Scoping Report – Request for Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements

Molong Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)

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Revision Record

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2.0	20 February 2025	Jarrod Dixon	Melissa Thomas	Jeremy Every

Basis of Report

This report has been prepared by SLR Consulting Australia (SLR) with all reasonable skill, care and diligence, and taking account of the timescale and resources allocated to it by agreement with StorEnergy 3 Pty Ltd (the Client). Information reported herein is based on the interpretation of data collected, which has been accepted in good faith as being accurate and valid.

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Executive Summary

StorEnergy 3 Pty Ltd (Stor) seeks to establish a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) (150-Megawatt (MW) / 730 Megawatt hours (MWh)) that will connect to the electricity grid at the existing Transgrid Molong 132/66 Kilovolt (kV) Transmission Substation (TS) via a new overhead transmission line (TL) (approximately 900m) (herein referred to as the 'Project').

The proposed development involves the establishment of the BESS and new access road on 1 Deight Street, Molong, NSW 2866 with the proposed aboveground TL and existing substation located at 19 Back Saleyards Road, Molong, NSW 2866. For the purposes of this report, the BESS, access road and TL are collectively referred to as the 'Development Footprint' and the two properties referred to as the 'Site'.

The proposed BESS comprises a maximum of 264 batteries, each contained individually within a shipping container, and approximately 50 inverters located externally to the shipping containers. Batteries and inverters are fixed to a proposed hardstand area where they are accessible by an internal road.

Other physical features of the development include a control room/switchgear, transformers, circuit breakers, harmonic filters, auxiliary transmission lines, car parking, lay down area, landscaping, security fencing/lighting, and a single demountable building used for storage. The development is self-operating and only requires minor periodic visitation by and authorised person. The facility is otherwise restricted to the public.

Project Overview

Table 1: Project Overview

Project Element	Description
Proposed Development – Construction and Operation Summary	The Project would generally involve the following components: • Transport of construction personnel, equipment and materials to and from the Site during construction (dependent on construction schedule), including all associated heavy and light vehicle traffic movements. • Site establishment works including limited vegetation clearing within the Development Footprint, bulk earthworks and a temporary construction compound. • Road works to formalise a new driveway crossing from Back Saleyards Road and internal site access road for construction purposes and ongoing access. • Construction of hardstand/laydown areas, fencing, internal roads, control room, auxiliary transformer, battery enclosures, and inverter/transformer/switchgear stations (referred to as Power Conversion Stations (PCS)). • Construction of approximately 900m of overhead 132 kV transmission line to facilitate connection to the existing Transgrid's Molong Substation and associated high voltage concrete or steel poles and wiring. • Acoustic attenuation (to be determined as part of a detailed assessment). • Construction of ancillary works including a parking area, water tank, Operations and Maintenance (O&M) building (including storage structures), stormwater management infrastructure, security lighting and fencing. • Vegetative screening and landscaping.

Project Element	Description
	• The installation of 264 BESS units (maximum) within individual, modular containers, on hardstand footings with a total capacity of 150 MW/730MWh. • The installation of 50 inverters on hardstand footings. • Installation of subsurface cabling infrastructure throughout the Indicative BESS area. • Commissioning and testing of all installed equipment on the Project Area. The BESS may be subject to capacity replenishment and/or capacity augmentation events as necessary to extend storage durations.
Site Access	Access to the BESS site is proposed via a new vehicle crossover and driveway from Back Saleyards Road. An internal access road will be established to accommodate construction vehicles and vehicles associated with ongoing maintenance.
Grid Connection	A new overhead TL (132 kV) and associated high voltage steel poles will be constructed to connect the BESS to the existing Transgrid Molong 132/66 kV TS north of the Indicative BESS Footprint. The TL poles will be up to 24 metres (m) in height with a minimum ground clearance of 7.5 m, and located within the proposed 45m TL easement.
Construction Duration	Construction is anticipated to take approximately 22 months.
Operation Life Expectancy	The operational life will be determined by the evolving nature of the technology, however is anticipated that the lifespan will be approximately 30 years from the Commercial Operation Date (COD).
Decommissioning	The BESS will be decommissioned, and the infrastructure removed, returning the Development Footprint to its original use following the approximate 30 year life expectancy.

This Scoping Report has been prepared as part of the State Significant Development (SSD) requirements for the Project by SLR Consulting Pty Ltd (SLR) on behalf of the proponent, Stor. The purpose of this Scoping Report is to request and inform the content of the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) from the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) as delegate to the Minster for Planning and Public Spaces, for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Project.

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

Term	Definition
ACHAR	Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report
AEMO	Australian Energy Market Operator
AES	Accommodation and Employment Strategy
AHIMS	Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System
AHIP	Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit
AC	Alternating Current
AOBV	Areas of Outstanding Biodiversity Value
APZ	Asset Protection Zones
AQA	Air Quality Assessment
ASL	Above Sea Level
ASS	Acid Sulfate Soils
AV	Articulated Vehicle
BAM	Biodiversity Assessment Method
BCD	Biodiversity and Conservation Division
BC Act	Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (NSW)
BDAR	Biodiversity Development Assessment Report
BESS	Battery Energy Storage System
BESS Site	1 Deight Street (Lot 99 DP1020247)
BOS	Biodiversity Offset Scheme
BSAL	Biophysical Strategic Agricultural Land
BV	Biodiversity Values
CCTV	Closed Circuit television
°C	Celsius
CEEC	Critically Endangered Ecological Community
CEMP	Construction Environmental Management Plan
CLM Act	*Crown Lands Management Act* 2016 (NSW)
COP 21	2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference 21
CSCREAP	Cabonne Shire Council Renewable Energy Action Plan
CSEP	Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan
Cth	Commonwealth
DA	Development Application
DC	Direct Current
DCP	Cabonne Development Control Plan
DCCEW	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
DECCW	Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (NSW)
Development Footprint	Indicative BESS area, proposed access road on 1 Deight Street (Lot 99 DP1020247) and proposed Transmission Line (including easement) on 19 Back Saleyards Road

Term	Definition
DOP	Department of Planning, now known as DPHI
DP	Deposited Plan
DPHI	NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
EDC	Estimated Development Cost
EEC	Endangered Ecological Community
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EMF	Electromagnetic Fields
EOL	End of Life
EPA	Environmental Protection Authority
EPIs	Environmental Planning Instruments
EPL	Environmental Protection Licence
EPBC Act	*Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act* 1999 (Cth)
EP&A Act	*Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (NSW)
EP&A Regulation	*Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021 (NSW*
ESD	Ecologically Sustainable Development
FCAS	Frequency Control and Ancillary Services
FM Act	*Fisheries Management Act 1994 (NSW)*
FTE	Full Time Equivalent
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
GW	Giga Watt
HV	Heavy Vehicle
ha	Hectares
Heritage Act	*Heritage Act 1977 (NSW)*
ICNG	Interim Construction Noise Guideline
Indicative BESS area	Footprint of BESS and ancillary infrastructure on 1 Deight Street (Lot 99 DP1020247)
IPC	Independent Planning Commission
KFH	Key Fish Habitat
kg	Kilogram
km	Kilometres
kV	Kilovolt
kVA	Kilovolt-amps
LALC	Local Aboriginal Land Council
LCVIA	Landscape Character and Visual Impact Assessment
LEP	Cabonne Local Environment Plan 2012
LGA	Local Government Areas
LLS Act	*Local Land Services Act 2013 (NSW)*
LSPS	Local Strategic Planning Statement
LUCRA	Land Use Conflict Risk Assessment

Term	Definition
m	Metre
mm	Millimetre
MNES	Matter of National Environmental Significance
MW	Megawatts
MWh	Megawatt Hours
NHVR	National Heavy Vehicle Regulator
NDC	Nationally Determined Contributions
NEM	National Electricity Market
NPfI	NSW Noise Policy for Industry
NPW Act	*National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 (NSW)*
NPWS	National Parks and Wildlife Service
NRAR	National Resources Access Regulator
NSW	New South Wales
NVIA	Noise and Vibration Assessment
OOH	Out of Hours
OSOM	Oversize and Over Mass
PCT	Plant Community Type
PETL	Proposed Electricity Transmission Line
PHA	Preliminary Hazards Assessment
POEO	*Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 (NSW)*
Project Area	1 Deight Street (Lot 99 DP1020247) and 19 Back Saleyards Road (Lot 1 DP542283)
Proponent	StorEnergy 3 Pty Ltd
PV	Photo Voltaic
RAPs	Registered Aboriginal Parties
REZ	Renewable Energy Zone
SAIIs	Serious and Irreversible Impacts
SALRA	Soil and Agricultural Land Resource Assessment
SEARs	Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements
SEPP	State Environmental Planning Policy (NSW)
SFAZ	Strategic Fire Advantage Zone
SGWIA	Surface and Groundwater Water Impact Assessment
SIA	Social Impact Assessment
SIS	Species Impact Statement
Site	1 Deight Street (Lot 99 DP1020247) and 19 Back Saleyards Road (Lot 1 DP542283)
SLR	SLR Consulting Australia Pty Ltd
SSAL	State Significant Agricultural Land
SSD	State Significant Development
TEC	Threatened Ecological Community

Term	Definition
TIA	Traffic Impact Assessment
TMP	Traffic Management Plan
TfNSW	Transport for NSW
TL	Transmission Line
Transgrid Substation Site	19 Back Saleyards Road (Lot 1 DP542283)
TS	Transmission Substation
VPA	Voluntary Planning Agreements
WM Act	*Water Management Act 2000 (NSW)*
WMP	Waste Management Plan

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Project Overview

The Project will involve the development, construction, operation, and eventual decommissioning of a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), with a capacity of 150 Megawatts (MW), 730 Megawatt Hours (MWh), connecting to the electricity grid at the existing Transgrid Molong 132/66 Kilovolt (kV) Transmission Substation (TS) via a new overhead Transmission Line (TL) (approximately 900m) ('the Project').

The BESS will comprise of battery units, inverters, transformers, a substation and ancillary infrastructure all within the Indicative BESS area. The battery units will be within individual containers (or enclosures), with each container measuring approximately 6 metres (m) or 20 feet (ft) in length with an approximate weight of 43,000 kilograms (kg).

The inverters will convert the electricity stored in the battery units from Direct Current (DC) to Alternating Current (AC), and vice versa, that will be directed through the proposed 132kV overhead lines (approximately 900m in length) to the existing Transgrid Molong Substation.

1.2 Project Location

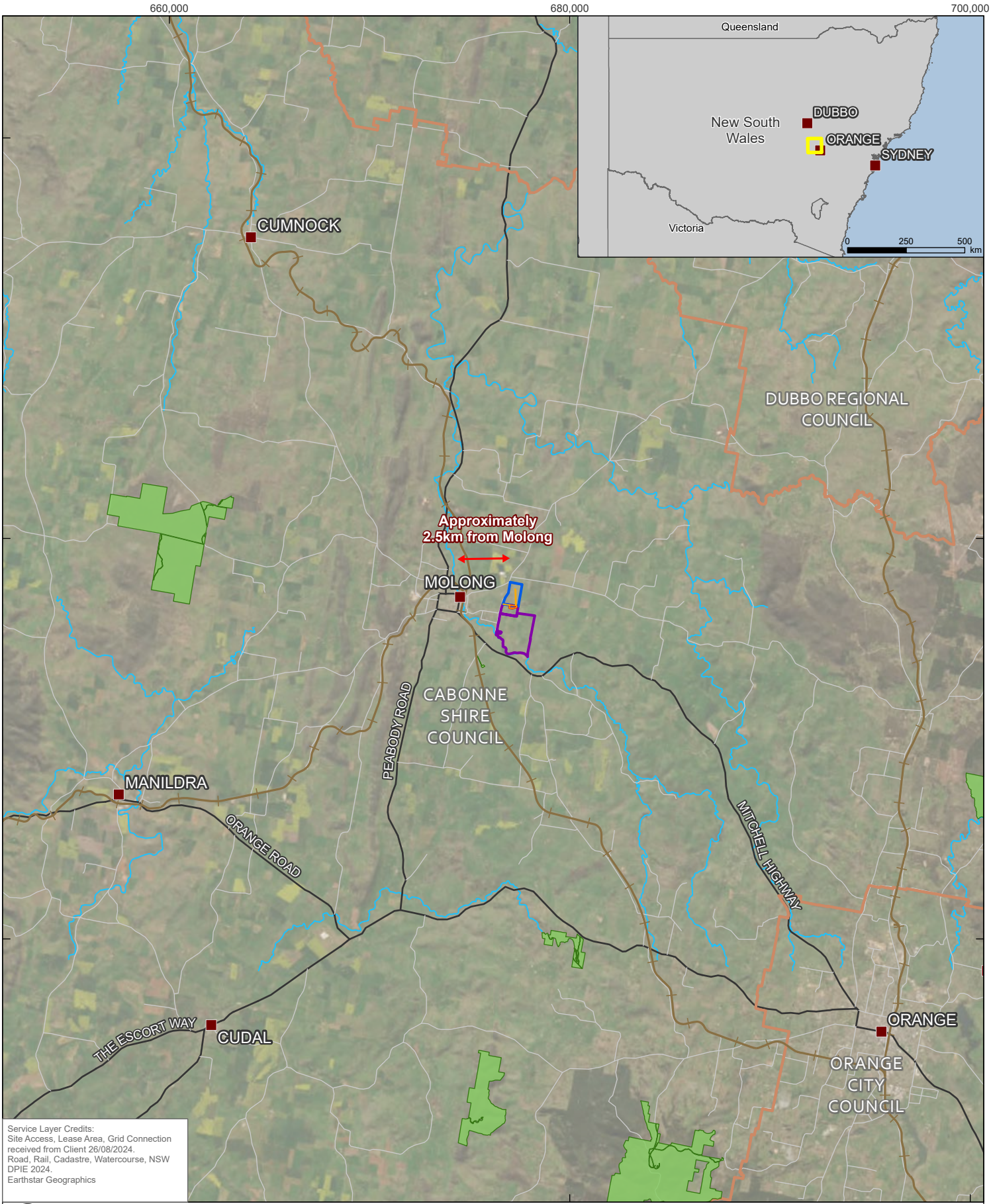
The Development Footprint extends across two (2) lots, 1 Deight Street, legally described as Lot 99 DP 1020247, and 19 Back Saleyards Road, legally described as Lot 1 DP 542283. Both properties are within Molong NSW, 2866. For the purpose of this report, the combined lots that contain the Development Footprint will be referred to as 'The Site'.

The Site or 'Project Area' has a combined size of approximately 371ha.

The Indicative BESS Area and proposed access is located on 1 Deight Street, which is referred to as the BESS site. The proposed TL and existing Molong TS are located at 19 Back Saleyards Road, which is referred to as the Transgrid Substation Site.

The land identified as the Indicative BESS Area and internal access road on the BESS site will be leased from the landowner whereas the proposed overhead TL and associated buffer on the Transgrid Substation Site is proposed as an easement. All these areas, collectively referred to in this report as the Development Footprint, are currently used predominantly for agricultural purposes and also Transgrid purposes with an approximate area of 9.2ha.

The location of the Site is shown in Figure 1 and the site layout shown in Figure 2. The Development Footprint is shown in Figure 3.



