

Rita Hater
Senior Environmental Assessment Officer
Department of Planning Housing and Infrastructure
Parramatta, NSW

C/o Major Projects Portal

Sandy Creek BESS - SEARs

Dear Ms Hatern

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the draft SEARs for the proposed Sandy Creek Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) - SSD-83968208.

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

The Department notes that the site of the Sandy Creek BESS is located on approximately 13.7 ha historically used for agriculture and currently supporting grazing activities. Surrounding land uses include agricultural activities as well as non-agricultural uses such as mines, correctional centre and a TransGrid substation situated adjacent to the proposal (380 Sandy Creek Road, McCully's Gap)

A review of the scoping report and the draft SEARs notes commitments made with regard assessment and mitigation of impacts on agricultural. However, no information has been provided on local community responses to the proposal or biosecurity. It is recommended that the SEARs also include:

- Any proposed subdivision resulting in lots that is smaller than the minimum lot size should not create additional dwelling entitlements.
- Confirmation that any rehabilitation and decommissioning strategy should include removal of all above and below ground infrastructure to allow greater opportunity for agricultural activities following decommissioning.
- A Pest and Weed Management Plan should address specific biosecurity, weed and pest impacts relating to agriculture in the vicinity of the proposal.
- Rehabilitation plans during and post construction should detail appropriate groundcover management using locally native species to limit dust and other land use conflict issues.

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@dpi.nsw.gov.au

Sincerely

LParker

Lilian Parker
Agricultural Land Use Planning
Esigned 23-5-2025