

OUT23/16193

Mr Anthony Ko
Department of Planning and Environment
C/- Major Projects Portal

Anthony.ko@planning.nsw.gov.au

Oven Mountain Pumped Hydro Energy Storage - SSI-12422997

Dear Mr Ko

Thank you for your correspondence of 15 September 2023 and the opportunity to provide comment on the environmental impact statement (EIS) for the Oven Mountain Pumped Hydro Energy Storage development.

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.

NSW DPI Agriculture has reviewed the EIS and note that the proposal is for the construction and operation of a pumped hydro energy storage scheme comprising two reservoirs, an underground power station complex and associated infrastructure.

The project is located within the New England Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) and is expected to generate approximately 1,188 gigawatt hours (GWh) of electricity annually and be capable of meeting the needs of approximately 600,000 to 900,000 NSW households.

The EIS and supporting studies have been reviewed in relation to the proposal's potential impacts on agricultural land and agricultural production. The EIS is considered to have adequately identified the potential agricultural impacts for land in the vicinity of the proposed development. The mitigation measures proposed in the land use conflict risk assessment (Appendix AA) and Appendix E of the EIS are considered to be adequate to mitigate potential impacts on agricultural land and production.

NSW DPI Agriculture has no comments or additional requirements for this proposal.

Should you require clarification on any of the information contained in this response, please do not hesitate to contact me on 0429 864 501 or by email at landuse.ag@dpi.nsw.gov.au.

Sincerely



Paul Garnett
Agricultural Land Use Planning Officer
New England and North West Region
29 September 2023