Service Layer Credits:
Site Access, Lease Area, Grid Connection received from Client 26/08/2024.
Road, Rail, Cadastre, Watercourse, NSW DPIE 2024.
Earthstar Geographics

0 5 10 km

Coordinate System:	GDA2020 MGA Zone 55
Scale:	1:250,000 at A4
Project Number:	620.041615
Date Drawn:	03-Feb-2025
Drawn by:	NT

LEGEND

- Town/City
- Rail
- Watercourse

Road

- Principal Road
- Local Road

- Indicative BESS Area
- BESS Site
- Transgrid Substation Site
- Development Footprint
- Local Government Area
- NPWS Reserve

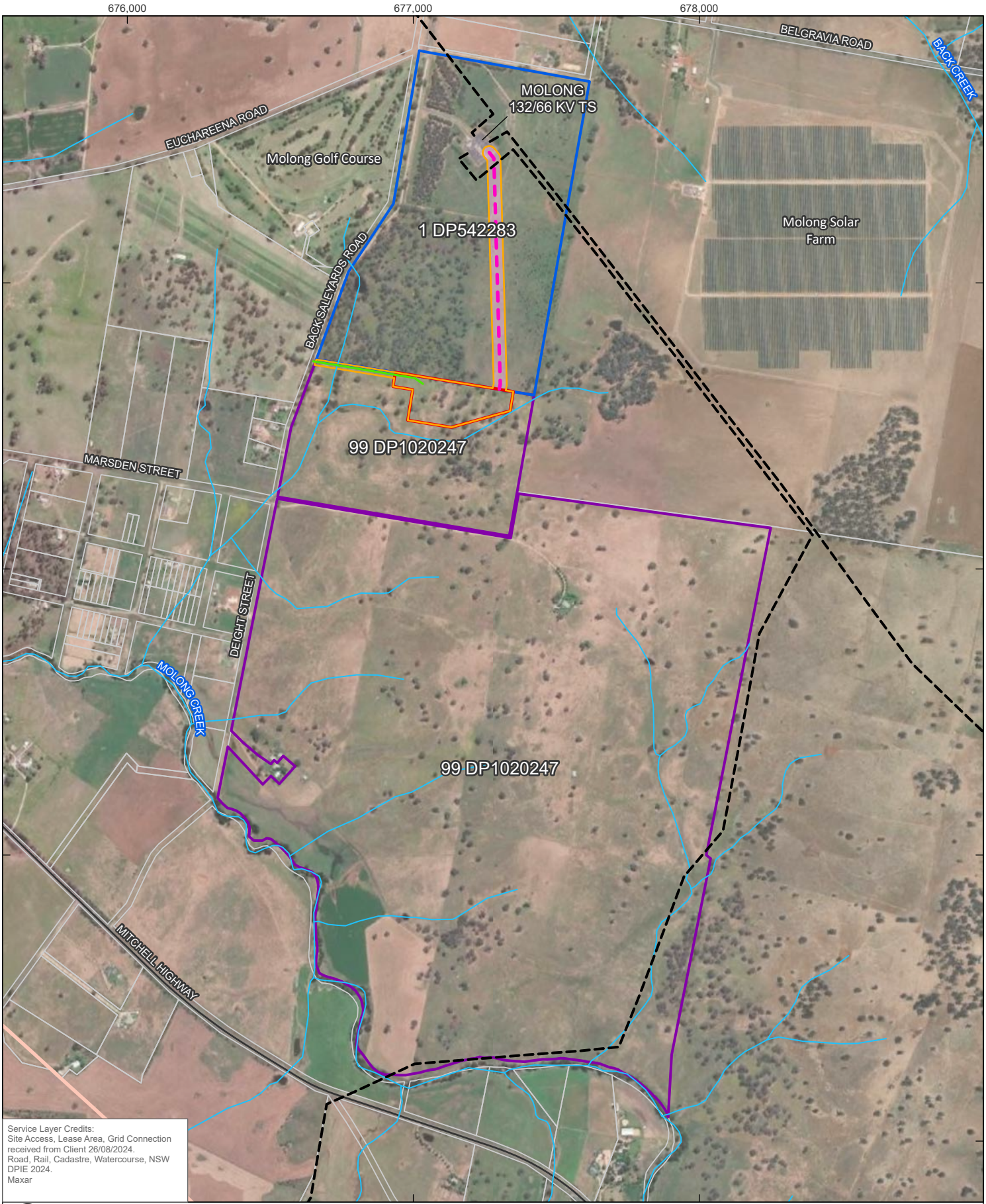
MOLONG BESS

REGIONAL LOCALITY PLAN

SLR

FIGURE 1

Path: H:\Projects-SLR\620-BNE\620-BNE\620.041615.00001 Stor Energy NSW\06 SLR Data\01 GIS\GIS\NSW_Stor.aprx\620041615_SSD_F01 Location Plan



Service Layer Credits:
Site Access, Lease Area, Grid Connection received from Client 26/08/2024.
Road, Rail, Cadastre, Watercourse, NSW DPIE 2024.
Maxar

0 250 500 m

Coordinate System:	GDA2020 MGA Zone 55
Scale:	1:17,500 at A4
Project Number:	620.041615
Date Drawn:	03-Feb-2025
Drawn by:	NT

LEGEND

- Watercourse
- Primary Road

Transgrid Line

- 132kV
- 66kV
- Cadastre
- Proposed Electricity Transmission Line
- Proposed Site Access
- Indicative BESS Area
- BESS Site
- Transgrid Substation Site
- Proposed Easement
- Development Footprint

MOLONG BESS

SITE LAYOUT

SLR

FIGURE 2

Path: H:\Projects-SLR\620-BNE\620-BNE\620.041615.00001 Stor Energy NSW\06 SLR Data\01 GIS\GIS\NSW_Stor.aprx\620041615_SSD_F02_Site Layout

Service Layer Credits:
Site Access, Lease Area, Grid Connection received from Client 26/08/2024.
Road, Rail, Cadastre, Watercourse, NSW DPIE 2024.

0 25 50 m

Coordinate System:	GDA2020 MGA Zone 55
Scale:	1:2,500 at A4
Project Number:	620.041615
Date Drawn:	03-Feb-2025
Drawn by:	NT

LEGEND

- Watercourse
- Proposed Electricity Transmission Line
- Proposed Site Access
- Indicative BESS Layout
- Indicative Substation Area
- Indicative BESS Area
- BESS Site
- Transgrid Substation Site
- Proposed Easement
- Development Footprint

MOLONG BESS

BESS FOOTPRINT

SLR

FIGURE 3

Path: H:\Projects-SLR\620-BNE\620-BNE\620.041615.00001 Stor Energy NSW\06 SLR Data\01 GIS\GIS\NSW_Stor.aprx\620041615_SSD_F03_BESS Footprint

1.3 Project Objectives

Primarily, the purpose of the Project is to support Australia's energy shift and to improve overall grid stability and resilience. This is achieved by storing excess energy from the network during low demand periods (e.g. midday hours due to high rooftop solar energy penetration) and distributing back at peak demand times, in addition to providing ancillary network support services such as frequency regulation.

Lower daytime demand means coal-fired generators need to turn-down and then ramp-up in the early evening to ensure adequate supply. Commercial scale solar farms and wind farms may need to constrain their output during the day due to insufficient system demand and increased power supply from rooftop installations. Meanwhile, peak demand in the evening continues to increase.

By participating in the National Electricity Network (NEM) wide frequency control and ancillary services (FCAS) markets, the Project will assist to stabilise the frequency of the grid at critical times in response to loss of load or loss of generation. The resulting improvement to the stability of grid frequency reduces the risk of system failure and blackouts. It also helps to ensure that the NEM can accommodate an increasing proportion of variable load and generation forecast in years to come. Once constructed, the utility-scale development will store and discharge excess power to the electricity grid, generating an array of economic, environmental, social and network benefits.

By addressing minimum demand and variable generation challenges, the proposed development additionally provides economic, environmental, and social benefits to the immediate and wider community.

1.4 Proponent Details

The proponent StorEnergy 3 Pty Ltd (Stor) is a wholly owned subsidiary of StorEnergy Pty Ltd (Stor-Energy). Stor-Energy is an Australian established leading and specialist developer, owner and operator of large-scale BESS across Australia's NEM. Stor-Energy is majority owned and controlled by HMC Capital, a leading ASX-listed diversified alternative asset manager, specialising in high conviction and scalable real asset strategies.

Stor-Energy's purpose is to contribute to the stabilisation of wholesale electricity market pricing through the provision of energy arbitrage and network support services via rapidly dispatchable energy storage technologies. Stor-Energy's portfolio includes BESS projects in Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia.

1.5 Document Purpose

The *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act) and *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021* (EP&A Regulation) form the statutory framework for the environmental impact assessment and planning approval of development in NSW. Both the EP&A Act and the EP&A Regulation are administered by the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI).

The Estimated Development Cost (EDC) of the Project is estimated to be $230 million. Therefore, the Project is classified as State Significant Development (SSD) in accordance with Schedule 1, Clause 20 'Electricity generating works and heat or co-generation' of the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Planning Systems) 2021* (Planning Systems SEPP). A detailed EDC report will be prepared as part of the SSD application.

This Scoping Report has been prepared to address the SSD requirements of the Project by SLR, on behalf of the Proponent. The purpose of this Scoping Report is to request and inform the content of the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) issued by DPHI as delegate to the Minster for Planning, for the Project's Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

This Scoping Report has been prepared in accordance with the *State Significant Development Guidelines – Preparing a Scoping Report* (DPIE, 2022).

2.0 Strategic Context

2.1 Strategic Need for the Project

The strategic policy context at the national, state, and local level underpins the Project's need, and includes plans, policies, key strategic directions, and frameworks. This section outlines the relevant context and framework that applies to the Project.

2.1.1 National Context

A number of National policies outline the Government's commitment to reducing carbon emissions and addressing the need for future energy reliability and stability.

2.1.1.1 Powering Australia

The Australian Government's Powering Australia plan prepared by Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) and established under the Australian Labour Party (ALP) is focused on creating jobs, cutting power bills and reducing emissions by boosting renewable energy. It seeks to capitalise on Australia's abundant natural resources to drive growth, new industries and become a renewable energy superpower. This includes commitments to expand and modernise Australia's electricity grids at low cost.

2.1.1.2 AEMO Integrated System Plan

The Australia Energy Market Operators Integrated System Plan (AEMO, 2024) is a whole-of-system plan that provides an integrated roadmap for the transition of Australia's NEM to meet future energy needs to achieve the bipartisan goal of becoming a net zero economy by 2050.The shift to renewables is well underway, with renewables accounting for almost 40% of the total electricity delivered through the NEM in 2023.

2.1.1.3 Australia's Long Term Emissions Reduction Plan

Australia's whole-of-economy Long-Term Emissions Reduction Plan (DCCEEW, 2022) seeks to achieve net zero emissions by 2050, through practical and responsible actions that will take advantage of new economic opportunities while continuing to serve traditional markets. This plan was established by the Liberal-National Coalition government (L/NP) in 2021. The Plan focuses on technology that will help Australia cut emissions while creating jobs and growing our economy.

2.1.2 State Context

2.1.2.1 NSW Transmission Infrastructure Strategy

The NSW Transmission Infrastructure Strategy (NSW Government, 2018) aims to increase the State's energy capacity by prioritising priority energy zones and boosting investments in the Central West, South West, and New England regions of NSW to deliver affordable and reliable energy and increase transmission capacity. This strategy was established under the L/NP in 2018.

2.1.2.2 NSW Electricity Strategy

The NSW Electricity Strategy (Department of Planning, Industry & Environment, 2019) is the NSW Government's plan for a reliable, affordable and sustainable electricity future that supports a growing economy. This strategy was established under the L/NP in 2019. The

strategy encourages an estimated $8 billion of new private investment in NSW's electricity system over the next decade, including $5.6 billion in regional NSW. It will also support an estimated 1,200 jobs, mostly in regional NSW. The strategy closely aligns with the NSW Government's Net Zero Plan Stage 1: 2020–2030.

2.1.2.3 Electricity Infrastructure Road Map

In November 2020, the NSW Government released the Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap, enabled by the Electricity Infrastructure Investment Act 2020 (NSW). The Roadmap builds on the foundations of the Electricity Strategy and is expected to attract up to $32 billion of private investment in regional energy infrastructure by 2030 and support over 9,000 jobs, mostly in regional NSW. This Road Map was established under the L/NP in 2020.

The Roadmap is the State's 20 year plan to transform the electricity system into one that is cheap, clean and reliable. It seeks to lay the foundations for future generations to enjoy more secure, reliable and affordable electricity. The Roadmap specifically identifies support for the private sector to deliver long duration storage energy solutions and acknowledges the importance of new storage in firming the network to better respond to electricity needs and improve reliability of the grid.

2.1.2.4 NSW Climate Change Policy Framework

The NSW Climate Change Policy Framework (State of NSW and Office of Environment and Heritage, 2016) aims to maximise the economic, social, and environmental wellbeing of the State in the context of a changing climate and given the current and emerging international and national policy settings and actions created to address climate change. This framework was established under the L/NP in 2016.

The long-term objectives of the Climate Change Policy Framework are to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050 and make NSW more resilient to a changing climate. The framework establishes that energy storage plays a significant role in managing grid stability while managing the transition from aging generation resources.

2.1.2.5 Net Zero Plan Stage 1: 2020-2030

The Net Zero Plan Stage 1: 2020-2030 (Department of Planning, Industry & Environment, 2020) established under the then L/NP government sets out how the NSW Government will deliver the ultimate goal of net zero emissions by 2050. This Plan recognises that, in parts of our economy, low emissions technologies are becoming a commercially viable alternative to the traditional ways of doing things. Ultimately, the plan seeks to reduce emissions by 35% (compared to 2005 emission rates) by 2030 and increase grid stability, both of which necessitate the use of BESS.

2.1.3 Regional Context

2.1.3.1 Central West and Orana Regional Plan 2041

The Central West and Orana Regional Plan 2041 (Regional Plan) establishes a strategic framework, vision and direction for land use, addressing future needs for housing, jobs, infrastructure, a healthy environment, access to green spaces and connected communities in the Central West and Orana Region.

This Regional Plan considers a 20-year timeframe with a focus on the next 5 years. It is prepared under section 3.3 of the EP&A Act and applies to the local government areas (LGAs) of Bathurst, Blayney, Bogan, Cabonne, Coonamble, Cowra, Dubbo, Forbes,

Gilgandra, Lachlan, Lithgow, Mid-Western, Narromine, Oberon, Orange, Parkes, Warren, Warrumbungle and Weddin.

Objective 2 of the Regional Plan to support the State's transition to Net Zero by 2050, requiring greater renewable electricity generation, transmission and storage.

Within 15 years, 75% of the state's coal powered electricity generation is expected to reach the end of its technical life. Replacing these energy sources and building the infrastructure needed to connect and store new energy sources is essential to ongoing energy security.

The region offers potential for renewable energy industries with vast open spaces and higher altitude tablelands suitable for wind power generation, large-scale solar energy, bioenergy generation and pumped hydro. There is already $6 billion in planned energy projects in the Central West and Orana region over the next five years.

Strategy 2.1 is to prepare for the transition to net zero emissions, strategic and statutory planning. This planning is to incorporate appropriate scales of renewable energy infrastructure into existing urban areas, including through urban design and place-making projects.

2.1.4 Local Context

2.1.4.1 Cabonne Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS)

The Cabonne Local Strategic Planning Statement (Cabonne Shire Council, 2020) (LSPS) sets out the 20-year vision for land use planning across the Cabonne Shire, outlining how growth and change will be managed. The LSPS identifies the unique characteristics of Cabonne and sets the economic, social and environmental land use direction over the next 20 years.

The LSPS notes that Cabonne can contribute to the shift to renewable energy by allowing for opportunities for large scale renewable energy developments within suitably located areas by way of a review of planning requirements that will contribute to a state-wide shift away from fossil fuels. The shift to renewable energy projects necessitates the need to explore and improve grid security through, for example, BESS projects.

2.1.4.2 Cabonne Settlement (Land Use) Strategy 2021-2041

The Cabonne Settlement (Land Use) Strategy is a plan that identifies key issues facing the settlements in Cabonne and develops strategies to address those issues and manage the future growth and enhancement of each of the settlements for the next 10-20 years.

In terms of Molong, this strategy identifies various future residential growth areas on the periphery of the Molong Township. The East Large Lot Residential Area (East LLR) is situated east of the Township and extends to Back Saleyards Road, just west of the Site. This area is currently subject to a planning proposal to rezone the land and subdivide the land into predominantly residential development.

