

Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
Major Projects Portal

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Canyonleigh BESS (SSD-78247462) Goulburn Mulwaree Council – EIS

Dear Megan,

Thank you for your correspondence of 15 May 2026 and the opportunity to provide advice on the proposed Canyonleigh Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD, the Department) collaborates with our stakeholders to protect and enhance the productive and sustainable use and resilience of agricultural resources and the environment.

The EIS and Appendices have been reviewed. The proposed BESS will be located at 692 Canyonleigh Road, in the Goulburn-Mulwaree local government area (LGA). The subject site entails 130.6ha of rural-zoned land, incorporating a 21.6ha development footprint. The locality has traditionally been used for large-scale livestock grazing enterprises typical of the locality. The proposed BESS will have a storage capacity of up to 300MW/1200MWh and is located just south of the Marulan 330kV substation and transmission infrastructure.

Large-scale livestock production (cattle, sheep, wool) is the dominant agricultural enterprise in the Goulburn Mulwaree LGA, contributing over 89% of the total gross value of agricultural production (GVAP) of \$51.1m in 2020-21¹. Agriculture employed 439 positions, including 250 in livestock production and an additional 223 in agricultural processing.

The EIS identifies the project site as mapped as Land and Soil Capability (LSC) Classes 4 and 5. While it concludes the land has 'very low agricultural potential', this overlooks the relative LGA context, where lower capability land (particularly Classes 5 and 6) constitutes the majority of land in agricultural use (25% and 36% respectively). In this context, Classes 4 (12%) and 5 land represent a substantial and actively utilised agricultural resource. By contrast, the highest Class 3 land makes up 0.3% of all land in the LGA.

Land Use Conflict Risk Assessment (LUCRA)

¹ 2020-21 figures sourced from the last agricultural census (ABS): [AgTrack - Agricultural and Land Use Dashboard](#)

The LUCRA identifies several concerns nominated through community consultation. For agriculture, this includes risks to surface water, biosecurity breaches, trespass, bushfire, traffic impacts, decommissioning concerns, and the loss of agricultural land.

The mitigations suggested in Appendices E and J refer to yet-to-be-determined Conditions of Approval and appear to conflate biodiversity and agricultural biosecurity. There is also no firm commitment to the removal of underground infrastructure upon decommissioning.

The Department has the following advice concerning draft Conditions of Consent following this assessment:

1. Biosecurity

It is suggested that an agricultural biosecurity risk management plan be prepared as part of the CEMP, OEMP, and Decommissioning and Rehabilitation strategy, independent of biodiversity considerations. The *NSW Biosecurity Act 2015* aims to prevent, eliminate and minimise biosecurity risks posed by pests, diseases, contaminants and other biosecurity matter, including adverse effects on the economy, environment or community. Please refer to the Biosecurity Risk Management in Land Use Planning and Development Guide on the Department's website for further information and resources.

2. Decommissioning

In terms of decommissioning, it is the Department's position that all underground infrastructure is removed to a minimum of 500mm to assist the return of agricultural activities post-development and rehabilitation.

Should you require clarification on any of the information contained in this response, please do not hesitate to contact me at landuse.ag@dpird.nsw.gov.au

Yours sincerely



Nita Scott

Agriculture and Biosecurity
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10 June 2026