

Samsung C&T Renewable Energy
Australia Pty Ltd

**COMET PARK BATTERY
ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM**

Scoping Report

FINAL

September 2024

COMET PARK BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM

Scoping Report

FINAL

Prepared by

Umwelt (Australia) Pty Limited

on behalf of

Samsung C&T Renewable Energy Australia Pty Ltd

Project Director: Paul Douglass
Project Manager: Jon Novoselac
Report No. 24133/R01
Date: September 2024



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Abbreviations and Key Terms

Abbreviation/Key Term	Description
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
AC	Alternating Current
ACHA	Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment
AHIMS	Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System
Associated Receiver	Residential or non-residential landowner identified as a potential receiver of impacts during construction or operation of the Project (agreements are in place between Associated Receivers and the Proponent)
BAM	Biodiversity Assessment Method
BC Act	<i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i>
BDAR	Biodiversity Development Assessment Report
BESS	Battery Energy Storage System
BoM	Bureau of Meteorology
BSAL	Biophysical Strategic Agricultural Land
CIA	Cumulative Impact Assessment
CLM Act	<i>Contaminated Land Management Act 1997</i>
Crown Land Act	<i>Crown Land Management Act 2016</i>
CSEP	Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan
DC	Direct Current
Commonwealth DCCEEW	Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
DPHI	NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
EEAP	NSW Energy Efficiency Action Plan
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EMF	Electromagnetic Fields
EnergyCo	Energy Corporation of NSW
EP&A Act	<i>NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i>
EPBC Act	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>
EPL	Environment Protection Licence
FTE	Full Time Equivalent
GDEs	Groundwater Dependant Ecosystems
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
Ha	Hectare
Host Landholder	Landholder whose property is proposed to host the Project
ICNIRP	International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection

Abbreviation/Key Term	Description
IPC	Independent Planning Commission
kV	Kilovolt
kVh	Kilovolt hour
Leeton CSP	Leeton Community Strategic Plan 2035
LEP	Local Environment Plan
LGA	Local Government Area
LVIA	Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
MNES	Matter of National Environmental Significance
MV	Medium Voltage
MW	Megawatt
MWh	Megawatt Hour
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
NEM	National Electricity Market
NIS	Network Infrastructure Strategy
Non-Associated Receiver	Residential or non-residential landowner identified as a potential receiver of impacts during construction or operation of the Project (no agreements are in place between Non-Associated Receivers and the Proponent)
NSW	New South Wales
NSW EPA	NSW Environment Protection Authority
NTSCORP	Native Title Services
O&M	Operations and Maintenance
OSOM	Over-size, over-mass vehicle
PCT	Plant Community Type
PHA	Preliminary Hazard Analysis
POEO Act	<i>Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997</i>
Project Area	The lot on which the Project is proposed to be developed (I.E., Lot 763, DP 257321)
Project Footprint	The area encompassing the proposed BESS
Proponent	Samsung C&T Renewable Energy Australia (SREA)
RAP	Registered Aboriginal Party
REAP	Renewable Energy Action Plan
REZ	Renewable Energy Zone
RFS	NSW Rural Fire Service
RMRP	Riverina Murray Regional Plan
RNE	Register of the National Estate
Roads Act	<i>Roads Act 1993</i>
SEARs	Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements

Abbreviation/Key Term	Description
SHR	State Heritage Register
SIA	Social Impact Assessment
SREA	Samsung C&T Renewable Energy Australia
SSD	State Significant Development
SSI	State Significant Infrastructure
TI SEPP	State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021
TTIA	Traffic and Transport Impact Assessment
Umwelt	Umwelt (Australia) Pty Ltd
WM Act	Water Management Act (2000)
WRIA	Water Resources Impact Assessment
WSP	Water Sharing Plan

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Appendix 3	Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan
Appendix 4	Social Impact Scoping Report

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Project Overview

Samsung C&T Renewable Energy Australia Pty Ltd (SREA) propose to develop the Comet Park Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) (the Project) to provide a reliable and affordable source of energy and contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions associated with energy generation. The Project is located on part of Lot 763, DP 257321 (the Project Area) in Leeton Shire Local Government Area (LGA), approximately 1.5 kilometres (km) south west of Yanco and 6 km south of Leeton in New South Wales (NSW) (refer to **Figure 1.1**).

The BESS is proposed to have a capacity of 150 megawatts (MW), connecting to the existing Yanco Substation which is directly north of the Project Area.

1.2 The Proponent

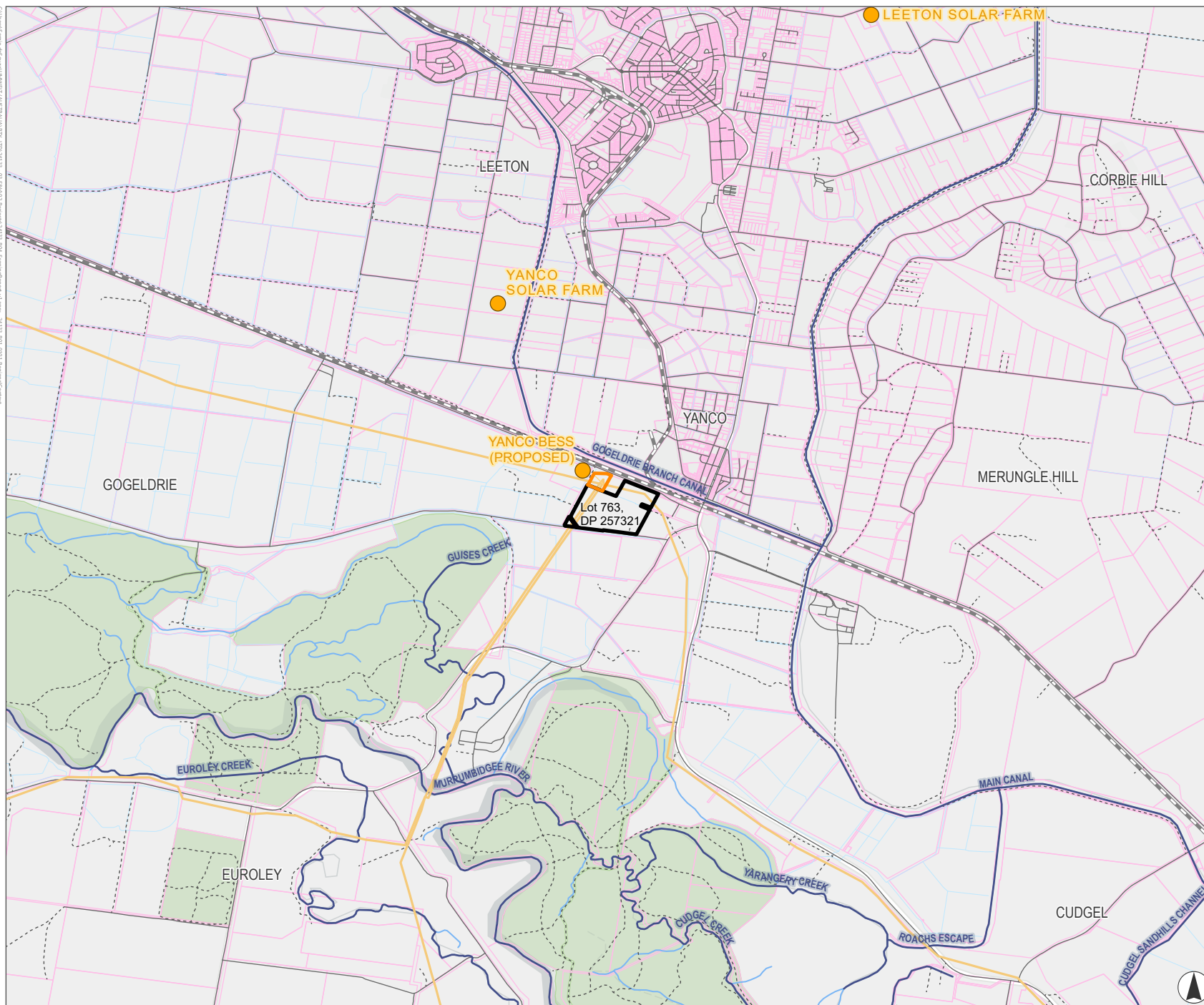
SREA is a wholly owned company of Samsung C&T Corporation, Korea, which is a leading renewable energy project developer successfully delivering similar renewable energy projects across Europe, Korea, Canada and the United States of America. SREA have recently entered the Australian renewable energy market and have been developing solar farms and renewable storage projects. Key details of the Proponent are provided in **Table 1.1**.

Table 1.1 Proponent Details

Requirement	Details
Full Name/s	Samsung C&T Renewable Energy Australia
Postal Address	Suite 8.04, Level 8, 227 Elizabeth Street, Sydney NSW 2000
Lot and Address Details	Lot 763, DP 257321 44 River Road, Yanco NSW 2703
ABN	74 661 046 331
Nominated Contact	Deborah Dinardo

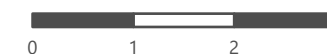
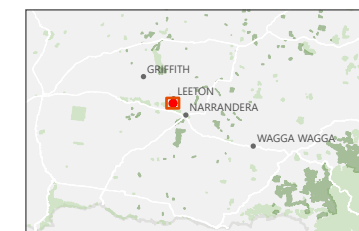
SREA is committed to supporting local communities with a strong focus on creating local employment opportunities throughout all phases of the Project. SREA strive to become a reliable neighbour to the community by listening to local voices and discussing how to well-integrate the project into the community for the benefit of all.

FIGURE 1.1
Regional Context



Legend

- Project Area
- Yanco Substation
- Energy Projects within the Region
- Transmission Line
- Named Watercourse
- Local Road
- Track
- Railway
- Creek
- Drainage Channel
- Cadastre
- Reserves



Scale 1:75,000 at A4
GDA2020

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Client: Ergon Australia Limited (Umwelt) (AUSTRALIA) PTY LTD (2014) 33 09 50002 Project: 24133 2013 0013 Regional Context

1.3 Project Objectives

The objectives of the Project are to:

- contribute to and support the National Electricity Market (NEM) by providing renewable energy storage capacity and improving the security, stability, and resilience of the NEM
- support Australia's transition towards clean and renewable sources of energy
- facilitate the shift away from coal-fired power generation and traditional fossil fuel firming assets
- avoid, minimise, and mitigate adverse impacts on the environment and community during construction and operation
- establish a strong network of positive and long-term relationships within the local community and contribute to economic and social growth within the Leeton Shire LGA and surrounds
- make efficient use of existing electrical infrastructure, notably Yanco Substation.

1.4 Purpose of this Document

This Scoping Report aims to provide a description of the Project to key regulatory agencies and to identify the key environmental, cultural and social matters of relevance to the Project to inform the preparation of the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs).

Under the provisions of Clause 4.12(8) of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act), an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is required (and will be prepared) to accompany the State Significant Development (SSD) application for the Project, to be lodged with the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI). The SEARs will identify specific assessment considerations relevant to the Project that must be addressed in the EIS.

This Scoping Report has been prepared in accordance with the following guidelines:

- State Significant Development Guidelines – preparing a scoping report (Appendix A) (DPE, 2022) (Scoping Report Guidelines)
- Social Impact Assessment Guidelines for State Significant Projects (DPE, 2023) (SIA Guidelines)
- Undertaking Engagement Guidelines for State Significant Projects (DPE, 2021b) (Engagement Guidelines)
- Cumulative Impact Assessment Guidelines (DPE, 2021a) (CIA Guidelines).

1.5 Structure of this Report

As per the SSD Scoping Report Guideline, this report has the following sections:

- **Section 1.0 (Introduction):** Introduces the Project, the Proponent and provides an outline of the structure of the document.

- **Section 2.0 (Strategic Context):** Outlines the strategic context for the Project, including the justification for the Project, a summary of the locality in which the Project is undertaken and an overview of the environmental, social, and economic context.
- **Section 3.0 (The Project):** Contains a description of the Project, including an overview of alternatives considered and strategies to avoid and minimise environmental, cultural and social impacts.
- **Section 4.0 (Statutory Context):** Summarises the relevant State and Commonwealth statutory context applicable to the approval process for the Project.
- **Section 5.0 (Stakeholder Engagement):** Describes the stakeholder engagement program for the Project and identifies the environmental, social, and economic matters identified during the scoping phase for further consideration in the EIS.
- **Section 6.0 (Proposed Assessment of Impacts):** Contains analysis of the environmental, cultural and social matters relevant to the Project and the assessments proposed to be completed for the EIS.
- **Section 7.0 (References).**
- **Appendix 1 (Scoping Summary Table).**
- **Appendix 2 (AHIMS Basic Search).**
- **Appendix 3 (Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan).**
- **Appendix 4 (Social Impact Scoping Report).**

2.0 Strategic Context

2.1 Project Justification

The development of renewable energy projects aligns with both Commonwealth and NSW commitments to increase renewable energy generation and reduce carbon emissions. In particular, the NSW Government is taking action to lead investment in new renewable generation to ensure an orderly transition away from coal (EnergyCo NSW, 2022).

The Project would contribute to meeting the Commonwealth and NSW Government objectives and would provide renewable energy generation storage to stabilise the power system against rapid movements in the supply-demand balance. Furthermore, the Project would contribute capital investment, generate jobs during the construction and operational phases and provide indirect benefits to local services throughout the life of the Project.

Further details regarding Project benefits are provided in **Section 2.5**.

2.1.1 Strategic and Regional Context

2.1.1.1 Commonwealth Policy

Australia is one of the 196 Parties from around the world signed to the international climate change agreement (i.e., the Paris Agreement). The Paris Agreement aims to:

- hold the increase in the global average temperature to below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels
- increase the ability (of nations) to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and foster climate resilience and low greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions development, in a manner that does not threaten food production
- make finance flows consistent with a pathway towards low GHG emissions and climate resilient development.

The Paris Agreement seeks to meet its objectives by developing programs and mechanisms that:

- require participating Parties to prepare and communicate GHG mitigation contributions. Parties were expected to set mitigation targets for 2020, and then develop new targets every five years. Each successive target is expected to represent a larger mitigation effort than the previous target
- promote climate change resilience and adaptation
- provide mitigation and adaptation funding to developing countries
- foster mitigation and adaptation technology transfer between Parties
- require participating Parties to report progress towards their mitigation contributions on an annual basis.

Australia signed the Paris Agreement on 22 April 2016. The obligations under the Paris Agreement are driving national GHG policy between 2020 and 2030. Australia's commitment to the Paris Agreement includes reducing GHG emissions by 26 per cent to 28 per cent on 2005 levels by 2030 (Commonwealth of Australia, 2021). Australia's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) prescribes an unconditional economy-wide target to reduce GHG emissions, and states that future policies will target emissions generated from energy use, industrial processes, agriculture, land-use, land-use change, forestry and waste.

The Project, as a renewable energy storage facility, would contribute to achieving Australia's GHG emission reduction targets through reducing emissions from energy production in NSW.

2.1.1.2 NSW Policy

2.1.1.3 NSW Climate Change Policy Framework

The NSW Government has developed its NSW Climate Change Policy Framework, which aims to deliver net zero emissions by 2050, and a State that is more resilient and responsive to climate change (NSW Government, 2016). Under the NSW Climate Change Policy Framework, NSW has committed to both follow the Paris Agreement and to work to complement national action.

The Policy Framework is being delivered through:

- the Climate Change Fund
- developing an economic appraisal methodology to value GHG emissions mitigation
- embedding climate change mitigation and adaptation across government operations
- building on NSW's expansion of renewable energy
- developing action plans and strategies.

