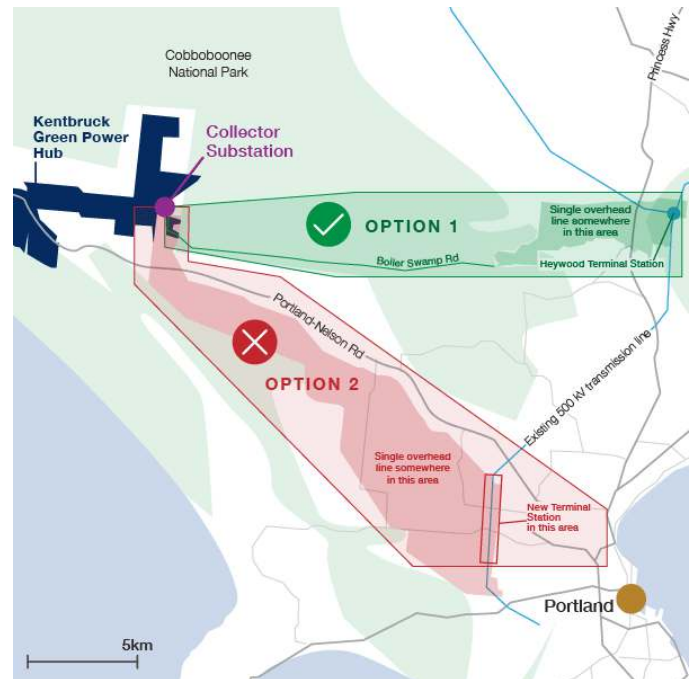
The planning and approval process provides opportunities for your input through ongoing and transparent community consultation.

Consultation helps to identify issues of concern within the community as well as collect feedback on project options and potential solutions.

During the preparation of the EES we are seeking your feedback and local knowledge. We will also keep you informed of any change to the design of the project.

We are planning to conduct community info sessions in last half of 2021 to give an update on the project and to present some of the key findings of the technical studies.

We are working towards submitting the finalised EES and planning permit application by the end of 2021.



### TRANSMISSION LINE UPDATE

Neoen have investigated both underground (Option 1) and overhead (Option 2) transmission routes for the connection of the project to the grid.

In response to the strong views and preference within the community for option 1, Neoen have made the recent decision to **discontinue pursuing Transmission Line Option 2** and to concentrate our efforts on securing Option 1 which is underground route running under Boiler Swamp Road through the Cobboboonee Forest Park and Cobboboonee National Park.

We would like to thank you for your feedback and input on this.

## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Have a question?

Want us to brief you?

Like more information on the project?

Needing a Guest Speaker for your meeting?

Please phone: Kent Barker on 0439 999 950

For more information on the Kentbruck Green Power Hub please contact:

Kent Barker  
Community Liaison Officer  
Ph: 0439 999 950

NEOEN

# THE ENVIRONMENT EFFECTS STATEMENT PROCESS

The Kentbruck Green Power Hub is currently going through an Environmental Effects Statement Process (EES), the most rigorous environmental impact assessment process in Victoria. The requirement for an EES is an important step for the Project as it will provide a transparent, integrated investigation of potential environmental impacts and also provide the community with an opportunity to review and provide feedback on the Project as it develops.

