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 Contact: Senior Firefighter Michael Millar

14 May 2025

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

Dear Megan,

**Re: Advice on Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) – WATTLE CREEK ENERGY HUB SOLAR FARM - 1001 CANYONLEIGH ROAD BRAYTON NSW 2579 (SSD-63344210)**

Fire and Rescue NSW (FRNSW) acknowledge correspondence received on 8 May 2025, requesting advice on the EIS for WATTLE CREEK ENERGY HUB SOLAR FARM - 1001 CANYONLEIGH ROAD BRAYTON NSW 2579 (SSD-63344210). FRNSW have reviewed the EIS with particular focus to the Preliminary Hazards Analysis (PHA).


The EIS details a 265MW/100MWH Battery Energy Storage System (BESS). It has been the experience of FRNSW that BESS Facilities present special problems of fighting fire and suitable additional provisions are likely to be required in accordance with E1D17 and E2D21 of the National Construction Code 2022<sup>1</sup>. FRNSW therefore recommend the following conditions:

1. Prior to construction a Fire Safety Study (FSS) is developed in accordance with the requirements of the Hazardous Industry Planning Advisory Paper (HIPAP) No.2<sup>2</sup> and submitted to FRNSW for review.
  - The FSS is to be used to inform the design and as such it is FRNSW Position<sup>3</sup> 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 FRNSW Fire Safety Guideline Technical Information – Large scale external lithium-ion battery energy storage systems – Fire safety study considerations<sup>4</sup>.
2. Prior to occupation or commissioning an Emergency Plan (EP) is developed for the site in accordance with HIPAP No.1<sup>5</sup>.
3. Prior to occupation or commissioning an Emergency Services Information Package (ESIP) is developed for the site in accordance with FRNSW fire safety guideline – Emergency services information package and tactical fire plans<sup>6</sup>.

4. Prior to occupation or commissioning an emergency responder's induction package is developed for the site in consultation with, and to the satisfaction of FRNSW. The package should inform first responders of site-specific features and safety measures to ensure they are able to undertake their duties effectively. The format of the induction package should be such that it can be readily shared across all agencies.

Project proponents undertaking the FSS are to engage directly with FRNSW by submitting all correspondence electronically to [FireSafety@fire.nsw.gov.au](mailto:FireSafety@fire.nsw.gov.au) and reference FRNSW file number FRN23/3423. Further information regarding FRNSW Meetings<sup>7</sup> and FRNSW Written Reports<sup>8</sup> can be found at the FRNSW Building Fire Safety Industry Portal<sup>9</sup>.

Yours sincerely,



A/Superintendent Luke Loseby  
Manager  
Fire Safety Liaison Unit

Cc: [megan.ramsdale@planning.nsw.gov.au](mailto:megan.ramsdale@planning.nsw.gov.au)

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

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

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

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.fire.nsw.gov.au/gallery/files/pdf/guidelines/Tech%20info%20sheet%20-%20Large-scale%20external%20LIBESS%20-%20Fire%20safety%20study%20considerations.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/2023-03/hazardous-industry-planning-advisory-paper-no-1-emergency-planning.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.fire.nsw.gov.au/gallery/files/pdf/guidelines/03%20Emergency%20services%20information%20package%20and%20tactical%20fire%20plans.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.fire.nsw.gov.au/page.php?id=9193>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.fire.nsw.gov.au/page.php?id=9156>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.fire.nsw.gov.au/page.php?id=9140>