



Our ref: OUT26/8562

Your ref: SSD-85362210

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16 July 2026

Subject: Ebor Battery Energy Storage System (SSD-85362210) – Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

Dear Cameron Ashe,

I refer to your request for advice sent on 17 June 2026 to the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) Water Group about the above matter. The assessment has been carried forward to the Water Advisory team of the Development Coordination Authority (DCA) which was established on 1 July 2026.

DCA Water Advisory has reviewed the EIS and makes a recommendation to clarify the need for a water supply bore for the project and to undertake an impact assessment should a bore be required. Additionally, while groundwater interception is considered to be unlikely for the proposed activities, the proponent needs to be aware of the water licensing requirements should this be required.

Please see **Appendix A** for details.

Should you have any further queries in relation to this submission please do not hesitate to contact the DCA Technical Advisory at technical.advisory@dphi.nsw.gov.au

Rob Brownbill
Principal Water Advisor
Development Coordination Authority
NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure



Appendix A - Detailed advice to DPHI Planning & Assessment regarding Ebor Battery Energy Storage System (SSD-85362210)– Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

1.0 Water supply, take and licensing

1.1 Recommendation – pre approval

Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) requests the proponent to:

- Confirm whether a water supply groundwater bore is required to meet the construction water requirements.
- Where a bore is required, identify the bores' location and complete an impact assessment on the water source and water users of its construction and operation.

Explanation

Section 5.2.3 of the Water Impact Assessment states that a groundwater bore may be required subject to a revised site water balance at the detailed design stage of the project. It is recommended that this be confirmed at the EIS stage to ensure all impacts are adequately assessed and understood, and to confirm a secure water supply is available. This assessment will also enable an exclusion under section 4.41 of the EP&A Act 1979 from the requirement for a water supply work approval under the *Water Management Act 2000* to apply. If an adequate assessment is not undertaken, a water supply work approval may be required.

The following guideline provides information regarding impact assessment criteria for bores.

https://publications.water.nsw.gov.au/watergroupjspui/bitstream/100/772/1/Groundwater_impact_assessment_criteria.pdf

1.2 Recommendation – post-approval

The Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) should request that the proponent obtain a water access licence (WAL) to account for the maximum predicted water take for construction and operation activities unless an exemption applies under the *Water Management (General) Regulation 2025*.

Explanation

The EIS indicates that groundwater levels have been identified locally from approximately 12 metres depth and therefore consider that groundwater interception is unlikely.



However, the proponent should be aware that under the *Water Management Act 2000*, if groundwater is intercepted, a WAL must be obtained prior to any water take occurring unless an exemption under the *Water Management (General) Regulation 2025* applies. An exemption may be available for water take during construction activities in coastal water sources under Clause 6 of Schedule 4 of the WM Reg, or where the groundwater take during construction or operation is less than or equal to 3ML per water year (cl 19, sch 4 of WM Reg). To claim either of these exemptions certain requirements must be met, such as

- the person claiming the exemption keeps a record of the water taken under the exemption and provides this to the Minister within 28 days of the end of the water year; and
- the records are kept for 5 years.

Further information on these requirements and other information on licensing and approvals and exemptions, including a form to report and record water taken can be found at: <https://www.water.dcceew.nsw.gov.au/our-work/licensing-and-approvals>

End of Appendix A