

Our ref: OUT26/4247

Pragya Mathema
Planning Group
NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure

Email: pragya.mathema@dpie.nsw.gov.au

13/05/2026

Subject: Corowa BESS (SSD-87041214) – Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

Dear Pragya Mathema,

I refer to your request for advice sent on 15 April 2026 to the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) Water Group about the above matter.

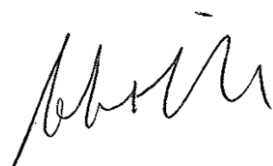
NSW DCCEEW Water Group has reviewed the EIS and has recommendations regarding:

- quantifying the maximum annual volume of water take due to aquifer interference activities and the ability to acquire sufficient water entitlement.
- demonstrating an adequate and reliable water supply is available to meet site water demands during both construction and operation.

Please see **Attachment A** for details.

Should you have any further queries in relation to this submission please do not hesitate to contact the Water Assessments team at water.assessments@dcceew.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rob Brownbill".

Rob Brownbill,
Manager, Water Assessments, Knowledge Division
NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water

Attachment A

Detailed advice to DPHI Planning & Assessment regarding the Corowa BESS (SSD-87041214) – Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

1.0 Water supply, take and licensing

1.1 Recommendation – pre-determination

The Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) should request the proponent quantify the maximum annual volume of water take due to aquifer interference activities and demonstrate the ability to acquire sufficient water entitlement unless an exemption applies.

Explanation

The proponent has not presented sufficient information and analysis of potential groundwater inflows during the construction and ongoing operation of the site. Maximum excavation depths for this project have not been defined and therefore it is unclear whether groundwater is expected to be intercepted during construction. If groundwater inflows are identified, water take volumes and the ability to account for this water take needs to be clearly identified.

Please see the following links for guidance: [Groundwater assessment toolbox for SSD/SSI](#) and [Minimum requirements for building site groundwater investigations and reporting](#).

1.2 Recommendation – pre-determination

DPHI should request the proponent demonstrate an adequate and reliable water supply is available to meet site water demands during both construction and operation.

Explanation

The proponent has not presented sufficient information to confirm whether there is an adequate and secure water supply available for the project. The proponent has indicated that water supply would come from a private supplier. However, without the proponent providing evidence of consultation with these holders to confirm availability and potential supply volumes, it remains uncertain whether a viable water source exists for the project.

The proponent has not suggested take will occur under a Water Access Licence as a water supply option but if this is to occur the proponent must provide an assessment of the ability to obtain this.

Additionally, the proponent has not identified whether new water supply works are proposed or whether existing works will be used, nor have they assessed the potential impacts associated with installing new water supply works or utilising existing ones. An impact assessment is required, as a state significant development does not require a water supply work approval under the *Water Management Act 2000* if section 4.41 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* is met. If any new water supply works are proposed, they must be clearly identified and their associated impacts fully assessed.

End Attachment A