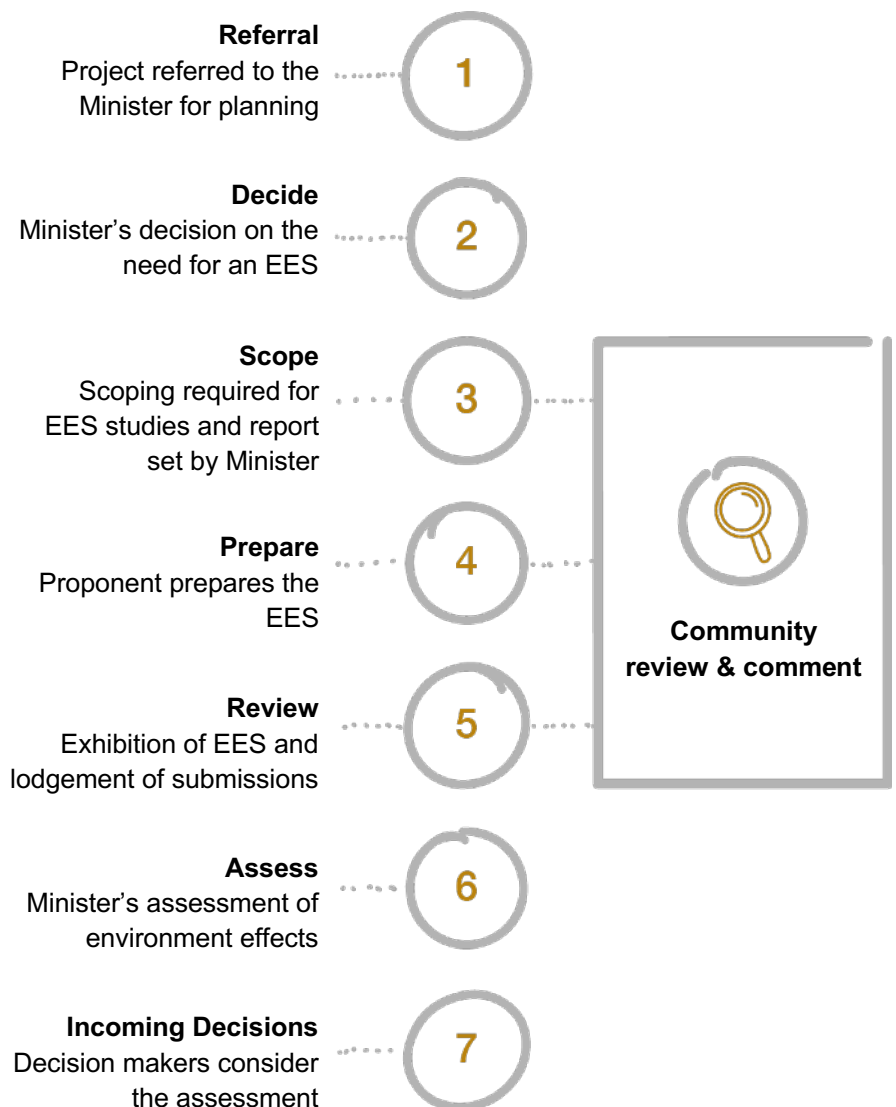
## The purpose of an EES

An EES provides for an integrated assessment of potential environmental effects (including economic, Aboriginal cultural heritage, historic cultural heritage and social effects) including the evaluation of viable project design alternatives.

As part of the EES we have undertaken environmental assessments to understand potential impacts from the project and to identify how the impacts can be avoided, minimised and managed.

Environmental assessments include:

- Biodiversity, including flora and fauna
- Aboriginal cultural heritage and historic cultural heritage
- Land use and planning, agriculture, social and economic assessments
- Groundwater, surface water, air quality, noise and vibration
- Geotechnical and land contamination
- Landscape and visual amenity
- Aviation assessment
- Traffic assessment
- Safety and risk assessments including bushfire risks



## How does the EES Process work?

In August 2019, the Minister for Planning determined that the Kentbruck Green Power Hub requires an EES. An EES is not an approval process itself, rather it is a process of integrated assessment used to inform decision making by all authorities (Ministers, local government and statutory authorities) who are required to make decisions about approvals required if the Project is to proceed.

## Key steps in the EES Process

### A Technical Reference Group is established

Government establishes a Technical Reference Group, which is made up of members from government agencies, local government and statutory authorities, to provide advice on the adequacy of the assessments prepared for the EES. This is to help ensure that the public has access to an accurate and comprehensive EES, relative to the scoping requirements, at the exhibition stage.

### Scoping requirements exhibited for public comment

The matters to be investigated in the EES are set out in the 'scoping requirements' issued by the Minister. The draft scoping requirements are available for public comment for at least 15 business days before the scoping requirements are finalised and published, having regard to public comments received.

### Preparation of the EES

Environmental assessments are prepared by technical specialists to address the scoping requirements. We will seek feedback from the community on the assessments to ensure the studies and design are informed by local knowledge.

### Exhibition of the EES for public comment

When the Minister is satisfied that the EES is suitable, it is released for public comment for at least 30 business days. During this time, the public can review the EES and make a formal submission to government.

### Public Inquiry

A public inquiry, conducted by an independent panel, is held where public submissions on the EES are considered. The committee will hear from the submitters (if they request to be heard) at the inquiry. An inquiry report is provided to the Minister for Planning with recommendations and considerations of the environmental impacts.