In 2013 the NSW Government released the Renewable Energy Action Plan (REAP) and the NSW Energy Efficiency Action Plan (EEAP). The REAP aimed to increase the generation, storage, and use of renewable energy in NSW, at least cost to customers and with maximum benefits to NSW. The three core goals of the REAP were to attract renewable energy investment, build community support for renewable energy and attract and grow expertise in renewable energy. Based on the implementation of the REAP, renewable energy is now well-placed to play a leading role in meeting NSW's energy needs into the future.

The Project is consistent with the overarching aim of the REAP as it is development for the purposes of renewable energy storage, assisting NSW to respond to consumer electricity needs by promoting investment in renewable energy and improving the reliability of the State's electricity network.

2.1.1.4 NSW Electricity Strategy

The NSW Electricity Strategy (the Strategy) was developed by the NSW Government to deliver better outcomes for energy consumers in NSW, and to outline a plan for a reliable, affordable and sustainable electricity future, which supports the growing economy of NSW (NSW Government, 2019).

A multi-layered approach was developed to achieve this plan:

- support the electricity market to deliver reliable electricity at the lowest price, while protecting the environment
- set an energy security target to ensure that NSW has sufficient generation capacity to cope with unexpected generator outages during periods of peak demand
- if required, ensure NSW has sufficient powers to deal with an electricity emergency.

The framework set out in the Strategy outlines an integrated approach to all demand and supply options, including action by households and small businesses, demand management and investment in large-scale, affordable and reliable generation. The Strategy also notes that firmed renewables (including batteries) are now the most cost efficient form of new, reliable energy generation and cost less than the current wholesale electricity price.

The Project is consistent with the objectives of the Strategy as it would help ensure a cheap and reliable electricity supply which minimises harm to the environment, assist NSW to meet periods of peak energy demand, and provide network security to unexpected generator outages.

2.1.1.5 NSW Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap

The NSW Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap (i.e., the Roadmap) is a 20-year plan to transform the NSW electricity system into one that is cheap, clean and reliable, laying the foundations for future generations to enjoy more secure, reliable and affordable electricity (NSW Government, 2020). The Roadmap utilises a coordinated framework to modernise the electricity system, underpinned by three key principles:

- new generation to replace retiring coal-fired power stations
- new network infrastructure to deliver energy to consumers
- new storage and firming to better respond to electricity needs and improve the reliability of the grid.

The electricity market is moving towards more sources of generation that rely on variable weather conditions. As such, energy generators are increasingly reliant on long duration storage infrastructure, to ensure power is readily available. Such energy storage infrastructure, such as batteries, allow renewable energy to be stored and then released when required, assisting in the transition to a more secure and reliable electricity system.

The Project is consistent with the principles of the Roadmap by promoting development for the purposes of renewable energy storage and firming, assisting NSW to respond to consumer electricity needs and in turn improving the reliability of the grid.

2.1.1.7 Network Infrastructure Strategy

EnergyCo NSW has prepared the NSW Network Infrastructure Strategy (NIS) (EnergyCo NSW, 2022) as an important new element of NSW's Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap framework. The NIS provides further information about the delivery and coordination of NSW Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) transmission network infrastructure, downstream network augmentations and network connections for large-scale renewable energy and storage projects.

The NIS is an important new component of the NSW-wide system planning process that in turn sits within the NEM and its processes. Going forward, future editions of the NIS will be prepared every two years to support the Infrastructure Investment Objectives Report and to ensure continuous improvement that reflects changes in the market.

The NIS has been developed to fulfil three key objectives:

- coordinated NSW-wide electricity infrastructure development
- investor guidance
- meaningful engagement.

The NIS provides a clear vision of renewable energy development options in the wider context of a rapidly changing, and at times uncertain, evolution of generation mix and demand.

While the Project would not be located within a proposed REZ, there is an existing connection to the network which would be considered as part of connection associated with the NIS. Consideration of the NIS will be undertaken during preparation of the EIS, as required.

2.1.2 Regional and Local Plans

2.1.2.1 Riverina Murray Regional Plan 2041

The Riverina Murray Regional Plan 2041 (RMRP) is a 20-year plan that informs local and strategic planning for the future of the Riverina Murray Region, with a targeted delivery focus on the next five years. The RMRP provides a framework for guiding land uses, development proposals and infrastructure fundings decisions over the next 20 years. It aims to grow the region's cities and local centres, support the protection of high value assets, and develop a strong, diverse and competitive economy.

The Project is proposed to connect with existing transmission infrastructure and would therefore provide ready access to the electricity network.

2.1.2.2 Leeton Community Strategic Plan 2035

The Leeton Community Strategic Plan 2035 (Leeton CSP) (Leeton Shire Council, 2021) is the shared vision for the future of the Leeton community. Informed by community input, it sets out a long-term vision for the region to 2035. The Leeton CSP aims to protect and enhance social, economic, cultural and environmental values, through achieving the outcomes of key the focus areas.

Outcome En2 of the Leeton CSP is "We live sustainably, use our resources responsibly and have adapted to climate change", which is of particular relevance to the Project. The Project would contribute to the transition to clean energy which is a direct response to addressing climate change.

2.2 Project Location Context

The Project footprint and transmission line easement options are zoned as RU1 Primary Production within the Leeton Local Environment Plan (LEP) 2014 (refer to **Figure 3.1** and **Section 4.1.2**). Lands surrounding the Project footprint and transmission line easement options are generally consistent with that of a rural residential setting. Land use zones include Infrastructure (SP2), Low Density Residential (R2) and Public Recreation (R1) under the Leeton LEP 2014. The Murrumbidgee Valley National Park (zoned C1 National Parks and Reserves) is located approximately 940 m west of the Project footprint. Additional contextual features of the Project footprint are discussed throughout this Scoping Report and are summarised as follows:

- **Crown land:** There is no Crown land located within the Project footprint or transmission line easement options. The closest Crown land parcel is a travelling stock reserve approximately 500 m east of the Project footprint.
- **Community:** The Project is located approximately 1.5 km south west of the township of Yanco, with a population of 744 people. The nearest service centre to the Project footprint is the township of Leeton. The closest dwelling is approximately 214 m west of the Project footprint. Further discussion regarding local community and other stakeholders is provided in **Section 5.0**.
- **Land Use:** Agricultural land uses are prevalent within and surrounding the Project footprint and transmission line easement options. There are no areas of mapped Biophysical Strategic Agricultural Land (BSAL) and there are no current mining and/or exploration licence applications within the Project footprint or transmission line easement options.
- **Biodiversity:** The Project footprint is comprised largely of agricultural land and small areas of uncleared remnant vegetation. Further discussion around biodiversity values related to the Project is provided in **Section 6.2.2**.
- **Traffic, Transport and Access:** River Road is the primary access road to the Project footprint, which deviates from Irrigation Way, approximately 25 km north west of the Sturt Highway. The Sturt Highway acts as primary connection between Sydney and the Riverina Region and would facilitate the transportation of Project-related components. Further discussion around traffic, transport and access is provided in **Section 6.2.7**.
- **Topography:** The topography of the Project footprint and transmission line easement options is relatively flat ranging between approximately 130 metres above Australian Height Datum (m AHD) and approximately 140 m AHD.
- **Hydrology:** There are no waterways that run directly through the Project footprint. The Gogeldrie Branch Canal-Drain is located approximately 514 m north of the Project footprint. The Murrumbidgee River is located approximately 3.7 km south of the Project footprint. Further discussion around hydrology of the Project footprint and transmission line easement options is provided in **Section 6.2.8**.
- **Heritage:** A review of the State Heritage Register, the Leeton LEP 2014, and a search of the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) has identified that the Project footprint and transmission line easement options do not contain any items, objects, or artefacts of Aboriginal or European heritage significance.

- Heritage items identified in the surrounding area include the following (as shown in **Figure 6.1**):
 - ‘Yanco Powerhouse Museum’ (I94) listed under the Leeton LEP 2014, is the nearest European heritage item located approximately 860 m north east of the Project footprint
 - an AHIMS Basic Search (**Appendix 2**) conducted on 31 May 2024 identified one Aboriginal site located within a 1 km buffer of the Project Area.
- **Contamination:** A search of the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) Contaminated Land Record on 31 May 2024 identified one contaminated site within the suburb of Yanco, being:
 - a former service station located at 14 Main Avenue, Yanco, located approximately 2 km to the north east of the Project Area.
- **Bushfire:** A review of the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) Bushfire Prone Land mapping confirms that bush fire prone land of Vegetation Category 2 is located approximately 940 m west of the Project footprint (refer to **Figure 6.3**).

2.3 Cumulative Impact Considerations

A summary of the SSD, State Significant Infrastructure (SSI) and other projects up to 50 km from the Project footprint and transmission line easement options which require cumulative impact consideration is provided in **Table 2.1**.

Table 2.1 Relevant Projects in the Area

Project	Approximate Distance to Project	Status	Generation Capacity (MW)	Potential Construction Start Date	Potential Cumulative Impacts
Yanco BESS	315 m north west	Prepare EIS	250	2025	Yes
Yanco Solar Farm	1.8 km north west	Approved	60	No date provided	Yes
Leeton Solar Farm	7 km north east	Approved	15	Under construction	No
Euroley Poultry Facility – Mod 1 – Bird Number and Access changes	20 km south	Approved	NA	Operating	No
Riverina Bioenergy Facility	30 km north west	Prepare EIS	NA	No date provided	Yes
Woodland Battery Energy Storage System	30 km west	Approved	200	2024	Yes
Darlington Point Solar Farm	30 km west	Approved	275	Operating	No
Avonlie Solar Farm	40 km south	Approved	200	Operating	No
Sandigo Solar Farm	50 km south	Approved	100	No date provided	Yes

The following key matters will require consideration in the cumulative impact assessment (CIA):

- biodiversity
- noise and vibration
- traffic, transport and access
- landscape and visual amenity
- social
- waste management.

Further information regarding CIA required for the EIS is provided in **Section 6.2.14**.

2.4 Planning and Other Agreements

SREA is committed to continuing to work with the host and neighbouring landholders in relation to Project design and potential impacts associated with the Project. An agreement is in place with the occupants of the host landowner. At this stage, no other agreements have been entered into with neighbouring properties or other groups. The potential for additional agreements will be reviewed during the EIS with regard to environmental and social assessment outcomes.

SREA will continue engaging with Leeton Shire Council, and proposes to discuss details related to a voluntary planning agreement or benefit sharing scheme with the aim of reaching an agreement that can be clearly described in the EIS.

2.5 Project Benefits

The Project would provide long-term, strategic benefits to the state of NSW, including:

- contribute to and support the NEM by providing renewable energy generation and storage capacity and improving the security, stability, and resilience of the NEM
- facilitate the shift away from coal-fired power generation, supporting Australia's transition towards clean and renewable sources of energy
- avoid, minimise and mitigate adverse impacts on the environment and community during construction and operation
- establish a strong network of positive and long-term relationships within the local community and contribute to economic and social growth
- provide energy storage for sustainable renewable energy to enable continuous and reliable electricity output as part of a rapidly expanding industry in NSW
- make efficient use of existing transmission electrical infrastructure, notably Yanco Substation.

- The Project would also provide direct and indirect financial benefits to the regional and local community, including:
- employment generation creating approximately 80 jobs during the construction phase and approximately three to five jobs during the operational phase, and flow on economic benefits to local services through the construction and operation phases
- economic empowerment of First Nations people from implementation of an Aboriginal Participation Plan that would be developed following (and in line with) the *NSW Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap – First Nations Guidelines* (NSW Government, 2022).

3.0 The Project

3.1 Project Overview

The Project comprises the installation, operation, maintenance and decommissioning/re-powering of a BESS, supported by ancillary infrastructure. The Project would have a capacity of up to approximately 150 MW and a storage capacity of 600 megawatt hours (MWh). It is estimated that the BESS would feature a Project footprint of 4.83 ha (refer to **Figure 3.1**).

The key components of the Project include:

- **Batteries:** Most likely a lithium-ion technology.
- **Inverters:** Bi-directional inverters to convert direct current (DC) to alternating current (AC) (when exporting electricity) and vice-versa (when importing electricity).
- **Medium-Voltage (MV) Transformers:** Skid-mounted transformers would be installed adjacent to each inverter to step up the voltage to the internal reticulation voltage of the plant.
- **Switching Equipment:** To potentially be used for switching current to back-up lines or for parallelizing circuits.
- **Transmission Connection:** Underground or above ground cables to connect the BESS to Yanco Substation.
- **Ancillary Infrastructure:** Including temporary construction facilities, security fencing, permanent site office and operations and maintenance (O&M) buildings, internal access tracks, parking areas, hardstands, and Project signage.
- **Minor Upgrades:** To the existing access track, including access and egress Point on River Road.

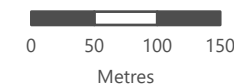
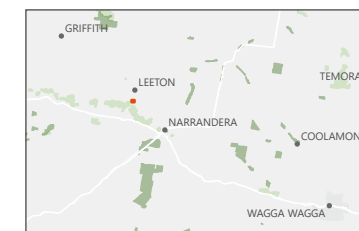
The proposed layout of the BESS and ancillary infrastructure will be detailed in the EIS.

FIGURE 3.1

Indicative Project Footprint

Legend

- Project Area
- Project Footprint
- Yanco Substation
- Transmission Line Easement Option 1 Above Ground
- Transmission Line Easement Option 2 + 3 Underground
- Transmission Line Easement Option 3 Above Ground
- Existing Above Ground Transgrid 132 kV Transmission Line
- Associated Residential Receiver
- Non-Associated Residential Receiver
- Non-Associated Non-Residential Receiver
- Access and Egress Point
- Existing Access Track
- Reserves
- Railway
- Watercourse
- Drainage Channel



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3.2 Electrical Collection System and Transmission Line

Batteries located within battery enclosures would be linked together to collect the total energy being produced. Batteries would be installed in racks, with the racks wired together in strings, and strings of batteries then connected to the inverter stations.

The batteries would either be containerised in self-contained steel enclosures resembling shipping containers or alternatively within a building resembling a large industrial shed. Due to rapidly evolving technology, the final technology choice and battery storage capacity for the Project is yet to be confirmed and is subject to final selection and detailed design.

Power, earthing, and communications cables would be installed across the Project footprint between electrical devices. The Project would include switching equipment to potentially be used for switching current to back-up lines or for parallelizing circuits.

The Project would include a transmission connection between the BESS and Yanco Substation. Several options are under investigation in consultation with Transgrid (refer to **Figure 3.1**) and will be refined during the EIS.

Option 1 would require an easement with a width of approximately 40 m within which towers/poles/trenches would be located. The total length of Option 1 would be approximately 148 m (to the boundary of the Project Area) and the total area of the easement for Option 1 would be approximately 0.64 ha.

Option 2 would require an underground section with a length up to approximately 118 m and an easement width of approximately 40 m, within which the trench would be located. The total area of the easement for the Option 2 underground section would be up to approximately 0.48 ha. The underground section would connect to the existing Transgrid 132 kV transmission line located west of the Project footprint, and this option would be subject to approval from Transgrid.

Option 3 would include an underground section with a length of up to approximately 118 m and an easement width of approximately 40 m, within which the trench would be located. The total area of the easement for the Option 3 underground section would be approximately 0.48 ha. Option 3 would also include an above ground section within an easement width of approximately 40 m and a total length of approximately 151 m (to the boundary of the Project Area), within which the towers/poles would be located. The total area of the easement for the Option 3 above ground section would be approximately 0.98 ha.

