



Our ref: DOC22/126790
Your ref: SSD-145514

Lander Robinson
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Department of Planning and Environment
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Dear Lander

Wallerawang Battery Energy Storage System (SSD-14540514)

Thank you for your e-mail dated 8 February 2022 to the Biodiversity, Conservation and Science Directorate (BCS) of the Department of Planning and Environment inviting comments on the exhibited environmental assessment for the Wallerawang Battery Energy Storage System.

The Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR) is well written and the required information clearly presented. The assessor should note that for future assessments the GIS shape files, and complete data sheets should be provided to BCS upon lodgement of the BDAR.

BCS concur with the biodiversity credits calculated and recommend that credits presented in Tables 10-1 and 10-2 of the BDAR are included in the consent conditions. BCS note that the Forestry area consists of planted Radiata Pine and is managed by Forestry Corporation of NSW and scheduled for clearing in 2022 under a Pine Plantation Deed. This area is therefore not subject to calculations and assessment in the BDAR.

In regards flooding, the project site is located over flood prone area next to the Cox's River. The flooding assessment has been prepared based on the latest *NSW Government's flood-prone land package* and considered the recommended full range of flood events, including the 1% Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP) and the Probable Maximum Flood (PMP). Using 2D flood modelling, the assessment showed negligible change in the existing floodplain under 1% AEP conditions and a minimal overland sheet flow of 100 mm for the PMF event. The project therefore satisfies the current NSW flood prone policies.

If you require any further information regarding this matter, please contact David Geering, Senior Conservation Planning Officer, via david.geering@environment.nsw.gov.au or (02) 6883 5335.

Yours sincerely

Samantha Wynn
Senior Team Leader Planning North West
Biodiversity, Conservation and Science Directorate

7 March 2022