

Scoping Report

Woodland Battery Energy Storage System
– part Lot 47 DP 750908, Darlington
Point, NSW.

Woodland BESS - Darlington Point

Prepared for

**Darlington Point BESS Pty Ltd
(ACN 650 425 880)**

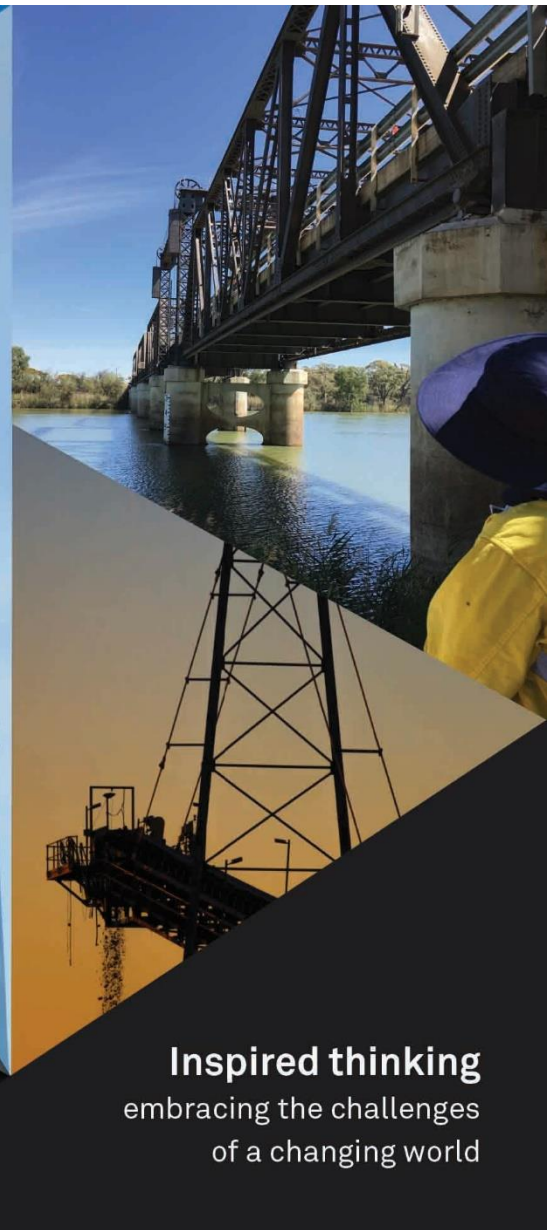
Client representative

Lena Li

Date

12 October 2021

T-P.21.0492.003-ENV-REP Risen Woodland BESS-
Darlington Point – Scoping Report Rev 00



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Appendix A — Site Photos

Appendix B — Engagement Undertaken

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Revision History					
Rev No.	Description	Prepared by	Reviewed by	Authorised by	Date
Rev A	85% completed draft	Carolay Guarin	Trevor Allen	Trevor Allen	27/08/21
Rev B	Draft for review	Carolay Guarin	Trevor Allen	Trevor Allen	31/08/21
Rev C	Draft for Risen's Review	Carolay Guarin	Trevor Allen	Chris Jack	2/09/21
Rev D	Including comments and additional information provided by Risen.	Carolay Guarin	Trevor Allen	Chris Jack	24/09/21
Rev 00	Final Scoping Report	Carolay Guarin	Trevor Allen	Trevor Allen	12/10/21

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

ABN	Australian Business Number
APZ	Asset Protection Zone
ARPANSA	Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency
BAM	Biodiversity Assessment Method
BESS	Battery Energy Storage System
BOS	Biodiversity Offset Scheme
CEMP	Construction Environmental Management Plan
DBYD	Dial Before You Dig
DA	Development Application
DPIE	Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
EMF	Electromagnetic fields
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EP&A Act	Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979
EPL	Environmental Protection Licence
EPIs	Environmental Planning Instruments
ISEPP	State Environmental Planning Policy Infrastructure
LEP	Murrumbidgee Local Environmental Plan 2013
LGA	Local Government Area
LLS	Local Land Services
MNES	Matter of National Environmental Significance
MIA	Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area
MW	Megawatts
MWh	Megawatts per hour
NESA	National Energy Security Assessment
NSW	New South Wales
NPI	Noise Policy for Industry
OEMP	Operational Environmental Management Plan
POEO Act	Environment Operations Act 1997
RBL	Rating Background Level
SEARs	Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements
SEPP	State Environmental Planning Policy
WARR Act	Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2001

1. Introduction

1.1 Overview

Darlington Point BESS Pty Ltd, a trustee under Risen Energy Development Pty Ltd (from here on referred as Risen) is proposing to develop a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) approximately 10km south of Darlington Point within the Murrumbidgee Local Government Area (LGA). The proposed BESS will have a capacity of 200MW/800MWh Megawatts hour (MWh) to release to the grid as dispatchable power and contribute to providing grid stability during periods of peak demand. The BESS will be located close to TransGrid's' Darlington Point 330kV Substation for this purpose. The proposed BESS has an estimated capital investment value of \$103 million.

1.2 Purpose of this Scoping Report

This Scoping Report has been prepared to support a request for the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) to guide the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed development under Part 4 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act).

Commensurate with the scale and likely impacts of the proposed development, this report provides the following:

- An outline of the justification and alternatives considered for the proposed development;
- A description of the proposed BESS, including an overview of its construction and operation;
- The relevant planning legislation and approval process;
- An outline of the preliminary and proposed community engagement; and
- An outline of the proposed assessment of environmental impacts in the EIS.

1.3 The Proponent

Risen is a renewable energy company that has delivered projects across the globe, including China, Australia, Japan, India, and the United States of America.

Risen established its presence in Australia in 2008 supplying solar PV panels and energy storage systems to the residential market, commercial market, and utility developers. Risen is also an investor, developer, and solution provider for large commercial and utility-scale projects.

Risen commenced investment in utility-scale solar in Australia in 2018 and currently owns the 132MW Merredin Solar Farm in Western Australia and the 134MW Yarranlea Solar Farm in Queensland. The Merredin Solar Farm created around 200 local jobs during construction and generates energy to power 42,000 homes. The Yarranlea Solar Farm created a similar number of employments during construction and similar energy generation.

Darlington Point BESS Pty Ltd (ACN 650 425 880) is a trustee under Risen Energy Development Pty Ltd (ABN 97 650 425 951). Risen Australian office is located at Level 1, 35 Miles Platting Road, Eight Mile Plains QLD 4113.

1.4 Regional and Local Context

Darlington Point is approximately 612km southwest of Sydney, 406km west of Canberra and 60km west of Narrandera (**Figure 1**). Darlington Point population is approximately 1,162 people and forms part of the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area (MIA).

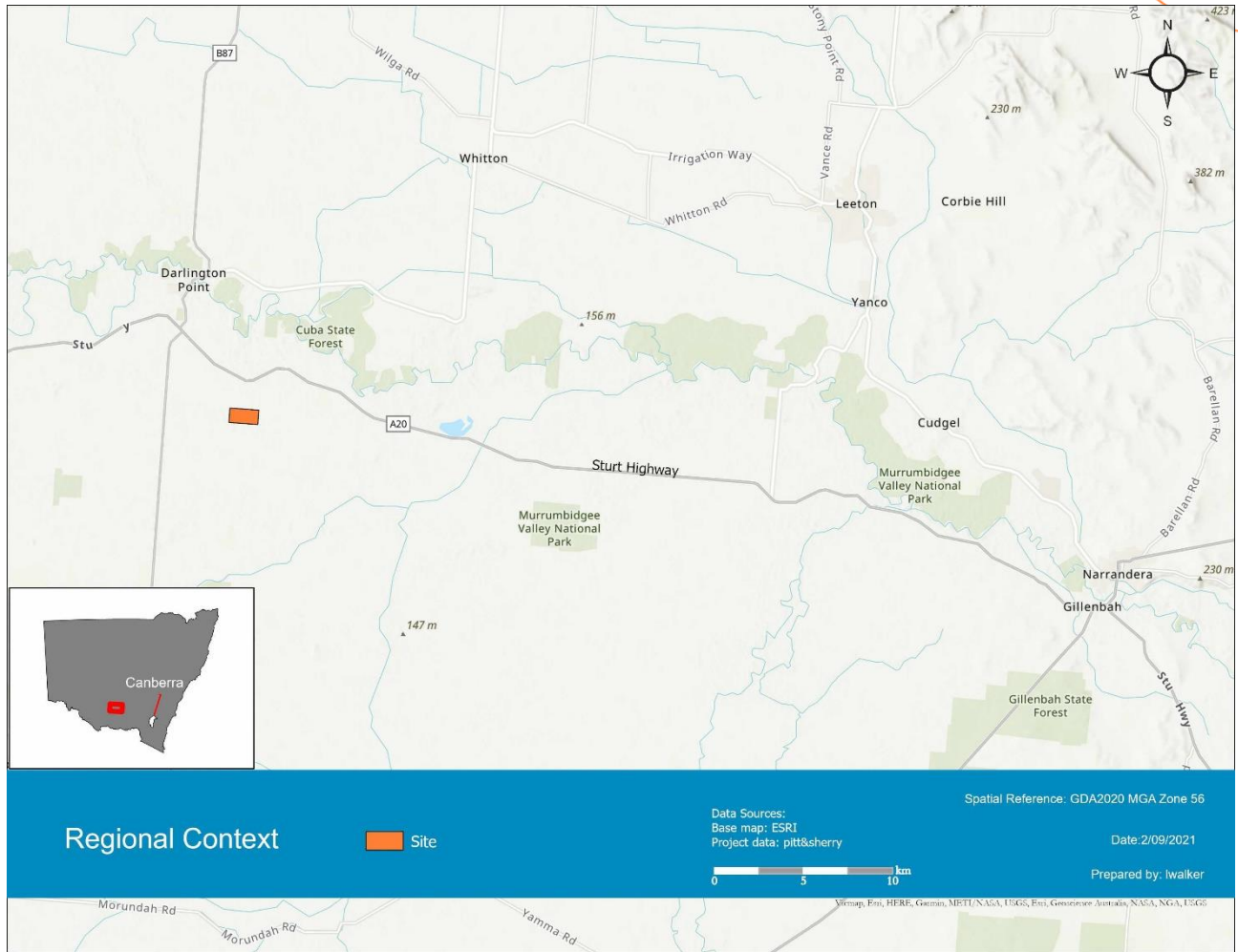


Figure 1 The site and regional context

The Site for the proposed BESS is at 14877 Sturt Highway Darlington Point 2706 - Lot 47 DP 750908 (**Figure 2** and **Figure 2 a**).

Figure 2 also illustrates the presence of Darlington Point Solar Farm east of the Site. This development was approved in December 2018 (SSD-8392) and includes a 275MW AC solar farm and a 100MWh BESS to connect to TransGrid's 330kV Darlington Point substation. There is a Modification currently being assessed to increase the capacity and change location of the BESS. The proponent for SSD8392 is Edify Energy.