The Proposed transmission line would be subject to Transgrid's detailed requirements and at this stage could be either underground or above ground.

3.3 Ancillary Infrastructure

Ancillary infrastructure required to support the construction and operation of the Project would include:

- temporary construction facilities, including:
 - construction compound(s)

- site office buildings
- laydown areas
- construction materials storage.
- permanent site office and O&M buildings (including amenities, maintenance shed, and equipment storage sheds) with parking areas catering for operations including:
 - minor upgrades to the existing access track, including access and egress point on River Road
 - hardstands and new internal access tracks
 - Project signage at the main site entrance on River Road.

Landscaping may also be implemented around the perimeter of the Project footprint to reduce the visibility of Project infrastructure. This would be considered further and refined during the later stages of Project design.

3.4 Access and Transportation Route

Access to the Project footprint is expected to be facilitated from River Road via upgrades to the existing access track (refer to **Figure 3.1**).

Deliveries of construction materials and equipment may use over-size, over-mass (OSOM) vehicles. It is expected that materials would be transported to the Project location via Port of Newcastle or Port Kembla. Other construction materials would be sourced from within Leeton Shire LGA where practicable, relying on Irrigation Way to Yanco and Leeton to the north. Parking and laydown areas would be located within the Project footprint.

The transportation route to the Project location would be confirmed and detailed further in the EIS.

3.5 Construction

3.5.1 Overview

Construction of the project is expected to be completed over approximately 18 to 24 months. The key construction activities are listed below:

- groundcover clearing and levelling
- construction of concrete footings on which the batteries would be installed
- upgrade of existing access and egress point and access track to the Project footprint from River Road
- security fencing
- construction of a permanent carpark and temporary construction laydown area
- installation of battery containers, MV stations and associated electrical equipment

- installation of 132 kilovolt (kV)/33 kilovolt hour (kVh) high-voltage transformer(s)
- installation of high-voltage electrical equipment such as circuit breakers, switching equipment, auxiliary power equipment and control systems
- installation of earthing system
- installation of lighting
- removal of temporary fencing and reinstatement of laydown areas
- landscaping.

3.5.2 Construction Workforce

The Project is expected to generate up to 80 full time equivalent (FTE) employment opportunities during the peak construction period. Potential cumulative impacts on employment, accommodation, infrastructure, and services will be considered in the EIS as part of the social impact assessment, as discussed in **Section 6.2.14**.

3.6 Operations

The Project would be operational 24 hours a day, seven days a week, with storage and export activities occurring as required. The operational lifespan of the Project is expected to be more than 30 years and is anticipated to create three to five FTE employment opportunities.

Operations and maintenance tasks would be undertaken during standard working hours. These tasks would also be supported by contractor roles for vegetation, weed and pest management, cleaning and equipment calibration, access track and internal track maintenance and facility cleaning. However, it should be noted that emergency responses, inspections, and maintenance may need to be conducted outside standard hours.

3.7 Decommissioning/Re-Powering

Once the Project reaches the end of its operational life, a decision would be made to either decommission or re-power the facility, subject to approval requirements.

If the Project is decommissioned, all above ground infrastructure would be removed. Batteries would either be disposed of and recycled at a suitably approved disposal facility, or subject to confirmation, be returned to the original equipment manufacturer for refurbishment and recycling. The Project footprint would be rehabilitated to return the site to as close to its pre-development condition as possible.

If re-powering is proposed, an appropriate stakeholder consultation process would be undertaken, and all necessary approvals would be sought. If re-powering is required, further development approval would be required and would be assessed separately to the BESS construction and operation phases.

3.8 Project Alternatives

3.8.1 'Do nothing' Scenario

The 'do nothing' option would not deliver the potential benefits of the Project and would be inconsistent with the objectives outlined in the NSW Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap (NSW Government, 2020):

- supporting investment in new energy infrastructure in regional NSW
- delivering long-term energy storage infrastructure in NSW
- keeping the grid secure and reliable
- allowing opportunities for industry.

3.8.2 Alternative Project Footprints

The Project footprint was selected due to:

- the site has been predominantly cleared due to historical agricultural use
- proximity to the existing public road network
- ability to avoid crossing watercourses (creeks, rivers, etc.)
- the location of the Project footprint is currently not utilised for any purpose. The closest dwelling is located approximately 210 m west of the Project footprint.

The Yanco Substation is located approximately 300 m north of the Project footprint, providing a direct path and short distance for grid connection. This would minimise disruption, construction, social and environmental impacts when compared to a Project footprint with a longer distance to the grid connection point.

3.8.3 Alternative Project Concepts

The indicative Project footprint and transmission line easement options (refer to **Figure 3.1**) assessed throughout this Scoping Report would be subject to further design development improvements during preparation of the EIS. Iterative design changes may occur to avoid environmental, cultural and social issues identified throughout future development phases of the Project and informed by engagement with the community and stakeholders.

4.0 Statutory Context

4.1 NSW Approval Pathway

The *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act) is the primary instrument which regulates the environmental impact assessment and approval process for development in NSW.

The Project will require development consent under Part 4 of the EP&A Act. Being development for the purpose of electricity generation with a capital investment value of more than \$30 million, the Project is declared to be SSD under the provisions of the State Environmental Planning Policy (Planning Systems) 2021 (Planning Systems SEPP). The development application will be lodged with the NSW Department of Planning Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI).

Section 4.15 of the EP&A Act describes the matters for consideration in assessing State Significant Developments (SSD), which includes the provisions of relevant environmental planning instruments, proposed instruments that have been the subject of public consultation, development control plans, and statutory regulations. The assessment of SSD must also consider the likely impacts of the development, suitability of the site, any submissions received and the public interest.

4.1.1 Consent Authority

Under Section 4.5(a) of the EP&A Act the consent authority for SSD is the Independent Planning Commission (IPC) (if the development is of a kind for which the Commission is declared the consent authority by an environmental planning instrument) or the Minister (if the development is not of that kind). In accordance with clause 2.7(1) of the Planning Systems SEPP if any of the criteria identified below are exceeded the IPC is the consent authority:

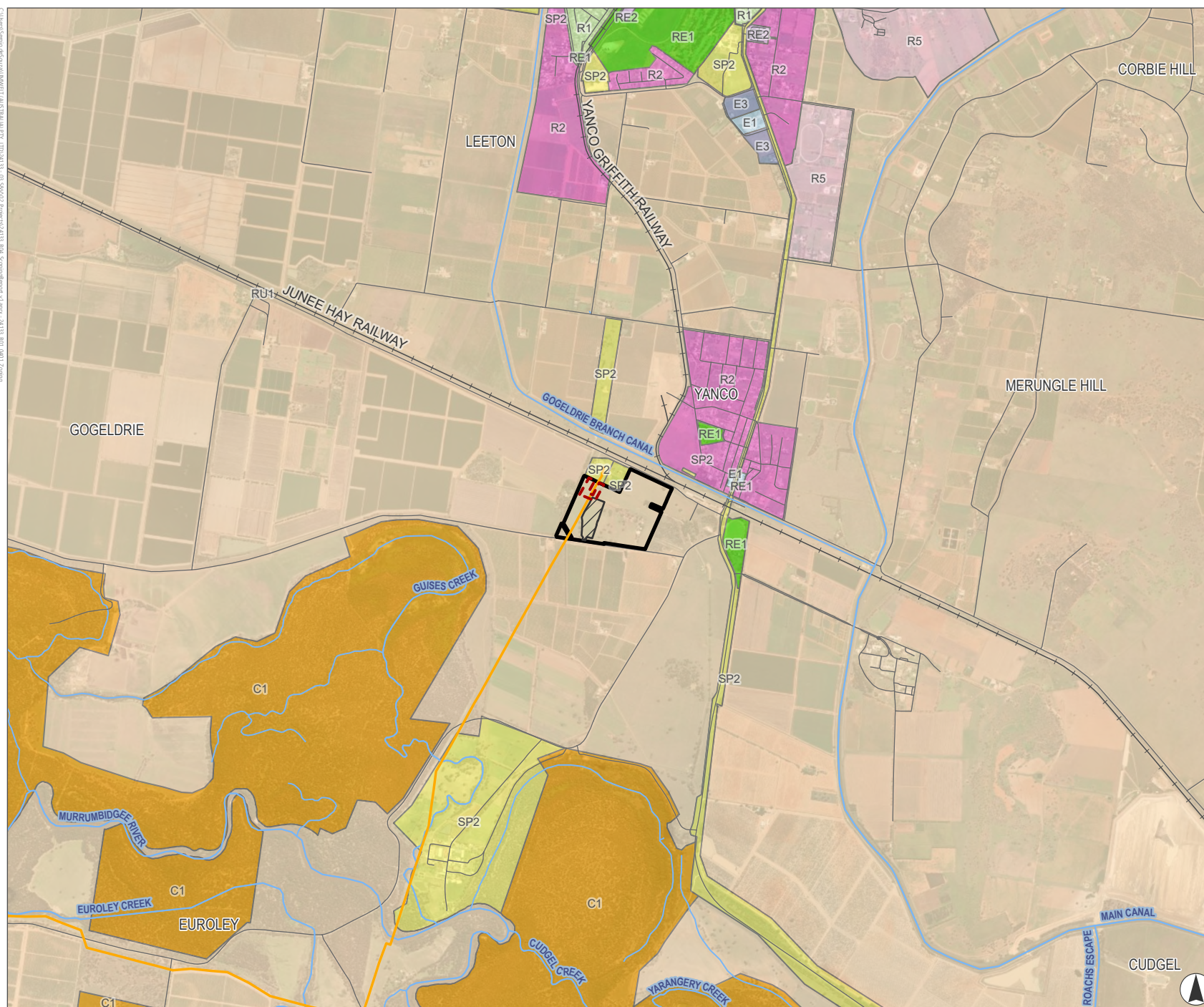
- Leeton Shire Council object to the application
- 50 submissions (other than from Leeton Shire Council) are made objecting to the Project
- SREA discloses a reportable political donation.
- If none of the above criteria are triggered, DPHI will determine the development application on behalf of the Minister.

4.1.2 Permissibility

The Project footprint and transmission line easement options are located on land zoned RU1 – Primary Production within the Leeton LEP 2014 (refer to **Figure 4.1**). Development for the purposes of electricity generating works is not included in the list of permissible developments within the RU1 land use table within the Leeton LEP 2014.

Clause 2.36(1)(b) of *State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021* (TI SEPP) states that development for the purpose of electricity generating works may be carried out by any person with consent on any land in a prescribed rural, industrial or special use zone. Under Clause 2.7(1) of the TI SEPP, the provisions prevail where there are inconsistencies with any other EPs, including LEPs. Due to the operation of Clause 2.36(1)(b) of the TI SEPP the Project is permissible with development consent.

FIGURE 4.1
Zoning Map



Legend

- Project Area
- Project Footprint
- Transmission Line Easement Options
- Existing Above Ground Transgrid 132 kV Transmission Line

Land Zone

- C1 - National Parks and Nature Reserves
- E1 - Local Centre
- E3 - Productivity Support
- R1 - General Residential
- R2 - Low Density Residential
- R5 - Large Lot Residential
- RE1 - Public Recreation
- RE2 - Private Recreation
- RU1 - Primary Production
- SP2 - Infrastructure
- Local Road
- Railway
- Watercourse



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4.1.3 Other Approvals

In addition to development consent under the EP&A Act, a number of other NSW Acts or planning policies are applicable or potentially applicable to the Project. **Table 4.1** identifies the other NSW legislation and policies and their applicability to the Project.

Table 4.1 NSW Legislation

State Legislation	Description
<i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (BC Act)</i>	Under the BC Act, biodiversity assessment in accordance with the Biodiversity Assessment Method (BAM) is required for any SSD project. As such, the Project will be assessed in accordance with the BAM.
<i>Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 (POEO Act)</i>	The POEO Act regulates pollution to the environment and requires licences for environment protection including waste, air, water and noise pollution control. Section 48 requires an Environment Protection Licence (EPL) for Schedule 1 activities. Schedule 1 Clause 17 General electricity works requires an EPL where the activity generates more than 30 MW of electrical power. The Project would store electrical power, not generate electrical power. Therefore an EPL is not required.
<i>Water Management Act 2000 (WM Act)</i>	Any water extractions (take) from water sources (surface and groundwater) regulated by a Water Sharing Plan (WSP) required for construction or operational purposes will require licensing under the WM Act. The potential water requirements during construction and operation will be assessed as part of the Water Resources Impact Assessment (WRIA) prepared as part of the EIS. Any necessary licences would be obtained for the Project.
<i>Roads Act 1993 (Roads Act)</i>	A consent is required under section 138 to work on or above a road or to connect a road to a classified road. Consents under section 138 will be required for proposed road works.
<i>Crown Land Management Act 2016 (Crown Land Act)</i>	The Crown Land Act provides for the administration and management of Crown Land in NSW. Crown land may not be occupied, used, sold, leased, licensed, dedicated, reserved, or otherwise dealt with unless authorised by the Crown Land Act. There is an area of Crown land (a travelling stock reserve) approximately 500 m east of the Project footprint. Should any works have potential to directly or indirectly impact these areas, further consideration, consultation and possible approval may be required.
<i>Contaminated Land Management Act 1997 (CLM Act)</i>	The CLM Act establishes the process for investigating and if required, remediating land that the NSW EPA considers to be contaminated significantly enough to require regulation. The Project footprint and transmission line easement options do not contain land listed on the Contaminated Lands Register. Relevant mitigation and management measures would be incorporated as part of the Project to address potential contamination issues.

4.2 Commonwealth Legislation

4.2.1 Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

The *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) provides a framework for protection of the Australian environment, including its biodiversity and its natural and culturally significant places.

Any action which will or is likely to have a significant impact on a matter of national environmental significance (MNES) must be referred to the Minister for the Environment. MNES includes:

- world heritage properties
- national heritage places
- wetlands of international importance (listed under the Ramsar Convention)
- listed threatened species and ecological communities
- migratory species protected under international agreements
- Commonwealth marine areas
- the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park
- nuclear actions (including uranium mines).
- a water resource, in relation to coal seam gas development and large coal mining development.

The Project footprint and transmission line easement options are not within a world heritage property or place, do not have wetlands of international importance, are not within either a Commonwealth marine area or the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, and do not relate to a nuclear action, coal seam gas or coal mining development.

There is low potential for the Project to impact on listed threatened species and ecological communities, migratory species, and endangered and critically endangered fauna species under the BC Act and EPBC Act, respectively.

An EPBC Act Referral will not be lodged to the Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (Commonwealth DCCEE) due to the negligible impacts on the habitat for threatened and migratory species. Further discussion around biodiversity values is provided in **Section 6.2.2**.

4.2.2 Heavy Vehicle National Law

Approvals may be required for the transport of BESS components and associated infrastructure by OSOM vehicles. The requirements for such OSOM transport will be assessed via a route analysis study as part of the EIS.

4.3 Statutory Requirements Summary

This section provides an overview of the key statutory requirements for the Project. The statutory requirements addressed in **Table 4.2** are categorised as per the SSD Scoping Report Guideline.