The site is not identified in the strategy for future residential development or future investigation of residential lands.

2.1.4.3 Cabonne Renewable Energy Action Plan

The Cabonne Shire Council Renewable Energy Action Plan (CSCREAP) (Constructive Energy Pty Ltd, March 2019) includes a detailed analysis of electricity consumption and generation opportunities for Cabonne Shire Council sites, including a review of factors related to installation and management of renewable energy and supporting infrastructure.

Whilst BESSs themselves are not a renewable product subject to this plan, batteries or BESS have become synonymous with energy storage, which is an increasingly critical part of optimising the economic and environmental benefits of renewable energy generation (e.g. lower operational costs). The enduring problem with intermittent renewable energy generation is reliability of supply, a factor which has been improved dramatically at the time of writing by the improving economics around battery storage. The CSCREAP recommends batteries or BESS should be seriously considered as part of any renewable energy project and at the very least, projects should be made 'battery ready'.

2.1.4.4 Cabonne Community Strategic Plan 2022-2032

The Cabonne Community Strategic Plan (Cabonne Shire Council, 2022) seeks to identify the community's priorities, aspirations and vision for the future and is centred around key strategic themes, being:

- Unified and focused leadership.
- Reliable and responsive infrastructure.
- Connected communities.
- Thriving, sustainable and adaptive economy.
- Improve the natural and built environment.

2.1.4.5 Transgrid: Increasing Capacity for Generation in the Molong and Parkes area

The Regulatory Investment Test for Transmission (RIT-T) has released a series of reports relating to options for alleviating existing congestion issues in the local network and improving the capacity for renewable generation in the Molong and Parkes area.

The existing 132 kV line, known as 'Line 94T', plays a central role in transmitting the electricity from renewable generators in the Molong and Parkes area to the load in Orange. It connects Molong substation to Orange North switching station, which in turn supplies Orange city, Cadia Mine and surrounding areas. Transgrid's investigations have identified significant network congestion in this area and have formalised plans to strengthen the transmission network via line upgrades and have explored the prospect of energy storage (e.g. BESS) as a means of further reducing congestion and achieving broader NEM benefits.

2.2 Site Context

2.2.1 Project Location

The site is located within the Cabonne Shire LGA and is located approximately 2km east of the Molong Township (the local Post Office - Molong LPO has been used as central reference point). The site has a frontage to both Deight Street and Back Saleyards Road on its western boundary. The Transgrid Substation Site also has frontage to Euchareena Road in its northwestern corner but is principally accessed by Back Saleyards Road.

Land immediately surrounding the Site is described in Section 2.2.2 and is shown in Figure 5. Various sensitive receivers have been identified in the surrounding land as identified in Figure 4. These receivers also include the three (3) rural residential sites approved under Development Consent 2000/182 which involved a subdivision of the Site (refer Approved Plan in Appendix C).

The site contains a few minor water bodies (dams) and intermittent creeks. The Site is bound to the south by Molong Creek, and is generally cleared land, with scattered trees throughout the property (refer to Figure 2).

2.2.2 Surrounding Areas

The surrounding area is characterised by a mixture of different land uses including predominantly rural land lots to the east, north and south with recreational and rural residential properties to the west. Refer to Figure 5 which demonstrates land uses surrounding the site.

Recreational activities comprising the Molong Showground and Golf Course are located west of the Substation Site. Moving south along the western boundary of the site, this area is zoned R5 Large Lot residential under the Local Environment Plan (LEP) and will therefore likely contain large residential lots generally 4,000m^2 in size in the future. Currently, this land is predominantly rural in nature with a mixture of grazing activities and rural residential dwellings.

The southern boundary of the site is bound by Molong Creek. Beyond Molong Creek is rural grazing land and the Mitchell Highway. West and north of the site is predominantly rural land with grazing and other agricultural activities as well as rural dwellings. The Molong Solar Farm also sits approximately 450m northeast of the site.

The Site sits approximately 2km east of the Molong Township (the local Post Office - Molong LPO has been used as central reference point). The township of Molong has an approximate population of around 2,600 people (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2021). The town features one main 'strip' of retail and commercial activities that also extend into adjoining streets. Existing facilities and services in Molong include:

- IGA Supermarket;
- Cafes and take-away restaurants;
- Service station and Mechanic;
- Hardware store;
- Post office;
- Church;
- Schools and Daycare;
- Medical Centre and pharmacy;
- Police station and fire station;
- Rural Fire Service (RFS) and NSW State Emergency Services (SES);
- Other small-scale retail;
- Visitor accommodation; and
- Recreational activities such as public pools and parks.

It is anticipated that Molong would be the key service centre of the BESS construction work force, as well as Orange, Manildra and other smaller surrounding towns.

2.2.3 Roads and Access

The site is located east of the Molong Township and has frontage to both Back Saleyards Road and Deight Street. Back Saleyards Road connects to Euchareena Road in the

northwestern corner of the Transgrid Substation Site which directs traffic to the Molong Township to the west and the township of Euchareena to the northeast. Deight Street is a no through road, bound by Molong Creek to the South

Both Back Saleyards Road and Deight Street connect to Marsden Street, which connects off Mitchell Highway to the west.

The visual quality of the landscape surrounding these access corridors are defined by a gently slopping, undulating terrain. The road verges are generally vegetated with glimpses toward the surrounding landscape.

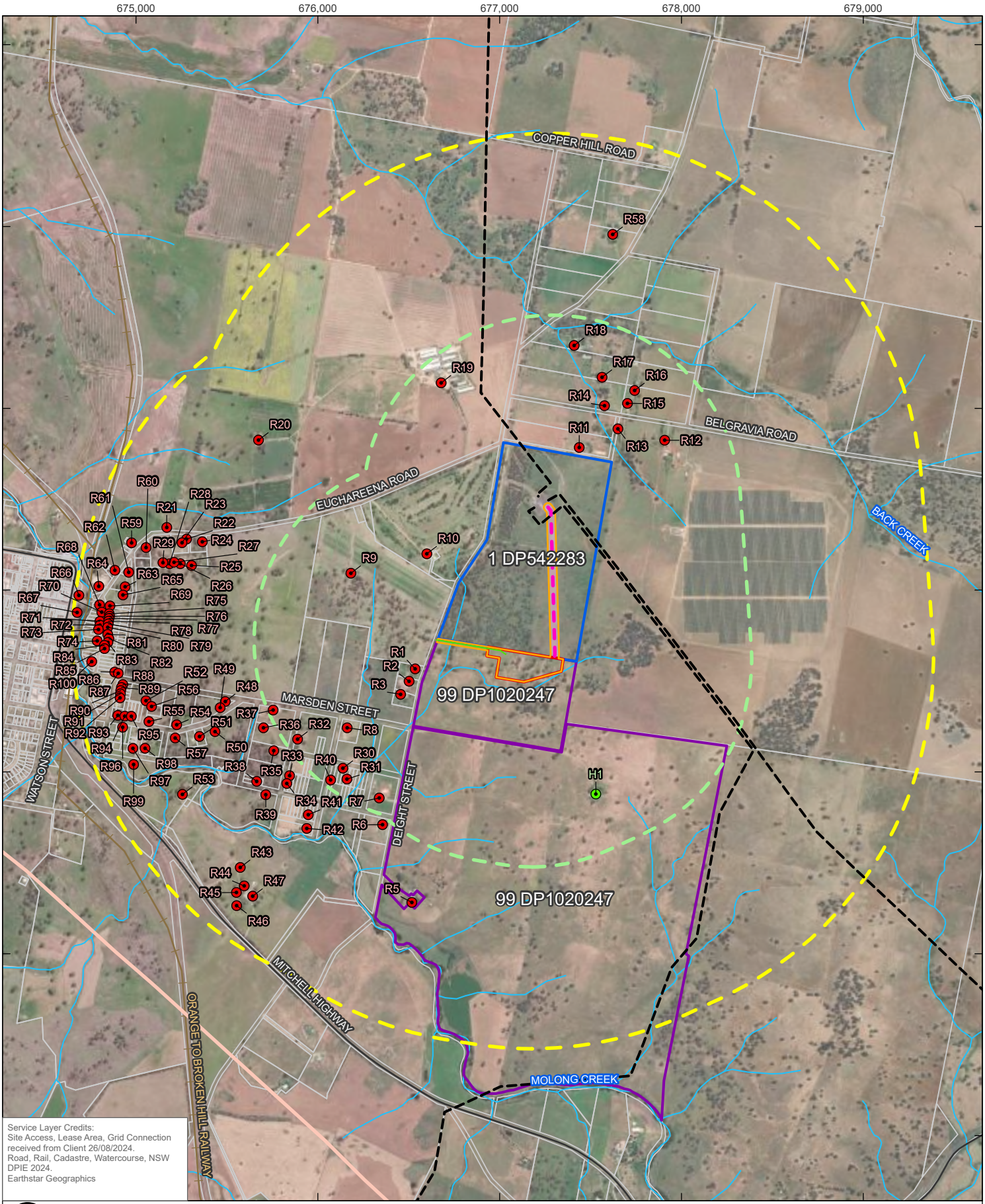
2.2.4 Sensitive Receptors

The sensitive receivers, which comprise existing land uses to be assessed as part of the EIS, within a 2 km radius of the site are identified in Figure 4. A total of 100 sensitive receivers have been identified and will be considered in the future EIS.

As part of the future EIS, noise sensitive receivers as defined in the NSW Noise Policy for Industry (NPfI) will be identified and assessed. Table 2 shows the closest receptors (within 1 km) of the Development Footprint.

Table 2: Closest Sensitive Receptors (1km)

Receptor ID (Figure 5)	Address	Approximate Distance to Development Footprint
R1	134 Back Saleyards Road, Molong NSW 2866	620m
R2	148 Back Saleyards Road, Molong NSW 2866	670m
R3	150 Back Saleyards Road, Molong NSW 2866	710m
R5	81 Deight Street, Molong NSW 2866	860m
R7	Lot 17 DP756883 Buckland Street, Molong NSW 2866	900m
R9	168 Euchareena Road, Molong NSW 2866	600m
R10	184 Euchareena Road, Molong NSW 2866	450m
R11	286 Euchareena Road, Molong NSW 2866	320m
R12	2340 Belgravia Road, Molong NSW 2866	690m
R13	2342 Belgravia Road, Molong NSW 2866	520m
R14	2342 Belgravia Road, Molong NSW 2866	600m
R15	2342 Belgravia Road, Molong NSW 2866	680m
R16	2342 Belgravia Road, Molong NSW 2866	770m
R17	Lot 85 DP756875 Euchareena Road, Molong NSW 2866	610m
R18	332 Euchareena Road, Molong NSW 2866	740m
R19	137 Euchareena Road, Molong NSW 2866	830m
R30	25 Copper Street, Molong NSW 2866	900m
R31	25 Copper Street, Molong NSW 2866	920m
R32	11 Silver Street, Molong NSW 2866	940m
R37	116 Marsden Street, Molong NSW 2866	1km
R40	1 Copper Street, Molong NSW 2866	1km



Service Layer Credits:
Site Access, Lease Area, Grid Connection received from Client 26/08/2024.
Road, Rail, Cadastre, Watercourse, NSW DPIE 2024.
Earthstar Geographics

0 0.5 1 km

Coordinate System:	GDA2020 MGA Zone 55
Scale:	1:27,500 at A4
Project Number:	620.041615
Date Drawn:	03-Feb-2025
Drawn by:	NT

LEGEND

- Host Receiver
- Sensitive Receiver
- 1km BESS Area Buffer
- 2km BESS Area Buffer
- Watercourse
- Rail
- Primary Road

Transgrid Line

- 132kV
- 66kV
- Cadastre
- Proposed Electricity Transmission Line
- Proposed Site Access
- Indicative BESS Area
- BESS Site
- Transgrid Substation Site
- Proposed Easement
- Development Footprint

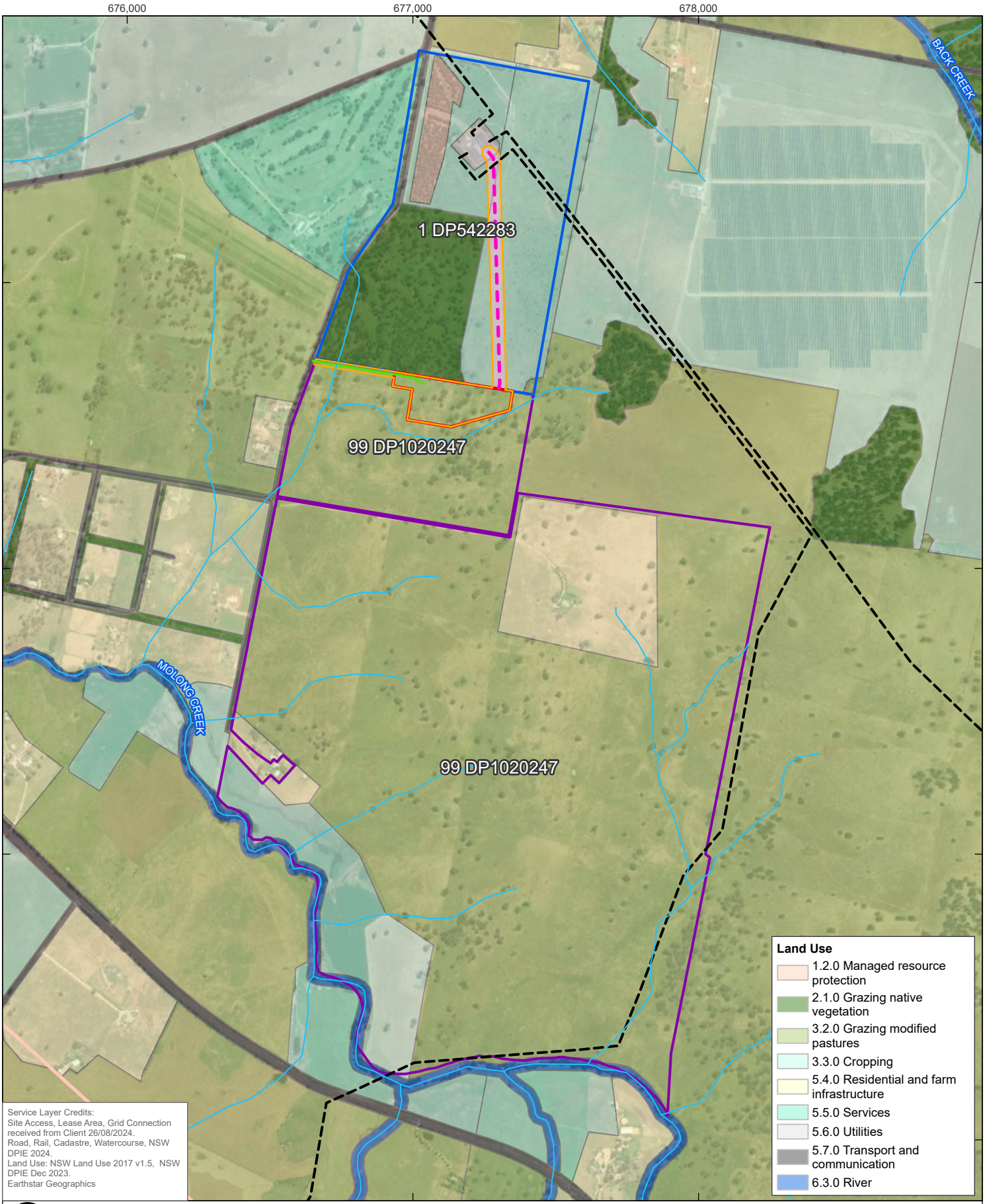
MOLONG BESS

SENSITIVE RECEIVERS PLAN (1KM AND 2KM RADIUS)

SLR

FIGURE 4

Path: H:\Projects-SLR\620-BNE\620-BNE\620.041615.00001 Stor Energy NSW\06 SLR Data\01 GIS\GIS\NSW_Stor.aprx\620041615_SSD_F04_Recievers



Service Layer Credits:
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Road, Rail, Cadastre, Watercourse, NSW DPIE 2024.
Land Use: NSW Land Use 2017 v1.5, NSW DPIE Dec 2023.
Earthstar Geographics

0 250 500 m

Coordinate System:	GDA2020 MGA Zone 55
Scale:	1:17,500 at A4
Project Number:	620.041615
Date Drawn:	03-Feb-2025
Drawn by:	NT

LEGEND

- Watercourse
- **Transgrid Line**
- 132kV
- 66kV
- Proposed Electricity Transmission Line
- Proposed Site Access
- Indicative BESS Area
- BESS Site
- Transgrid Substation Site
- Proposed Easement
- Development Footprint

MOLONG BESS

SURROUNDING LAND USE PLAN

SLR

FIGURE 5

Path: H:\Projects-SLR\620-BNE\620-BNE\620.041615.00001 Stor Energy NSW\06 SLR Data\01 GIS\GIS\NSW_Stor.aprx\620041615_SSD_F05_Surrounding Land Use

2.2.5 Soils

The site contains predominantly Euchrozems soils with Alluvial soils adjacent to Molong Creek near the bottom of the site. Euchrozems soils are red, strongly-structured clay soils with a somewhat lower clay content near the surface.