Figure 2 a shows the project boundary that includes the location of the BESS on part Lot 47 DP 750908, Donald Road Drive for underground electrical cabling and the Transgrid substation on Lot 2 DP 628785 to connect to the power grid.

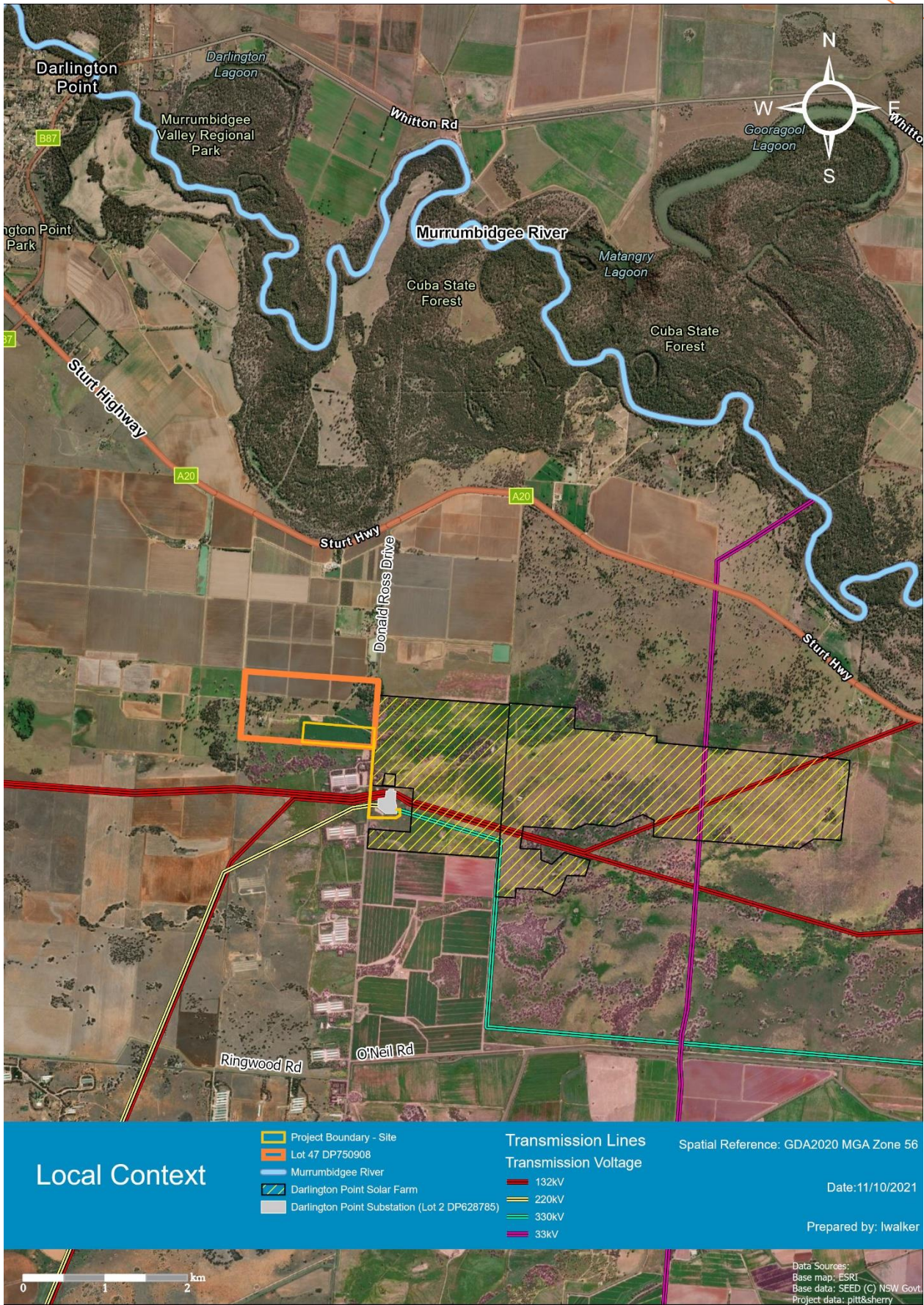


Figure 2 The Site and local context



Figure 2 a The Site and local context

2. Strategic Context

The proposed BESS would improve the reliability and security of the state electricity network by storing surplus energy in the electricity grid during low demand periods and releasing dispatchable energy during peak demand periods. The proposed development would support energy storage development in the NSW and Australia and increase flexibility and resilience of the energy grid.

2.1 Strategic Need

2.1.1 Australia's 2030 Emissions Reduction Target

The proposed development will support the national emission reductions targets aligned with the United Nations Paris Agreement. Australia has committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by achieving the following targets:

- 5% below 2000 levels by 2020.
- 26 to 28% below 2005 levels by 2030.

The proposed BESS would contribute to these targets by storing surplus electricity which can be used as dispatchable energy during peak demand periods and increase grid stability as overall renewable energy generation increases and non-renewable energy generation decreases across the grid.

2.1.2 NSW Climate Change Policy Framework

The NSW Climate Change Policy Framework 2016 outlines the long-term objectives to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050. This includes implementing emission savings policies and taking advantage of opportunities to grow new industries in NSW, including combined renewables and storage.

2.1.3 Murrumbidgee Local Strategic Planning Statement 2020

Murrumbidgee Council's Local Strategic Planning Statement envisages a thriving and prosperous region over the next 20 years and identifies what needs to be done to maximise opportunities for jobs and development. The economic growth strategic agenda has identified 'EG14 Renewable energy projects' as an ongoing priority. Council's ambition is to actively engage with proponents and ensure appropriate conditions are included in any development consents for renewable energy developments.

2.2 Project Alternatives

The following alternatives were considered during the preparation of this scoping report:


A 'do nothing option'

The 'do nothing' option would not support the strategic goals and targets set by the Australian and NSW governments in regards renewable energy, energy storage, reduce emissions and climate change.

Alternative Sites

Alternative sites in the area would require more valuable agricultural land to be developed and longer transmission infrastructure across private properties and roads would be required. Accordingly, the site was selected due to:

- Close proximity to Darlington Point substation which reduces the length and cost to connect to the substation and the state's energy grid;
- It contains the land owners' dwelling for the surrounding land and is not required or used for agricultural



production. The site contains ancillary roads, irrigation channels and borrow pits to support agricultural production. The BESS would not conflict with these existing land uses;

- Excellent road access off Donald Ross Drive, via the Sturt Highway, which allows efficient supply of plant and equipment during construction; and
- It is largely flat and likely reducing the need for major earthworks and the amount of site preparation.

2.3 Proposal Benefits

The construction and operation of the BESS would provide the following benefits:

- Improving the stability and reliability of the electricity network by storing energy during periods of low demand, including those from intermittent renewable sources and dispatching energy during periods of peak demand;
- Supporting Australia's 2030 emission reduction targets and NSW's transition to net-zero emissions by 2050;
- Local employment opportunities of approximately 50 jobs during the 12 months construction period and about 1-2 full-time jobs during the 30-year operational life.
- Construction and operation of the development is likely to be low impact upon the locality;
- Potential for direct and indirect investment into the Murrumbidgee Shire during construction.

Additional community benefits would be explored during preparation of the EIS.

3. Project

3.1 Site Description

The site is identified as part 14877 Sturt Highway Darlington Point and legally identified as part Lot 47 DP 750908 (**Figure 3**), part of the Donald Ross Drive Road reserve to the Transgrid substation on Lot 2 DP 628785.

Lot 47 is triple fronted with road reserves. To the north is an unformed east to west road reserve separating the site from Lot 2 DP 60991, to the east is Donald Ross Drive connecting to Sturt Highway to the north whilst to the west is an unsealed and unnamed road that also connects to Sturt Highway. See **Appendix 1** – Site Photos.



Figure 3 Lot 47 DP 750908

For the purposes of this report, the Parent Lot is Lot 47 DP 750908 and the proposed BESS will be located on part Lot 47 DP 750908. The BESS is 16 hectares in area and can be accessed from Donald Ross Drive.

The dwelling on the Parent Lot is located in the western portion of the lot and has another driveway access to the highway.

The Parent Lot is largely flat and is dissected by constructed irrigation channels in the northern portion (**Figure 4**).

There is remnant vegetation on the Parent Lot in the North Eastern corner. The BESS is located away from this vegetation.



Figure 4 Hydrology and vegetation on part Lot 47 for proposed BESS

A Dial Before You Dig (DBYD) search undertaken on part Lot 47 for the BESS on 21st April 2021 with power poles and underground earth or wires identified in the western portion of the site (**Figure 5**). These assets are not located within the Site.

The DBYD did not find any gas or water related assets occurring on the land for the BESS.

