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Ms Samantha Oyston  
Department of Planning Housing and Infrastructure  
C/- Major Projects Portal

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Bathurst Panorama BESS 800 Mid-Western Highway Bathurst, (SSD 50587460)

Dear Ms Oyston

Thank you for your correspondence of 19 July 2024 and the opportunity to provide comment on the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Bathurst Panorama BESS.

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

The Department has reviewed the EIS for the project. We find the issues impacting agricultural production on and in the vicinity of the project site are likely to be minor or negligible, provided construction and operations are conducted as described. The complete decommissioning of the site is generally supported, however the Department recommends that this specifically includes removal of underground infrastructure to a depth of 500mm.

The EIS also does not address biosecurity issues. We recommend that a Pest and Weed Management Plan is prepared to address biosecurity, weed and pest impacts, as part of Construction and Operational Environmental Management Plans, and the Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan.

Should you require clarification on any of the information contained in this response, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone on 0427 060 181 or by email at [landuse.ag@dpird.nsw.gov.au](mailto:landuse.ag@dpird.nsw.gov.au).

Sincerely



Helen Squires  
Agricultural Land Use Planning Officer  
Soils and Water | Agricultural Land Use Planning  
19 August 2024