Table 4.2 Statutory Requirements Summary

Matter	Detail	Comment
Power to Grant Consent	The legal pathway under which consent is to be sought, why the pathway applies, and who the consent authority is likely to be.	As outlined in Section 4.1.1 , the Project requires approval under Part 4 of the EP&A Act being SSD. The consent authority will be the IPC or DPHI based on the number and type of any objections to the Project, or any political donations made by SREA or related entities.
Permissibility	The relevant provisions affecting the permissibility of the Project, including any land use zones. Any provisions or actions being taken that would allow the Project to be considered on its merits, where the Project would otherwise be partly or wholly prohibited.	As outlined in Section 4.1.2 , the Project footprint and transmission line easement options are zoned RU1 Primary Production within the Leeton LEP 2014. Electricity generating works are not permitted within the RU1 zoning under the Leeton LEP 2014. Clause 2.36(1)(b) of the TI SEPP states that development for the purpose of electricity generating works may be carried out by any person with consent on any land in a prescribed rural, industrial, or special use zone. Under Clause 2.7(1) of the TI SEPP, the provisions prevail where there are inconsistencies with any other EPs, including LEPs. Therefore, the Project is permissible with development consent.
Other Approvals	Other approvals that are required to carry out the Project and why they are required.	Section 4.1.3 provides a list of other NSW approvals required or that may be required for the Project. Section 4.2 discusses potential Commonwealth approvals that may be required for the Project.
Pre-conditions to Exercising the Power to Grant Consent	Pre-conditions to exercising the power to grant consent for the Project that may be relevant to setting the SEARs.	An EIS will be prepared in accordance with relevant legislative requirements and guidelines. No pre-conditions to exercising the power to grant consent for the Project are currently envisaged.
Mandatory Matters for Consideration	Matters that the consent authority is required to consider in deciding whether to grant consent to any development application for the Project that may be relevant to setting the SEARs.	As outlined in Section 4.1 , Section 4.15 of the EP&A Act describes the matters for consideration in assessing SSD, which includes the provisions of relevant environmental planning instruments, proposed instruments that have been the subject of public consultation, development control plans, and statutory regulations. The assessment of SSD must also consider the likely impacts of the development, suitability of the Project footprint and transmission line easement options, any submissions received and the public interest. All relevant matters will be addressed in the EIS based on the outcomes of environmental assessments to be undertaken (refer to Section 6.0).

5.0 Stakeholder Engagement

SREA recognise that respectful, inclusive, and meaningful engagement is fundamental to the development of all projects, and that effective engagement is a key component of the SSD process, in line with the *Undertaking Engagement Guidelines for State Significant Projects* (DPIE, 2021b) (Engagement Guidelines).

Accordingly, Umwelt (on behalf of SREA) has prepared a Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan (CSEP) for the Project to outline the objectives and approach to community engagement throughout the life of the Project from development through construction and operation. This CSEP is provided as an attachment in **Appendix 3**.

The following sections provide a summary of the CSEP, the public and agency consultation undertaken to date and key issues raised, and the outcomes of specific consultation undertaken with proximal neighbours.

5.1 Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan

The CSEP identifies the stakeholder engagement approach and objectives for the Project and the surrounding communities, and aims to:

- identify effective methods to inform the community of Project information and updates, which foster trust and build positive long-term relationships with community stakeholders
- ensure delivery of an honest, innovative, flexible and transparent community engagement process
- identify ways to facilitate engagement and collaborate with relevant community organisations, including for input into the social and environmental assessment of the Project and ongoing project design and planning including the development of community benefit sharing programs
- ensure the broader community and stakeholders are kept informed about benefits, potential impacts, and activities of the Project
- identify effective avenues for community members to communicate any concerns and provide valuable feedback with Project personnel
- ensure means of community involvement are known and distributed consistently
- ensure the commitments made to the community during the Project development stage are being met.

The CSEP provides an overview of SREA's approach to stakeholder engagement throughout all stages of the Project, outlines the Project and the relevant stakeholders, outlines the key messages of the Project, and outlines the approach to monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of the engagement program. The CSEP will be undertaken in accordance with the Engagement Guidelines.

5.2 Stakeholder Engagement

Engagement commenced in 2023 and has been undertaken by SREA staff and land acquisition contractors. SREA staff have engaged in a range of activities, including meetings and email correspondence with the

host landholder, distribution of letters of notification to proximal landholders, emails and letters to Leeton Shire Council, and emails and letters to various government agencies throughout Stage 1 of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment consultation process. The aim of these engagements has been to build and maintain genuine, trusting relationships. The overall approach to consultation with the local community is to be flexible, inclusive, open and responsive. Stakeholder and community engagement has been undertaken early in the scoping phase to:

- proactively inform Project design and development
- identify perceived issues/impacts to be addressed in the assessment process
- establish stakeholder relationships with surrounding proximal landholders and key stakeholders for the Project.

The key stakeholders identified for the Project within each stakeholder group are outlined in **Table 5.1**.

Table 5.1 Identified Stakeholders

Stakeholder Group	Stakeholder
Proximal Landholders	Four non-associated dwellings adjacent to the Project site. Landholders in proximity to the Project footprint and transmission line easement options, including dwellings South of Binya Street block (70-100 properties).
Proximal Businesses and Service Providers and Key Community Groups	GrainCorp Rural Fire Service Yanco Yanco Town Hall Yanco Pub Yanco Town Improvement Committee
Aboriginal Stakeholders	Leeton & District Local Aboriginal Land Council Tirkandi Inaburra Cultural and Development Centre
Government Agencies and Elected Representatives	Leeton Shire Council – Michelle Evans, Director Economic and Community Development Leeton Shire Council Mayor – Tony Reneker Leeton Shire Council Councillors – Michael Kidd, Tony Ciccia, Matthew Holt, Krystal Maytom, Tracey Morris, Sandra Nardi, Paul Smith and George Weston Helen Jennifer Dalton, Member for Murray Hon Sussan Ley, Federal Member for Farrer DPHI
Environmental Groups	Murrumbidgee Irrigation
Community and Special Interest Groups	Lions Club of Yanco Leeton Health Services Action Committee NSW Farmers Association - Frank Galluzzo MIA West Riverina Region representative
Local Businesses and Service Providers in Yanco and Leeton	Local businesses and service providers in Leeton and Yanco including accommodation providers, health and emergency services, education providers and employment providers, including but not limited to: Yanco Agricultural Institute

Stakeholder Group	Stakeholder
	Yanco Agricultural High School Leeton District Hospital NSW State Emergency Services Fire and Rescue NSW OCTEC Employment Services TAFE NSW Western Riverina Community College Leeton Business Chamber
Broader Community	Yanco and Leeton Community
Local Media	The Narrandera Argus The Irrigator 2MAX FM Triple 7 FM Hit FM

5.2.1 Community Engagement

SREA has commenced stakeholder engagement as part of the scoping phase. The community consultation undertaken to date is summarised in **Table 5.2**.

Table 5.2 Community Engagement

Stakeholder	Engagement Description	Method
Proximal Landholders	77 letters to introduce Project and invite feedback delivered from 5 July 2024.	Letters delivered by hand
DPHI	Scoping Report pre-lodgement meeting held with DPHI representatives on 8 July 2024.	Video call
Biodiversity, Conservation and Science	Email to introduce Project and request feedback about proposed biodiversity assessment approach sent on 16 July 2024.	Email
Leeton Shire Council	Meeting held with Leeton Shire Council representatives to introduce Project on 18 July 2024.	Video call
National Native Title Tribunal Leeton and District Local Aboriginal Land Council Riverina Local Land Services Leeton Shire Council Heritage NSW Native Title Services (NTSCORP) Office of the Registrar, <i>Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983</i>	Letters emailed on 18 June 2024 to introduce Project and request details of relevant Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAP) for engagement with during Stage 1 of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) consultation process.	Letters delivered by email
Local Media	Advertisements calling for expressions of interest from parties with Aboriginal knowledge to participate in ACHA consultation process placed in The Narrandera Argus (11 July 2024) and The Irrigator (12 July 2024).	Newspaper advertisements

It is noted that detailed consultation will be undertaken with the RAPs for the Project, in accordance with the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents* (DECCW, 2010a). Further detail on the proposed EIS stage heritage assessment is provided in **Section 6.2.1**.

5.2.1.1 Community Views

Regarding engagement undertaken for the Project thus far, no responses have been received to date from the letters provided to proximal landholders.

During the Scoping Report pre-lodgement meeting held with DPHI representatives on 8 July 2024, DPHI representatives provided feedback regarding guidelines to be followed during the scoping and EIS phases.

Feedback received from Biodiversity, Conservation and Science in response to the email sent to the agency on 16 July 2024 highlighted the need to follow relevant guidelines if pursuing a Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR) waiver (refer to **Section 6.2.2**), along with notification that the agency would provide input to Project SEARs when requested by DPHI.

At the meeting held with Leeton Shire Council representatives to introduce the Project on 18 July 2024, Leeton Shire Council representatives asked questions and provided feedback about:

- capital expenditure for the Project
- waste disposal options
- safety issues (bushfire, etc.)
- upgrades required for access and egress point
- construction duration
- ongoing employment opportunities.

The likely level of interest in the Project is from the Riverina Region in and specifically the Leeton Shire LGA. Further information about the likely level of interest and elements of the Project that can be influenced and shaped by the community appear in **Section 6.2.12**.

5.2.1.2 Continued Engagement

SREA will continue to implement the CSEP throughout the Project assessment phase, through a range of activities that will be carried out as per the Scoping Report Guidelines and Engagement Guidelines. Key consultation mechanisms and activities designed to keep the community informed, obtain community feedback, and engage with certain stakeholders on key matters will include:

- development of a dedicated project website, phone number and email
- Project briefings for key stakeholders and government agencies to provide Project updates
- in person meetings and interviews to provide introductions to the Project team and semi-structured discussions to identify individual concerns, interest, issue and gather preliminary feedback, scope potential impacts and opportunities, to inform mitigation/enhancement strategies

- distribution of letters/information sheets throughout the proximal community to provide Project updates.

Further detail on the planned consultation mechanisms is provided in the CSEP (refer to **Appendix 3**).

5.2.1.3 Monitoring and Evaluation

A dedicated Stakeholder Database will be established in Microsoft Excel format to record stakeholder interactions and related information throughout the Project's planning and assessment phase. The implementation of the CSEP will be monitored and evaluated on an ongoing basis to ensure effectiveness. SREA will adjust activities if feedback suggests changes are required based on this monitoring program. Further detail on the planned approach for reporting and evaluation of community engagement is provided in the CSEP (refer to **Appendix 3**).

6.0 Proposed Assessment of Impacts

6.1 Key Environmental and Social Matters

A review of the environmental, social, and economic matters relevant to the Project have been conducted to determine which issues need to be assessed as part of the EIS and the level of assessment that is required. This review has been undertaken with reference to the categories of assessment matters identified in the SSD Scoping Report Guideline, with the key issues and the proposed level and scope of assessments discussed in the following sections.

The environmental and social matters relevant to the Project are identified and have been characterised (in accordance with the SSD Scoping Report Guideline) as follows:

- matters requiring further assessment in the EIS (refer to **Section 6.2**)
- matters requiring no further assessment in the EIS (refer to **Section 6.3**).

For the matters requiring further assessment in the EIS, **Section 6.2** identifies whether detailed or standard assessment is required (as defined by Appendix D of SSD Scoping Report Guideline). A summary of the key environmental matters identified, and the level of assessment proposed for the EIS, appears in **Table 6.1**.

Table 6.1 Level of Assessment to be Undertaken in EIS

Level of Assessment	Assessment Matter
Standard	Aboriginal Heritage
Standard	Historic Heritage
Standard	Biodiversity
Standard	Bush fire
Standard	Electromagnetic Fields
Standard	Hazardous Materials and Dangerous Goods
Standard	Noise and Vibration
Standard	Traffic, Transport and Access
Standard	Water and Soil Resources
Standard	Air Quality
Standard	Land and Agriculture
Standard	Landscape and Visual Amenity
Detailed	Social
Standard	Waste Management
Standard	Cumulative Impacts
No Further Assessment	Greenhouse Gas and Energy
No Further Assessment	Port and Airport Facilities
No Further Assessment	Rail Facilities
No Further Assessment	Odour
No Further Assessment	Coastal Hazards
No Further Assessment	Dam Safety
No Further Assessment	Land Movement

Appendix 1 presents a Scoping Table Summary as required by DPHI.

6.2 Matters Requiring Further Assessment in the EIS

The environmental, social, and economic matters discussed in this section have been identified as key issues requiring further assessment as part of the EIS to fully understand the potential impacts and identify project-specific mitigation measures and/or alternatives.

6.2.1 Heritage

6.2.1.1 Aboriginal Cultural Heritage

The Project footprint and transmission line easement options fall on the land of the Wiradjuri people within the Leeton and District Local Aboriginal Land Council area.

A search of the AHIMS database was undertaken on 31 May 2024 to identify known Aboriginal sites and/or places within 1 km of the Project Area. The assessment identified one known Aboriginal site within the search area, approximately 450 m north of the Project footprint (refer to **Figure 6.1**¹).

Although no Aboriginal sites are currently mapped within the Project footprint or transmission line easement options, this could be attributed to a lack of prior assessments undertaken within the area and is not conclusive of an absence of Aboriginal heritage.

As such, it is proposed that a detailed Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) be undertaken to assess potential for impacts to Aboriginal sites in consultation with the RAPs for the Project.

The ACHA will be undertaken in accordance with the following key guidelines:

- The Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW (OEH, 2011)
- The Code of Practice for the Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW (DECCW, 2010b).

The ACHA will include the assessment of all aspects of the Project including any associated infrastructure and road works and include consultation with the RAPs for the Project in determining and assessing impacts, developing and selecting options and mitigation measures, having regard to the *NSW Government Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents guideline* (DECCW, 2010b).

6.2.1.2 Historic Heritage

A review of the Register of the National Estate (RNE) and the State Heritage Register (SHR) was conducted in May 2024 which did not identify any State listed heritage items, or items listed on the RNE, within the Project footprint or transmission line easement options. Additionally, there are no heritage items listed on any Section 170 Heritage and Conservation registers, nor on Schedule 5 of the Leeton LEP 2014.

Based on the absence of non-Aboriginal heritage items within or adjoining the Project footprint and transmission line easement options, a desktop assessment of non-Aboriginal heritage items will be provided in the EIS.

¹ Note: The Aboriginal Site presented in **Figure 6.1** is the approximate location that was identified in the Basic AHIMS search. As part of the EIS more detailed information regarding the Aboriginal Site will be provided.

