

Ms Megan Ramsdale
Planning Officer
Department of Planning and Environment
C/- Major Projects Portal

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Beryl BESS draft SEARs SSD-61460977

Dear Ms Ramsdale,

Thank you for your correspondence of 24 August 2023 and the opportunity to provide comments on the assessment requirements for the proposed Beryl BESS (SSD-61460977).

NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) Agriculture collaborates with our stakeholders to protect and enhance the productive and sustainable use and resilience of agricultural resources and the environment.

Based on an assessment of the Scoping Report, the proposal requires the following matters to be addressed by the SEARs in addition to the matters contained in the draft SEARs template:

Decommissioning and rehabilitation

A Rehabilitation and Decommissioning/Closure Management Plan should be prepared and include, but not limited to, describing the potential design criteria of the final land use and landform, indicators which may be used to guide the return of the land back to agricultural production potential, along with the expected timeline for the rehabilitation program.

Ideally the soil survey committed to in the draft SEARS should also include information that can inform soil factors that can be used to determine land being restored to its original land capability or better, and at the minimum the current agricultural potential of the site.

In the operational and decommissioning plans, consideration should be given to underground cabling on the land. Our recommendation is such cabling be buried to a depth greater than 500mm or be completely removed upon decommissioning. This will enable the land to return to full production potential.

Biosecurity

Biosecurity management issues during and post construction must be assessed in relation to potential agricultural impacts with (pests, weeds, and disease) risk assessments outlining the likely plant, animal, and community risks. The relevant weed or pest animals for a region are addressed in the regional plans or strategies issued by NSW Local Lands Services.

We support the intention to avoid the small area of Biophysical Strategic Agricultural Land and mapped State Significant Agricultural Land, and the requirement for a Land Use Conflict Risk Assessment given the agriculturally used land in the locality.

Should you require clarification on any of the information contained in this response, please do not hesitate to contact me on 0487 023 845 or by email at landuse.ag@dpi.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nita Scott', with a stylized, cursive script.

Nita Scott
Agricultural Land Use Planning Officer
Soil and Water
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5 September 2023