### Minister's Assessment

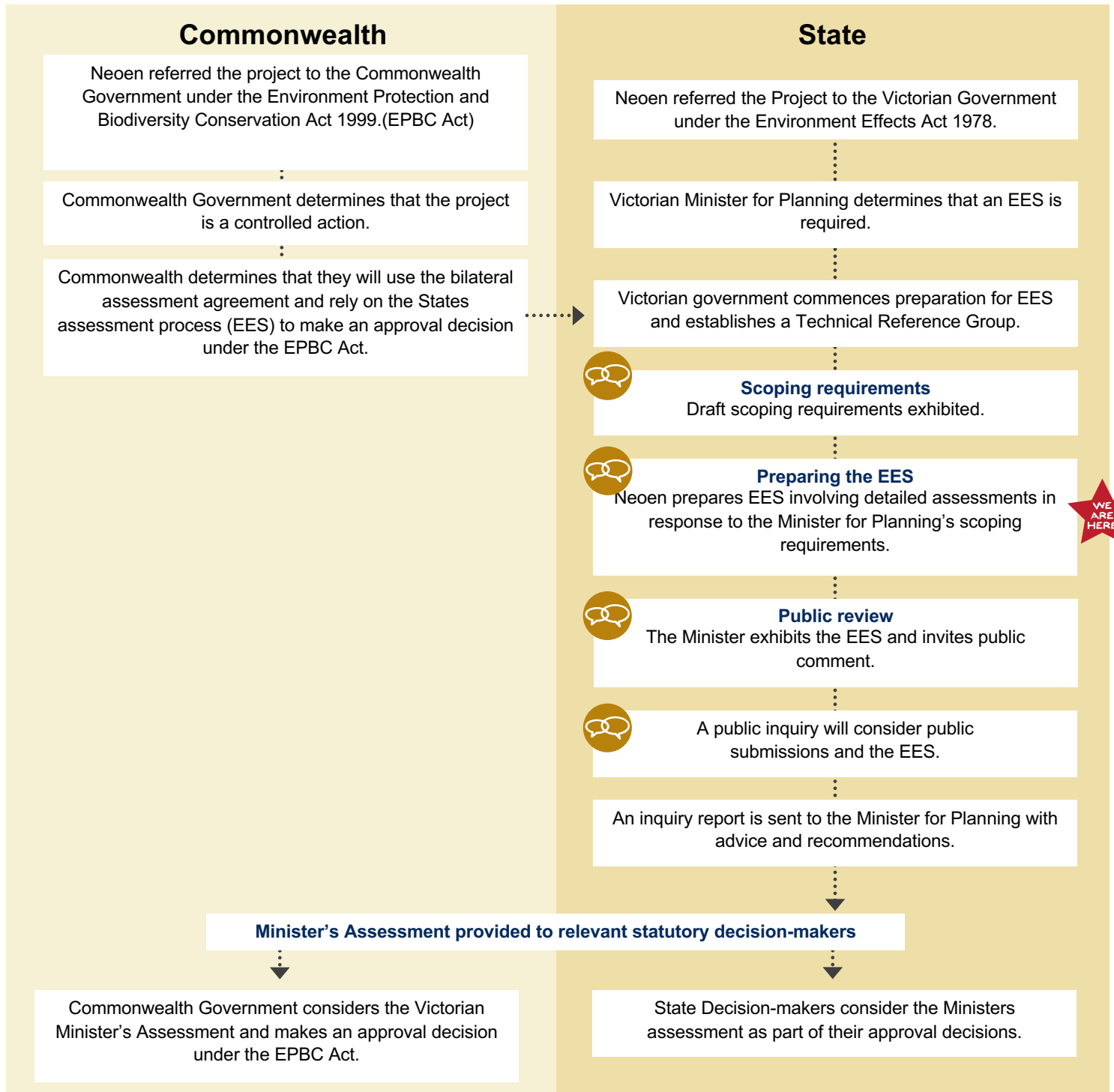
At the end of the EES process, the Minister considers the advice of the independent panel and prepares "the Minister's assessment" – a report considering all relevant information including the EES documents, public submissions, the proponent's response and the inquiry report. The Minister's Assessment will determine if the level of impacts are acceptable and if any modifications and/or conditions are needed.

### Decision-Makers

Statutory decision-makers must consider the Minister's assessment before making decisions about approvals that the project requires if it is to proceed.



## The EES process will take approximately two years



### Community involvement

The EES process provides opportunities for ongoing transparent community consultation which are documented in our EES consultation plan.

Consultation helps to identify issues of concern and potential effects, as well as collect feedback on project options and potential mitigation measures.

During the preparation of the EES we will seek your feedback and draw on your local knowledge so that we can feed that into our assessments. We will also keep you informed of design updates during the EES process.

There will also be formal opportunities for the community to participate in the process - by way of drop in sessions, email and via our local Community Liaison Officer.