6.2.2 Biodiversity

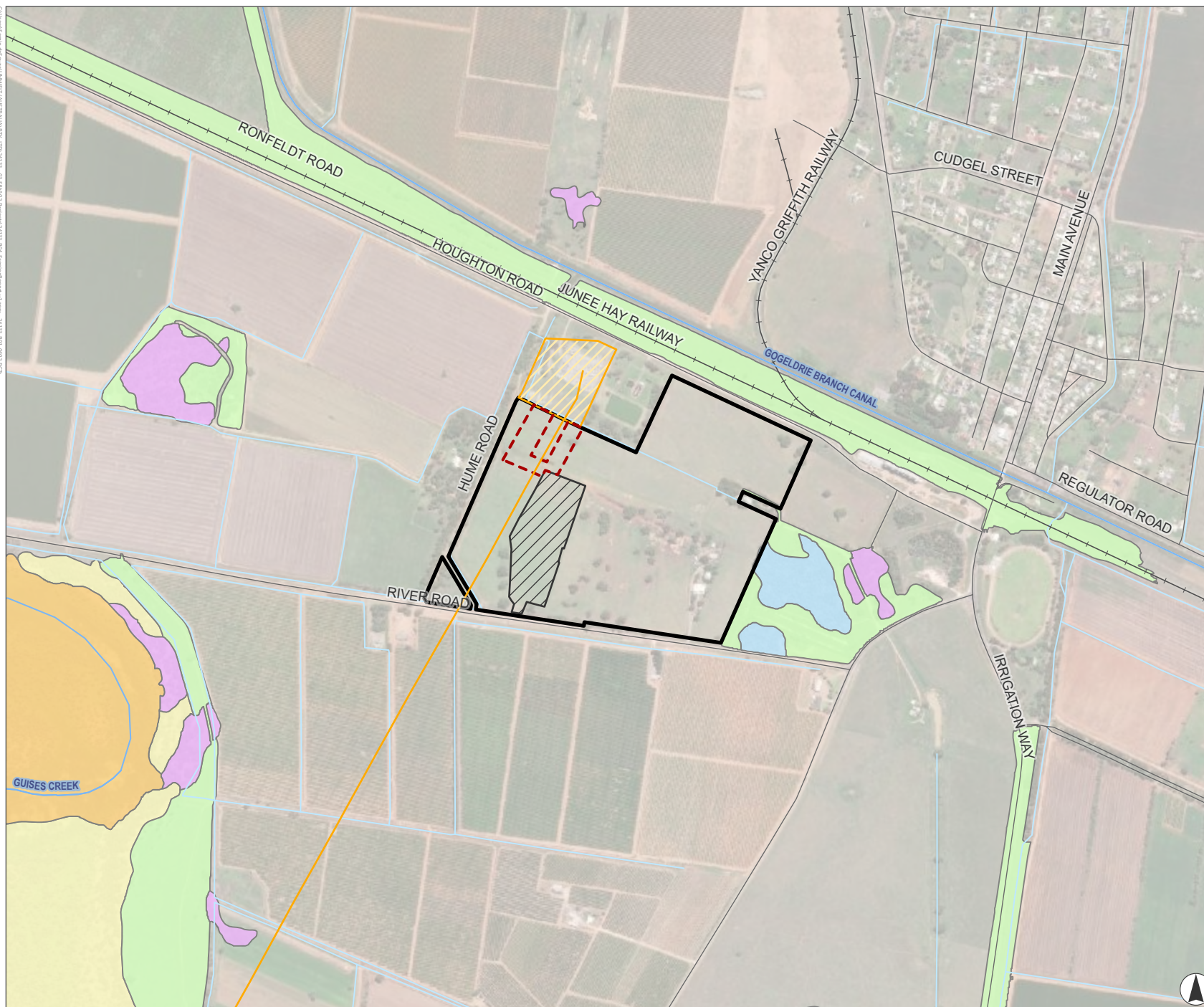
No mapped Plant Community Types (PCT) occur within the Project footprint or transmission line easement options (refer to **Figure 6.2**). A biodiversity site assessment completed by AREA Environmental & Heritage Consultants Pty Ltd on 6 June 2024 confirmed that the Project footprint is comprised entirely of Category 1 – Exempt Land. The Project has been designed to avoid the isolated remnant trees that occur to the south west and south of the Project footprint (refer to **Figure 6.2**).

One isolated remnant tree occurs in transmission line easement Option 1 (refer to **Figure 6.2**). The Project has been designed to avoid removal of this tree, noting that transmission wires will be approximately 40 m off the ground and any required transmission line poles would not impact the tree which is at its mature height.

As no vegetation is proposed to be disturbed as a result of the Project, a Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR) waiver will be prepared for the EIS in accordance with the BC Act. Should consultation with Transgrid determine that the isolated remnant tree that occurs in transmission line easement Option 1 needs to be removed, a BDAR will be prepared for the EIS in accordance with the BC Act.

FIGURE 6.2

Plant Community Types

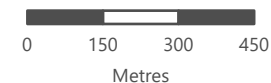


Legend

- Project Area
- Project Footprint
- Transmission Line Easement Options
- Yanco Substation
- Existing Above Ground Transgrid 132 kV Transmission Line
- Local Road
- Railway
- Watercourse
- Drainage Channel

Plant Community Type

- 0 - Not classified
- 5 - River Red Gum herbaceous-grassy very tall open forest wetland on inner floodplains in the lower slopes sub-region of the NSW South Western Slopes Bioregion and the eastern Riverina Bioregion.
- 26 - Weeping Myall open woodland of the Riverina Bioregion and NSW South Western Slopes Bioregion
- 44 - Forb-rich Speargrass - Windmill Grass - White Top grassland of the Riverina Bioregion
- 53 - Shallow freshwater wetland sedgeland in depressions on floodplains on inland alluvial plains and floodplains
- 74 - Yellow Box - River Red Gum tall grassy riverine woodland of NSW South Western Slopes Bioregion and Riverina Bioregion



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6.2.2.1 Biosecurity

A desktop assessment of NSW WeedWise, undertaken on 31 May 2024, identified a total of 117 priority weeds for the Riverina Region. **Table 6.2** summarises the identified priority weeds.

Table 6.2 Priority Weeds within the Riverina Region

Duty	Number of Weeds
Regional Recommended Measures	25
Prohibition on Certain Dealings	53
Prohibited Matter	32
Control Order	4
Biosecurity Zone	3

The Project is within the following three biosecurity zones:

- Alligator weed (*Alternanthera philoxeroides*)
- Bitou Bush (*Chrysanthemoides monilifera subsp. rotundata*)
- Water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*).

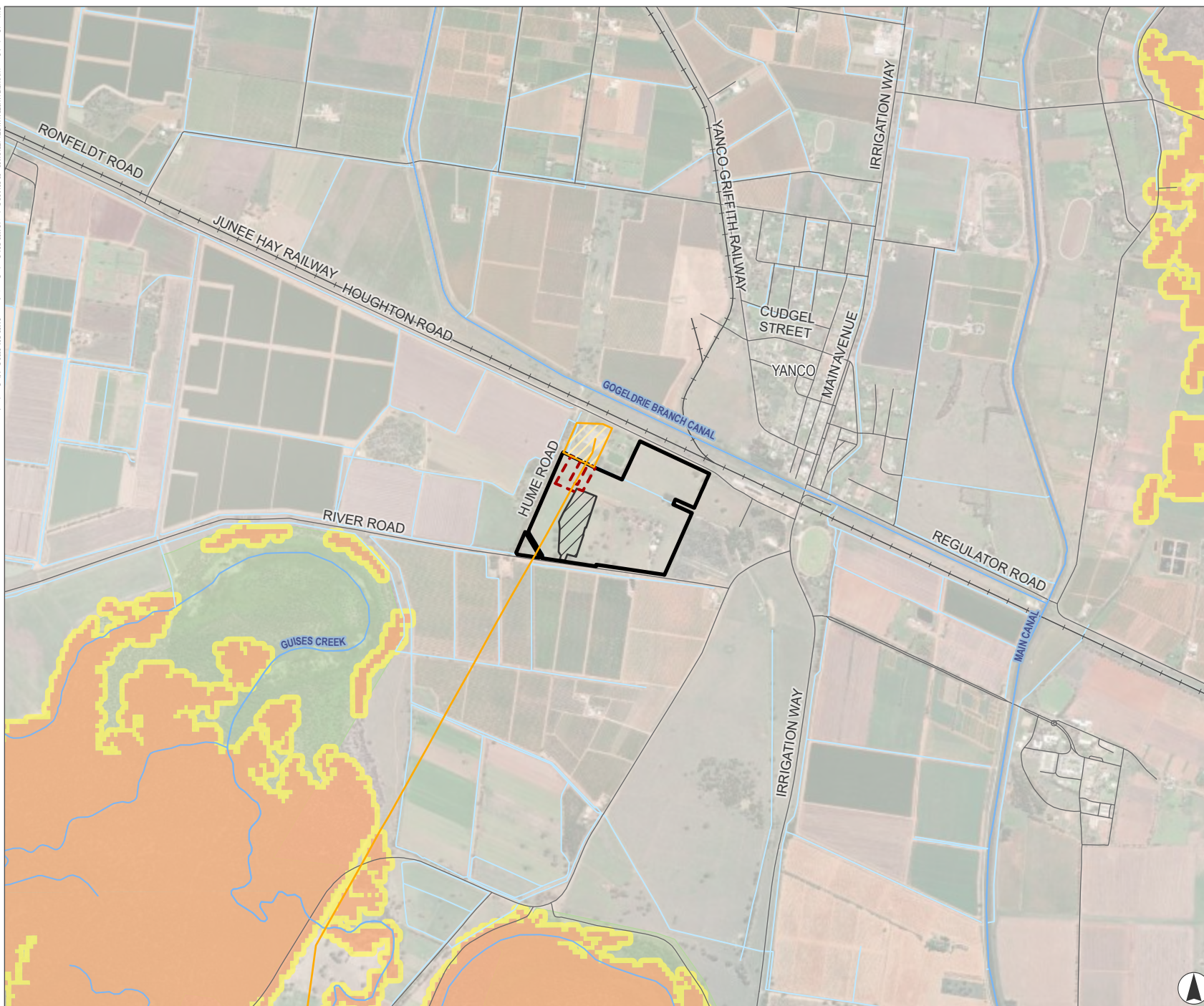
Biosecurity risks from the Project can be managed through standard plant, equipment, and vehicle cleaning protocols. An assessment of biosecurity would be undertaken for the EIS.

6.2.3 Bush fire

A review of the NSW RFS Bushfire Prone Land mapping confirms that bush fire prone land of Vegetation Category 2 is located approximately 940 m west of the Project footprint (refer to **Figure 6.3**). The EIS will include the preparation of a Bushfire Risk Assessment. The assessment will aim to demonstrate that the Project can be designed, constructed, and operated to minimise ignition risks and provide for asset protection consistent with relevant *NSW RFS Planning for Bushfire Protection 2019* (RFS, 2019).

FIGURE 6.3

Bushfire Prone Land

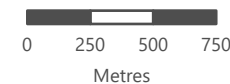


Legend

- Project Area
- Project Footprint
- Transmission Line Easement Options
- Yanco Substation
- Existing Above Ground Transgrid 132 kV Transmission Line

Bushfire Prone Land Vegetation Category Mapping

- Vegetation Buffer (100m to Category 1 Vegetation and 30m to Category 2 Vegetation)
- Vegetation Category 2 (Medium Risk)
- Reserves
- Local Road
- Railway
- Watercourse
- Drainage Channel



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Client: Ergon Australia/UMWELT AUSTRALIA PTY LTD/24153 - 09 SW/012 Project/24153 SW/Scoping/Report v1/1/2024 - 24153 SW/012 SW/Scoping/Report v1/1/2024

6.2.4 Electromagnetic Fields

Electromagnetic fields (EMF) are present where electric current flows, including overhead and underground transmission lines, substations and electrical appliances. The Project would likely produce EMF when operational. Once the BESS has been commissioned, on-site personnel would be exposed to EMF radiation, though unlikely at levels that pose a hazard to human health. The EIS will consider potential health issues and risks associated with EMF produced by the BESS and associated electrical infrastructure within the Project footprint and transmission line easement in accordance with the International Commission on Non-ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) *Guidelines for Limiting Exposure to Time-varying Electric, Magnetic and Electromagnetic Fields* (ICNIRP, 1998).

6.2.5 Hazardous Materials and Dangerous Goods

6.2.5.1 Land Contamination

Contaminated land presents a risk to human health and the environment and is regulated under the *Contaminated Land Management Act 1997*.

A search of the NSW EPA Contaminated Land Record on 31 May 2024 identified one contaminated site within the suburb of Yanco, being a former service station located at 14 Main Avenue, Yanco, located approximately 2 km to the north east of the Project.

No record of notice or list of notified sites were identified within the Project footprint or transmission line easement options.

6.2.5.2 Hazardous Materials

The Project may result in the introduction of a number of hazardous materials that present potential risks to the environment and public safety. Hazardous materials that may be transported to the Project footprint, stored, and used within the Project footprint and transported from the Project footprint are presented in **Table 6.3**, with reference to the *Australian Code for the Transport of Dangerous Goods by Road and Rail* (NTC, 2022).

Table 6.3 Project Hazardous Materials

Material	Dangerous Goods Class/Division and (Packing Group)	Phase(s) of Project
Unleaded Petrol	3 (II)	Operations
Diesel Fuel	C1	Construction, Operations and Decommissioning
Herbicides	9 (II)	Operations
Transformer Oil	-	Construction, Operations and Decommissioning
Aerosols	Class 2.1	Construction, Operations and Decommissioning
Solvents	3 (II)	Construction, Operations and Decommissioning
Lithium	9 (II & III)	Construction, Operations and Decommissioning

A preliminary risk screening for all hazardous materials and dangerous goods to be stored and transported to/from the Project will be undertaken during the EIS in accordance with Chapter 3 (Hazardous and Offensive Development) of *State Environment Planning Policy (Resilience and Hazards) 2021* (Resilience and Hazards SEPP) to determine the requirement for a Preliminary Hazard Analysis (PHA). However, the quantities of hazardous materials to be stored at the Project would be limited and are not expected to exceed either storage or transport Resilience and Hazards SEPP screening thresholds.

6.2.6 Noise and Vibration

The primary sources of noise and vibration in the vicinity of the Project footprint and transmission line easement options originate from agricultural activities and local vehicle movements. Within an approximate 1,000 m buffer around the Project Area there are approximately 210 potential receivers. One potential residential receiver is associated with the Project and the remaining potential receivers are not associated with the Project (refer to **Figure 6.4**).

During the construction phase of the Project, proposed activities are likely to generate noise and vibration impacts for proximate potential receivers. However, noise and vibration generated by ancillary infrastructure during the operational phase are expected to be minimal. Conceptual BESS layout designs would prioritise locating ancillary infrastructure away from potential receivers wherever feasible.