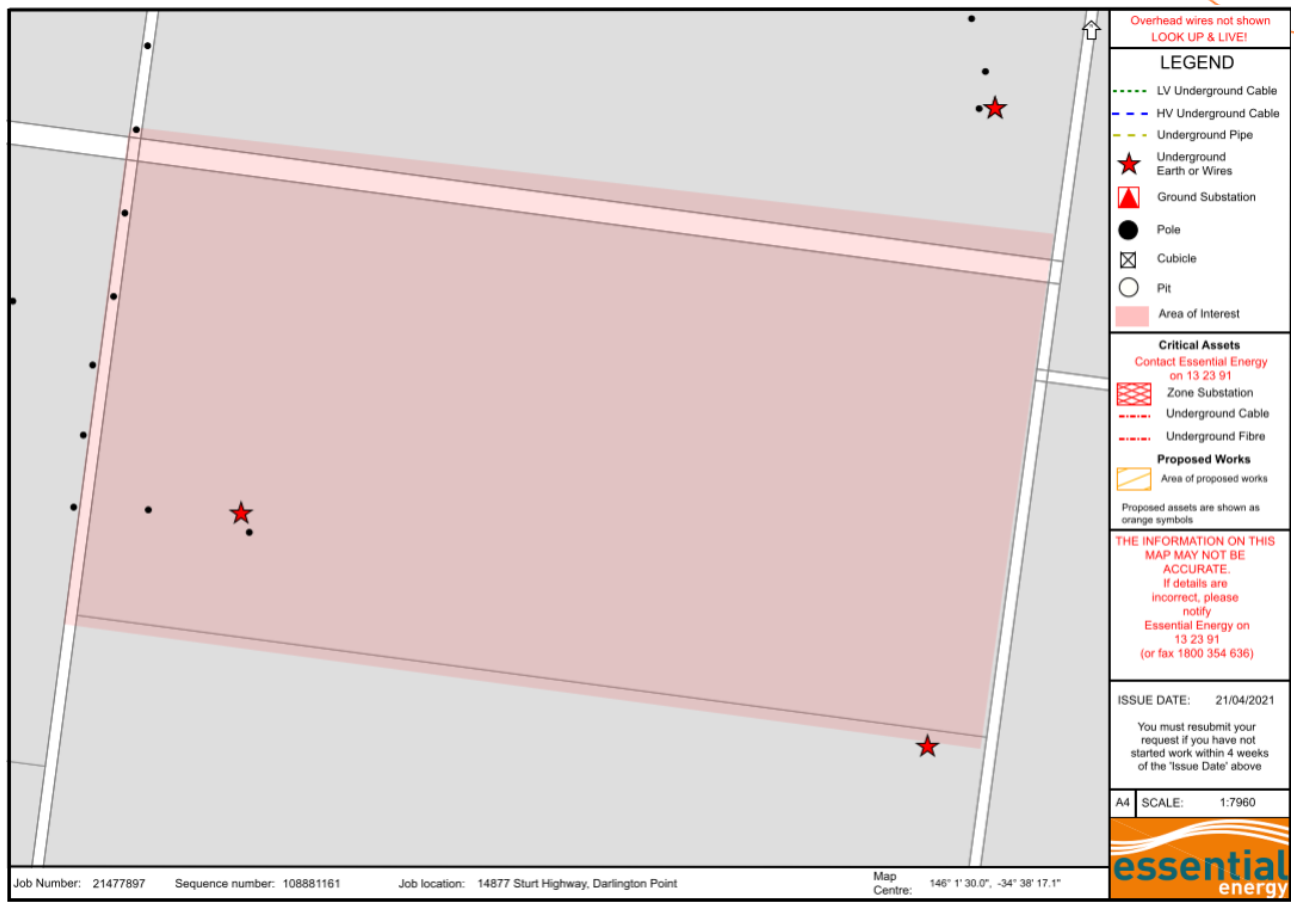


Figure 5 DBYD results for Essential Energy

3.1.1 Sensitive Receivers

The site is surrounded by farming, agribusiness and some private residences. Potential non associated sensitive receivers (residences) within 1km+ of the site are identified in **Figure 6**. One associated sensitive receiver has been identified within the Parent Lot, a rural house located to the west of the proposed Site for the BESS. The nearest residence receiver is located around 250 m to the south of the site.

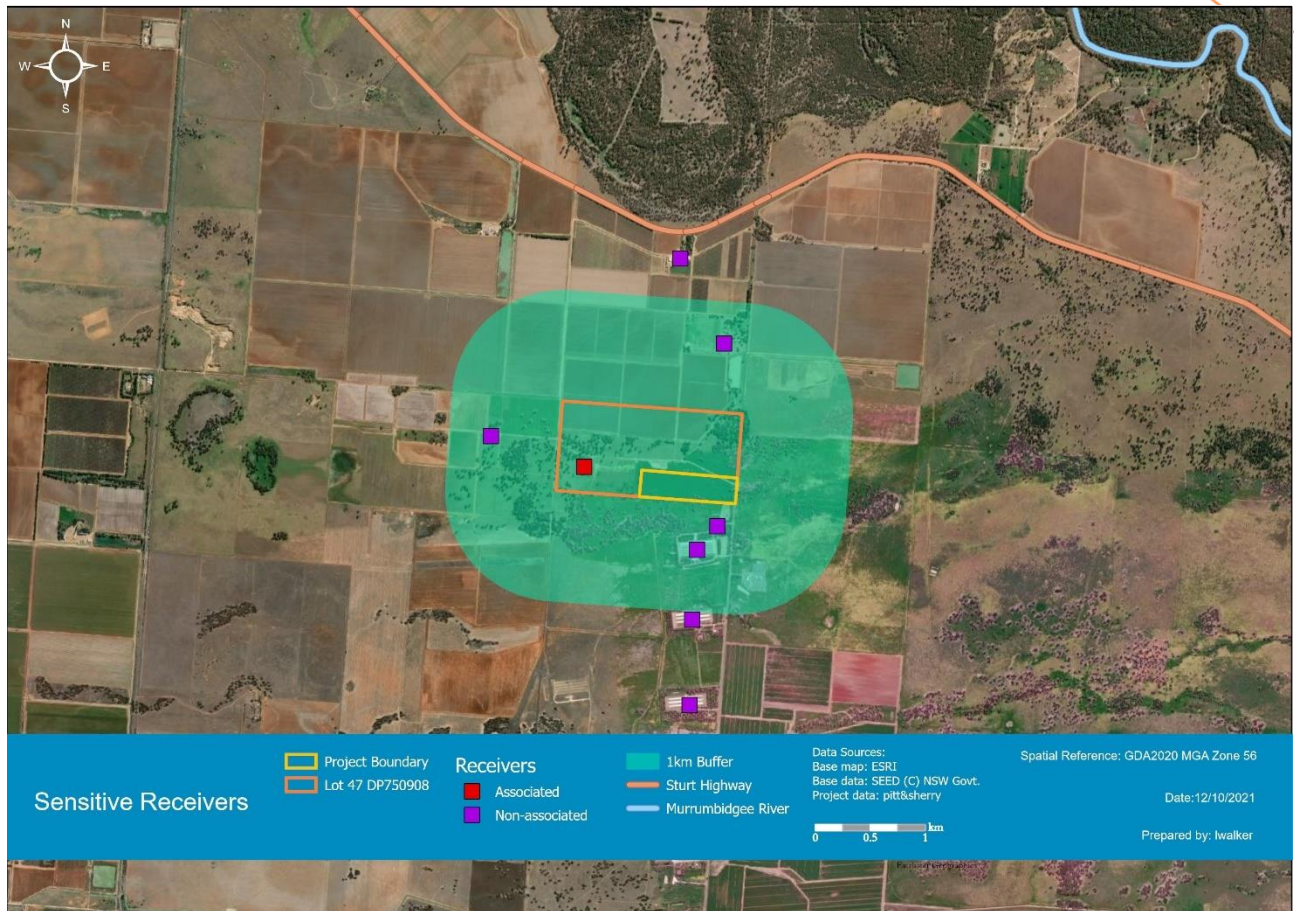


Figure 6 Sensitive Receivers

3.2 Project Description

The proposed development would involve the construction and operation of a 200MW/800MWh BESS, including a switching substation, trenching work under Donald Ross Drive to allow transmission connection from the BESS to TransGrid Substation. The development footprint area is approximately 16.39 hectares. The following items are also part of the project description.

- Subdivision of the Parent Lot 47 DP 750908 to create the site;
- Site preparation with construction access via Donald Ross Drive;
- 68 sets of cubicles housing lithium-ion batteries (**Figure 7**) and 68 sets of cubicles housing power conversion systems (PCS). Each PCS includes one or two inverters to convert Direct Current (DC) to Alternating Current (AC) and one transformer to combine and step up the voltage;
- A 33/132 kV switching substation to step up MV voltage to transmission line voltage class for interface with TransGrid substation;
- A new 132 kV transmission line connecting BESS switching substation underground to the TransGrid substation.
- Trenching work under Donald Ross Drive to install an underground 132kV transmission line from the BESS to the TransGrid Substation;
- A 20 m buffer around the BESS as Asset Protection Zone (APZ) to reduce risk of bushfire;
- Ancillary infrastructure including:
 - Cables connecting infrastructure;
 - Internal access tracks;

- Staff amenities;
- Operations and maintenance building;
- Storage and warehouse building;
- Water tanks;
- Construction laydown areas;
- On-site car parking; and
- Security fencing.

Golden Sigma



Figure 7 Example of a battery cubicle



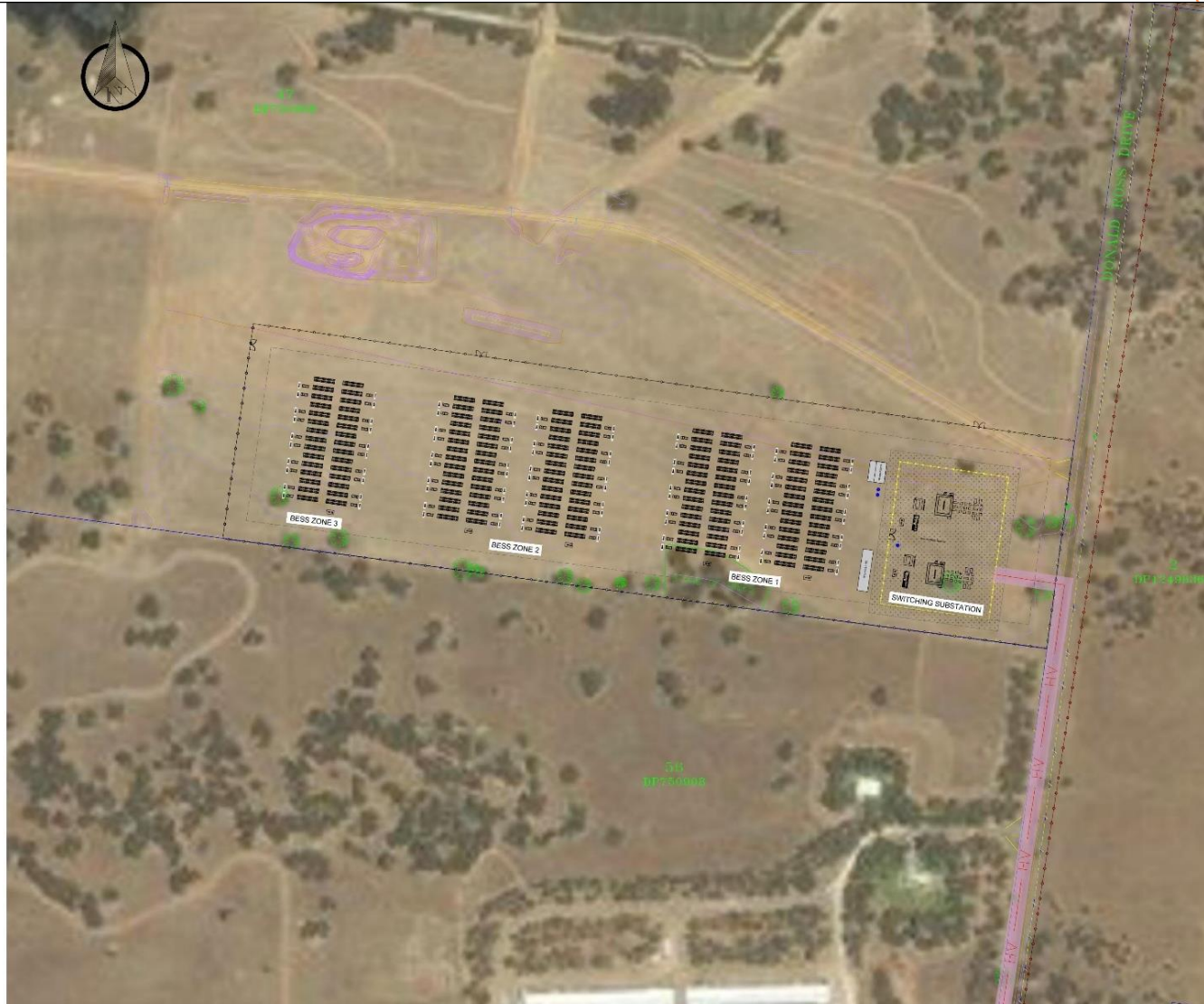
Figure 8 and Figure 9 shows the concept layout and connection route to the Transgrid Substation.

