



RDOC21/47083

Natasha Homsey  
Via Major Projects Portal

Dear Ms Homsey

**Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements– Armidale Battery Energy Storage System (SSD-23515853)**

Thank you for your referral dated 30 July 2021 requesting DPI comments on draft Environmental Assessment Requirements (EARs) for the above proposal. The NSW Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI) Agriculture is committed to the protection and growth of agricultural industries, and the land and resources upon which these industries depend.

I have reviewed the attached scoping report and draft SEAR's. I note that only 2.4ha of land is proposed to be converted to non-agricultural use during operation of the project. This is unlikely to have a significant impact on agricultural productivity during operation.

It is recommended that the draft SEAR's are amended in respect to construction and decommissioning:

1. The assessment of impacts on adjacent land should specifically list the irrigation land to the north of the site as a consideration. This will ensure during construction and operation the relationship between water drift and electrical infrastructure will be considered.
2. It is noted the scoping report identifies removal of above ground infrastructure during decommissioning. The decommissioning should also include removal of underground infrastructure to a depth of 500mm. This land has a history of low key agriculture. Cultivation requires disturbance of the land and the remaining cables would pose an Occupational Health and Safety threat.

Should you require clarification on any of the information contained in this response, please contact the undersigned on 0429 226 987 or by email at [landuse.ag@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:landuse.ag@dpi.nsw.gov.au)

Yours sincerely

5/8/21

**Tamara Prentice**  
**Manager Agricultural Land Use Planning**