As part of the EIS, a comprehensive Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment (NVIA) will be conducted. The NVIA would be completed in accordance with the following:

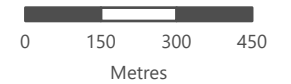
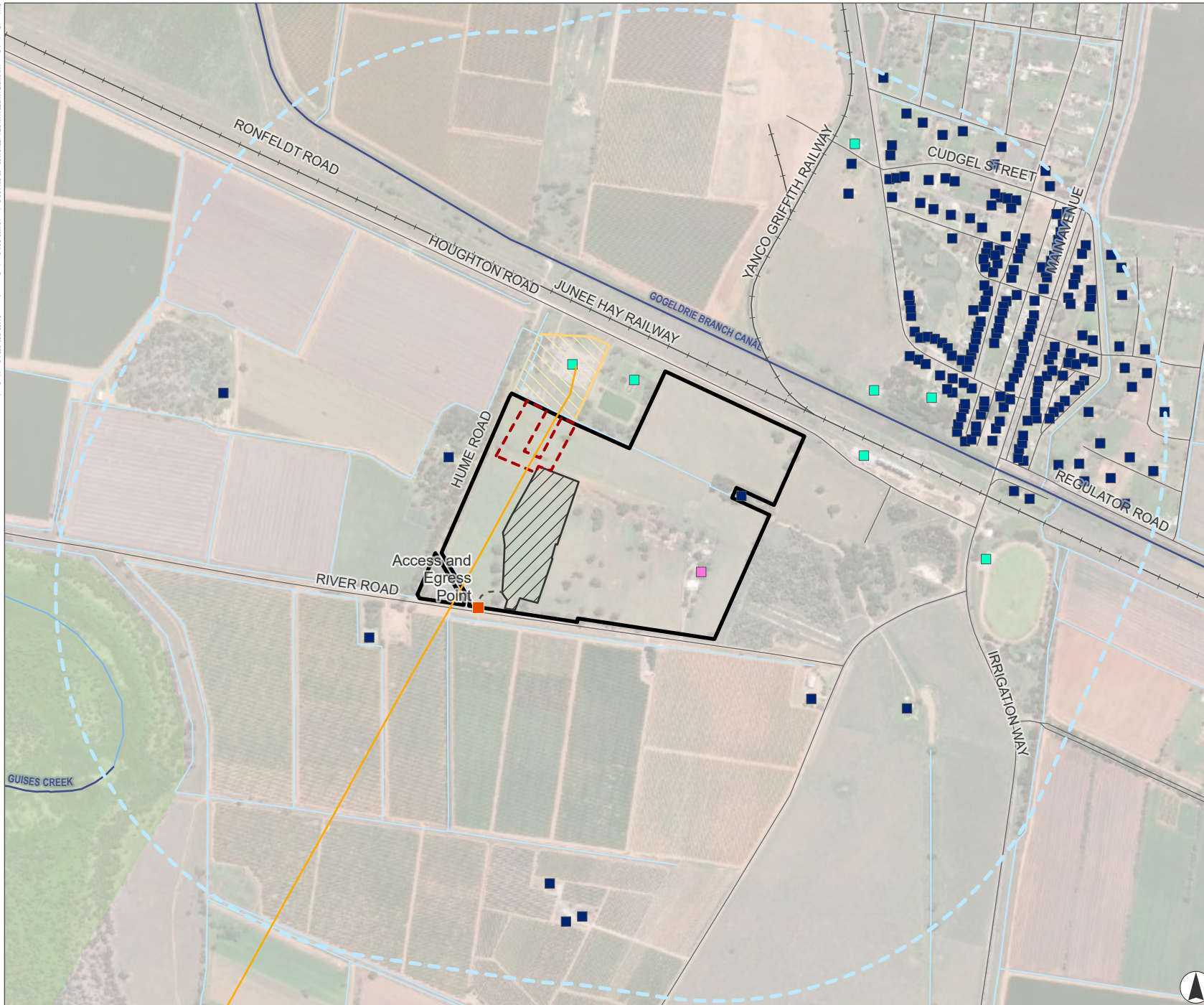
- Interim Construction Noise Guideline (DECC, 2009)
- NSW Road Noise Policy (DECCW, 2011)
- Noise Policy for Industry (EPA, 2017).

Mitigation measures to minimise noise and vibration impacts for potential receivers would be developed as part of the NVIA and incorporated into the EIS.

FIGURE 6.4
Proximate Potential
Receivers

Legend

- Project Area
- Project Footprint
- Transmission Line Easement Options
- Yanco Substation
- 1km buffer
- Existing Above Ground Transgrid 132 kV Transmission Line
- Associated Residential Receiver
- Non-Associated Residential Receiver
- Non-Associated Non-Residential Receiver
- Access and Egress Point
- Existing Access Track
- Local Road
- Railway
- Watercourse
- Drainage Channel



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6.2.7 Traffic, Transport and Access

Access to the Project footprint is proposed via the existing road network. Primary access would likely be via the Sturt Highway, which provides connection to Sydney and Adelaide, and to the Project via Irrigation Way. The Sturt Highway (travelling from Sydney to Adelaide) is directly south of the Project footprint approximately 25 km, and Irrigation Way traverses to the east of the Project footprint in a north to south direction.

The preferred transport route for BESS components and other Project-related materials would be confirmed via a transport route assessment, which will be prepared as part of the EIS. As noted in **Section 3.4**, the preferred port and transport route have not been established yet.

It is expected that upgrades to local roads (secondary access routes) may be required to allow access for OSOM vehicles (where considered suitable) prior to any deliveries occurring as part of the construction phase of the Project.

Minor upgrades to the existing access track and the access and egress point on River Road would be undertaken to provide access to the proposed BESS location (refer to **Section 3.3** and **Figure 3.1**). The proposed delivery route, access tracks and level of construction/maintenance required will be confirmed and assessed during the preparation of the EIS. All access tracks would be maintained during the construction phase of the Project.

The construction phase of the Project would result in increased traffic movements from both light vehicles transporting construction personnel and minor light construction materials, and OSOM vehicle movements transporting the heavy-duty equipment required for construction purposes. Traffic increases associated with the operational phase of the Project would be minimal and would generally only involve the movement of light vehicles transporting operational staff around the site intermittently.

A Traffic and Transport Impact Assessment (TTIA) will be undertaken as part of the EIS to assess the potential transport routes required for the construction of the Project and any potential impact to the road network. The assessments will be undertaken following relevant NSW Government guidelines and assessment standards, including the *Guide to Traffic Generating Developments* (RTA, 2002), *Road Design Guide* and relevant Austroads standards and *Austroads Guide to Traffic Management guidelines*.

Should a transportation route be selected that interacts with other states (i.e., South Australia or Victoria), other approvals would be required for the transport of infrastructure by OSOM vehicles, under National Heavy Vehicle Law. These requirements will be assessed via a transport route assessment as part of the EIS.

6.2.8 Water and Soil Resources

6.2.8.1 Existing Environment

Surface Water

There are no waterways that run directly through the Project footprint. The Gogeldrie Branch Canal-Drain is located approximately 514 m north of the Project footprint. The closest natural watercourse to the Project footprint is the Murrumbidgee River, located approximately 3.7 km south. **Figure 6.5** shows the hydrological and topographic context of the Project footprint and transmission line easement options, including any relevant potential hydrological constraints.

Flooding

A review of the Leeton Shire Council online flood planning map indicates that the Project footprint and transmission line easement options are not mapped within a flood planning area.

Groundwater Vulnerability

Under the NSW Groundwater Vulnerability sourced from the Seed Dataset (DPE, 2014), the Project footprint and transmission line easement options lie within a groundwater vulnerability area. The Project is unlikely to impact groundwater due to limited excavation required during site leveling.

Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems

A review of the Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems (GDEs) Atlas (BoM, 2017) indicated that the Project footprint and transmission line easement options are not located in proximity to aquatic GDEs. A small area of terrestrial GDEs is mapped approximately 500 m east of the Project footprint (refer to **Figure 6.5**). These are mapped as low to moderate potential terrestrial GDEs.

Water Storage and Usage

WSPs have been developed under the *Water Management Act 2000* to protect the environmental health of water sources, whilst securing sustainable access to water for all users. WSPs specify maximum water extractions and allocations and provide licenced and unlicensed water users with a clear picture of when and how water would be available for extraction. The Project footprint and transmission line easement options are subject to the WSPs of the Murrumbidgee Region.

The Project footprint and transmission line easement options are located within the Murrumbidgee Unregulated River Water Sources, which commenced in 2012 (DPE, 2012). The WSP is divided into 43 water source boundaries. The Project footprint and transmission line easement options are located within the Murrumbidgee North Water Source.

With respect to groundwater, the Project footprint and transmission line easement options are located within the Lower Murrumbidgee Shallow Groundwater Source which is regulated under the Murrumbidgee Alluvial Groundwater Sources WSP, which commenced in 2020 (DPE, 2020).

The EIS will include consideration of water use during construction and operation of the Project, including identifying available water sources.

Australian Soil Classification

The Project footprint and transmission line easement options are mapped as chromosols under the Australian Soil Classification mapping for the site. Chromosols are not highly acidic or sodic.

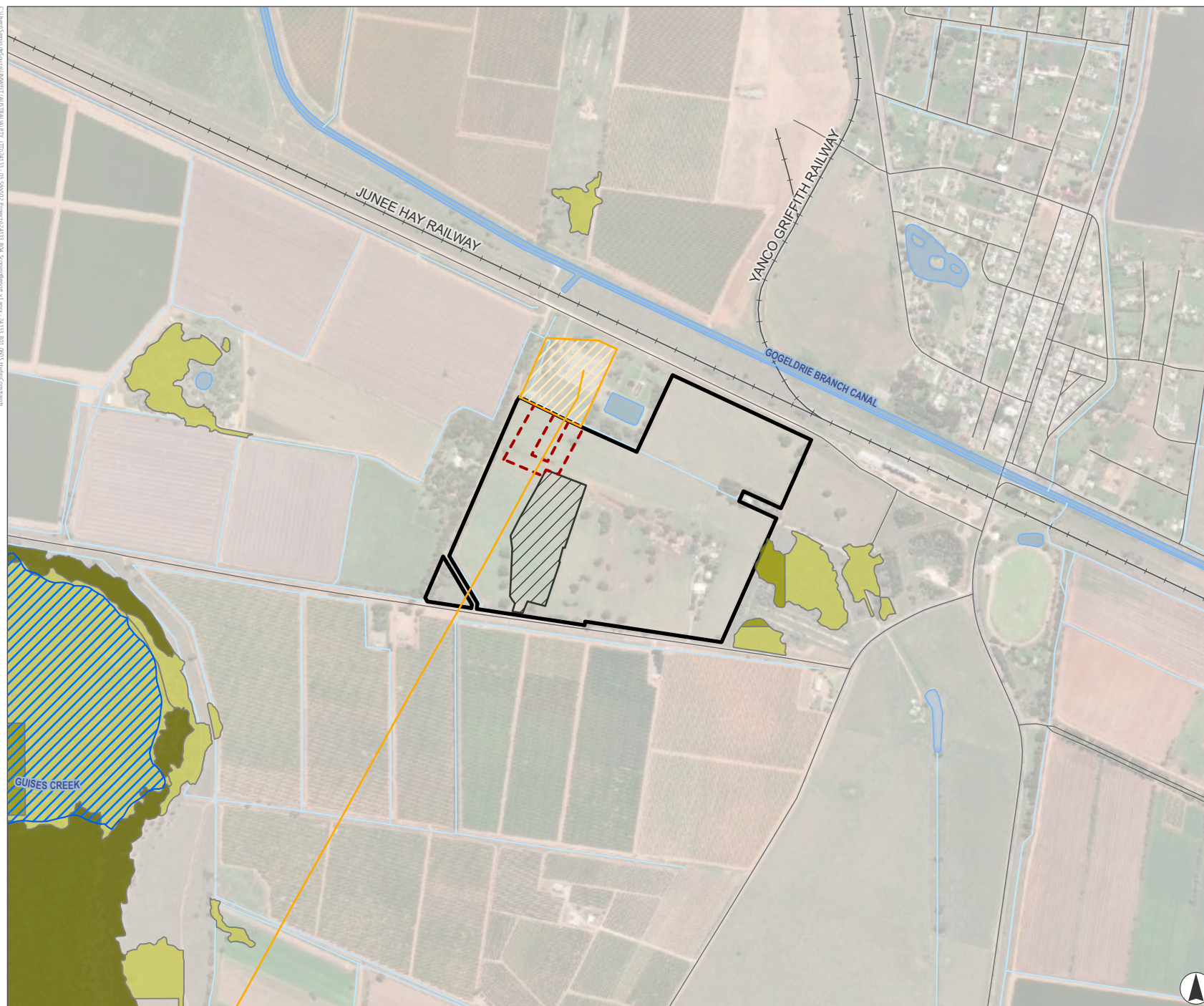
Acid Sulfate Soils

There are no mapped high-risk areas for acid sulfate soils within the Project footprint or transmission line easement options.

6.2.8.2 Assessment Approach

A detailed review of water users, project water use and supply will be required. A full assessment will be undertaken as part of the WRIA as part of the EIS and is expected to consider further details available on the construction methodology and locations of infrastructure.

FIGURE 6.5
Hydrological Constraints

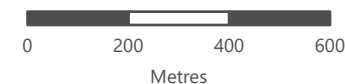


Legend

- Project Area
- Project Footprint
- Transmission Line Easement Options
- Yanco Substation
- Wetland (EPI, 2023)
- Waterbody
- Existing Above Ground Transgrid 132 kV Transmission Line
- Railway
- Local Road
- Watercourse
- Drainage Channel

Terrestrial GDE

- High potential GDE - from regional studies
- Moderate potential GDE - from regional studies
- Low potential GDE - from regional studies



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6.2.9 Air Quality

The primary sources of air pollutants and emissions surrounding the Project footprint would be from agricultural activities and emissions from vehicles and farm plant.

Construction and decommissioning activities, such as ground disturbance and vehicle movements, can generate dust and emissions that may impact local air quality. However, these impacts are likely to be localised to the site and immediate surroundings.

During operations, air quality impacts are minimal since BESS facilities do not produce air pollution. During decommissioning, the site would be restored to pre-construction conditions, minimising further dust generation.

Overall, potential air quality impacts from the Project are low and would be mitigated by standard dust suppression measures. A desktop assessment of air quality impacts will be provided in the EIS.

6.2.10 Land and Agriculture

6.2.10.1 Soils and Land Capability

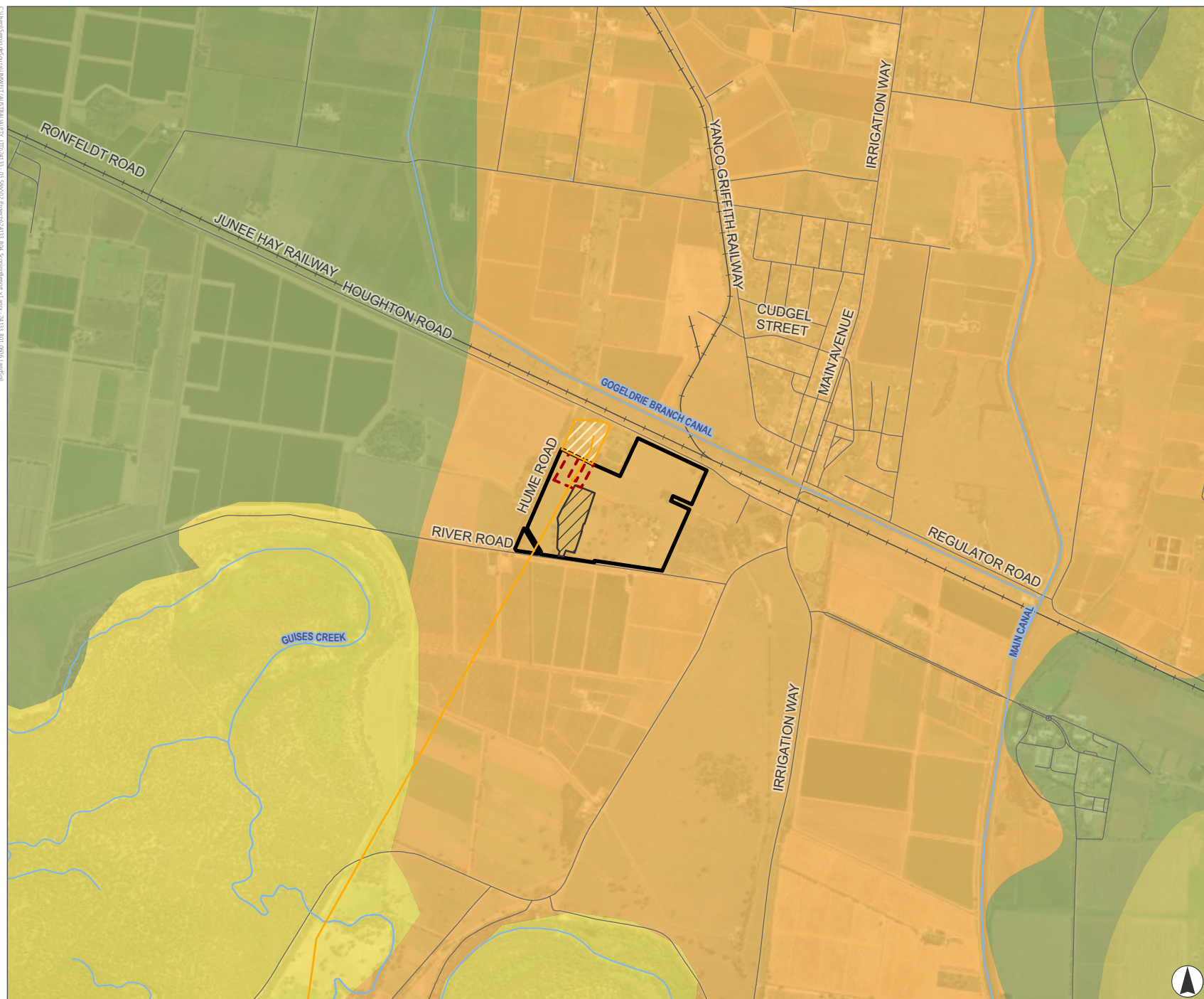
The Land and Soil Capability Assessment Scheme (LSC) identifies the capability of the land to sustain land use, ranging between Class 1 to Class 8. Class 1 is land capable of high soil impact and Class 8 represents land that is only capable of sustaining low impact. A review of the capability classifications identified that the Project footprint and transmission line easement options are entirely comprised of Class 6 land (refer to **Figure 6.6**). The LSC identifies Class 6 land as having severe to very severe limitations for grazing and other land uses (OEH, 2012). Therefore the site is appropriate for the Project.