SYSTEM SPECIFICATION

GRID CONNECTION VOLTAGE	330kV CABLE
INVERTER CAPACITY (25°C)	234.6 MW
INVERTER CAPACITY (50°C)	199.24 MW
BATTERY RATED POWER	225.74 MW
BATTERY CAPACITY	902.95 MWh (4 HOURS)
INVERTER / MV STATION	SMA SCS3450UP / MVPS4000-S2
No. INVERTER / MV STATION	68
No. BATTERY CABINETS	2652
BATTERY VOLTAGE	1216 VDC
C RATE	0.26
SITE AREA	16.22 Ha
SUBSTATION AREA	1.5 Ha
CONNECTION ROUTE LENGTH	1440m

NOTES

1. THIS LAYOUT IS FOR PLANNING PURPOSE ONLY SUBJECT TO CHANGE.
2. INVERTER STATION QUANTITY TO BE CONFIRMED DURING DETAIL DESIGN.
3. SUBSTATION ARRANGEMENT TO BE CONFIRMED DURING DETAIL DESIGN.
4. HV CONNECTION POINT AND ROUTE TO BE CONFIRMED BY TRANSGRID.
5. SITE BOUNDARY AND AREA TO BE CONFIRMED.
6. 20 METERS WIDE SITE CLEARANCE BUFFER.
7. 60 METERS SUBSTATION SETBACK FROM PUBLIC ROAD.
8. 8 METERS WIDE FIRE BREAK SPACE BETWEEN BATTERY GROUPS.
9. 4 METERS WIDE INTERNAL UNSEALED OR SEALED ROAD.
10. SITE ENTRY, GATES, ACCESS ROAD TO BE CONFIRMED DURING CONSTRUCTION PERIOD.
11. EXISTING TREES WITHIN SITE BOUNDARY TO BE REMOVED DURING CONSTRUCTION.
12. BATTERY AREA KEPT AS FAR AS POSSIBLE FROM NEIGHBORS LAND.



PROJECT
14877 Sturt Highway
Darlington Point NSW 2706

CLIENT
RISEN ENERGY AUSTRALIA

CHECK
DESIGNER WILSON JIN
DESIGN CHECK WILSON JIN
DRAFTER WILSON JIN
DRAFT CHECK -
PROJECT MANAGER -
PROJECT DIRECTOR LENA LI

REVISION
A INITIAL DRAFT 2021/09/28
B - -
C - -
D - -
E - -

TITLE **CONCEPT DESIGN**
GENERAL LAYOUT
DRAWING NUMBER DAR-GN-REA-DWG-001
REVISION 1.0
PAGE 1 / 2

Figure 8 BESS concept design

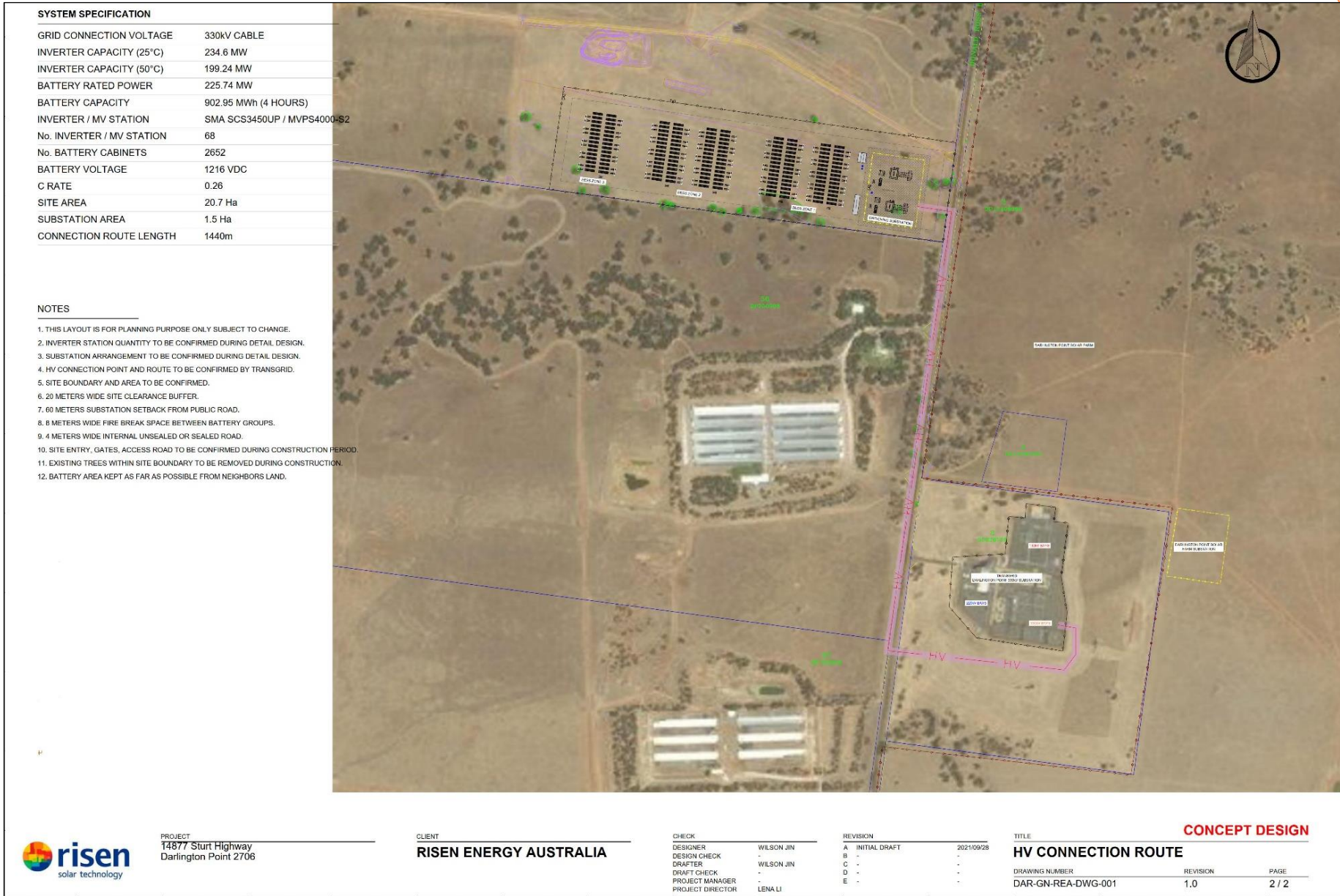


Figure 9 Connection Route

4. Statutory Context

4.1 Power to grant consent

Schedule 1 Clause 20 Electricity generating works and heat or co-generation of State Environmental Planning Policy State and Regional Development 2011 (SEPP) states the following as State Significant Development (SSD):

20 Electricity generating works and heat or co-generation

Development for the purpose of electricity generating works or heat or their co-generation (using any energy source, including gas, coal, biofuel, distillate, waste, hydro, wave, solar or wind power) that—

(a) has a capital investment value of more than \$30 million, or

(b) has a capital investment value of more than \$10 million and is located in an environmentally sensitive area of State significance.

The BESS will have a capital investment value of \$103m and accordingly, will be SSD and the Minister for Planning will be the consent authority.

4.2 Permissibility

Under the *Murrumbidgee Local Environmental Plan 2013 (LEP)* a BESS would be characterised as *electricity generating works* in the form of a building or place used for the purpose of *electricity storage*. Under LEP, the site is zoned *RU1 Primary Production* and *electricity generating works* are prohibited in the *RU1* zone. Under *Clause 4.1 Minimum subdivision lot size*, the minimum lot size for the site is 200 ha (*development standard*). The use of *Cl 4.6 Exceptions to development standards* to vary the 200 ha. minimum lot size development standard is prohibited by *Cl 4.6(6)*:

(6) Development consent must not be granted under this clause for a subdivision of land in Zone RU1 Primary Production, Zone RU2 Rural Landscape, Zone RU3 Forestry, Zone RU4 Primary Production Small Lots, Zone RU6 Transition, Zone R5 Large Lot Residential, Zone E2 Environmental Conservation, Zone E3 Environmental Management or Zone E4 Environmental Living if—

(a) the subdivision will result in 2 or more lots of less than the minimum area specified for such lots by a development standard, or

(b) the subdivision will result in at least one lot that is less than 90% of the minimum area specified for such a lot by a development standard.

The existing lot is already undersized (130ha) and further subdivision would create 2 lots less than the development standard of 200ha. Therefore, subdivision of the site under the LEP is prohibited as the existing lot is less than the minimum lot size. Consequently, the entire development – both electricity generating works and subdivision - are prohibited under the LEP.

Under *Clause 34 of the State Environmental Planning Policy Infrastructure (SEPP Infrastructure)*, development for the purpose of *electricity generating works* may be carried out with consent on land in a prescribed rural zone. *RU1 Primary Production zone* is a prescribed rural zone. The SEPP prevails over the LEP and therefore, a BESS is permissible with consent on the site.

Under *Section 4.38(3) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, consent for SSD may be granted despite the development being partly prohibited by an environmental planning instrument.

In conclusion, the pathway for obtaining development consent for an electricity generating works and subdivision of the site is summarised as follows:

- Under *SEPP Infrastructure*, *electricity generating works* are permissible with consent on *RU1* zoned land despite being prohibited under the LEP;
- Under *SEPP State and Regional Development* - the CIV for the proposed development exceeds \$30m and is SSD with the Minister for Planning the consent authority; and

- Under Section 4.38(3) of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, subdivision of the site may be granted as part of an SSD application despite it being prohibited under the LEP;

4.3 Other approvals

Based on the nature of the proposed development, other approvals under NSW and Commonwealth Acts that may be relevant to the proposed DA are summarised in Table 1.

Table 1 Other approvals under NSW and Commonwealth Legislation

Legislation	Applicability to the project
<i>Roads Act 1993</i>	Approval from the roads authority is required under S138 to erect a structure or carry out a work in, on or over a public road. Connection of the BESS to the substation will be via power cabling in the Donald Ross Drive road reserve and will require a S138 approval from Murrumbidgee Council.
<i>Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act)</i>	A search of the Protected Matters Tool on 22 April 2021 for the site with a 10 km buffer did not identify Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) on the site (Refer Section 6.1.2) Biodiversity investigations will confirm whether impacts to MNES would be likely as a result of the proposed development. At this stage, the proposed development and site are not likely to trigger offsetting and a referral under the EPBC Act. Therefore, a bilateral agreement is unlikely.

