

OUT21/10528

Natasha Homsey
Planning and Assessment Group
NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

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Dear Ms Homsey

**Armidale Battery Energy Storage System (SSD-23515853)
Comment on the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs)**

I refer to your email of 30 July 2021 to the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) Water and the Natural Resources Access Regulator (NRAR) about the above matter.

The following recommendations are provided by DPIE Water and NRAR.

The SEARS should include:

- The identification of an adequate and secure water supply for the life of the project. This includes confirmation that water can be sourced from an appropriately authorised and reliable supply. This is also to include an assessment of the current market depth where water entitlement is required to be purchased.
- A detailed and consolidated site water balance.
- Assessment of impacts on surface and ground water sources (both quality and quantity), related infrastructure, adjacent licensed water users, basic landholder rights, watercourses, riparian land, and groundwater dependent ecosystems, and measures proposed to reduce and mitigate these impacts.
- Proposed surface and groundwater monitoring activities and methodologies.
- Consideration of relevant legislation, policies and guidelines, including the NSW Aquifer Interference Policy (2012), the Guidelines for Controlled Activities on Waterfront Land (2018) and the relevant Water Sharing Plans (available at <https://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water>).

Any further referrals to DPIE Water and NRAR can be sent by email to landuse.enquiries@dpie.nsw.gov.au, or to the following coordinating officer within DPIE Water:

Alistair Drew, Project Officer- email: Alistair.drew@dpie.nsw.gov.au

Yours sincerely



Alistair Drew
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Water – Knowledge Office
3 August 2021