

Rachael Helsham
Environmental Assessment Officer
Department of Planning Housing and Infrastructure
Parramatta

C/o Major Projects Portal

Murray Terminal BESS - SSD-92509458 - SEARs

Dear Rachael

Thank you for the opportunity to provide advice on the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) for the proposed Murray Terminal 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 and operation of the Murray Terminal Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), a capacity of approximately 500 Megawatts (MW), at 45 Waterfall Farm Road, Khancoban NSW 2642. The BESS is to be located near extensive substation and transmission infrastructure, including the Murray One and Two Hydroelectric Power Stations and the Murray Terminal 330kV Switching Station. At this stage, a 10ha site has been identified for the BESS, with an additional 5ha being investigated for the transmission connection and road works. The development would principally be located on L&SC Classes 4 and 5 land.

The Department advises that the draft SEARs are generally supported with regard assessment of impact on agricultural resources and agricultural production on the site and in the region, and completion of a Land Use Conflict Risk Assessment. It is noted that the Scoping Report states that biosecurity will only be assessed with regard biodiversity and that any future decommissioning would involve the removal of all above and below ground infrastructure.

The Department requests the following additional requirements:

- assessment of agricultural biosecurity impacts.
- any subdivision below the MLS does not result in any new dwelling eligibilities and

- any proposed temporary worker accommodation site is assessed by a LUCRA that considers the impacts of ongoing agriculture and existing uses on the workers in 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

Lilian Parker

A/Manager Agricultural Land Use Planning

Esigned 13 September 2025