

Department of Planning Housing and Infrastructure
C/o Major Projects Portal
kirsty.vogel@dpie.nsw.gov.au

Re: McCully's Gap BESS – SSD- 81555720 – DPIRD Agriculture and Biosecurity Advice

Dear Ms Vogel

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the draft SEARs for the above proposal.

NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) collaborates with our stakeholders to protect and enhance the productive and sustainable use and resilience of agricultural resources and the environment.

It is noted the proposed 400MW BESS will be constructed on land at 578 Sandy Creek Road McCully's Gap zoned RU1 Primary Production, on predominantly Land and Soil Capability (LSC) Class 5 and 6 land in proximity to the TransGrid substation on Lot 1621 DP852356. It is noted that the wider project site (lot 5 DP802081) also includes 3.8ha of LSC Class 3 land in the northern extent.

We support the requirement for a Land Use Conflict Risk Assessment (LUCRA) as set out in the draft SEARs, and Agricultural Impact Assessment including soil survey.

The agricultural land in the immediate locality and associated risks of the project to agricultural biosecurity should be confirmed in the EIS. It is requested that the draft SEARs also require preparation of a Biosecurity Management Plan as part of the Construction and Operations Environmental Management Plans. Please refer to DPI's Biosecurity Risk Management in Land Use Planning and Development Guide¹.

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 any subdivision does not result in additional dwelling opportunities.

The above requirements also apply to any TWA on the project site that may eventuate.

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@dpird.nsw.gov.au.

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

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nita Scott'.

Nita Scott
Agricultural Land Use Planning
Hunter Region

4 April 2025

