

Rachael Helsham
Department of Planning Housing and Infrastructure
C/o Major Projects Portal

Corowa BESS - SSD-87041214 - SEARs

Dear Rachael

Thank you for the opportunity to provide advice on the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) for the proposed Corowa BESS.

The NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development – Agriculture and Biosecurity (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 Department has reviewed the Scoping Report and the draft SEARs for how they have considered and addressed the potential impact of the proposed development on agricultural land and agricultural production in the locality.

The Department notes that the proposal is for the construction, operation and decommissioning of a 100 megawatt (MW) battery energy storage system (BESS) and associated infrastructure on RU1 Primary Production zoned lands near Corowa. The project site is located in the vicinity of the existing Essential Energy 132 / 22 kilovolt (kV) Corowa substation and would include connecting infrastructure.

The Department advises that the draft SEARs are generally supported with regard assessment of Key Issue Land for impacts on agricultural resources and agricultural production and a Land Use Conflict Risk Assessment. Provided the Scoping Report commitments with regard decommissioning (ie removal of all above ground infrastructure and below ground infrastructure) and assessment of agricultural biosecurity are considered in the EIS, the Department will further require that:

- any subdivision below the MLS does not result in any new dwelling entitlement and
- any proposed temporary worker accommodation site is assessed by a LUCRA that considers the impacts of ongoing agriculture and existing uses on the facility.

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

Sincerely

L Parker

Esigned 7 July 2025

Lilian Parker
Agricultural Land Use Planning