There is no BSAL present within or in the vicinity of the Project footprint or transmission line easement options. Additionally, there are no mapped Class 1 to 3 soils under the LSC present within the Project footprint or transmission line easement options.

An Agricultural Impact Assessment, including a Land Use Conflict Risk Assessment (in accordance with DPHI's *Land Use Conflict Risk Assessment Guide*) will be included in the EIS.

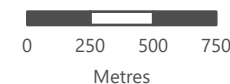
FIGURE 6.6

Land and Soil Constraints



Legend

- Project Area
- Project Footprint
- Transmission Line Easement Options
- Yanco Substation
- Existing Above Ground Transgrid 132 kV Transmission Line
- Most Limiting LSC**
- 3 - Moderate limitations
- 4 - Moderate to severe limitations
- 5 - Severe limitations
- 6 - Very severe limitations
- Railway
- Local Road
- Watercourse



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6.2.11 Landscape and Visual Amenity

The Project is situated in relatively flat terrain. The surrounding land parcels typically include modified land that support agricultural activities such as grazing over modified and native pastures. Nearby development includes the existing GrainCorp Yanco site, the Yanco Substation and the rail corridor to the north.

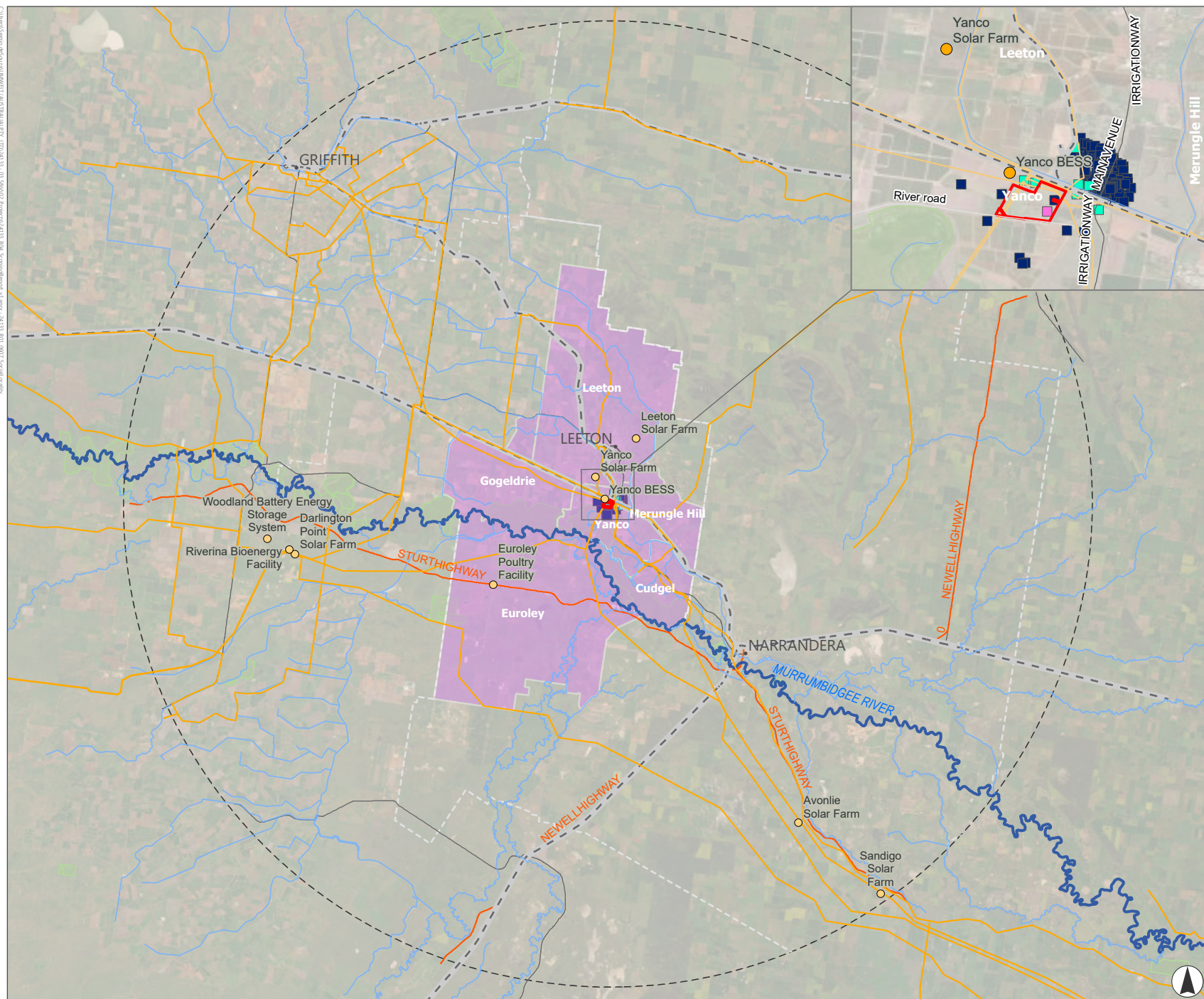
As part of the EIS, a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) will evaluate the visual and landscape impacts of the project including glare, reflectivity, and night lighting on surrounding residences, road users, and rail corridors. The assessment will also consider the cumulative visual impact of the proposed BESS with the surrounding developments. Where relevant, it will include mitigation measures to help reduce the project's impacts on visual amenity.

6.2.12 Social

A Social Impact Scoping Report (SISR) has been undertaken by Umwelt in accordance with the NSW Social Impact Assessment Guideline for State Significant Projects (DPE, 2023). The SISR appears in full in **Appendix 4** and this section provides a summary of the key findings.

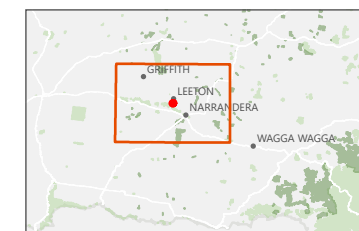
The Project Area is located within the Riverina Region in NSW, within the Leeton Shire LGA, and in proximity to the localities of Leeton, Gogeldrie, Euroley, Yanco, Cudgel and Merungle Hill. The Social Locality, including the geographic extent for the SISR, is identified on **Figure 6.7**.

FIGURE 6.7
Social Locality



Legend

- Project Area
- Buffer 50km
- Suburbs and Localities - SALs
- Local Government Area - LGAs
- State Significant Projects
- Associated Residential Receiver
- Non-Associated Residential Receiver
- Non-Associated Non-Residential Receiver
- Transmission Line
- Main Road
- Local road
- Railway
- Major River
- Creek
- Reserves



0 123

Kilometres

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The townships of Narrandera and Coleambally are proximal to the Project Area (within a 60-minute drive) and secondary order (population between 900 and 10,000 people). Narrandera has a population of 4,369 and Coleambally has a population of 1,152 (ABS, 2021).

The Riverina Region is a known agricultural landscape, featuring strong ties to agriculture as a key industry of employment as well as an economic driver. The following ambition is outlined in the Leeton Community Strategic Plan 2035 (Leeton Shire Council, 2021): 'We live sustainably, use our resources responsibly and have adapted to climate change'.

As outlined in **Section 2.2** and **Section 3.8.2**, land within and surrounding the Project Area has been historically cleared due to agricultural land uses.

Feedback from stakeholders throughout the scoping phase discussed in **Section 5.0** identified feedback from government agencies regarding the preparation of this Scoping Report and related assessments. This feedback will be considered as the Project progresses to the EIS phase.

The SISR identified potential social impacts (both positive and negative) and potential mitigation and enhancement measures. A summary of the potential social impacts and potential mitigation and enhancement measures appear in this section and a preliminary social impact evaluation appears in Appendix C of the SISR (refer to **Appendix 4**).

Potential social impacts (both positive and negative) and the likely level of community interest related to the Project, as identified in the SISR, include:

- visual amenity
- increased bushfire risk
- changes to community cohesion and place attachment
- economic benefits including local employment and procurement
- increased stress and anxiety associated with uncertainty with the assessment process
- increased traffic due to cumulative projects
- impacts to waste management facilities
- perceived inability to contribute meaningfully to decisions relating to the Project
- impacts to tangible and intangible Aboriginal cultural heritage
- cumulative impacts.

Throughout the EIS phase of the Project, Potential mitigation and enhancement measures in response to the potential social impacts listed above include:

- Development of a Social Impact Management Plan (SIMP) to mitigate and manage negative social impacts and enhance positive social impacts, including proactive facilitation of local employment and procurement opportunities where possible. The community will be provided with opportunities to influence and shape the Project through this process.

- Continued implementation of the CSEP (discussed in **Section 5.1**).
- The establishment of landholder agreements in relation to the Project.
- The potential implementation of a Voluntary Planning Agreement with Leeton Shire Council.

Further mitigation and management measures will be considered as part of the SIA for the Project, and a Social Impact Assessment will be provided as part of the EIS in accordance with the *Social Impact Assessment Guidelines for State Significant Projects* (DPE, 2023).

6.2.13 Waste Management

It is expected that the majority of waste would be generated during the construction phase of the Project, including liquid waste, hazardous waste, green waste and general solid waste from construction activities. Wastes generated during the operational phase of the Project are expected to be minimal.

A Waste Management Plan will accompany the EIS. Waste streams during the construction, operation, and decommissioning phases of the Project will be identified, along with suitable disposal or recycling methods. The Waste Management Plan will outline strategies to minimise waste and identify registered facilities for recycling and disposal.

6.2.14 Cumulative Impacts

The *Cumulative Impact Assessment Guidelines for State Significant Projects* (the CIA Guidelines) (DPIE, 2021g) identifies the requirement to address cumulative impacts in relation to any other proposed, approved, or operating projects in the vicinity particularly with regard to landscape, noise, biodiversity and traffic impacts.

As discussed in **Section 2.3**, a number of SSD, SSI and other projects, at different stages of the approval process, have been identified up to 50 km from the Project footprint and transmission line easement options which require cumulative impact consideration. The potential cumulative impacts of these projects appear in **Table 6.4**.

Table 6.4 Cumulative Impacts Scoping Table

Project	Approximate Distance to Project	Status	Generation Capacity (MW)	Potential Construction Start Date	Potential Cumulative Impacts
Yanco BESS	315 m north west	Prepare EIS	250	2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity • Noise and vibration • Traffic, transport and access • Landscape and visual amenity • Social

Project	Approximate Distance to Project	Status	Generation Capacity (MW)	Potential Construction Start Date	Potential Cumulative Impacts
Yanco Solar Farm	1.8 km north west	Approved	60	No date provided	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biodiversity Noise and vibration Traffic, transport and access Landscape and visual amenity Social
Riverina Bioenergy Facility	30 km north west	Prepare EIS	NA	No date provided	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traffic, transport and access Social
Woodland Battery Energy Storage System	30 km west	Approved	200	2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traffic, transport and access Social
Sandigo Solar Farm	50 km south	Approved	100	No date provided	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traffic, transport and access Social

A cumulative impact assessment (CIA) will be completed as part of the EIS in accordance with the CIA Guidelines. **Table 6.4** includes considerations that will be taken into account when preparing the CIA for the EIS.

Table 6.5 Cumulative Impact Assessment Considerations

Cumulative Impact Assessment	Detail
What to Assess?	<p>The following matters will require consideration in the CIA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> biodiversity noise and vibration traffic, transport and access landscape and visual amenity social.
What Study Area?	<p>The study area will vary depending on the specific characteristics of the assessment matter and the scale and nature of the potential impacts on the matter resulting from the Project with other relevant future projects.</p> <p>The CIA will be undertaken in accordance with the relevant guidelines, where applicable, and broad enough to capture all relevant cumulative impacts.</p>
Over What Time Period?	<p>Life of the relevant projects including construction, operation, and decommissioning.</p>

Cumulative Impact Assessment	Detail
What Projects to Include?	The effects of past developments and actions, as well as currently operating projects will be captured in the baseline environmental studies for the Project. The CIA will consider the cumulative impacts of the relevant projects on key matters with other proposed developments, including those outlined in Table 2.1 , as relevant. This includes changes to existing projects, approved projects, or projects under assessment.
What is the Approach to Assessment?	The CIA will be undertaken in accordance with approved assessment methods for relevant matters (I.E., the BAM). Assessments will be qualitative or quantitative, based on (but not limited to) the availability of relevant data.
What are the Key Uncertainties?	Key uncertainties to undertaking the CIA will include availability and quality of data on proposed future projects at the time of preparation of assessments. Relevant CIAs will identify realistic development scenarios with the relevant future projects over the life of the Project.

6.3 Matters Requiring No Further Assessment in the EIS

Table 6.5 outlines the matters that are considered to not require further assessment in the EIS based on the scoping phase assessment along with a comment justifying why no further assessment is required.

Table 6.6 Matters Requiring No Further Assessment in the EIS

Issue	Comment
Greenhouse Gas and Energy	As the Project would store renewable energy, the emissions resulting from the construction, operation or decommissioning would be readily offset by the reduction in energy generation emissions. GHG emissions will be addressed in the justification for the Project as part of the EIS.
Port and Airport Facilities	The Project would not result in any change to port or airport facilities. Other than the delivery of Project components to the relevant port, the transportation of Project components to the Project footprint will be assessed as part of the TTIA.
Rail Facilities	The Project would not propose to utilise any rail facilities.
Odour	The Project is not anticipated to cause any odour.
Coastal Hazards	The Project would not be located within a coastal zone and will not result in any impacts to coastal zones.
Dam Safety	The Project would not require the construction or maintenance of a dam.
Land Movement	The Project is not anticipated to result in any land movement. The Project would result in relatively minor excavation works only.

