Tarraleah redevelopment

Environmental Impact Statement Fact Sheet

Visual impact

Hydro Tasmania

This fact sheet explains what was assessed, what was found and how visual impacts would be managed.

At a glance

- Minimal change to the broader landscape
- Surge tower is the main visible structure
- Designed to minimise visual impacts
- New structures fit the existing hydropower setting

Why this matters to the community

Landscape character shapes how people experience the Tarraleah area. Landform, vegetation and built infrastructure all affect views and visual amenity. The community has an interest in how new infrastructure looks within the existing landscape and how changes are managed.

What was studied and what was found

Landscape context

Landscape types share visual characteristics such as landform, water, vegetation and cultural influence.

Tarraleah sits on the northern edge of the High Mountains landscape type and next to the Central Plateau landscape type. Hydroelectric development defines both landscape types and reflects a long-standing history and heritage.

The surrounding region also includes large areas of production forestry. Further west, the landscape is characterised by buttongrass plains and the mountains of the southern Cradle Mountain–Lake St Clair National Park.

Visual assessment

The visual assessment used viewpoint mapping and photomontages to show the scale and character of change.

The photomontages in this fact sheet illustrate views of the surge tower (the largest permanent structure proposed) viewed from Mount King William and Oldina Drive.

Overall, the assessment found that visual impacts are minimal. The surge tower is the most visible Project element, but it is consistent with the existing hydropower landscape.

The assessment found that views from the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area would be limited due to difficult access into that area and low visitation.

Tarraleah Surge Tower Visual Simulation – view from Mount King William

How we will manage impacts

Early visual assessments during the preliminary design phase informed changes to the siting and design of Project elements.

These early investigations focused on:

- locating infrastructure away from ridgelines
- reducing structure height where possible to limit visibility against the skyline.

The final Project design reflects these refinements, while also accommodating the technical and operational requirements of the Tarraleah hydropower scheme.

Given the low level of visual impact, further opportunities focus on:

- Shaping the design so key elements blend with the surrounding landscape or are designed as features
- Limiting how visible Project elements are during construction and operation by maintaining and managing vegetative screening where possible
- Minimising short-term impacts from sediment, dust and other contaminants during construction.

Tarraleah Surge Tower Visual Simulation Oldina Drive – view from beside penstocks

About the Environmental Impact Statement

We have prepared a range of documents to provide information at different levels of detail, so you can choose what best suits your interests and needs.

Separate, topic specific fact sheets are available for key aspects of the EIS. They explain what was studied, what was found, and how potential impacts would be managed, in plain English. The fact sheets don't cover all aspects of the proposal or all potential impacts assessed as part of the EIS.

A Summary EIS is available and provides an overview of all topics assessed as part of the EIS. The Full EIS contains detailed technical studies, data and assessments considered as part of the environmental assessment process.

Have your say

The EIS is on public exhibition, and submissions are welcomed from anyone in the community. All feedback received will form part of the EPA's assessment of the project.

Scan the QR code to visit our website:

- View the Summary EIS and full EIS
- View our Fact Sheets on a range of EIS topics
- Find out how to make a submission.

Questions or concerns?

You are welcome to contact us by phone or email if you would like more information or have a question about the project.

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