The site is classified by the NSW DPE eSPADE mapping as having 'moderate limitations' and is rated as Land & Soil Capability Class 3. Class 3 land has agricultural limitations that must be managed to prevent soil and land degradation. However, the limitations can be overcome by a range of widely available and readily implemented land management practices. Refer to Figure 6 for a map detailing the soil classes on the site.

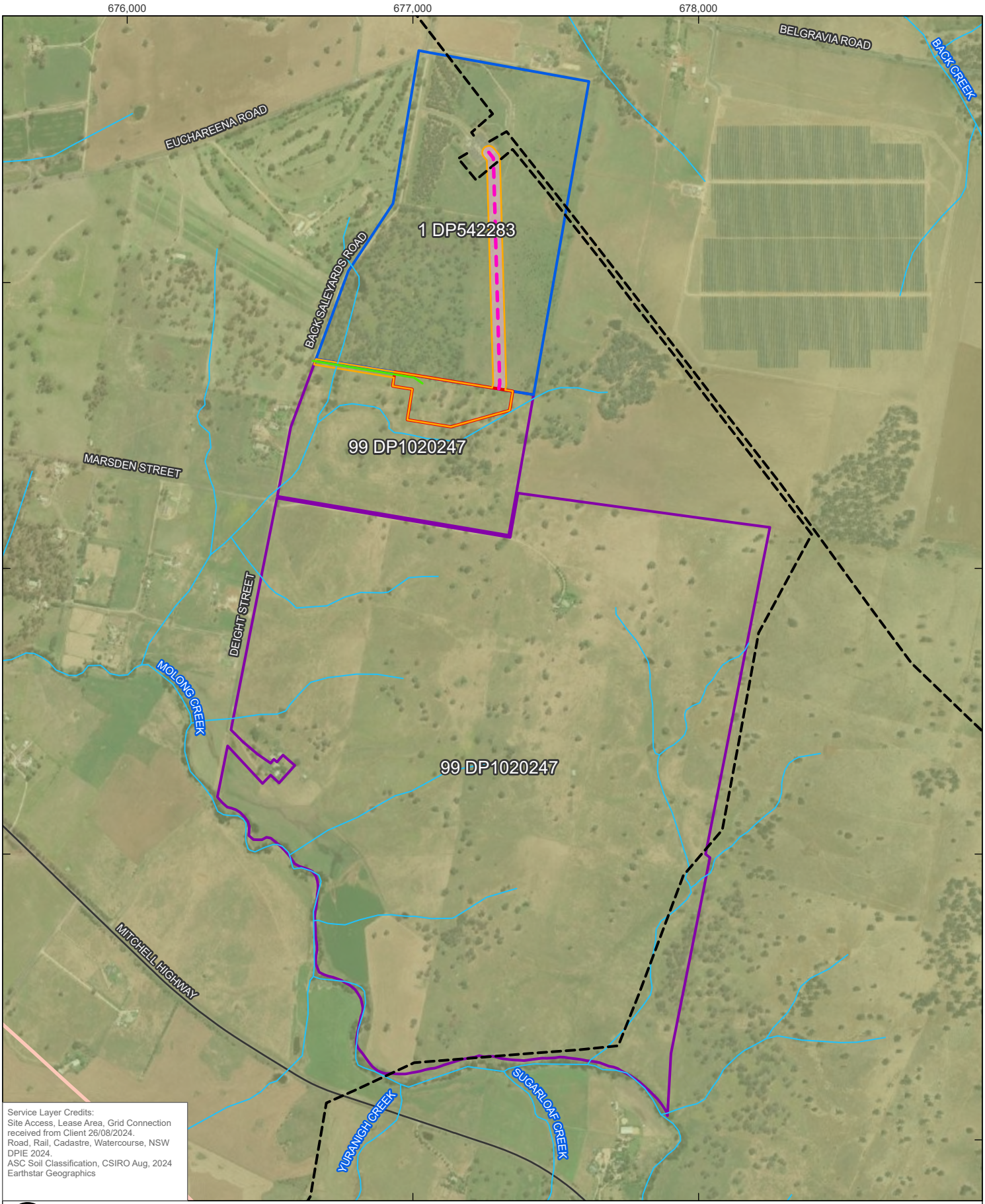
The site is identified as Biophysical Strategic Agricultural Land (BSAL) on the NSW Planning Spatial Viewer as regulated under the State Environmental Planning Policy (Resources and Energy) 2021 (refer to Figure 7).

Contaminated land is not recorded on or in the general vicinity of the site. Two contaminated land sites are recorded in the Cabonne LGA, being BP Cabonne and Former Gasworks which are located in the Molong Township.

The site is not identified as having an acid sulfate soil (ASS) risk according to the available data. Following the issue of the SEARs, it will be determined if geotechnical testing will be required.

2.2.6 Bushfire Hazard

The site is mapped as Category 3 bushfire prone land under the NSW Rural Fire Service's Bushfire Prone Land mapping, refer to Figure 8. A Bushfire Risk Assessment Report (BRAR) will be submitted with the EIS.



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Road, Rail, Cadastre, Watercourse, NSW DPIE 2024.
ASC Soil Classification, CSIRO Aug, 2024
Earthstar Geographics

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Coordinate System:	GDA2020 MGA Zone 55
Scale:	1:17,500 at A4
Project Number:	620.041615
Date Drawn:	03-Feb-2025
Drawn by:	NT

LEGEND

- Watercourse
- Primary Road

Transgrid Line

- 132kV
- 66kV

Land and Soil Capability

- 3 - Moderate limitations

- Proposed Electricity Transmission Line
- Proposed Site Access
- Indicative BESS Area
- BESS Site
- Transgrid Substation Site
- Proposed Easement
- Development Footprint

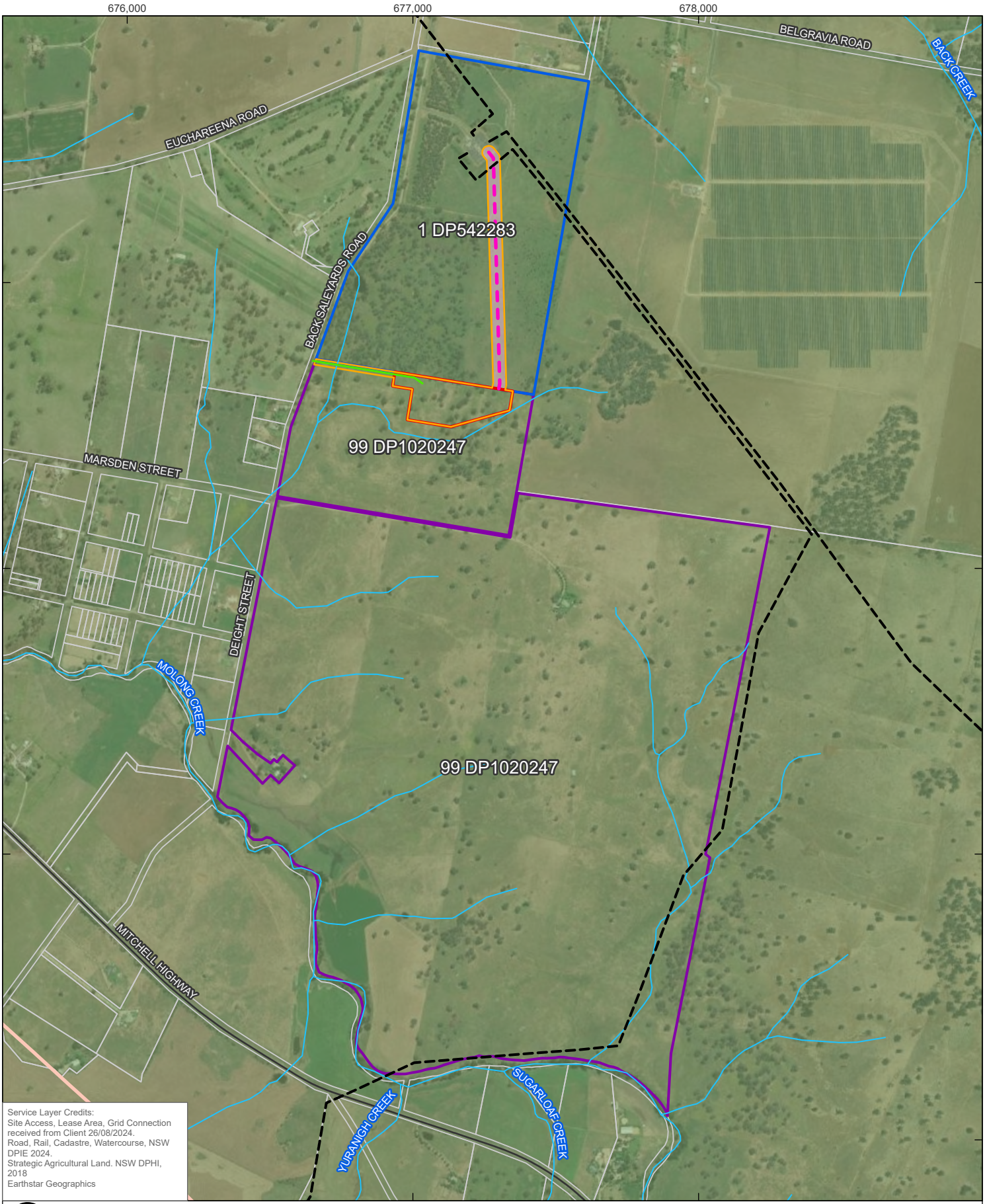
MOLONG BESS

SOIL CLASSIFICATION

SLR

FIGURE 6

Path: H:\Projects-SLR\620-BNE\620-BNE\620.041615.00001 Stor Energy NSW\06 SLR Data\01 GIS\GIS\NSW_Stor.aprx\620041615_SSD_F06_Soil Classification



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Road, Rail, Cadastre, Watercourse, NSW DPIE 2024.
Strategic Agricultural Land. NSW DPHI, 2018
Earthstar Geographics

0 250 500 m

Coordinate System:	GDA2020 MGA Zone 55
Scale:	1:17,500 at A4
Project Number:	620.041615
Date Drawn:	03-Feb-2025
Drawn by:	NT

LEGEND

- Watercourse
- Primary Road

Transgrid Line

- 132kV
- 66kV
- Cadastre
- Biophysical Strategic Agricultural Land
- Proposed Electricity Transmission Line
- Proposed Site Access
- Indicative BESS Area
- BESS Site
- Transgrid Substation Site
- Proposed Easement
- Development Footprint

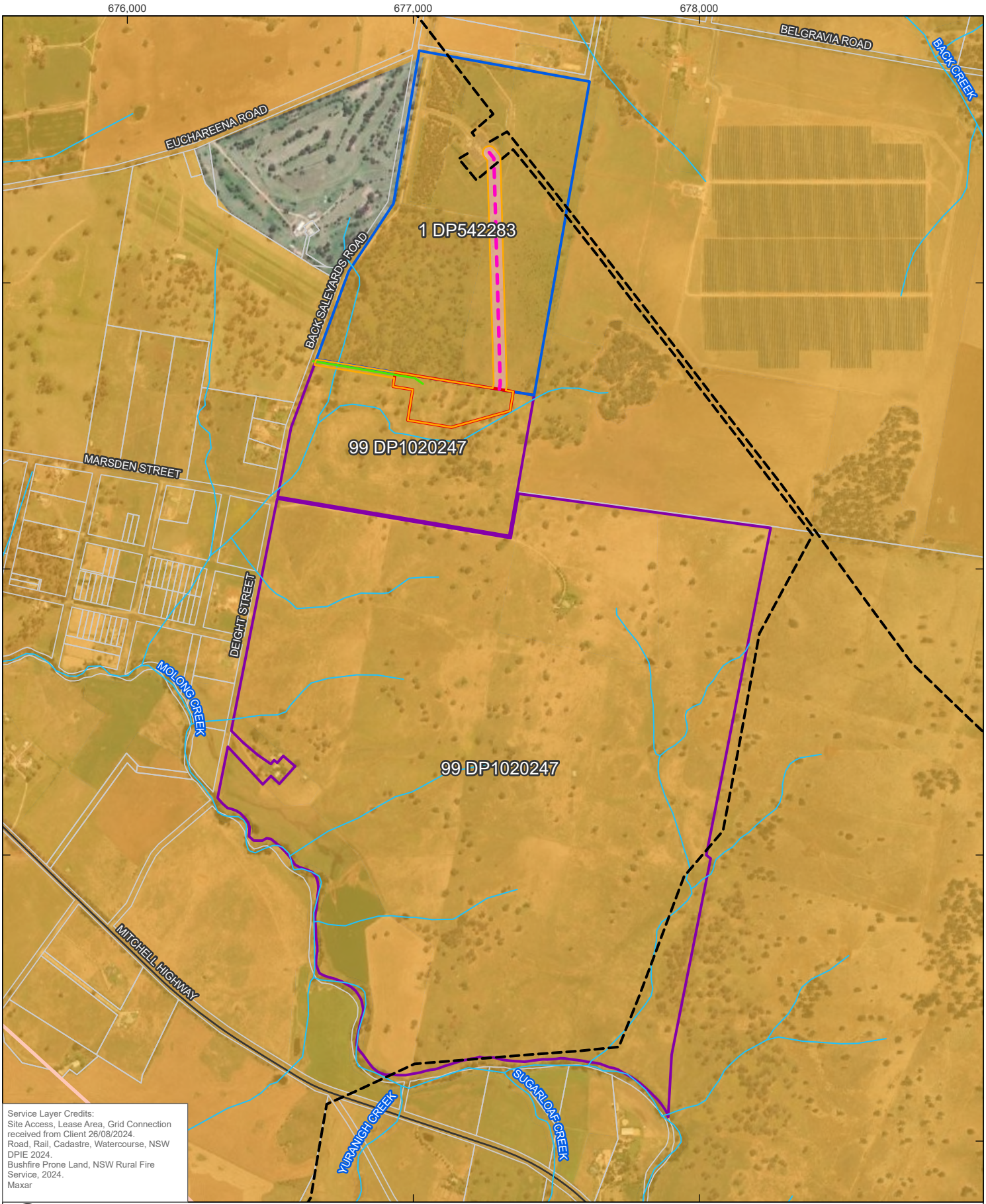
MOLONG BESS

AGRICULTURAL LAND

SLR

FIGURE 7

Path: H:\Projects-SLR\620-BNE\620-BNE\620.041615.00001 Stor Energy NSW\06 SLR Data\01 GIS\GIS\NSW_Stor.aprx\620041615_SSD_F07_Agricultural Land



Service Layer Credits:
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Road, Rail, Cadastre, Watercourse, NSW DPIE 2024.
Bushfire Prone Land, NSW Rural Fire Service, 2024.
Maxar

0 250 500 m

Coordinate System:	GDA2020 MGA Zone 55
Scale:	1:17,500 at A4
Project Number:	620.041615
Date Drawn:	03-Feb-2025
Drawn by:	NT

LEGEND

- Watercourse
- Primary Road

Transgrid Line

- 132kV
- 66kV
- Cadastre

Bushfire Prone Land (Non-EPI)

- Vegetation Class 3
- Proposed Electricity Transmission Line
- Proposed Site Access
- Indicative BESS Area
- BESS Site
- Transgrid Substation Site
- Proposed Easement
- Development Footprint

MOLONG BESS

BUSHFIRE HAZARD

SLR

FIGURE 8

Path: H:\Projects-SLR\620-BNE\620-BNE\620.041615.00001 Stor Energy NSW\06 SLR Data\01 GIS\GIS\NSW_Stor.aprx\620041615_SSD_F08_Bushfire Hazard

2.2.7 Water Bodies and Flood Hazard

The site is located within a gently undulating agricultural landscape with small intermittent watercourses that generally feed into the Molong Creek adjacent to the southern site boundary. There is a small watercourse running in a western direction near the southern extent of the Indicative BESS footprint towards a small pond near Back Saleyards Road.