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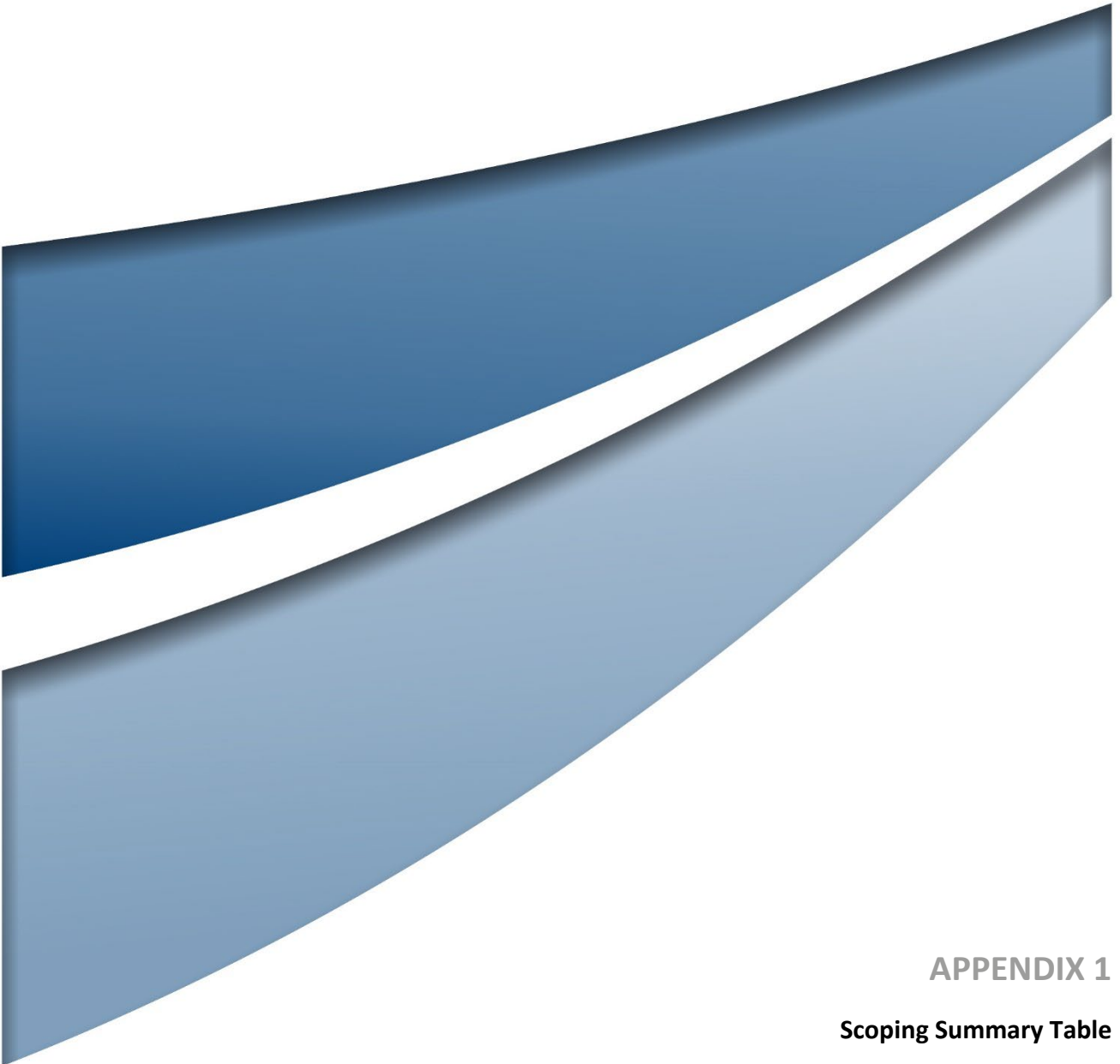
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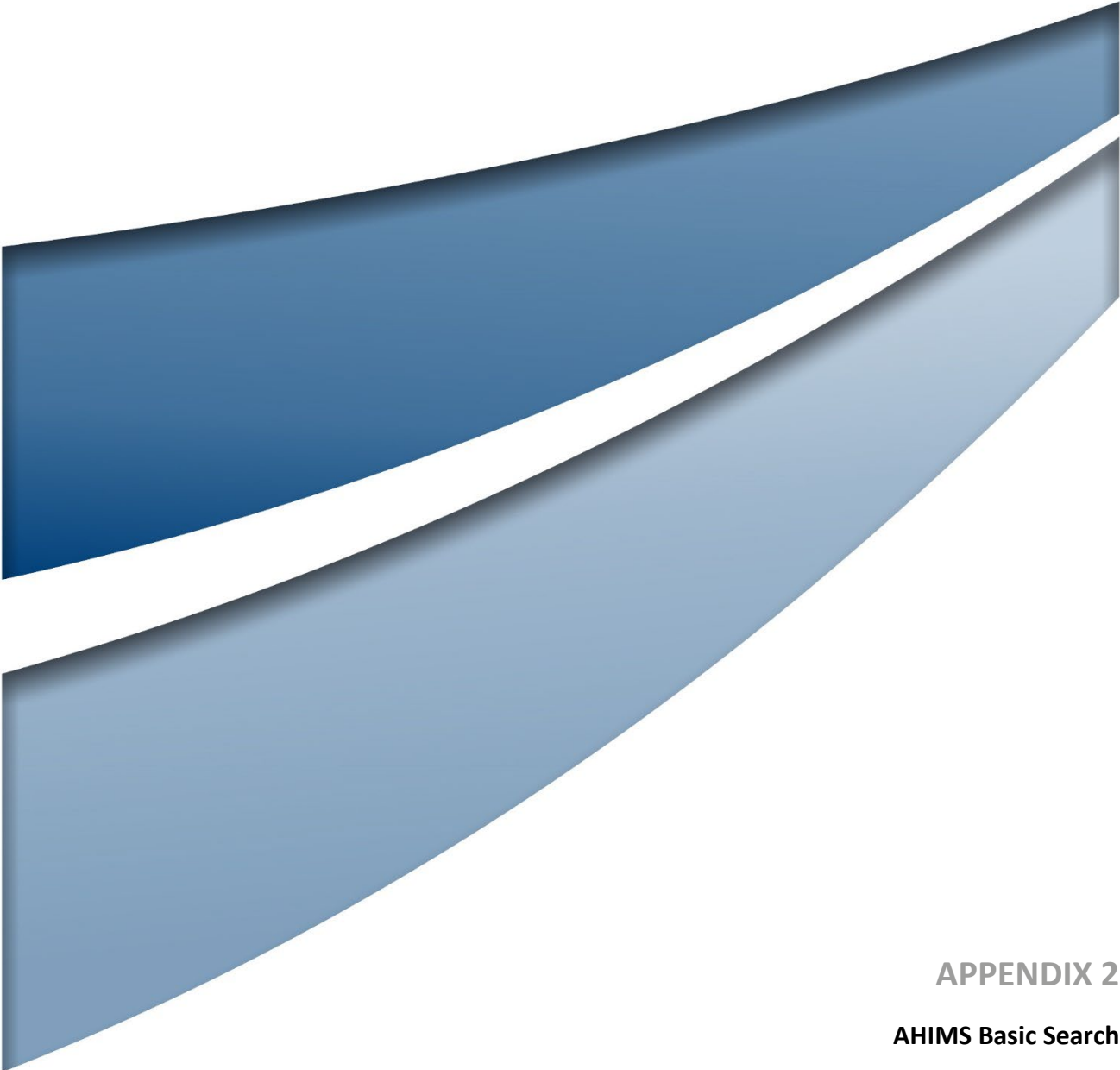
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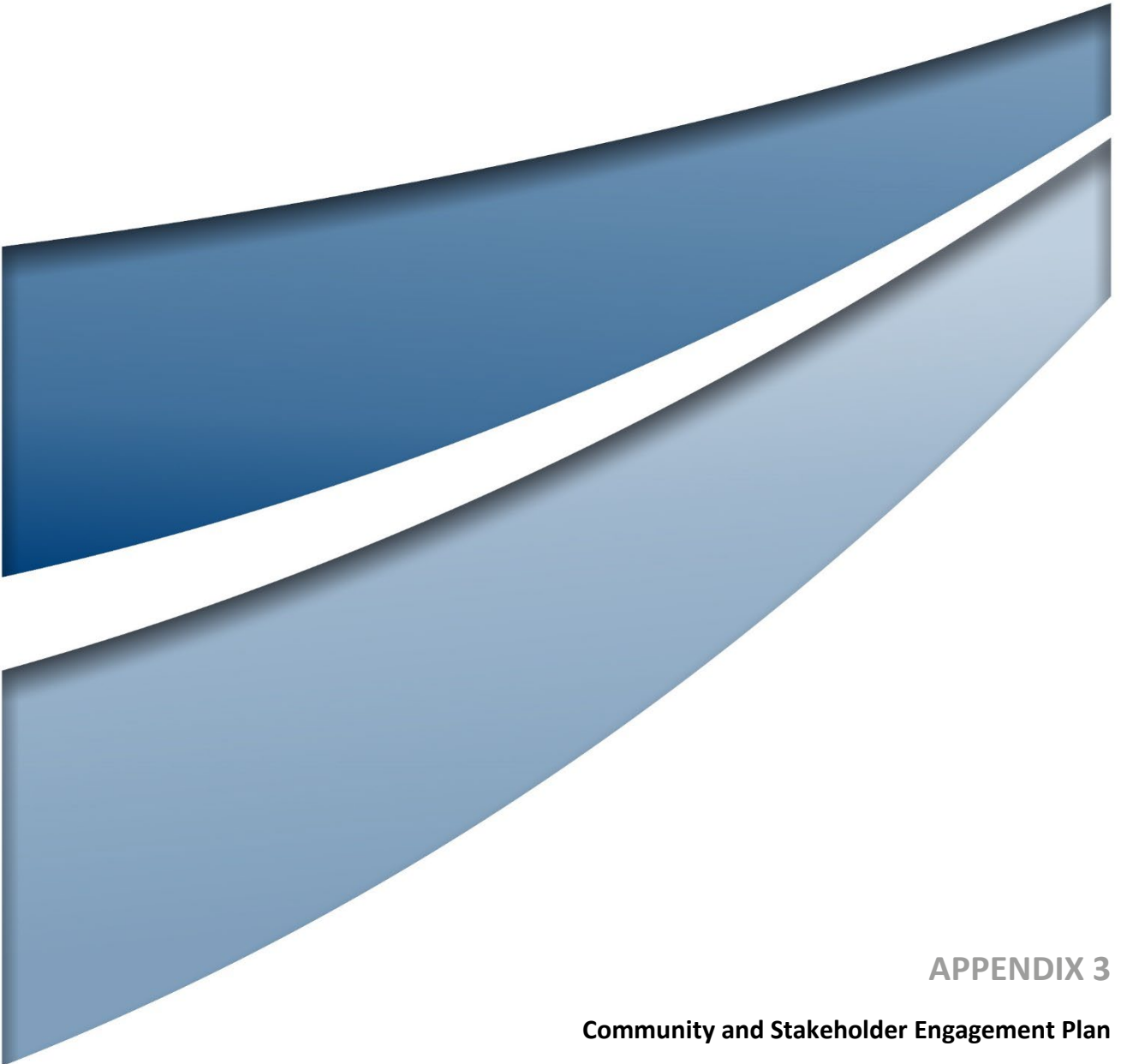


APPENDIX 1

Scoping Summary Table

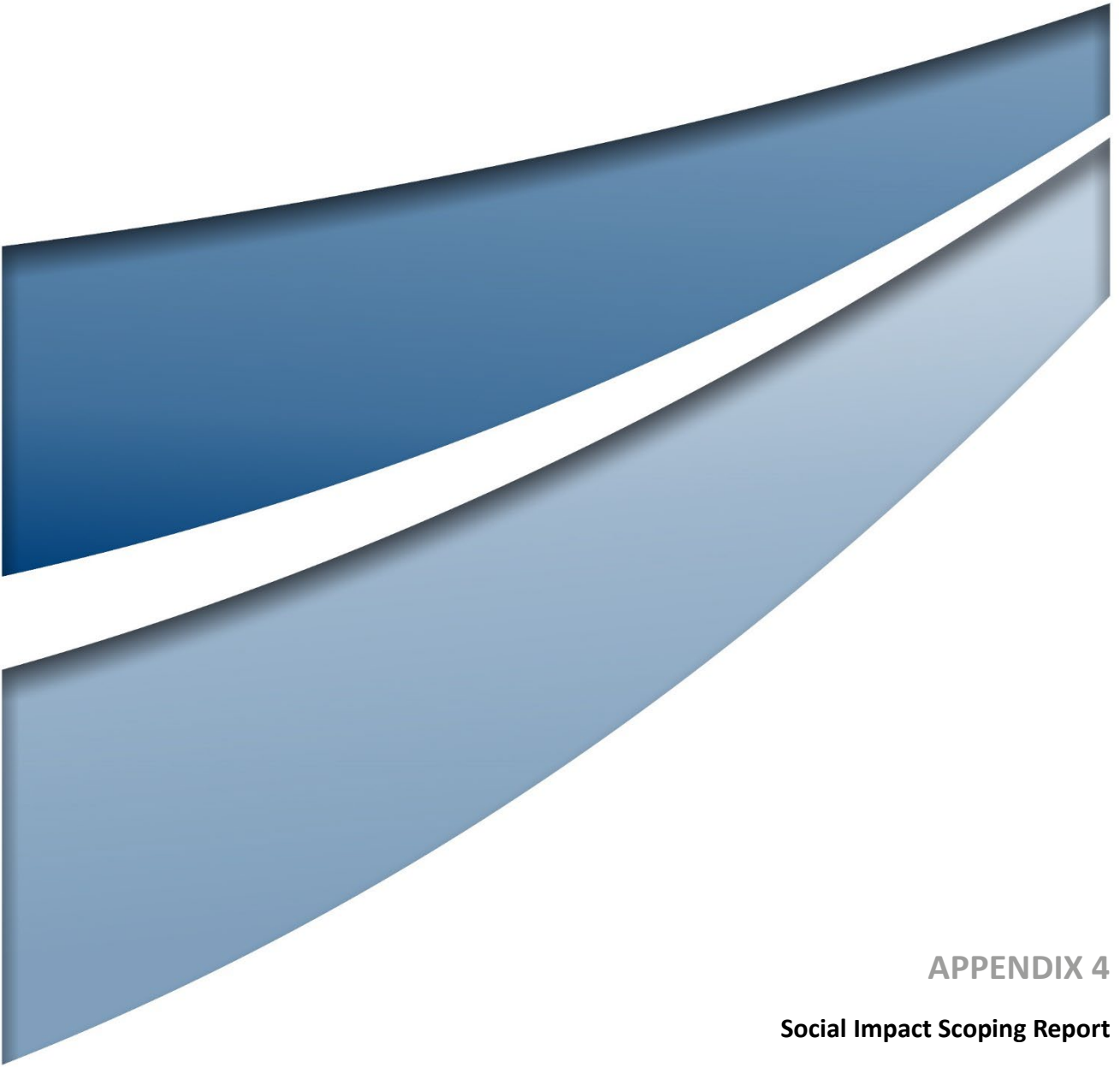


APPENDIX 2
AHIMS Basic Search



APPENDIX 3

Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan



APPENDIX 4

Social Impact Scoping Report

