

Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI)
C/- Major Projects Portal

Attention: Kirsty Vogel

Kurri Kurri Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) (SSD-113069490) (Cessnock City)

Dear Kirsty,

I refer to your request for advice on the application for Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) for the Kurri Kurri BESS dated 7 April 2026.

Agriculture plays a vital role in supporting state, regional, and local economies and in strengthening the social bonds and character of rural communities. The NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Agriculture and Biosecurity (the Department) collaborates with our stakeholders to protect and enhance the productive, sustainable use, and resilience of agricultural resources and the environment.

The Department's advice is guided by section 4.15(1) of the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act*, which requires consideration of environmental, social, and economic impacts, as well as the public interest. Sections 1.3(a) and (i) further emphasise ecologically sustainable development and responsible resource management for present and future generations.

We have reviewed the Scoping Report for the Kurri Kurri BESS and note that the subject site and surrounds are currently zoned E5 Heavy Industrial, E4 General Industrial, and R2 Low Density Residential. Aerial imagery shows that the site has no existing agricultural activities and is adjacent to a substation and other industrial-type uses. The RU2 Rural Landscape-zoned land, approximately 700m northeast of the site, appears to be heavily vegetated. The proposed BESS will have no impact on agricultural land use or activities; therefore, the Department has no further requirements for this application.

Should you require clarification on any of the information provided, please do not hesitate to contact me by email at landuse.ag@dpird.nsw.gov.au.

Sincerely



Helen Willis

Agricultural Land Use Planning Officer
Agriculture & Biosecurity | Agricultural Land Use Planning