The site is not mapped as having any flood prone land (refer to Figure 9). Any potential flooding is likely to occur adjacent to Molong Creek near the southern site boundary. Council has prepared a Draft Molong Flood Study for the Molong area, however the site sits immediately east (i.e. outside) of the study area.

Further analysis of the site and potential for flooding will be undertaken during the preparation of the EIS, including the surrounding road network and whether an emergency evacuation plan for the site is needed.

2.2.8 Native Vegetation

The Site contains scattered standalone trees as well as clusters and strips of vegetation throughout. The vegetation located adjacent to the Molong Creek is mapped under the Biodiversity Map (refer Figure 10). The other more densely vegetated areas are mapped under the Terrestrial Biodiversity Map (refer Figure 11) which includes the Indicative BESS footprint. To date, various surveys have been conducted on the site with all identified species and potential impacts to be included and assessed in the Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR) included in the EIS.

2.2.9 Aboriginal Heritage

A desktop assessment was conducted using the NSW Government's Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System ('AHIMS') Search Tool on 10 December 2024, measuring approximately 1 km surrounding the site, which is included at Appendix E.

The search results have identified seven (7) Aboriginal sites recorded within 1km of the site. (Refer Figure 12 for locations). Of the sites identified, four (4) are mapped as being located on the site. These sites however are located in the southeastern corner of the site and well separated from the Development Footprint.

2.2.10 Groundwater

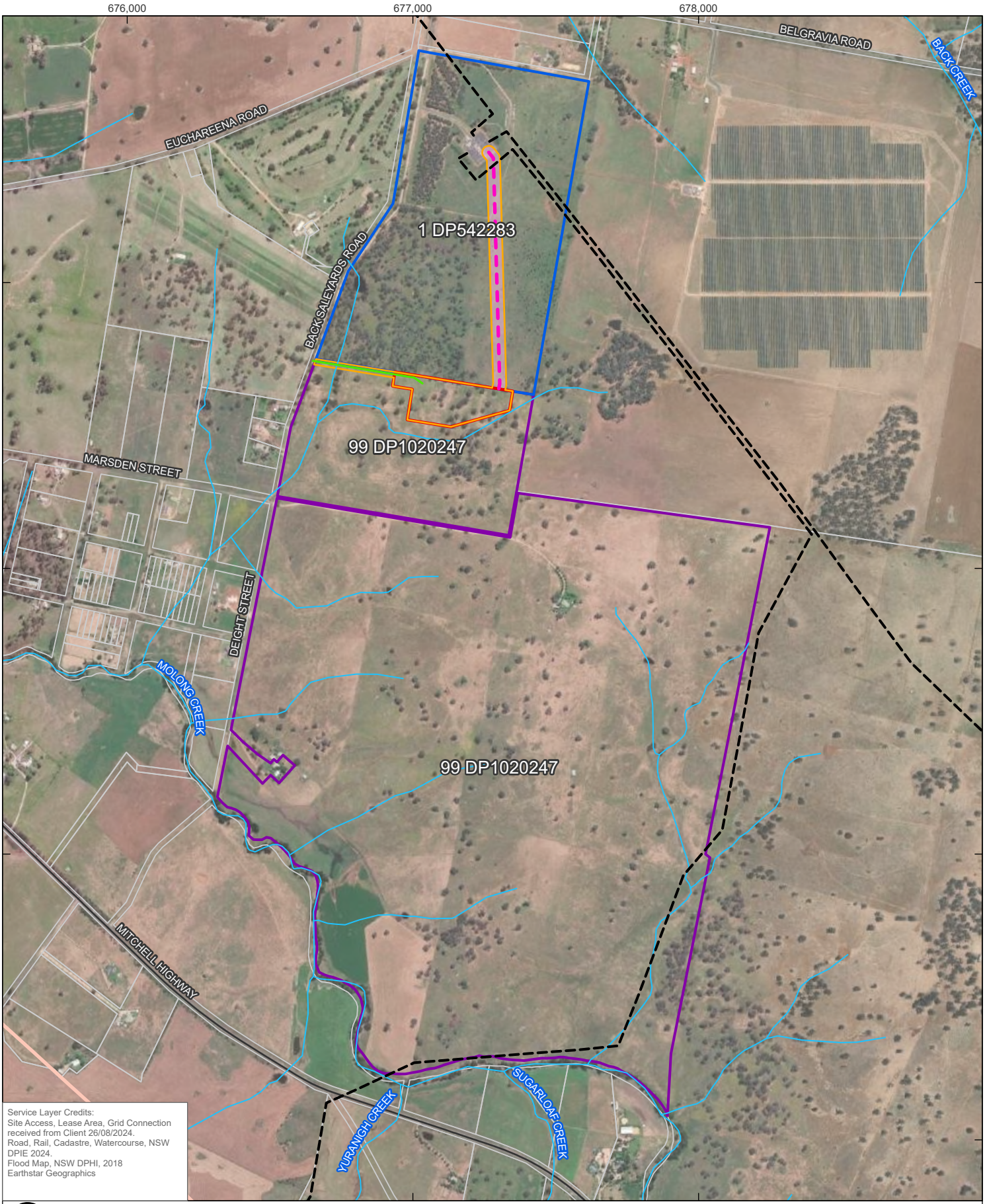
The development footprint is in a portion of the site that is subject to the Groundwater Vulnerability Map in the LEP (refer to Figure 13). The likelihood of any potential groundwater contamination and associated adverse impacts on groundwater dependent ecosystems will be considered as part of the EIS.

2.2.11 Mine Subsidence

The site is not located within a mine subsidence district.

2.2.12 Voluntary Planning Agreements

Stor-Energy has not yet entered into any agreements with other parties, including planning agreements, landowners and benefit sharing schemes. Early consultation with Council has included discussions on entering into a Voluntary Planning Agreement. Further discussion on planning agreements and benefit sharing schemes will be undertaken during the EIS preparation phase.



Service Layer Credits:
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Road, Rail, Cadastre, Watercourse, NSW DPIE 2024.
Flood Map, NSW DPHI, 2018
Earthstar Geographics

0 250 500 m

Coordinate System:	GDA2020 MGA Zone 55
Scale:	1:17,500 at A4
Project Number:	620.041615
Date Drawn:	03-Feb-2025
Drawn by:	NT

LEGEND

- Watercourse
- Primary Road

Transgrid Line

- 132kV
- 66kV
- Cadastre
- Proposed Electricity Transmission Line
- Proposed Site Access
- Indicative BESS Area
- BESS Site
- Transgrid Substation Site
- Proposed Easement
- Development Footprint

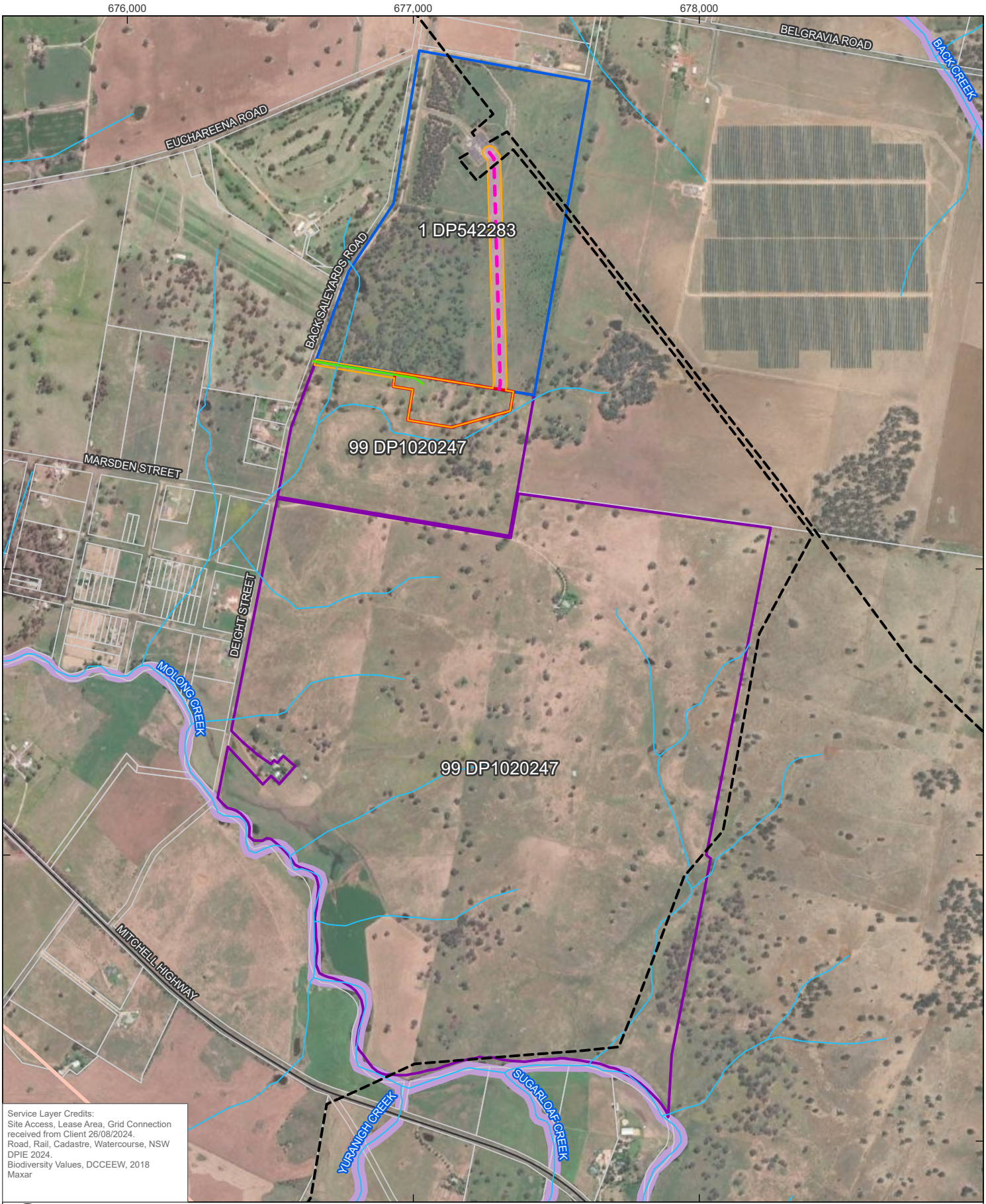
MOLONG BESS

FLOOD AND WATERCOURSES

SLR

FIGURE 9

Path: H:\Projects-SLR\620-BNE\620-BNE\620.041615.00001 Stor Energy NSW\06 SLR Data\01 GIS\GIS\NSW_Stor.aprx\620041615_SSD_F09_Watercourses



Service Layer Credits:
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Road, Rail, Cadastre, Watercourse, NSW DPIE 2024.
Biodiversity Values, DCCEEW, 2018
Maxar

0 250 500 m

Coordinate System:	GDA2020 MGA Zone 55
Scale:	1:17,500 at A4
Project Number:	620.041615
Date Drawn:	03-Feb-2025
Drawn by:	NT

LEGEND

- Watercourse
- Primary Road

Transgrid Line

- 132kV
- 66kV
- Cadastre
- Biodiversity Values - Biodiverse Riparian Zone
- Proposed Electricity Transmission Line
- Proposed Site Access
- Indicative BESS Area
- BESS Site
- Transgrid Substation Site
- Proposed Easement
- Development Footprint

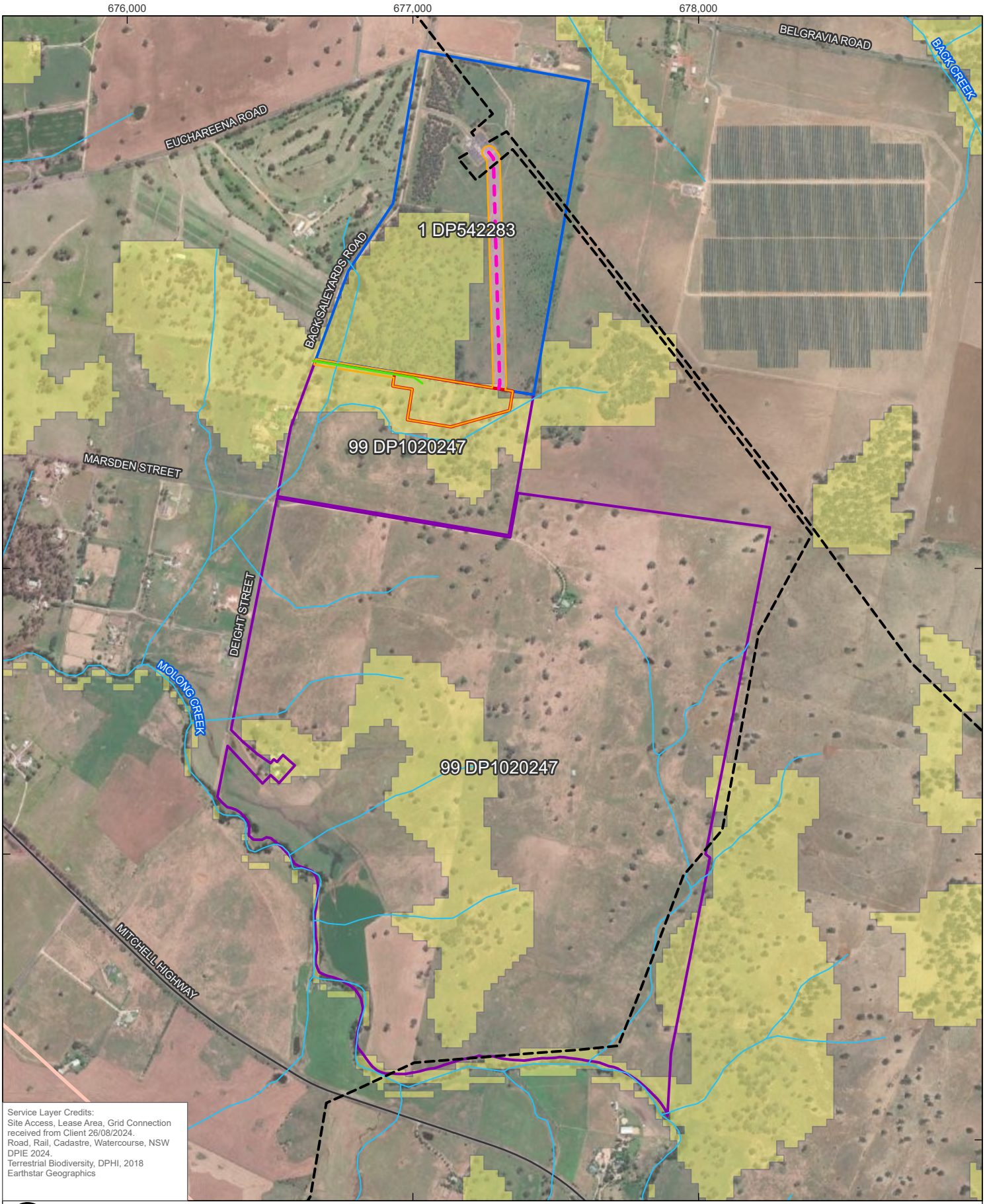
MOLONG BESS

BIODIVERSITY

SLR

FIGURE 10

Path: H:\Projects-SLR\620-BNE\620-BNE\620.041615.00001 Stor Energy NSW\06 SLR Data\01 GIS\GIS\NSW_Stor.aprx\620041615_SSD_F10 Biodiversity Map