4.4 Mandatory Matters for Consideration

Table 2 identifies matters the consent authority must consider in deciding whether to grant consent to the proposed development.

Table 2 Mandatory Considerations

Statutory Reference	Mandatory Consideration
Consideration under the EP&A Act	
Section 1.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> to facilitate ecologically sustainable development by integrating relevant economic, environmental and social considerations in decision-making about environmental planning and assessment to promote the orderly and economic use and development of land to protect the environment, including the conservation of threatened and other species of native animals and plants, ecological communities and their habitats
Section 4.15	Relevant environmental planning instruments (see below) Draft environmental planning instruments that have been publicly exhibited.
Section 4.22	Relevant concept proposal for the development of the site.
Mandatory relevant considerations under EPIs	
Murrumbidgee LEP 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clause 2.3(2) – Zone objectives; Clause 5.10 Heritage Conservation; Clause 5.21 Flood Planning; Clause 6.3 Terrestrial Biodiversity; Clause 6.4 Groundwater Vulnerability; and Clause 6.9 Essential Services
SEPP Infrastructure – Clause 45	Before determining a development application (or an application for modification of a consent) for development to which this clause applies, the consent authority must— <ul style="list-style-type: none"> give written notice to the electricity supply authority for the area in which the development is to be carried out, inviting comments about potential safety risks, and take into consideration any response to the notice that is received within 21 days after the notice is given.
SEPP 55 Remediation of Land – Clause 7(c)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> if the land requires remediation to be made suitable for the purpose for which the development is proposed to be carried out, it is satisfied that the land will be remediated before the land is used for that purpose.
SEPP 33 – Hazardous and Offensive Development	Apply SEPP 33 guidelines
Considerations under other legislation	
Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (BC Act) – Section 7.14	The likely impact of the proposed development on biodiversity values will be assessed in the biodiversity development assessment report.

5. Community Engagement

5.1 Engagement Undertaken

5.1.1 Government agency and key stakeholders

For the purposes of this report, preliminary consultation has been carried out with stakeholders and the outcomes are listed in Table 3.

Table 3 Summary of key stakeholder consultation

Agency/Stakeholder	Summary
Murrumbidgee Shire Council	pitt&sherry consulted with Murrumbidgee Shire Council as the local planning authority and their advice on the proposed development is provided in Appendix B
TransGrid	Risen is consulting with Transgrid in relation to the connection requirements to the substation.
Adjoining land owners	All adjoining landowners have received a letter or email from Risen informing them of the development. At the time of writing, no comments have been received.

5.1.2 Community Engagement

Risen has undertaken a preliminary consultation with the Darlington Point community via emails and letters to the following:

Aboriginal representatives

- Tirkandi Inaburra Cultural and Development Centre

Community Groups

- Darlington Point Business Connect (Chamber Of Commerce);
- Darlington Point/Coleambally Junior Rugby League Football Club;
- Coleambally/Darlington Point Apex Club;
- Darlington Point Men's Bowls;
- Darlington Point Mobile Pre-School;
- Darlington Point Playgroup;
- Darlington Point P&C;
- Darlington Point Rural Fire Brigade;
- Darlington Point Red Cross;
- Darlington Point Riverina Classic Catch & Release Fishing Competition;
- Heritage Darlington Point;
- Darlington Point Church;
- Saint Pauls Anglican Church; and
- Darlington Point Public School.

Local Businesses

- Australia Post - Darlington Point LPO;
- BP Truckstop;
- Darlington Point Accommodation Village;
- Darlington Point Riverside Caravan Park;
- Darlington Point Sports Club;
- Davis Supermarket;
- Gumview Café;

- Heath's Butchery;
- Hutchins Agronomic Services;
- Massa Pharmacy;
- Mobil;
- Punt Hotel;
- Rivadestra Pizza & Pasta;
- River Walk Coffee and Books;
- Sonder Hair+Co;
- The Lott; and
- Tulluc Cottage

At the time of writing, no comments have been received.

5.2 Proposed Engagement

The proposed Community Participation Plan was prepared by pitt&sherry's Senior Stakeholder and Community Engagement consultants (qualified International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) practitioners) in accordance with *NSW Government Undertaking Engagement Guidelines for State Significant Projects July 2021*. The Plan is based upon the following engagement objectives:

- To identify stakeholder groups with an interest in the proposed project;
- To explain to stakeholders the objectives of the project;
- To provide stakeholder groups with information about the planning, approvals and timeframe for the project;
- To provide stakeholder groups with opportunities to engage with the project team, ask questions and offer feedback about the project; and
- To provide stakeholder groups with updates about the project as new information arises and how any feedback received has shaped project decision-making.

The purpose of the Community Participation Plan is to provide relevant, accessible, timely and meaningful ways for the community to learn about and engage in establishing a BESS on the site. According to IAP2's engagement spectrum, the level of the engagement for the BESS ranges from Inform to Involve.

During the environmental impact assessment and community engagement processes, the Community Participation Plan will be reviewed and updated by pitt&sherry and Risen in response to feedback received and to ensure consultation is undertaken in accordance with the SEARs.

5.2.1 Stakeholder identification

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (2016) data indicates that the population of Darlington Point is 1,162 people, made up of 52.6 per cent males and 47.4 per cent females. The average age of the population is 41 years of age. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population accounts for 15.9 per cent of the total population.

The purpose of Table 4 is to identify stakeholders that should be consulted by pitt&sherry during preparation of the EIS.

Table 4 Stakeholder Identification

Stakeholder group	Stakeholder name	Impact classification	Engagement level (Inform, Consult, Involve, Collaborate, Empower)	Level of influence	Perceived level of interest
Aboriginal representatives for the Wiradjuri people	Tirkandi Inaburra Cultural and Development Centre Wiradjuri News Facebook Page	Interested	Consult	Moderate	Moderate
Adjacent neighbours	To be identified	Affected	Consult	Low	High

Community groups	Darlington Point Business Connect (Chamber Of Commerce) Heritage Darlington Point	Interested	Inform	Low	Moderate
Emergency services	Darlington Point Rural Fire Brigade Fire and Rescue NSW NSW Police Force NSW Ambulance NSW SES	Interested	Consult	Moderate	Moderate
Energy market players	Edify Energy TransGrid	Interested	Consult	High	Moderate
Environment groups	Darlington Point Landcare	Interested	Consult	Low	High
Local businesses	Australia Post Darlington Point LPO BP Truckstop Darlington Point Accommodation Village Darlington Point Accommodation – Goman VIP Units Mobil Punt Hotel	Interested	Inform	Low	High
Local Government	Murrumbidgee Council Planning and Environment Kelly Tyson	Key stakeholder	Involve	High	High
Service providers	To be identified	Interested and/or affected	Inform	Moderate	Moderate
State Government	Minister for Planning Rob Stokes and Liberal Member for Pittwater Liberal Member for Farrer The Honourable Sussan Ley MP Murray Member for Legislative Council Helen Dalton	Key stakeholder	Involve	High	High

5.2.2 Action plan and engagement methods for community participation

The following action plan (refer Table 5) details the proposed methods for community participation. Commencement of each activity is subject to timing of receipt of SEARs.

Table 5 Community Participation Action Plan

Dates (TBC)	Stakeholder group	Activity	Description	Accountability	Feedback mechanism	Completed date
	State Government Murray Member for Legislative Council Helen Dalton	Project introduction letter	Inform	Risen with pitt&sherry	Return letter Phone calls Emails	
	Local Government: Murrumbidgee Council representatives	Briefing (in person or via Teams)	Consult	Risen with pitt&sherry	Meeting notes Phone calls Emails	
	Aboriginal representatives Aboriginal heritage	Project introduction letter	Inform.	Risen with pitt&sherry	Return letter Phone calls Emails	
	Adjacent neighbours	Project introduction letter with possible meeting invitation (in person or via Teams)	Consult	Risen with pitt&sherry	Phone calls Emails	
	Energy market – Edify	One-on-one meetings	Consult	Risen with pitt&sherry	Record of meeting letter or email Phone calls Emails	

Dates (TBC)	Stakeholder group	Activity	Description	Accountability	Feedback mechanism	Completed date
	Energy market - TransGrid	Post-meeting letter or email	Consult	Risen with pitt&sherry	Record of meeting letter or email Phone calls Emails	
	Community groups Emergency services Environmental groups Local businesses Service providers	Project introduction letter	Inform	Risen with pitt&sherry	Phone calls Emails	
	All	Advertise a project static display via: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> paid advertisement in the local newspapers Council newsletter, social media and website Risen newsletter, social media and website content general media release 	In appropriate digital and traditional media, advertise when and where the community can learn about the project. Provide phone line and email address to receive community enquiries.	Risen with pitt&sherry	Phone calls Emails Future static display attendance	
	All	Static display of the proposed project supported by <ul style="list-style-type: none"> map of the project location poster with key information fact sheet physical and online feedback forms 	In identified locations, display information about the project. Provide phone line and email address for community enquiries. Encourage attendees to register to receive email updates.	Risen with pitt&sherry	Visitor log Phone calls Emails Physical/online feedback form responses	
Through out the project	All	Project phone line and email address	Establish a phone line and email address to receive and respond to community enquiries. Apply the FAQ and service response timeframe in answering enquiries.	Risen with pitt&sherry		
Through out the project	All	Project database	Record all participation activities	pitt&sherry		

Dates (TBC)	Stakeholder group	Activity	Description	Accountability	Feedback mechanism	Completed date
DEPENDING ON PROJECT TIMING AND REQUIREMENTS						
SEARs, or progress to EIS	Registered email recipients	Project email update	Provide registered recipients with updates on the progress of project and exhibition requirements.	Risen with pitt&sherry	Phone calls Emails	
SEARs, or progress to EIS	All	EIS exhibition display period	DPIE	Risen with pitt&sherry	Phone calls Emails	

5.2.3 Community engagement response timeframes

Table 6 shows the response timeframes for community participation process.

Table 6 Response timeframes

Type of enquiry	Response timeframe	Action
Complaint	24 hours	Alert Risen immediately Work with the project team to address the complaint and determine approach to resolve Add details to project's stakeholder database
Feedback (negative)	48 hours	Alert Risen immediately Work with the project team to address the negative feedback and determine approach to resolve Add details to project database
Feedback (positive)	48 hours	Respond to positive feedback according to Frequently Asked Questions Add details to project's stakeholder database
General enquiry	48 hours	Respond to general enquiry according to Frequently Asked Questions Add details to project's stakeholder database
Register for email updates	48 hours	Add details to project's stakeholder database

6. Proposed Assessment of Environmental Impacts

This section identifies the key environmental matters that would be assessed in the EIS for the design, construction and operation of the proposed BESS and are derived from desktop investigations and a site inspection by pitt&sherry.

6.1 Key Matters Requiring Assessment in the EIS

6.1.1 Heritage – Aboriginal

Preliminary assessment

An search of the NWS Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) in May 2021 identified an Aboriginal Archaeological site recorded within 200 metres of the site (**Figure 10**).

