

Ms Rita Hatem
Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
Major Projects

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Stoney Creek BESS (SSD-75680468) – EIS

Dear Rita

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Stoney Creek BESS Environmental Impact Statement provided on 18 November 2025.

The NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD, 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.

Our advice on the draft SEARs of 16 September 2024 (OUT24/14435) referred to the subject being highly productive and mapped as Biophysical Strategic Agricultural Land, State Significant Agricultural Land, and Land and Soil Capability (LSC) Class 2 as part of a larger arable holding warranting a commensurate assessment of agricultural land, resources, and values. We also advised of support for the preparation of a Land Use Conflict Risk Assessment (LUCRA), Biosecurity Management Plan, and Rehabilitation and Decommissioning Management Plan, requiring the removal of all underground infrastructure to a depth of 500mm.

The EIS provides an assessment of soils and proposes mitigations to prevent erosion and sedimentation in the Construction, Operation, and Decommissioning Environmental Management Plans.

The LUCRA describes the risk factors for agriculture during the key phases from construction to decommissioning, and management strategies. The relevant agricultural risks are related to the removal of agricultural land for a 25-year timeframe, reduced agricultural productivity, and potential biosecurity breach. It is acknowledged in the LUCRA that the management of and return of the site to agricultural production is a priority.

Management strategies include the preparation of a Biosecurity Management Plan in accordance with the Department's *Managing Biosecurity Risks in Land Use Planning and Development Guide 2020*, in the Construction, Operation, and Decommissioning Environmental Management Plans, which is supported.

It is reiterated that DPIRD's position is to require the removal of all project infrastructure to a minimum of 500mm to allow re-establishment of cropping at the end of the project life.

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

Sincerely



Nita Scott

16 December 2025