Service Layer Credits:
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Road, Rail, Cadastre, Watercourse, NSW DPIE 2024.
Terrestrial Biodiversity, DPHI, 2018
Earthstar Geographics

0 250 500 m

Coordinate System:	GDA2020 MGA Zone 55
Scale:	1:17,500 at A4
Project Number:	620.041615
Date Drawn:	03-Feb-2025
Drawn by:	NT

LEGEND

- Watercourse
- Primary Road

Transgrid Line

- 132kV
- 66kV
- Terrestrial Biodiversity
- Proposed Electricity Transmission Line
- Proposed Site Access
- Indicative BESS Area
- BESS Site
- Transgrid Substation Site
- Proposed Easement
- Development Footprint

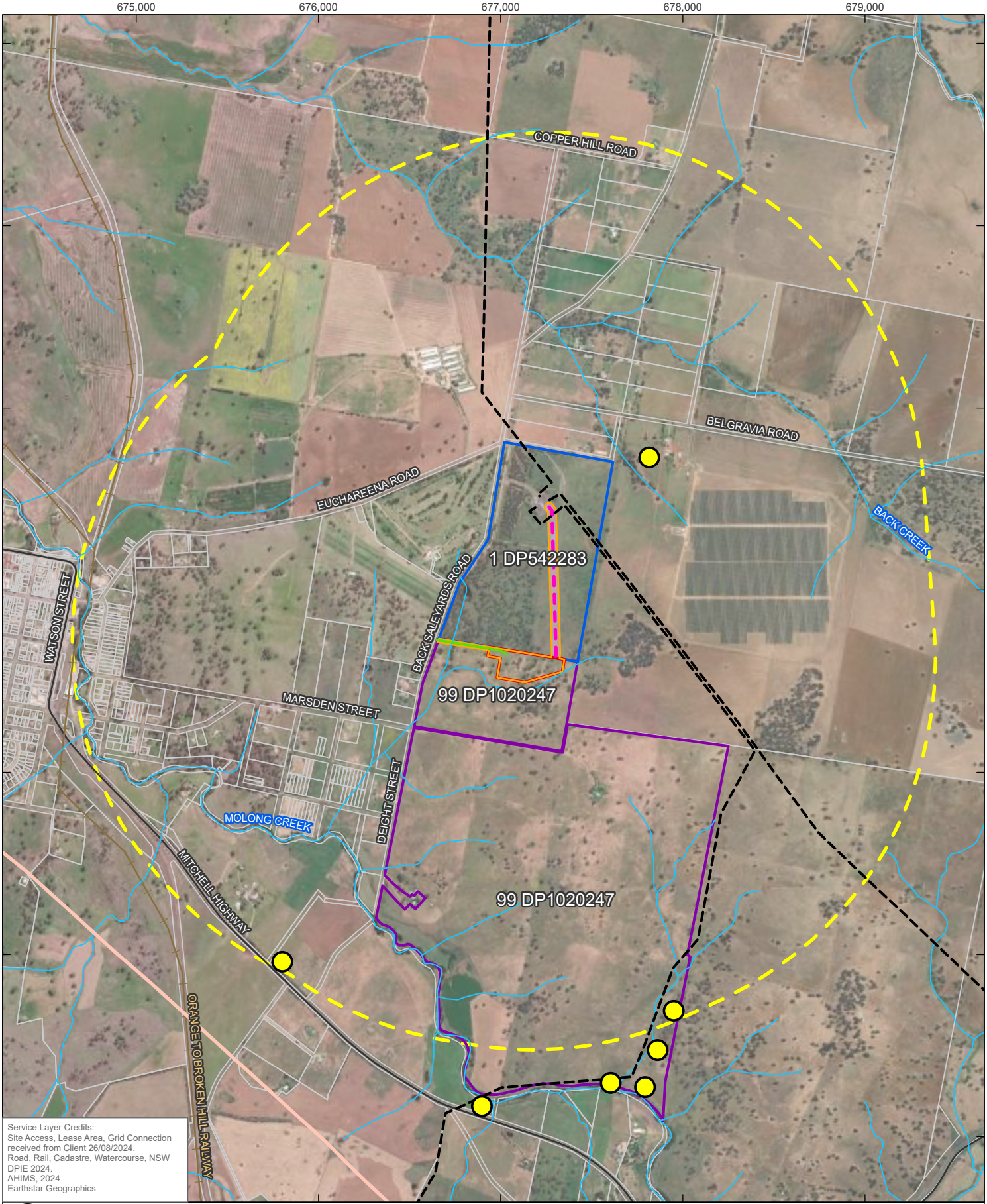
MOLONG BESS

TERRESTRIAL BIODIVERSITY

SLR

FIGURE 11

Path: H:\Projects-SLR\620-BNE\620-BNE\620.041615.00001 Stor Energy NSW\06 SLR Data\01 GIS\GIS\NSW_Stor.aprx\620041615_SSD_F11 Terrestrial Biodiversity



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Road, Rail, Cadastre, Watercourse, NSW DPIE 2024.
AHIMS, 2024
Earthstar Geographics

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Coordinate System:	GDA2020 MGA Zone 55
Scale:	1:27,500 at A4
Project Number:	620.041615
Date Drawn:	03-Feb-2025
Drawn by:	NT

LEGEND

- AHIMS Site
- 2km BESS Area Buffer
- Watercourse
- Primary Road
- Rail

Transgrid Line

- 132kV
- 66kV
- Cadastre
- Proposed Electricity Transmission Line
- Proposed Site Access
- Indicative BESS Area
- BESS Site
- Transgrid Substation Site
- Proposed Easement
- Development Footprint

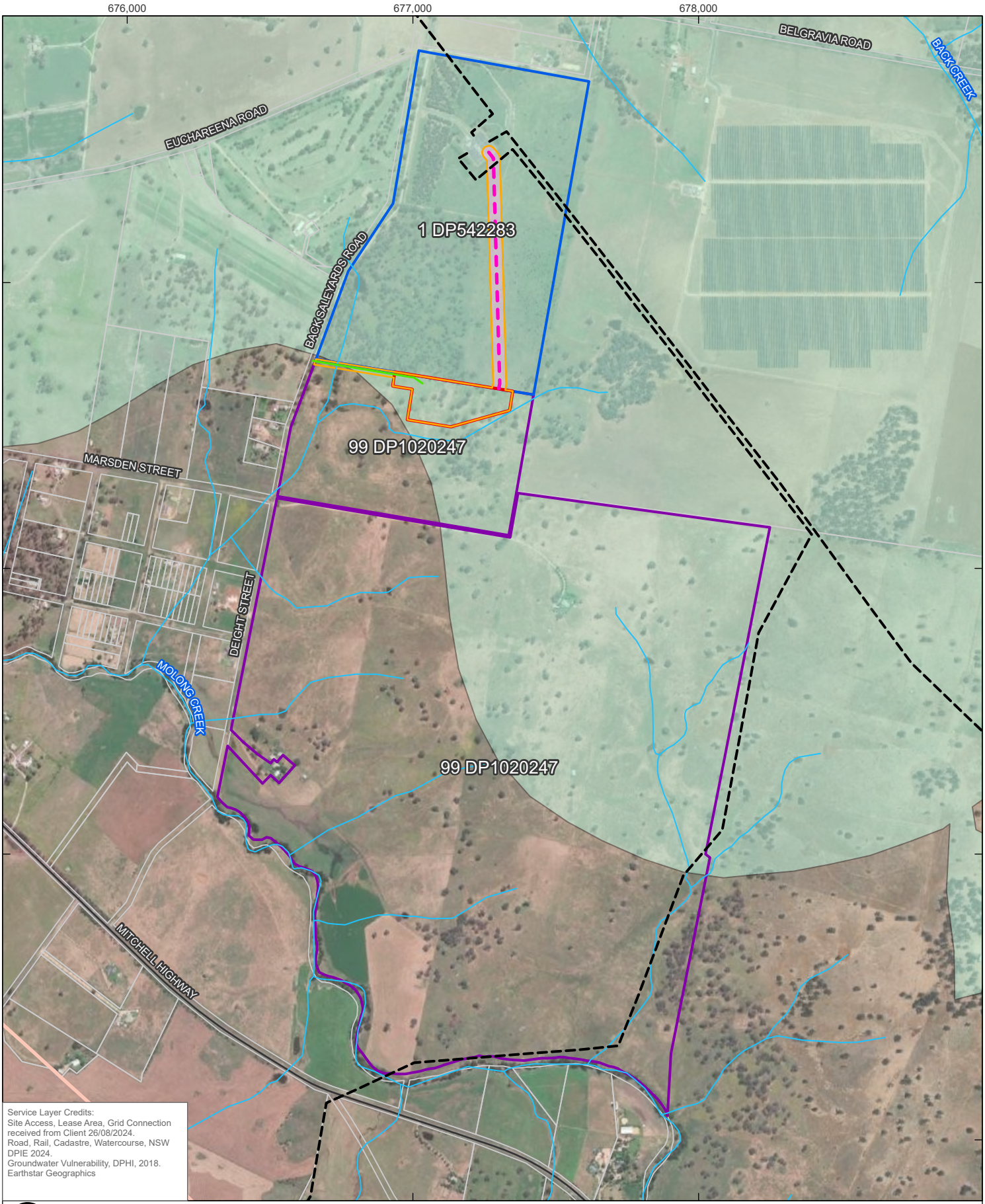
MOLONG BESS

ABORIGINAL ARCHAEOLOGY

SLR

FIGURE 12

Path: H:\Projects-SLR\620-BNE\620-BNE\620.041615.00001 Stor Energy NSW\06 SLR Data\01 GIS\GIS\NSW_Stor.aprx\620041615_SSD_F12_Aboriginal Archaeology



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Road, Rail, Cadastre, Watercourse, NSW DPIE 2024.
Groundwater Vulnerability, DPHI, 2018.
Earthstar Geographics

0 250 500 m

Coordinate System:	GDA2020 MGA Zone 55
Scale:	1:17,500 at A4
Project Number:	620.041615
Date Drawn:	03-Feb-2025
Drawn by:	NT

LEGEND

- Watercourse
- Primary Road

Transgrid Line

- 132kV
- 66kV
- Groundwater Vulnerable
- Proposed Electricity Transmission Line
- Proposed Site Access
- Indicative BESS Area
- BESS Site
- Transgrid Substation Site
- Proposed Easement
- Development Footprint

MOLONG BESS

GROUNDWATER VULNERABILITY

SLR

FIGURE 13

Path: H:\Projects-SLR\620-BNE\620-BNE\620.041615.00001 Stor Energy NSW\06 SLR Data\01 GIS\GIS\NSW_Stor.aprx\620041615_SSD_F13_Groundwater Vulnerability

2.3 Cumulative Impacts

Detailed analysis of the potential for cumulative impacts would be addressed in the EIS, in accordance with Cumulative Impact Assessment Guidelines for State Significant Projects (DPIE, 2022).

Table 3 provides a summary of active projects in the region, most of which are renewable energy projects. These project areas are also shown in Figure 14.

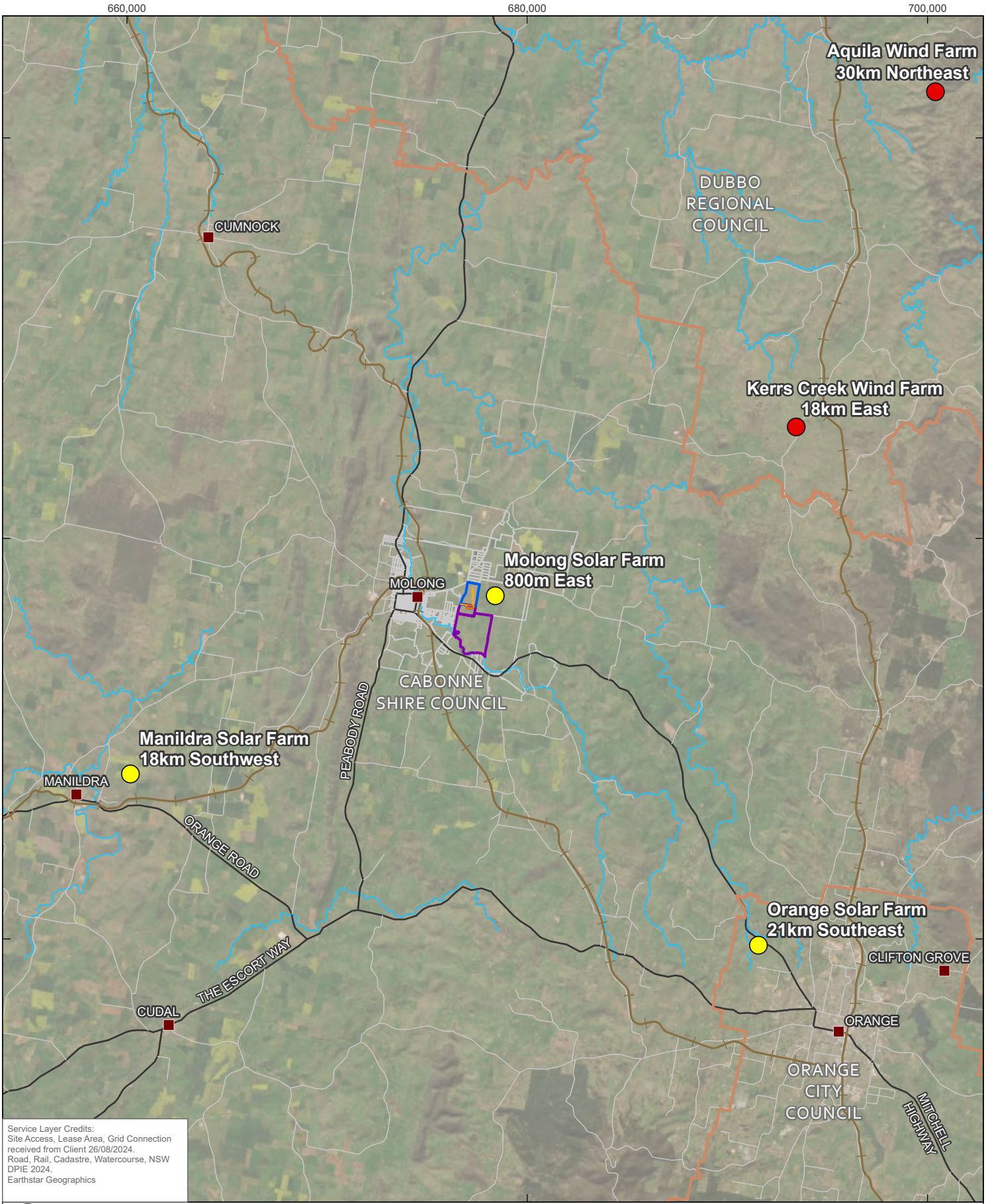
The DPHI tracker does not show any recently approved or lodged applications for renewable energy projects or BESS in the Cabonne Shire or Orange LGAs.

Cabonne Shire Council's Development Application tracker does not show any applications approved or received for solar farms or BESS sites in the last 12 months.