- Site ID: 49-5-0222 – Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred)

This aboriginal site is likely to be within the Donald Ross Drive road reserve and relatively remote to the site. The

identified aboriginal site would not be affected by the proposal as it is north of the site and therefore not on the route of the proposed transmission lines to the TransGrid substation.

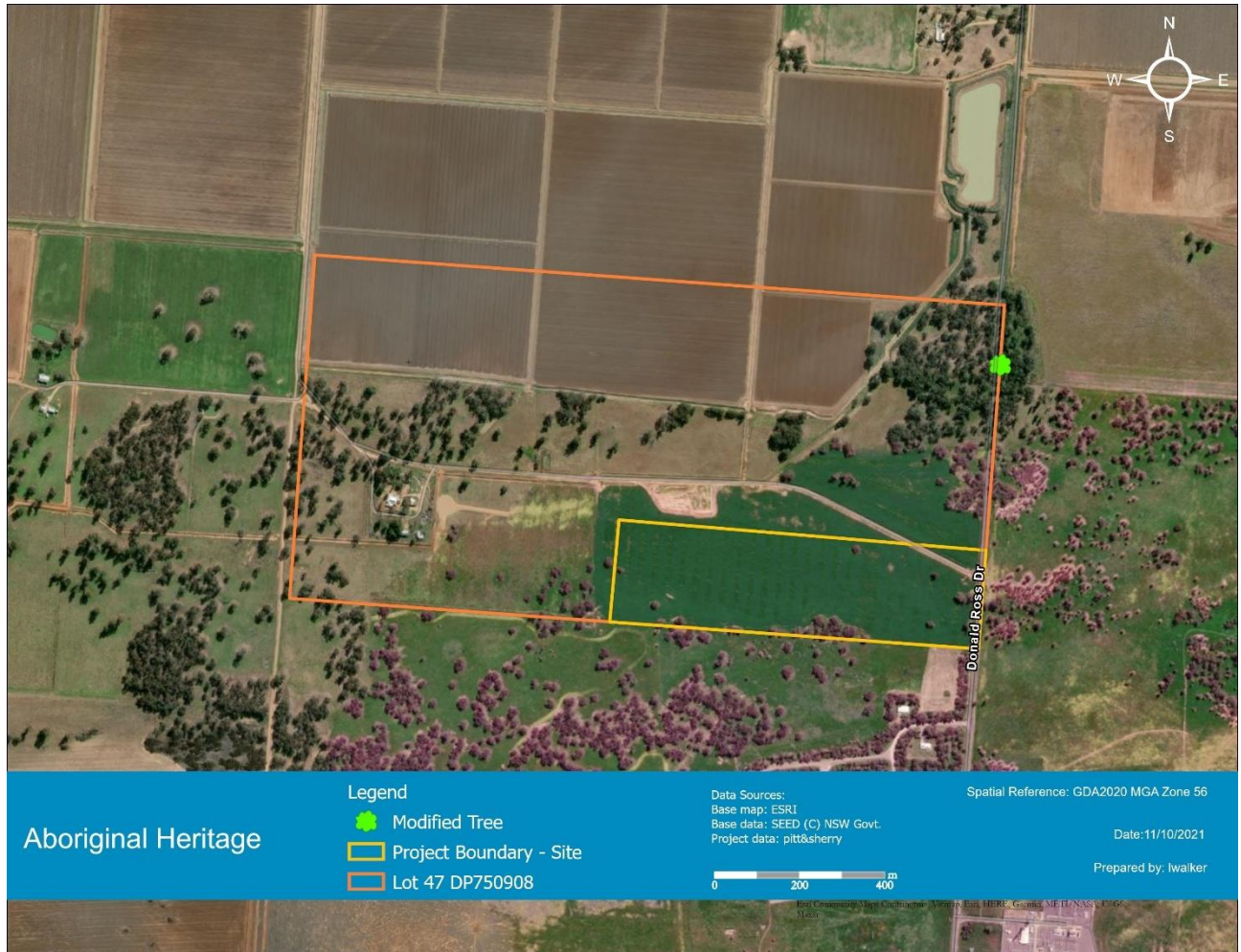


Figure 10 AHIMS results

Proposed level of assessment

The likelihood of Aboriginal artefacts occurring on site is low due to land clearing, plowing and tilling of the site for agricultural production over a long period of time. If artefacts are present, they would likely be damaged or destroyed by the farming activities. A standard level of assessment will be undertaken as the project is unlikely to result in significant impacts including cumulative impacts.

Proposed approach to this assessment

An Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) may be required to assess the likely impacts to Aboriginal cultural heritage. This will include desktop research, Aboriginal community consultation and field investigations enabling the development of tailored mitigation/management strategies if and as required. The following documents will guide the assessment:

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents (ACHCRs, DECCW 2010).

Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigations of Objects in NSW (the Code, DECCW 2011).

Guide to investigating, assessing and reporting on Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW (The Guide; OEH 2011).

6.1.2 Biodiversity – Terrestrial Flora and Fauna

Preliminary assessment

A search of the NSW government Biodiversity Values Map and Threshold Tool did not identify vegetation of biodiversity value on the site. However, **Figure 11** illustrates land within the site that has been mapped under the Murrumbidgee LEP to have biodiversity values. A site survey is required to identify and confirm what these values are.

A search of the Commonwealth Protected Matters Search Tool was undertaken on 22 April 2021 for the site with a 10 km buffer. The findings of the search are outlined in Table 7. The potential for these entities to occur would be investigated as part of the EIS. At this stage, a significant impact on an MNES and the requirement to refer the Proposal under the EPBC Act is not considered likely.

Table 7 MNES

MNES	Quantity
World Heritage	None
National Heritage Places	None
Wetlands of International Importance	4
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park	None
Commonwealth Marine Area	None
Listed Threatened Ecological Communities	5
Listed Threatened Species	17
Listed Migratory Species	9



Figure 11 Terrestrial Biodiversity as mapped by the Murrumbidgee LEP

Proposed level of assessment

A Biodiversity Development Assessment Report prepared in accordance with the BAM may be required. This will be confirmed by site investigations and reporting by a specialist ecological consultant during the preparation of the EIS. Therefore, a standard level of assessment is proposed.

Proposed approach to this assessment

This proposed assessment would be as follows:

- Stage 1 would cover the desktop and field assessments followed by preliminary assessment results. This enables the proponent to re-assess their proposal, before committing to the more detailed work (Stage 2) and reporting that may be required if the NSW Biodiversity Offset Scheme (BOS) is triggered.
- Stage 2 would comprise either (a) completion of a Biodiversity Assessment Report, if entry into the offset scheme thresholds is not required, OR (b) the additional work required for a Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR) including potential additional fieldwork which needs to be completed in accordance with the Biodiversity Assessment Method (BAM).

6.1.3 Access – Traffic

Preliminary assessment

The site is accessed via Donald Ross Drive off the Sturt Highway and this will likely be the route for construction traffic. Sturt Highway is a national highway and the primary route between Sydney and Adelaide.

Donald Ross Drive is a north-south orientated, sealed two-lane council road and about 8 m wide. The road services the TransGrid substation and local industries, including Baiada Poultry farms to the south. The Sturt Highway/Donald Ross Drive intersection is a priority-controlled T-intersection. From the east, access to Donald Ross Drive includes a 120m auxiliary left-turn treatment, while from the west a 50 m auxiliary right-turn treatment is provided.

The Sturt Highway and Donald Ross Drive are considered to be of a suitable standard for construction traffic access to the site.

Sight lines for construction traffic entering and egressing the site from and onto the Sturt Highway and Donald Ross Drive appear reasonable. Batteries and associated infrastructure would be sourced either from Melbourne or Sydney and delivered via the Sturt Highway and Donald Ross Drive.

Construction equipment and materials might be sourced from local suppliers (likely Griffith). Accommodation for workers might be found in Darlington Point but more likely in Griffith. During operation, traffic generation would be minimal and therefore unlikely to impact on local traffic.

Proposed level of assessment

A standard level of assessment for this environmental matter will be undertaken. This assessment will include cumulative impacts from construction and operation of the Darlington Point Solar Farm and its BESS.

Proposed approach to this assessment

A Traffic Impact Assessment (TIA) will identify the traffic, transport and access impacts including:

- Review of existing arrangements along route;
- Undertake swept path analysis for relevance of use for design vehicles;
- Estimate volumes and distributions of construction and operational traffic ;
- Identify mitigation measures; and
- Review site access and parking arrangements

This assessment will include a route assessment between site access and state road network and advice on safety issues and mitigation options available.

6.1.4 Cumulative Impacts

Preliminary assessment

Cumulative impacts could be experienced by the community if construction or operation coincides with construction or operation of other developments. A Modification Application is currently under assessment to increase the BESS capacity and alter its location at the Darlington Point Solar Farm. Cumulative impacts from construction and operation of the Darlington Point Solar Farm and its BESS will be assessed.

Key cumulative impacts could include:

- Increased construction vehicle traffic on local roads causing congestion and delay;
- Pressure on local accommodation and services to house and support construction staff, and managing socio-economic outcomes after construction;

- Increased construction noise on neighbouring residents; and
- Cumulative generation of Electric and Magnetic Fields.

Proposed level of assessment

A standard level of assessment is proposed in accordance with the *Cumulative Impact Assessment Guidelines for State Significant Projects, July 2021*.

Proposed approach to this assessment

Cumulative impacts would be considered in the EIS.

6.1.5 Other Environmental Matters

Other environmental matters relevant to the development, but are not key matters, are described in Table 8. These considerations would be subject to assessment in the EIS.

