

Ms Megan Ramsdale  
Planner  
Department of Planning and Environment  
Energy Assessments  
Via the Major Projects Portal

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## Hume North Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) (SSD-61842974)

Dear Ms Ramsdale

Thank you for your correspondence of 31 August 2023 and the opportunity to provide input to the preparation of the draft Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) for the Hume North BESS.

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

DPI Agriculture has reviewed the scoping report for the proposed development. I understand that the project site is zoned RU2 Rural Landscape and includes some Crown Land Reserve. I also note the site is considered Class 6 and has no draft State Significant Agricultural Land (SSAL) mapped,

DPI Agriculture supports the requirements in the draft SEARs to undertake a Land Use Conflict Risk Assessment (LUCRA), an assessment of impact on agricultural resources and agricultural production on the site and region, including biosecurity issues, and a soil survey to address issues related to the current and surrounding land uses.

DPI Agriculture requests that the Rehabilitation and Decommissioning/Closure Management strategy include, but not be limited to, describing the potential design criteria of the final land use and landform, and the removal of any underground cables, along with the expected timeline for the rehabilitation program. Any subdivision of land for the project must not create additional dwelling entitlements.

Industry guidelines and resource information (Attachment A) should be provided to the proponent for their consideration when preparing the Environmental Impact Statement.

Should you require clarification on any of the information contained in this response, please do not hesitate to contact me on 0427812508 or by email at [landuse.ag@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:landuse.ag@dpi.nsw.gov.au).

Your sincerely

*Lilian Parker*

Lilian Parker  
Agricultural Land Use Planning Officer  
8 September 2023

Encl: Attachment A: Industry guidelines and resource information

## Attachment A – Industry guidelines and resource information

Title	Website link
Land Use Conflict Risk Assessment Guide	<a href="https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/lup/development-assessment2/lucra">https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/lup/development-assessment2/lucra</a>
Infrastructure Proposals on Rural Land	<a href="https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/lup/development-assessment2/infrastructure-proposals">https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/lup/development-assessment2/infrastructure-proposals</a>
The land and soil capability assessment scheme: second approximation 2012 (OEH)	<a href="https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/research-and-publications/publications-search/land-and-soil-capability-assessment-scheme">https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/research-and-publications/publications-search/land-and-soil-capability-assessment-scheme</a>
Australian Soil and Land Survey Handbook (CSIRO)	<a href="https://ebooks.publish.csiro.au/content/australian-soil-and-land-survey-field-handbook">https://ebooks.publish.csiro.au/content/australian-soil-and-land-survey-field-handbook</a>
Guidelines for Surveying Soil and Land Resources (CSIRO)	<a href="https://ebooks.publish.csiro.au/content/guidelines-surveying-soil-and-land-resources">https://ebooks.publish.csiro.au/content/guidelines-surveying-soil-and-land-resources</a>
Biosecurity Risk Management in Land Use Planning and Development	<a href="https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0018/1271241/managing-biosecurity-risks-in-land-use-planning-and-development-guide.pdf">https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0018/1271241/managing-biosecurity-risks-in-land-use-planning-and-development-guide.pdf</a>