

Department of Planning and Environment

Our ref: OUT22/2347

Javier Canon
Planning and Assessment Group
NSW Department of Planning and Environment

Email: Javier.Canon@planning.nsw.gov.au

29 March 2022

Subject: Great Western Battery Energy Storage System (SSD-12346552) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

Dear Mr Canon

I refer to your email of 2 March 2022 to the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) Water and the Natural Resources Access Regulator (NRAR) about the above matter.

This proposal is for the development of a 500 MW battery energy storage facility with associated infrastructure.

DPE Water and NRAR have reviewed the EIS and have concerns regarding potential impacts to downstream water users and the environment, surface water management and compliance of the dams with the regulatory framework.

Any further referrals to DPE Water and NRAR can be sent by email to water.assessments@dpie.nsw.gov.au or to the following coordinating officer within DPE Water:

Alistair Drew – Project Officer
E: alistair.drew@dpie.nsw.gov.au

Yours sincerely



Liz Rogers
Manager, Assessments, Knowledge Division
Water Group

Attachment A

Detailed advice to DPE Planning & Assessment regarding the Great Western Battery Energy Storage System (SSD-12346552)

1.0 Potential Impacts to Downstream Water Users and the Environment and the Surface Water Management System

1.1 Recommendations – Prior to Determination

The proponent should:

- Clarify the potential impacts to downstream water users and the environment due to the proposed reduction in peak discharges and associated reduced water availability. Where alternate water supply options are proposed to water users confirmation should be provided of their viability
- Review the surface water management system at the site with the aim to maximise the separation of clean and dirty water at the site and to maintain water volumes for users and the environment downstream.

1.2 Explanation

The flood modelling has indicated the proposed modified surface water system has significantly reduced the peak discharge from the site, and effectively reduced the runoff into the south eastern property's dams to zero. Further information is requested on the impacts to water availability downstream for both the environment and water users and also confirmation on the viability of the proposed options to provide alternate water supplies for the neighbour.

2.0 Compliance of the Dams with the Regulatory Framework

2.1 Recommendation – Prior to Determination

The proponent should:

- Review the proposed dams at the site to ensure they meet the requirements of the water regulatory framework. This needs to include relevant exclusions and licence requirements.

2.2 Explanation

The proposed Dam 5 with a 32ML capacity will provide a number of functions including the capture of potentially dirty runoff from the project site, the capture of clean runoff from upstream and to mitigate potential downstream flow impacts by attenuating peak flows. Further clarification is requested as to how the proponent has considered this dam within the water regulatory framework and the best management practice of separating clean and dirty water. Relevant considerations for the water regulatory framework include the Maximum Harvestable Rights Dam Capacity, exclusions for dams under Schedule 1(3) of the *Water Management (General) Regulation 2018* and water licensing where an exclusion is not applicable.

3.0 Post Approval Recommendations

3.1 Recommendation – Post Approval

- The proponent should prepare a Soil and Water Management Plan to address stormwater management and sediment and erosion control. The plan should address the requirements of the guideline Managing Urban Stormwater: Soils and Construction (Landcom 2004) and the Guidelines for Controlled Activities on Waterfront Land (NRAR 2018)
- Should groundwater be intercepted, a Water Access Licence (WAL) under the Water Management Act 2000 must be obtained unless the take is less than or equal to 3ML of water per year for any aquifer interference activities listed in Clause 7 of Schedule 4 of the *Water Management (General) Regulation 2018*. For more information visit <https://www.dpie.nsw.gov.au/nrar/how-to-apply/water-licences/Groundwater>

To qualify for an exemption to hold a water access licence, the proponent should:

- record the water take within 24 hours in the approved form and manner;
- provide the water take records to the Minister by no later than 28 July for the year ending 1 July during which the water was taken (e.g. included in the annual report);
- keep the water take records for a period of five year

End Attachment A