



File Ref. No: FRN24/2766 BFS24/5822 8000037927
TRIM Doc. No: D24/112577
Contact: Senior Firefighter Scott Zucchetto

20 September 2024

MEGAN RAMSDALE
NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
Locked Bag 5022
PARRAMATTA NSW 2124

Dear Megan,

Re: Advice on Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) – STONEY CREEK BESS – 41 STONEY CREEK ROAD NARRABRI NSW 2390 (SSD-75680468)

Fire and Rescue NSW (FRNSW) acknowledge correspondence received on 10 September 2024, requesting input into the preparation of the SEARs for the STONEY CREEK BESS – 41 STONEY CREEK ROAD NARRABRI NSW 2390 (SSD-75680468). FRNSW have reviewed the SEARs Scoping Report with particular focus to Section 1 Introduction, Section 3 Project Description and Section 6 Proposed Assessment of Impacts.

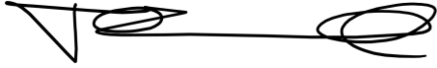
The Scoping Report details a 125-Megawatt Battery Energy Storage System (BESS). It has been the experience of FRNSW that BESS facilities present special problems for fighting fire and suitable additional provisions are likely to be required in accordance with E1D17 and E2D21 of the National Construction Code 2022¹. FRNSW will likely recommend a Fire Safety Study (FSS) be developed in accordance with the Hazardous Industry Planning Advisory Paper No 2² as a condition of consent.

The FSS should be used to inform the design and as such it is FRNSW Position³ that the FSS be developed to the satisfaction of FRNSW prior to any further submission being made to FRNSW; this includes: an Initial Fire Safety Report (IFSR) and / or Performance-Based Design Brief / Fire Engineering Brief Questionnaire (FEBQ).

The FSS should be prepared consistent with the relevant FRNSW Fire Safety Guidelines and FRNSW Technical Information Sheets⁴ with particular focus to Large-scale external lithium-ion battery energy storage systems – Fire safety study considerations⁵.

Project proponents undertaking the FSS are to engage directly with FRNSW by submitting all correspondence electronically to FireSafety@fire.nsw.gov.au and reference FRNSW file number BFS24/5822. Further information regarding FRNSW Meetings⁶ and FRNSW Written Reports⁷ can be found at the FRNSW Building Fire Safety Industry Portal⁸.

Yours sincerely,



Superintendent James O'Carroll
Manager
Operational Liaison and Special Hazards Unit

Cc: megan.ramsdale@planning.nsw.gov.au

¹ <https://ncc.abcb.gov.au/editions/ncc-2022>

² <https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/2023-03/hazardous-and-offensive-planning-advisory-paper-no-2-fire-safety-study-guidelines.pdf>

³ <https://www.fire.nsw.gov.au/page.php?id=9447&position=51>

⁴ <https://www.fire.nsw.gov.au/page.php?id=9166>

⁵ <https://www.fire.nsw.gov.au/gallery/files/pdf/guidelines/Tech%20info%20sheet%20-%20Large-scale%20external%20LIBESS%20-%20Fire%20safety%20study%20considerations.pdf>

⁶ <https://www.fire.nsw.gov.au/page.php?id=9193>

⁷ <https://www.fire.nsw.gov.au/page.php?id=9156>

⁸ <https://www.fire.nsw.gov.au/page.php?id=9140>