

Kingswood BESS Submission

Allen Fox

15/8/2024

Foxhill
689 Ascot Calala Rd
CALALA NSW 2340

Project name: Kingswood Battery Energy Storage System
Application number: SSD-63207219
Address: 744 Burgmanns Lane, Kingswood 2340

As an affected local resident I wish to make it known that I object to this project.

There are many issues that will adversely affect the local environment and population if this project, along with the other four BESS projects within 3km of our home go ahead. Please see the headings below.

Traffic

The local roads cannot handle the current traffic load, let alone the proposed up to 359% increase in traffic for this project alone.

The cumulative effects of the approved Calala BESS, the adjacent Tamworth BESS, Lambruk Solar Project and this project (Kingswood BESS) have not been calculated. When will we be told what the real increase will be and what are the plans to maintain especially the unsealed gravel roads which are frequently unsafe, as signposted by the Council, at the moment?

As Burgmanns Lane is not suitable for heavy and oversize vehicles, and Whitehouse Lane also floods access to the site from the New England Highway is not always possible.

The noise, dust and pollution from the cumulative effects of the traffic from multiple projects will undoubtedly affect this quiet rural area.

Water and land

The possibility that the, as stated in the EIS, high quality underground aquifer, could be damaged is a terrifying thought for all that live in this area and it has been glossed over in the EIS.

The danger to our water supply – both underground and from runoff into the Peel River and damage to the surrounding land from runoff and disturbance is real and must be shown to be negated, not just given the lip service of “we don’t anticipate a problem”. What if they are wrong?

Operational Noise

The ongoing operational noise is a major and continuing problem for those living around this industrial installation. The developer has admitted this with the downsizing of the project and the pages of mitigation measures they are supposed to implement to mitigate the 24 hour a day noise from the inverters and fans.

What assurances do the neighbours have that the mitigation measures will work and that their lives will not be adversely affected for 20 years while their properties become unsaleable liabilities?

Fire risk

The cumulative effects of these sites containing flammable lithium batteries so close to each other – three within 1km – on bushfire zoned land look like a disaster waiting to happen.

That they are also within 2km of over 665 homes gives rise to the possibility of a catastrophic disaster which could be fire or the release of toxic fumes in the event of fire.

Lack of consultation

While there is supposed to have been direct consultation with the 38 homeowners within a 1km radius the lack of any notification or consultation with the wider community is criminal.

I am only aware of this project because of a local community letterbox drop conducted by concerned neighbours. We were not supposed to know, or object.

This project is not for the local area or Australians. It will enrich overseas investors who have no regard for anything but their pockets.

There are no benefits that outweigh the risks and cost for Australians or the people of the local area, but they are subject to all of the risk.

For the locals property values, lifestyles and health have been stolen from them by corporate raiders and a Government that is enabling and funding this theft.

Yours sincerely,

Allen Fox.