

Department of Primary Industries – Agriculture

Department of Regional NSW



OUT24/9039

Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
C/o Major Projects Portal

megan.ramsdale@planning.nsw.gov.au

Attention: Megan Ramsdale

Gara Battery Energy Storage System (SSD-71680710)

Dear Ms Ramsdale

Thank you for your correspondence via the Major Projects Portal and the opportunity to provide comments on the draft SEARs for the above proposal.

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.

DPI Agriculture has reviewed the submitted documentation concerning the above proposal. We understand that the site is zoned RU1 Primary Production, is within the New England Renewable Energy Zone and will have a development area of 14 hectares.

We note and support the commitment to undertake a Land Use Conflict Risk Assessment. The SEARs document should however be amended to '*the Department of Primary Industries' Land Use Conflict Risk Assessment Guide*'. It is also recommended that the decommissioning and site rehabilitation should include a commitment to remove all infrastructure above and below ground, to a depth of 500mm. We have included a list of resources in Attachment A.

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

Sincerely

Helen Willis

Agricultural Land Use Planning Officer
Soils and Water | Agricultural Land Use Planning
New England and North West Region

19 June 2024

Encl: Attachment A: Industry guidelines and resource information

Attachment A: Industry guidelines and resource information

Title	Website link
Land Use Conflict Risk Assessment Guide	https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/lup/development-assessment2/lucra
Infrastructure Proposals on Rural Land	https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/lup/development-assessment2/infrastructure-proposals
The land and soil capability assessment scheme: second approximation 2012 (OEH)	https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/research-and-publications/publications-search/land-and-soil-capability-assessment-scheme
Australian Soil and Land Survey Handbook (CSIRO)	https://ebooks.publish.csiro.au/content/australian-soil-and-land-survey-field-handbook
Guidelines for Surveying Soil and Land Resources (CSIRO)	https://ebooks.publish.csiro.au/content/guidelines-surveying-soil-and-land-resources