Table 3: Significant Projects in the Cabonne LGA and adjoining LGAs

Project Name	LGA	Project Status	Project Summary	Approximate Distance to Site	Potential overlap between impact of project on assessment matter and impact of other project on the same assessment matter					
					Local agricultural impacts	Socio-economic	Biodiversity	Construction Traffic	Pressure on local facilities, goods and services including staff accommodation	Visual and Landscape Character
Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (SSD)										
Manildra Solar Farm SSD-9550	Cabonne	Operational • Operational overlap • No construction overlap	50 MW solar farm	18km southwest	Loss of agricultural land within LGA	Variety of potential impacts during construction and operational phases				
Kerrs Creek Wind Farm SSD-62199230	Dubbo Regional	Lodged (SEARS received, EIS being prepared) • No information on timing	441 MW wind farm	14km northeast	Loss of agricultural land within adjoining LGA	Variety of potential impacts during construction and operational phases	Loss of biodiversity values within region	Potential traffic impacts on shared road network during construction	Potential stress on facilities and staff accommodation within LGA and adjoining LGA	Visual impacts unlikely due to separation between sites
Aquila Wind Farm SSD-67667971	Dubbo Regional	Lodged (SEARS received, EIS being prepared) • No information on timing	300MW wind farm with BESS	26km northeast	Loss of agricultural land within adjoining LGA	Variety of potential impacts during construction and operational phases	Loss of biodiversity values within region	Potential traffic impacts on shared road network during construction	Potential stress on facilities and staff accommodation within LGA and adjoining LGA	
Joint Regional Planning Panels										
Molong Solar Farm (DA) 2017/155	Cabonne	Operational • Operational overlap • No construction overlap	25MW solar farm	670m east	Loss of agricultural land within LGA	Variety of potential impacts during construction and operational phases				Potential landscape and visual impacts due to proximity to project
Electricity Generation Works (Solar Farm)	Orange	Approved (Understood currently under construction – completion expected Jun-Jul 2025) • Unlikely to have construction overlap • Likely operational overlap	5MW solar farm	22km southeast	Loss of agricultural land within adjoining LGA	Variety of potential impacts during construction and operational phases	Loss of biodiversity values within region			

Key	
Detailed Assessment	The project may result in significant impacts on the matter, including cumulative impacts. Detailed assessment will be undertaken as part of the EIS.
Standard Assessment	The project is unlikely to result in significant impacts on the matter, including cumulative impacts. Standard assessments will be undertaken as part of the EIS.
N/A	No potential overlap in impacts between a future project and the proposed project that would warrant any consideration in the cumulative impact assessment



Service Layer Credits:
Site Access, Lease Area, Grid Connection received from Client 26/08/2024.
Road, Rail, Cadastre, Watercourse, NSW DPIE 2024.
Earthstar Geographics

0 5 10 km

Coordinate System:	GDA2020 MGA Zone 55
Scale:	1:250,000 at A4
Project Number:	620.041615
Date Drawn:	03-Feb-2025
Drawn by:	NT

LEGEND

Renewable Energy Projects
- Wind
- Solar

- Watercourse
- Rail
- Town/City
- Principal Road
- Local Road
- Cadastre
- Local Government Area
- Indicative BESS Area
- BESS Site
- Transgrid Substation Site
- Development Footprint

MOLONG BESS

ACTIVE PROJECTS IN REGION

SLR

FIGURE 14

Path: H:\Projects-SLR\620-BNE\620-BNE\620.041615.00001 Stor Energy NSW\06 SLR Data\01 GIS\GIS\NSW_Stor.aprx\620041615_SSD_F14 Active Projects

3.0 Project Description

3.1 Project Description

The Project will involve the development, construction, operation, and eventual decommissioning of a BESS with a capacity of 150 MW/ 730 MWh connecting via overhead TL directly to the existing Molong 132/66kV TS operated by Transgrid.

The BESS will comprise of battery units, inverters, transformers, a substation and ancillary infrastructure all within the Indicative BESS area. The battery units will be within individual containers (or enclosures), with each container measuring approximately 6 metres (m) or 20 feet (ft) in length with an approximate weight of 43,000 kilograms (kg).

The inverters will convert the electricity stored in the battery units from Direct Current (DC) to Alternating Current (AC), and vice versa, that will be directed through the proposed 132kV overhead lines (approximately 900m in length) to the existing Transgrid Molong Substation.

The BESS site will be accessed by a new driveway and crossover from Back Saleyards Road.

The key aspects of the project are summarised in Table 4 and are particularised in detail below.

3.2 Project Overview

3.2.1 BESS Components

The following specifications are provided for the proposed BESS below in Table 4.

Table 4: BESS Specifications

Specification	Detail
Number of enclosures	Up to 264 battery enclosures (6m container frame) with an estimated 4 MWh to 5MWh per enclosure.
Dimensions	6m container (6,058 mm x 2,438 mm x 2,891 mm each)
Weight	43,000 kg each
Inverters	50 Inverters (4,400 Kilovolt-amps (kVA))
MV Transformers	Up to 50 MV inverter transformers and numerous auxiliary supply transformers
Substation	1x180MVA transformer and associated 132kV and 33 kV switchgear, auxiliary transformers and reactive power plant

3.2.2 Grid Connection

A new overhead TL (132 kV) will be constructed to connect the BESS site's substation, to the existing Transgrid Molong 132/66 kV TS on the Substation Site. The overhead TL will be approximately 900m in length.

The TL route will run north from the eastern extent of the Indicative BESS Footprint, before connecting to the Molong TS (refer to Figure 2 and Appendix B). A 45m wide easement is proposed for the TL.

The TL poles will be up to 24m in height above ground with a minimum ground clearance of 7.5m, located within the proposed 45m wide TL easement. Approximately 8 TL pole structures are proposed to facilitate the route to the Molong TS subject to detailed line design.

3.2.3 Construction

Construction of the Project will require heavy vehicles, plant, and equipment for the transportation of components and installation of the components on the site. The Project is likely to require earth-moving equipment for civil and road works, cable trenching equipment, forklifts, and cranes subject to detailed design to install the BESS and complete ancillary works.

3.2.3.1 Construction Activities

It is anticipated that the construction and commissioning phase will last approximately 22 months. Over that time, the main construction activities will include:

- Transportation of construction personnel, associated heavy and light vehicles, and materials to and from the site on a day-to-day basis, dependent on construction schedule;
- Site establishment works including vegetation clearing within the Development Footprint, bulk earthworks, and a temporary construction compound;
- Road works to formalise internal site access road to accommodate heavy vehicles, including a new driveway crossover;
- Construction of hardstand, gravel all weather access road and sealed BESS internal roads and curbing;'
- Construction of Operations & Maintenance building, control room, switchroom, outdoor switchgear, main transformer, transformer bunds, earth grid, busbar and support structure, overhead gantry structures, auxiliary transformer, harmonic filters, reactive power plant, underground cabling, above ground cable ducting, battery enclosures and power conversion stations consisting of inverters, transformers and switchgear;
- Construction of overhead 132 kV TL to facilitate connection to the existing Transgrid Molong 132/66kV TS immediately adjacent to the BESS site to the north;
- Construction of ancillary works including parking areas, water tank, storage structures, stormwater management infrastructure, security camera, security lighting and fencing;
- Acoustic attenuation measures, to be determined as part of detailed assessment; and
- Removal of temporary construction facilities, and rehabilitation of disturbed areas following completion of construction of the Project.

3.2.3.2 Construction Materials

The following materials will be transported to the site to facilitate construction of the Project and ancillary facilities and infrastructure:

- 264 battery enclosures, within modular containers;
- 50 Power Conversion Stations including inverters, transformers and switchgear;
- Hardstand works materials and equipment;
- Bulk earthworks materials and equipment;
- Concrete foundations;

- Piling;
- Building structures (including temporary structures for construction crew and management);
- Control room, 33kV switchroom and 132 kV Switchgear;
- Auxiliary transformer;
- Harmonic Filters and reactive power plant;
- Busbar and conductor support structures;
- Fence, gates and lighting.;
- Fire Safety System;
- 132 kV concrete or steel poles;
- Overhead bare wire conductors;
- 33 kV, low and high voltage DC AC cabling; and
- 33/132 kV Main Transformer.

3.2.3.3 Construction Hours and Personnel

Construction of the Project is anticipated to take approximately 22 months. During construction, it is anticipated that approximately 70 full time equivalent (FTE) jobs will be required during the peak of site activity. Employment numbers will fluctuate starting with about 23 workers on site for one to two months. During off peak work periods, staff numbers will reduce to around 29 FTE average. Approximately 20 staff are required for commissioning and two FTE onsite staff during ongoing operations.

The workforce will be sourced from the local area where possible, however procurement from the wider region, intrastate and interstate is expected subject to skillset availability.

The following standard construction hours are proposed for the Project:

- Monday to Friday – 7 am to 6 pm.
- Saturday – 8 am to 1 pm.
- Sunday and Public Holidays - No works to be undertaken.

No works are proposed to be undertaken outside of the standard construction hours. In the event this is required, Out of Hours (OOH) approval would be sought, and all works would be undertaken in accordance with the appropriate OOH protocols and approval processes.

3.2.3.4 Construction Traffic

Construction traffic will access the BESS site from a new access driveway and crossover to be constructed from Back Saleyards Road. A detailed route analysis is currently being undertaken to determine the best route to the Site for delivery of the BESS components and construction materials.

Vehicles during construction will generally involve small/light utility vehicles and some small trucks for delivery of electrical and earth work products. Heavy vehicles will be used to deliver larger hardware and plant.

Construction staff who are sourced from outside the local area are expected to reside in local short-term accommodation facilities (e.g. motels) in Molong or Orange during construction.

3.2.3.5 Removal of Vegetation

The proposed Development Footprint will require limited clearing of native vegetation. An easement of 45m either side of the centreline of the final TL route and associated poles will be required.

The extent of vegetation removal is yet to be determined however opportunities to avoid and minimise will be adopted. Further assessment and field works will be undertaken to confirm the extent of clearing required.

3.2.3.6 Ancillary Infrastructure

The following ancillary infrastructure will be undertaken in conjunction with the BESS:

- Earthworks
- Stormwater Management works
- Temporary Construction Facilities
- Landscaping

Fencing and Lighting

The Indicative BESS area will be secured by a chainmesh security fencing and access gates which would remain during operation.

Lighting for the Project will be installed for security as well as critical and emergency works purposes.

Water Use

Water will be required during the construction phase for dust suppression, general construction, and maintenance activities. This water will be brought to the site in water tankers and stored in temporary and permanent onsite water tanks.

Construction water requirements for the Project are anticipated to be sourced from the Council's bulk water supply (if possible). This will be confirmed and further detailed in the EIS.

Wastewater during construction will be captured and appropriately removed from site/disposed in accordance with the Council/water authority requirements. Potable water may be transported to site in bottles for use by the construction workforce. If utilised, toilet facilities will involve waterless toilets (or equivalent) that are emptied off-site.

3.2.4 Operation

3.2.4.1 Operation Activities and Equipment

The operation of the Project would involve, but not be limited, to the following general activities:

- Maintenance and management of equipment, site buildings, and landscaping.
- General administrative activities.
- Receipt of equipment or goods.
- Waste removal from maintenance and administration activities.

Minimal plant and equipment will be required for operation of the facility, primarily for staff access and maintenance vehicles.

3.2.4.2 Operational Hours and Personnel

The Project is proposed to self-operate 24 hours a day 7 days a week with minimal onsite oversite by authorised staff. The facility is otherwise restricted to the public.

Emergency responses and maintenance activities may be required to be undertaken out of hours. During operation, it is anticipated that up to 2 FTE onsite jobs will be required to undertake planned and unplanned maintenance activities.

3.2.4.3 Capacity Replenishment and Augmentation

The facility may be subject to capacity replenishment and/or capacity augmentation events to extend storage durations. Development approval is being sought for a targeted lifetime 4 hour storage duration, with some initial oversizing (refer to the MWh starting capacity provided in Section 3.1). However, subject to the final investment decision, the initially constructed and delivered energy capacity may be smaller, e.g. 2 hour. Consequently, it is anticipated that discrete repower events may be required either as a one-off augmentation event or periodically to replenish capacity degraded battery enclosures.

During capacity replenishment and augmentation events, it is anticipated that heavy vehicles, including OSOM vehicles for battery enclosure deliveries, small/light utility vehicles and cranes will be required.

3.2.5 Decommissioning

The Project is proposed to be decommissioned and the infrastructure removed following the End of Life (EOL) of the BESS, with works required to return the site as close as possible to its original state and use. All decommissioning and restoration activities would be in accordance with permits, approvals and regulatory requirements at the time.

The operational life of the Project will be determined by the evolving nature of the technology, however is anticipated that the lifespan will be approximately 30 years from the commercial operations date (COD).

The standard construction hours and heavy vehicles, plant, and equipment required for the construction of the Project would also apply to the decommissioning phase, albeit on a reduced scale.

3.2.6 Estimated Development Cost

The EDC of the Project is estimated to be $230 million. A detailed EDC report would be prepared as part of the SSD application process.

3.3 Project Alternatives Considered

3.3.1 Alternative Sites

In general terms, BESS facilities require large areas of land located adjacent to, or in close vicinity to, an existing substation facility. These characteristics are generally consistent with rural land. As a consequence, there is a limited number of suitable locations for such proposals. Other site-specific constraints such as topography, existing use(s) and vehicular access can further reduce the viability of potentially suitable alternative sites for BESS facilities.

The Proponent identified a number of criteria during site selection and suitability assessment for the Project, including the following key considerations:

- Appropriate zoning of land to facilitate development consent for a BESS.
- Availability of access to the BESS Site via roads capable of allowing truck access.
- Proximity to the existing Transgrid substation to minimise impacts of easements.
- Selection of a construction location that would avoid and/or minimise impacts to high quality native vegetation and protected fauna.

The Indicative BESS Area has been selected to minimise the TL length, minimising conflicts with the existing transmission network infrastructure, selection of a TS site with existing available switchyard capacity while avoiding watercourses, minimizing bulk earthworks disturbing works and maximising separation to sensitive receptors.

3.3.2 Do Nothing

A 'do-nothing' approach would involve not constructing and operating the BESS at the site. This approach will not support the State and National Government's plans, policies, and strategies identified in Section 2.0 to improve energy affordability, invest in new power sources and grid network infrastructure, and ensure new technologies deliver benefits for customers and work towards Australia's emission reduction targets.

The 'do nothing' option may avoid potential environmental impacts associated with the construction of the Project; however it is considered that the benefits of the Project, ensuring appropriate mitigation and management measures are implemented during construction and decommissioning, would significantly outweigh any potential environmental impacts whilst contributing to ecologically sustainable development (ESD).

4.0 Statutory Context

4.1 Power to Grant Approval

The EP&A Act and the EP&A Regulation form the statutory framework for planning approvals and environmental assessment in NSW. Implementation of the EP&A Act is the responsibility of the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, State government agencies, and local government authorities. The requirement for development consent and various development controls are set out in environmental planning instruments (EPIs), including State Environmental Planning Policies (SEPPs) and local environmental plans (LEPs).

The relevant approval pathway, consent authority, and application requirements are discussed in the following sections.

4.1.1.1 Consent Authority

The EP&A Act dictates that the applicable approval pathway for the proposed development is through the SSD process. The proposed development will require SSD Approval under Part 4 of the EP&A Act 1979, as per Clause 4.36 of the Act, as follows:

> *4.36 Development that is State significant development*
>
> *(1) For the purposes of this Act, State significant development is development that is declared under this section to be State significant development.*
>
> *(2) A State environmental planning policy may declare any development, or any class or description of development, to be State significant development.*
>
> *(3) The Minister may, by a Ministerial planning order, declare specified development on specified land to be State significant development, but only if the Minister has obtained and made publicly available advice from the Independent Planning Commission about the State or regional planning significance of the development.*
>
> *Editorial note—*
>
> *For orders under this subsection, see the Historical notes at the end of this Act.*
>
> *(4) A State environmental planning policy that declares State significant development may extend the provisions of the policy relating to that development to State significant development declared under subsection (3).*

The Project triggers SSD through Schedule 1 of the Planning Systems SEPP.