Table 8 Other Environmental Matters Requiring Further Assessment

Environmental matter	Preliminary assessment	Proposed approach and level of assessment
Amenity – Visual	<p>The site generally comprises flat, open grassland with native vegetation</p> <p>BESS could be visible from nearby dwellings and Donald Ross Drive including at night time from possible facility lighting.</p> <p>Construction hours will be conditioned to not allow construction at night.</p>	<p>A standard assessment would confirm sensitive receivers and viewpoints and determine impacts to visual amenity from these locations.</p> <p>Any mitigation measures would be identified in the EIS</p>
Amenity – Noise and Vibration	<p>In accordance with Noise Policy for Industry (NPI) 2017, where noise levels are below 35dBA for daytime and 30dBA for evening/night time, those levels can be adopted as representative background levels or Rating Background Level. Darlington Pt Solar Farm EIS found ambient background noise levels <30 dBA.</p> <p>During construction, the main source of noise is expected to be from traffic movements, construction of project switchyard and installation of equipment. Once in operation, it is not anticipated the BESS would generate noise emissions significant enough to be audible at the site boundary.</p>	<p>A standard noise and vibration impact assessment would be conducted to determine likely noise impacts to surrounding land uses and identify mitigation measures.</p> <p>Assessment in accordance with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EPA Noise Policy for Industry 2017; • DECC Interim Construction Noise Guideline, 2009; and • DECCW, Road Noise Policy 2011
Land – Soil Chemistry and Land Capability	<p>According to MinView – NSW Resources and Geoscience (accessed 23rd April 2021), there are no existing or proposed mineral exploration licences over the site or adjoining land.</p> <p>A Land and Soil Capability Mapping for NSW search (SEED 23rd April 2021), as show in Figure 12, the entire site is mapped <i>Class 6 – Very severe limitations</i>.</p> <p>Class 6 land presents severe to very severe site limitations for grazing, and other land uses. Limitations can include shallow soils, stoniness, salt outbreaks and soil erosion can be severe without erosion control measures.</p> <p>Excavations and vegetation removal would be required during construction. This may cause temporary erosion, sedimentation or dust generation. Soil may also be compacted as a result of construction of operation at the site.</p>	<p>The suitability of the site and the impact on strategic land values would be considered .</p> <p>In addition, standard a soils and geology assessment would be conducted to identify potential impacts during construction, and any required mitigation measures to prevent erosion and sedimentation.</p>
Air – Gases and Particular Matter	<p>A search of the National Pollutant Inventory on 23rd August 2021 identified 11 facilities reporting air emissions in Murrumbidgee LGA. Ten are poultry farms, with ammonia being the main</p>	<p>A standard air quality impact assessment would be undertaken and mitigation measures (such as dust control</p>

	<p>emission type and a facility producing petroleum for wholesale.</p> <p>Other sources of air pollution in the area are likely to include the surrounding roads and dust generation from rural activities.</p> <p>During construction, traffic movements, the slashing of grassland, and minor vegetation removal may result in minor increases in emissions and dust. There are not expected to be any emissions during operation of the BESS.</p>	during construction) would be specified.
Hazards and Risk – Flooding	An ePlanning Spatial Viewer search undertaken on 21 st April 2021 did not identify the site as flood prone.	
Hazards and Risk – Waste	<p>Resources during construction likely to include materials, fuel for vehicles and equipment and water for dust suppression. Waste streams are expected to include construction materials, grasses and vegetation, soils, and general waste.</p> <p>During operation, resource use and waste streams are expected to be minimal.</p>	A standard assessment of waste management will be undertaken.
Hazards and Risk – Land Contamination	<p>Due to historic agricultural activities there is potential for contamination (e.g. from sheep or cattle dips or from storage of chemicals) but this is unlikely to be an issue for the proposed development.</p> <p>As there would be minimal storage of chemicals or other contaminants at the site during construction and operation, the risk of contamination as a result of the development is low.</p>	Standard assessment will assess the likelihood of contamination present on site.
Hazards and Risk – Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMFs) and Fire.	<p>EMF are produced wherever electricity is used or transmitted. The Darlington Point Solar Farm and TransGrid substation are expected to be sources of EMF.</p> <p>EMFs generated from the project are expected to be below the limits stated in the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA); therefore, not having an adverse impact on human health.</p> <p>There is a risk of fire occurring from battery operation in particular during hot weather.</p>	A standard assessment of EMF and battery fire hazard will be undertaken.
Water – Hydrology and Stormwater	The site is largely flat and dissected by irrigation channels in the northern portion. A search in the <i>Water Management (General) Regulation 2018</i> hydroline spatial data 1.0 on 21 st April 2021 identified the channels as watercourses.	The irrigation channels and stormwater management will be considered in the design of the BESS and addressed in the EIS.
Social – Community	<p>The nearest residents may be temporarily impacted by increased traffic movements during the construction phase. There may be pressure on local accommodation to place construction staff.</p> <p>However, it is expected that the development of the BESS would also result in beneficial social and economic outcomes in the community.</p>	An standard impact assessment will be undertaken in accordance with the <i>Social Impact Assessment Guidelines for State Significant Projects (Department of Planning Industry and Environment, 2021)</i>

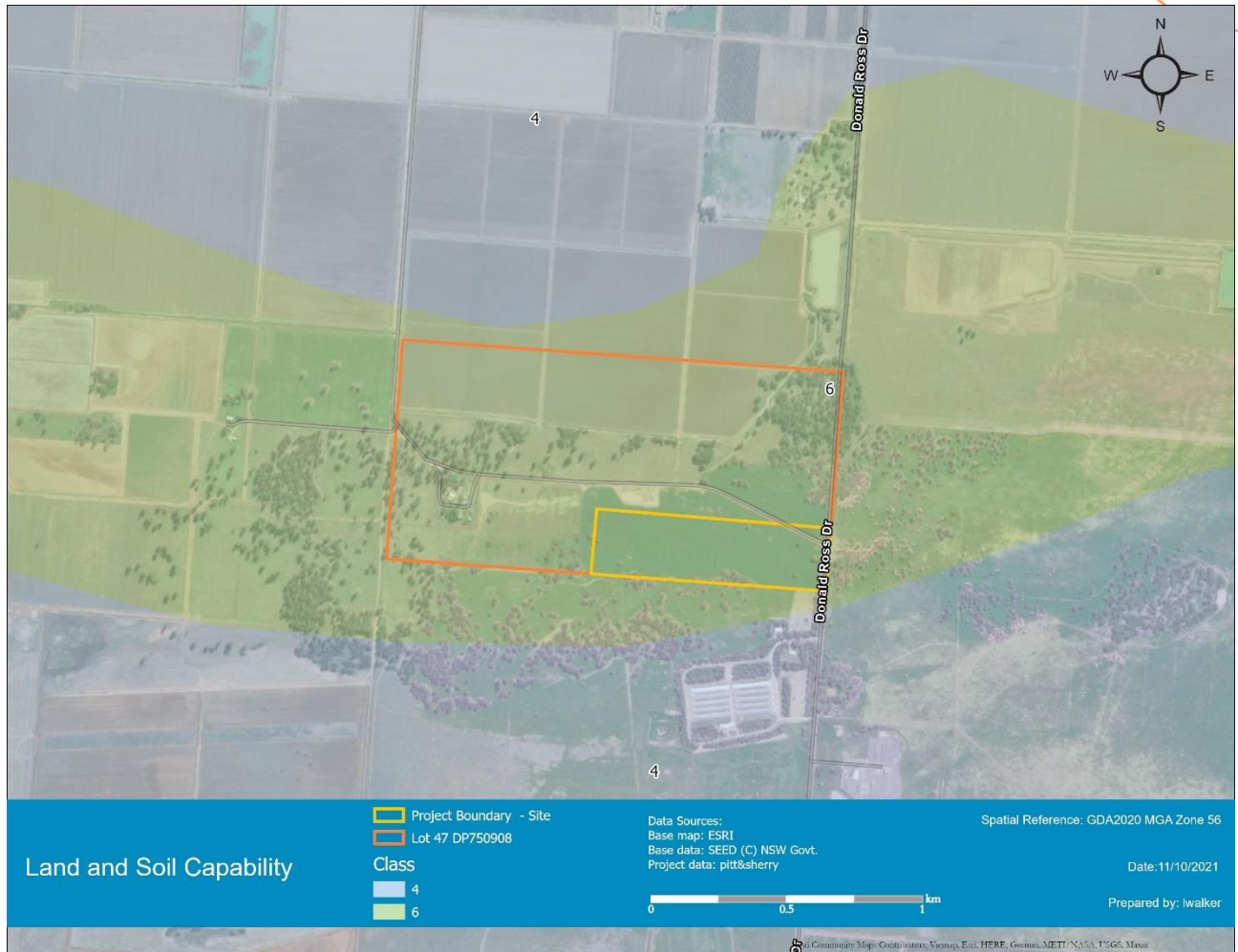


Figure 12 Land and Soil Capability - Class 6 – Very severe limitations

6.2 Matters Not Requiring Further Assessment in the EIS

This section documents other environmental matters that, although they need to be addressed in the EIS, are not relevant to the Project or the impacts are of such a small scale to not warrant further assessment. The environmental matters requiring no further assessment in the EIS are described in Table 9.

Table 9 Matter Requiring No Further Assessment in the EIS

Environmental matter	Preliminary assessment	Why no further assessment is necessary?
Heritage – Historic	A desktop review and database searches identified the site is near a local heritage item under the LEP named Tubbo Station. A search on the State Heritage Register did not identify heritage items on site (refer Figure 13 .)	Due to distance between site and Tubbo Station, the proposed BESS is unlikely to impact the heritage item.
Hazard and Risks – Bushfire	The NSW Rural Fire Service Bushfire Mapping Tool identifies site not bush fire prone land (refer Figure 14). Whilst ground cover on site may pose some risk but this a land management issue.	Under Section 63 of Rural Fires Act, there is a legal obligation of land owner and occupiers to prevent bushfire from spreading onto adjoining land. The design of the BESS will include a 20 m APZ in addition to the existing setbacks. A bushfire assessment would be undertaken if it is requested by the SEARs.

