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Canyonleigh Battery Energy Storage System (SSD- 78247462) - SEARs

Dear Samantha

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the Canyonleigh Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) request for Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) provided on 28 November 2024.

The NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD, 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 project includes a disturbance footprint of approximately 13ha of 48ha of land and involves the construction, operation and decommissioning of a 300MW BESS located on land zoned RU2 Rural Landscape under Goulburn Mulwaree LEP 2009. The site incorporates the Marulan Substation on Lot 23441 DP727493 north of Canyonleigh Road with surrounding land uses including livestock grazing and transmission lines.

DPI Ag has reviewed the draft SEARs and support the requirement for a Land Use Conflict Risk Assessment (LUCRA) and assessment of agricultural land in the locality which are not elaborated in the Scoping Report. We suggest the inclusion of the following requirements into the draft SEARs:

- Biosecurity management issues during and post construction must be assessed in relation to potential agricultural impacts (pests, weeds, and emergency animal diseases such as Japanese Encephalitis and Foot and Mouth Disease) including a risk assessment outlining the likely plant, animal, and community risks. The preparation of a Biosecurity Management Plan as part of the EIS is recommended as part of the Construction and Operations Environmental Management Plans. Please refer to DPI's [Biosecurity Risk Management in Land Use Planning and Development Guide](https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0018/1271241/managing-biosecurity-risks-in-land-use-planning-and-development-guide.pdf)¹.

¹ https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0018/1271241/managing-biosecurity-risks-in-land-use-planning-and-development-guide.pdf

- Further, to enable continuation of agricultural activities at the end of the project life, it is our position that the site be decommissioned to a minimum depth of 500mm and rehabilitated to the existing land and soil capability.

Should you require clarification on any of the information contained in this response, please do not hesitate to contact me on 0487023845 or by email at landuse.ag@dpi.nsw.gov.au.

Sincerely



Nita Scott

Agriculture & Biosecurity
South East & Tablelands

10 December 2024