Hazards and Risk – Groundwater Contamination	Figure 15 shows the site is mapped <i>ground water vulnerable</i> under the Murrumbidgee LEP.	Construction and operation of the proposed development unlikely to impact on groundwater.
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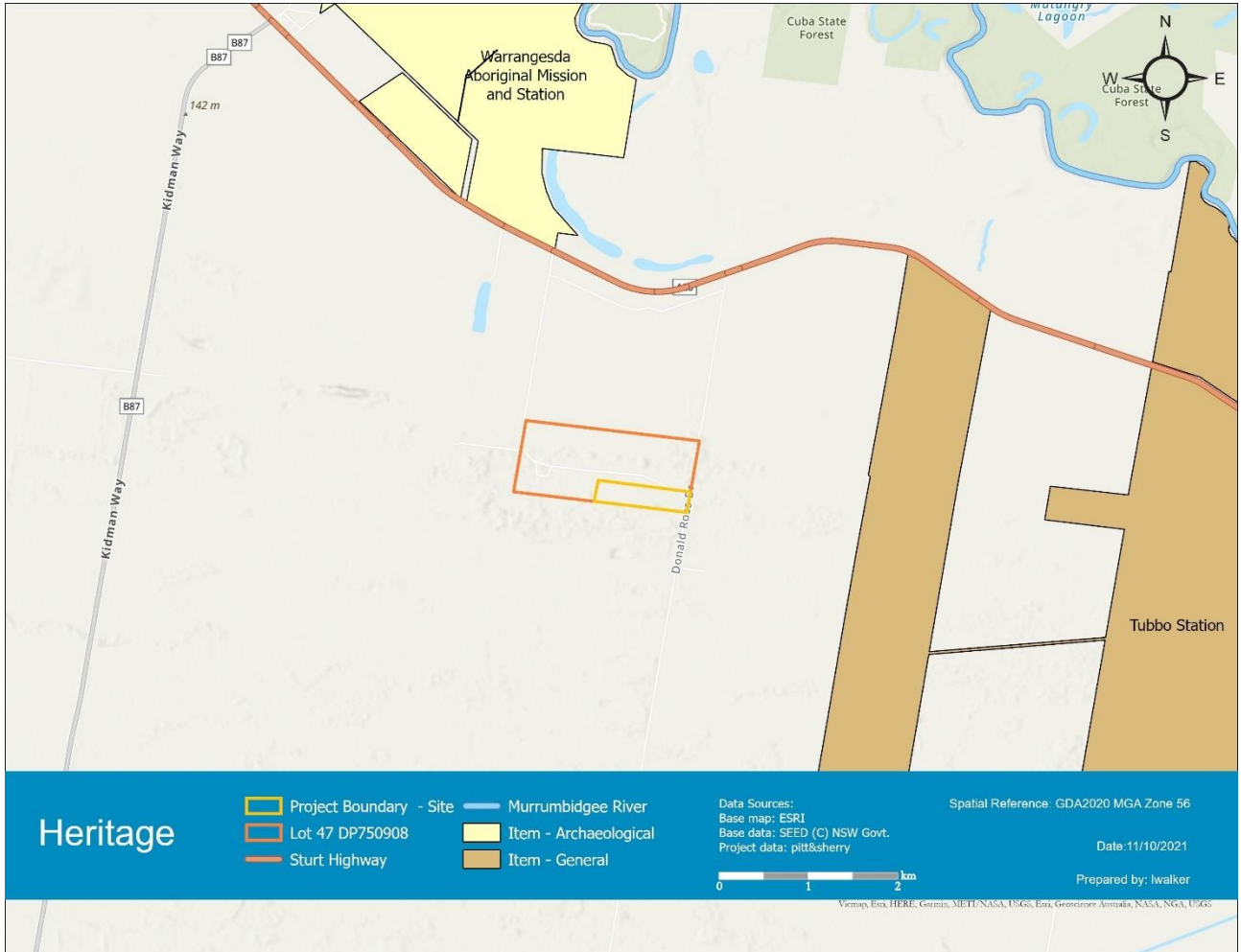


Figure 13 Local Heritage Items under Murrumbidgee LEP 2013

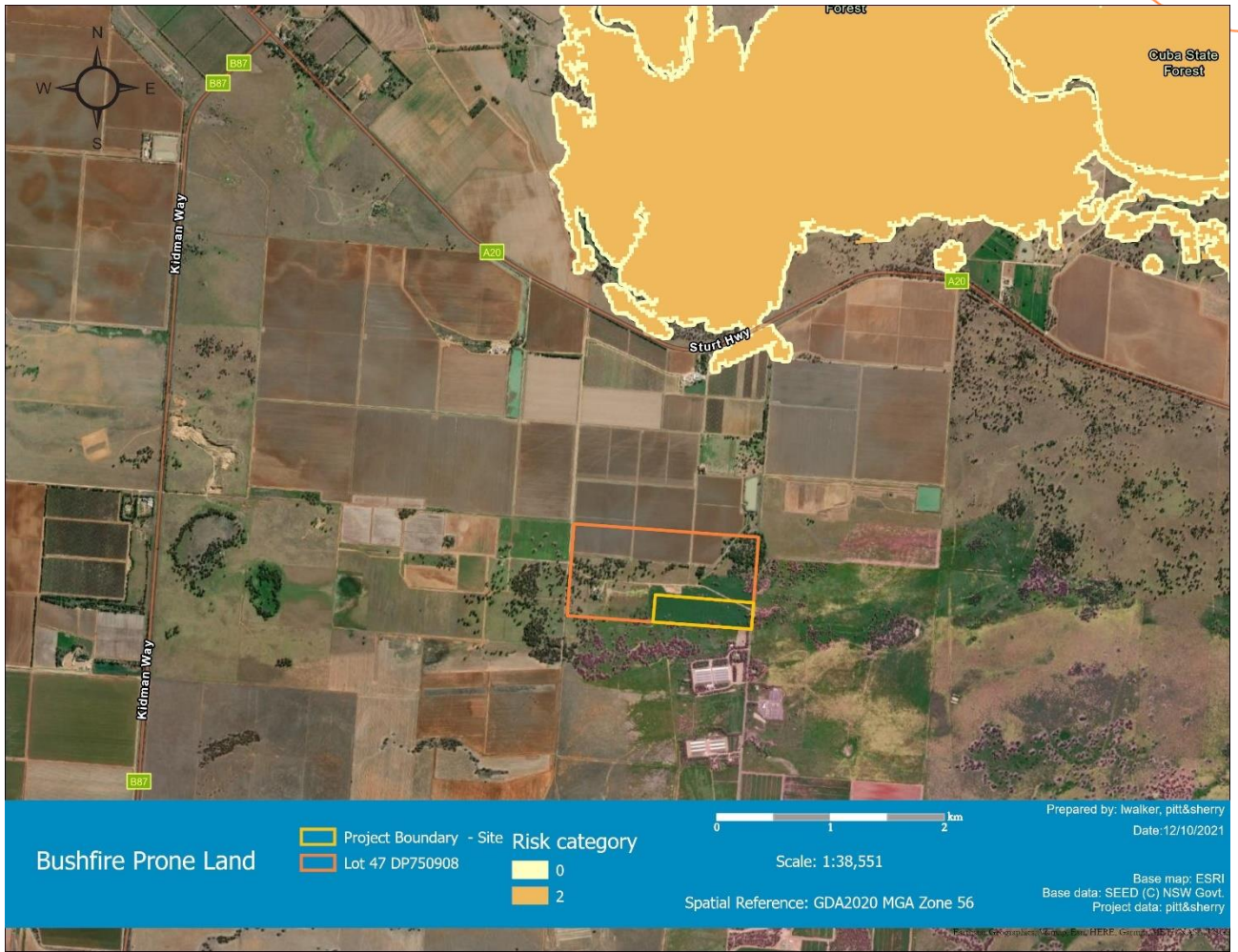


Figure 14 Bushfire prone land map



Figure 15 Groundwater Vulnerability as mapped by the Murrumbidgee LEP 2013

7. Conclusion

In requesting the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements for the proposed Battery Energy Storage System at Darlington Point in the Murrumbidgee Local Government Area, this scoping report has identified the planning approval pathway for the proposed development as SSD and identified the key environmental matters to be assessed in the EIS as follows:

- Heritage – Aboriginal;
- Biodiversity – Terrestrial Flora and Fauna;
- Access – Traffic; and
- Cumulative impacts.

The benefits of this proposed development would include:

- Improving the stability and reliability of the electricity network by storing energy during periods of low demand, including those from more intermittent renewable sources, and dispatching energy during periods of peak demand and emergency events;
- Local employment opportunities during the construction period; and
- Potential for direct and indirect investment into the Murrumbidgee Shire during construction.

Subject to receipt of the SEARs, an EIS will be prepared and Risen and pitt&sherry will undertake consultation to support the development application. The EIS will fully assess the impacts of the proposed development to enable the consent authority to determine the DA.

8. References

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Site Photos

Appendix A

Site Photos



Figure 1 Donald Ross Drive near the site entrance



Figure 2 Site Entrance



Figure 3 Adjoining landowners - Darlington Point Solar Farm



Figure 4 Site for the proposed BESS



Figure 5 Site for the proposed BESS



Figure 6 Site for the proposed BESS



Figure 7 Site for the proposed BESS



Figure 8 Darlington Point Substation



Figure 9 Donald Ross Drive



Figure 10 Donald Ross Drive



Figure 11 Donald Ross Drive



Figure 12 Darlington Point Solar Farm



Figure 13 Darlington Point Solar Farm



Figure 14 Darlington Point Solar Farm



Figure 15 Donald Ross Drive intersection with Sturt Highway



Figure 16 Sturt Highway



Figure 17 Sturt Highway



Figure 18 Donald Ross Drive intersection with Sturt Highway

pitt&sherry

Engagement Undertaken

Appendix B



Murrumbidgee
COUNCIL
COLEAMBALLY NSW 2707

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21 Carrington Street
PO Box 5
DARLINGTON POINT NSW 2706

Telephone: 02 6960 5500

Jerilderie Office
35 Jerilderie Street
PO Box 96
JERILDERIE NSW 2716

Telephone 03 5886 1200

SC210

31 August 2021

Attention Mr Trevor Allen
Pitt & Sherry
PO Box 259
South Melbourne VIC 3205

Via email: tallen@pittsh.com.au

Dear Trevor

**REQUEST FOR COMMENT PROPOSED BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM
(BESS)- LOT 47 DP 750908 14713 STURT HIGHWAY DARLINGTON POINT**

I refer to our recent telephone conversations about the proposed BESS development at Darlington Point, which will be a State Significant Development and the opportunity to make preliminary comments on the proposal. Council has no objection to the proposed subdivision or lease of the development.

Although it may already be proposed, Council recommends that the report consider the following:

- a) Department of Planning's Cumulative Impact Assessment and impact on Murrumbidgee Council social and economic capital.
- b) Contribution Levy or Voluntary Planning Agreement with Council given the cost of the development and requirement for additional services and facilities.
- c) Potential integrated development under the Water Management Act for development within 40m of drainage and supply channels deemed as "waterways".
- d) Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2019 if the development is within 50 metres of grassland or within 140m of other vegetation communities. Asset Protection Zones and perimeter roads and Bushfire Management and mitigation measures as well as dedicated firefighting water supply.
- e) Aboriginal heritage investigation if the area is near mapped prior streams or on landscapes associated with dunes or prior streams.
- f) Servicing requirements and arrangements for water supply (and volumes) and effluent and waste water disposal for workers and maintenance contractors.

- g) Consideration of the avoidance of solar farms and associated development on prime agricultural land and the potential loss of productive agriculture.
- h) Construction period and the ongoing operational maintenance requirements
- i) Environmental Risk and Hazard Assessment, particularly fire risk and management/mitigation as well as security measures.
- j) Decommissioning plan and s88B restrictions or contractual arrangements to mandate the removal of all underground and above ground infrastructure at the end of the development life.
- k) Traffic Impact Assessment (TIA) and if required Noise and Vibration Assessment. The TIA should consider the capacity of local roads to handle the development and any required upgrading including proposed access arrangements.
- l) Potential public health impacts associated with the development.
- m) Biodiversity Assessment.
- n) Visual Impact Assessment and Landscaping Plan.
- o) Liaison with Coleambally Irrigation and whether the development requires channel water, bore water or on site storage tanks.
- p) Associated infrastructure including buildings and dwellings and confirmation of the buildings requiring a Construction Certificate. Details of whether any buildings will be temporary.
- q) Soil / geotechnical report.
- r) Liaison with Transgrid, Essential Energy and any proposed easements and or restrictions on title.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the assessment considerations. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require further information.

Yours sincerely



Kelly Tyson
Manager of Planning and Environment

Battery Energy Storage System at Darlington Point, NSW.

Contact

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