> *20 Electricity generating works and heat or co-generation*
>
> *Development for the purpose of electricity generating works or heat or their co-generation (using any energy source, including gas, coal, biofuel, distillate, waste, hydro, wave, solar or wind power) that—*
>
> *(a) has a capital investment value of more than $30 million, or*
>
> *(b) has a capital investment value of more than $10 million and is located in an environmentally sensitive area of State significance.*

As the estimated cost of works are over $30 million, the Project is required to be assessed as SSD.

4.1.1.2 Consent Authority

The Minister for Planning and Public Spaces will be the consent authority for the Project in accordance with Section 4.5 of the EP&A Act. However, the Independent Planning Commission (IPC) (pursuant to clause 2.7 of the Planning Systems SEPP) is the consent authority for the following types of SSD:

a) *Development in respect of which the council of the area in which the development is to be carried out has duly made a submission by way of objection under the mandatory requirements for community participation in Schedule 1 to the Act,*

b) *Development in respect of which at least 50 persons (other than a council) have duly made submissions by way of objection under the mandatory requirements for community participation in Schedule 1 to the Act; and*

c) *Development the subject of a development application made by a person who has disclosed a reportable political donation under section 10.4 to the Act in connection with the development application.*

The requirement for the IPC to be the determining authority is to be confirmed following the completion of the EIS public exhibition.

4.1.1.3 State Significant Development Application

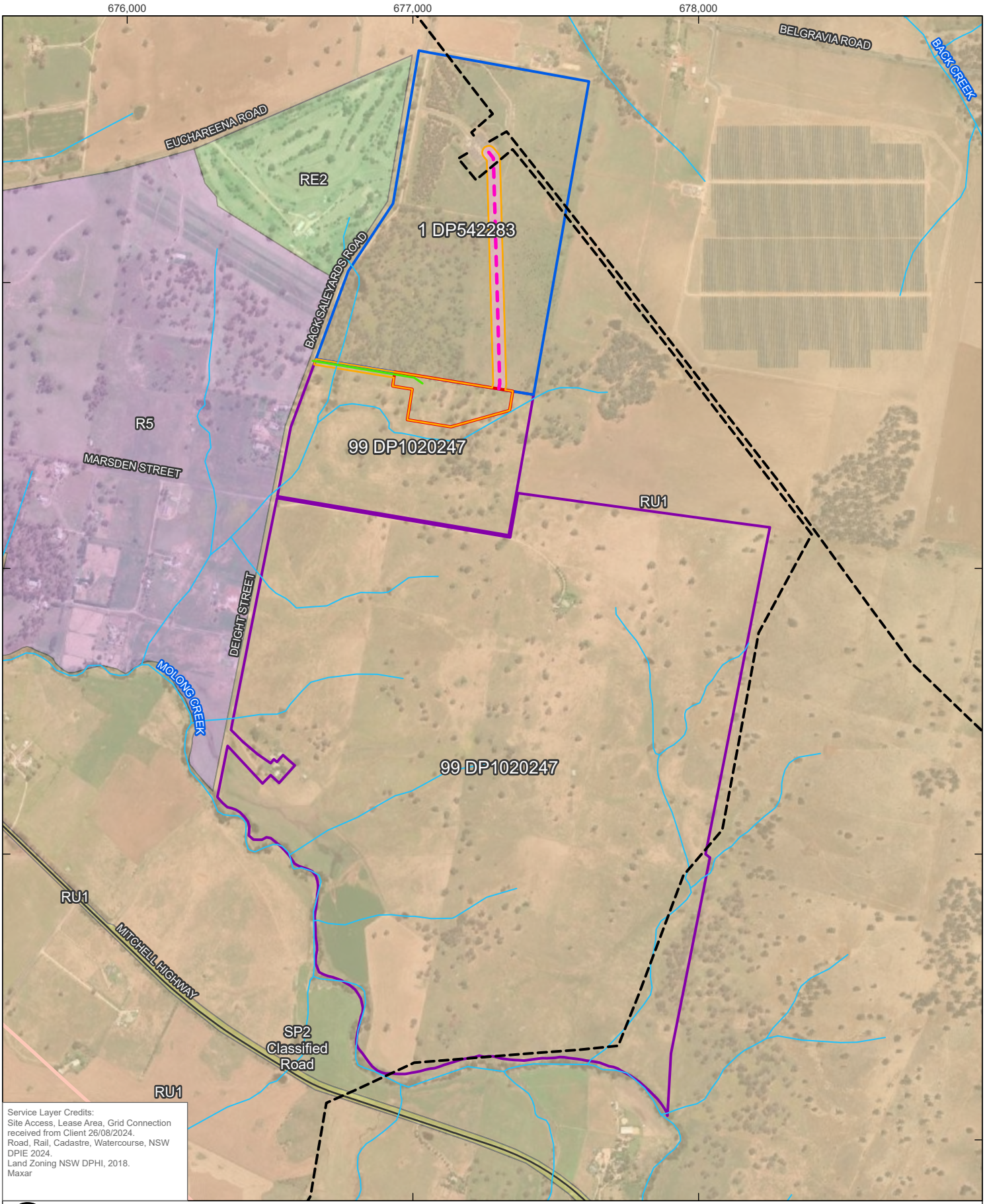
In accordance with Section 4.12 of the EP&A Act, an SSD application must be accompanied by an EIS. The EIS must be prepared in accordance with Schedule 2 of the EP&A Regulation. Schedule 2 of the EP&A Regulation provides the framework by which an application is made to obtain assessment requirements to inform the preparation of an EIS and the requirement for consultation with relevant public authorities. Schedule 2 also provides form and content which must be included within an EIS.

To inform the content of the EIS, a request for SEARs from the Secretary DPHI is required. The SEARS specify the issues that must be addressed in the EIS.

4.2 Permissibility

4.2.1 Cabonne Local Environmental Plan 2012

Pursuant to the *Cabonne Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 2012* the site is zoned RU1 Primary Production, as illustrated on the LEP zoning map extract in Figure 15. *Electricity generating works* are a prohibited use on land zoned RU1. As such, all works associated with the BESS will need to be undertaken under the SEPP Transport and Infrastructure, as outlined in Section 4.2.2 of this report.



Service Layer Credits:
Site Access, Lease Area, Grid Connection received from Client 26/08/2024.
Road, Rail, Cadastre, Watercourse, NSW DPIE 2024.
Land Zoning NSW DPHI, 2018.
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Coordinate System:	GDA2020 MGA Zone 55
Scale:	1:17,500 at A4
Project Number:	620.041615
Date Drawn:	03-Feb-2025
Drawn by:	NT

LEGEND

Land Use Zoning
- R5 - Large Lot Residential
- RE2 - Private Recreational
- RU1 - Primary Production
- SP2 - Classified Road

- Watercourse
- Primary Road

Transgrid Line
- 132kV
- 66kV
- Proposed Electricity Transmission Line
- Proposed Site Access

- Indicative BESS Area
- BESS Site
- Transgrid Substation Site
- Proposed Easement
- Development Footprint

MOLONG BESS

ZONING EXTRACT

SLR

FIGURE 15

Path: H:\Projects-SLR\620-BNE\620-BNE\620.041615.00001 Stor Energy NSW\06 SLR Data\01 GIS\GIS\NSW_Stor.aprx\620041615_SSD_F15 Zoning Extract

4.2.2 State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021

The Transport and Infrastructure SEPP aims to facilitate the effective delivery of infrastructure across the State by providing for the development of electricity generating works on any land in a prescribed rural, industrial or special use zone for which there is consent. Under the Standard Instrument the project falls under the definition of electricity generating works, which includes "a building or place used for the purpose of electricity storage".

Part 2.3 (Development controls), Division 4 (Electricity generation works or solar energy systems), Clause 2.36 of the Transport and Infrastructure SEPP states that:

> *(1) Development for the purpose of electricity generating works may be carried out by any person with consent on the following land—*
>
> *(a) in the case of electricity generating works comprising a building or place used for the purpose of making or generating electricity using waves, tides or aquatic thermal as the relevant fuel source—on any land,*
>
> *(b) in any other case—any land in a prescribed non-residential zone.*

Part 2.7 (Relationship to other environmental planning instruments, Clause (1) states that 'if there is an inconsistency between this Chapter and any other environmental planning instrument, whether made before or after the commencement of this Chapter, this Chapter prevails to the extent of the inconsistency.'

The RU1 Primary Production zone is a prescribed non-residential zone and therefore permissibility for the Project can be established under the Transport and Infrastructure SEPP.

The Project will need to rely on the Transport and Infrastructure SEPP for permissibility as it is a prohibited use in the RU1 zone under the LEP.

4.3 NSW Planning Framework

Provided in Table 5 is a consideration of other NSW legislation which may have relevance to the Project, including approvals that are not required under Section 4.41 of the EP&A Act, or authorisations that cannot be refused under Section 4.42 of the EP&A Act, for SSD.

Table 5: State Legislation

NSW Legislation	Requirement
Environmental Planning and Assessment Act (EP&A Act)1979	Section 4.15 of the EP&A Act 1979 provides criteria which a consent authority is to take into consideration, where relevant, when considering a DA. Preparation of a future DA will require a full assessment of the Project, in accordance with the relevant matters prescribed under Section 4.15(1). Integrated development is defined under Section 4.46 of the EP&A Act. It includes development proposals that require development consent and one or more specific approvals under the following Acts: • *Fisheries Management Act 1994 (NSW);* • *Heritage Act 1977 (NSW);* • *Mine Subsidence Compensation Act 1961 (NSW);* • *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 (NSW);* • *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 (NSW);* • *Roads Act 1993 (NSW);* • *Rural Fires Act 1997 (NSW); and*

NSW Legislation	Requirement
	• *Water Management Act 2000 (NSW).* Where one of these approvals or permits is required the development application must be submitted to the relevant approval body, for the purposes of obtaining the General Terms of Approval from that approval body which may include any conditions to be imposed on any development consent issued by the consent authority. Whether any of these approvals are triggered is discussed in subsequent sections of this report. It is noted that pursuant to Section 4.41 of the EP&A Act 1979 the following authorisation are not required for SSD applications, which the proposed BESS development falls under: • A permit under section 201, 205 or 219 of the *Fisheries Management Act 1994 (NSW);* • An approval under Part 4, or an excavation permit under section 139, of the *Heritage Act 1977 (NSW);* • An Aboriginal heritage impact permit under section 90 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 (NSW);* • A bush fire safety authority under section 100B of the *Rural Fires Act 1997 (NSW); and* • A water use approval under section 89, a water management work approval under section 90 or an activity approval under section 91 of the *Water Management Act 2000 (N*SW). Accordingly, it is not anticipated that the Project will be an integrated development.
Coal Mine Subsidence Compensation Act 2017	The site is not mapped within a coal mine subsidence area, therefore there are no requirements in accordance with this legislation.
Fisheries Management Act 1994 (FM Act)	The FM Act aims to conserve, develop, and share the fishery resources of the State for the benefit of the present and future generations. The is not in the vicinity of any mapped key fish habitat (KFH).
Heritage Act 1977	The Project would not impact on any local or State heritage items, as no listed items are in close proximity to the site. An approval under Part 4, or an excavation permit under section 139, of this Act is not required for SSD.
Mining Act 1992	The Project does not involve the extraction of mineral resources. There is a mineral exploration and mining title over the site, EL6391 – Golden Cross Operations Pty Ltd, which expires 10 March 2025. Consultation with Golden Cross Operations Pty Ltd will occur during the EIS preparation.
National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 (NPW Act)	The NPW Act is responsible for the conservation of objects, places or features (including biological diversity) of cultural value within the landscape. The DPHI is primarily responsible for regulating the management of Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW under the NPW Act. In accordance with Section 86(1) of the NPW Act, it is an offence to harm or desecrate a known Aboriginal object, whilst it is also an offence to harm an Aboriginal object under Section 86(2). Similarly, Section 86(4) states that a person must not harm or desecrate an Aboriginal place. An Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) under section 90 of this Act is not required for SSD. Notwithstanding, an Aboriginal Heritage and Cultural Assessment Report (ACHAR) will be submitted as part of the future SSD Application.
Petroleum (Onshore) Act 1991	The Project does not involve the extraction of petroleum resources, therefore this legislation does not apply.
Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 (POEO)	Per Schedule 1, the Project does not involve the generation of electricity. The Project stores and releases electricity that has already been generated. As such, Clause 17 does not apply to the Project, and an Environmental Protection Licence (EPL) is not required.

NSW Legislation	Requirement
Roads Act 1993	The Project is required to be undertaken in accordance with this Act, should works occur within a public road. A new driveway access will be proposed as part of the application. Required approvals under s138 of the Roads Act 1993 (NSW) will be identified in the future EIS. Consultation has commenced with TfNSW. Consent under section 138 of this Act cannot be refused if necessary for carrying out an SSD if development consent has been issued.
Rural Fires Act 1997	The site is mapped within bushfire prone land. A bushfire risk assessment will be undertaken as part of the EIS. A bushfire safety authority under section 100B of the Rural Fires Act 1997 (NSW) will not be required pursuant to Section 4.41 of the EP&A Act, as it is not identified as a use to which this section relates.
Water Management Act 2000 (WM Act)	The WM Act aims to provide for the sustainable and integrated management of the water sources of the State for the benefit of both present and future generations. If a 'Controlled Activity' is to occur within 40 m of the 'high bank' of 'waterfront land', a Controlled Activity approval is required from the National Resources Access Regulator (NRAR). A Controlled Activity may include: • Erecting a building; • Carrying out works: including the construction of bridges, roads, controls measures, sea walls, and more; • Removing material from waterfront land: including plants, rocks, gravel and more; • Depositing material on waterfront land: including gravel or fill; and • Any activity which affects the quantity or flow of water in a water source. A water use approval under section 89, a water management work approval under section 90 or an activity approval (other than an aquifer interference approval) under section 91 of this Act is not required for SSD. Notwithstanding, any impacts on surrounding water bodies will be considered in the future SSD application.
Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (BC Act)	The NSW biodiversity conservation legislation establishes a framework for assessing and offsetting biodiversity impacts for applicable development in NSW. Section 7.9 of the BC Act requires that an SSD application be accompanied by a Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR) unless the Project is not likely to have any significant impact of biodiversity values. In cases where there is little or no biodiversity, a BDAR waiver can be sought. The Development Footprint does not contain any areas identified on the Biodiversity Values map, however, the Project will involve vegetation clearance within a mapped Terrestrial Biodiversity area. The extent of clearing required is still to be determined.
Contaminated Land Management Act 1997	A search of the NSW EPA POEO Public Register was made on 14 November 2024 indicating two contaminated land sites located within the Cabonne LGA, both of which are well separated from the site. A search was also made on this date of the NSW EPA POEO Public Register indicating 22 EPLs in the Cabonne LGA. None of the identified sites have relevance to the site. As no contaminated land sites or EPLs have been registered for the site and noting its rural land use, it is reasonable to consider the potential for contamination unlikely and the land suitable for the purpose of the Project, being electricity storage works. An appropriate unexpected finds protocols will be implemented during construction and decommissioning phases.
Local Land Services Act 2013 (LLS Act)	The LLS Act regulates the clearing of native vegetation on rural land in NSW but only when the activity is permitted without Council consent. There are two

NSW Legislation	Requirement
	broad categories of land under the LLS Act; Category 1 (Exempt) land and Category 2 (Regulated, Vulnerable or Sensitive) land. Based on currently available information the site is not wholly categorised as exempt land, and therefore clearing activities are anticipated to require approval.

Further to the legislative considerations detailed in Table 5, a summary of the key EPIs to the project is made below in Table 6.

Table 6: Applicable Environmental Planning Instruments

NSW Legislation	Requirement
State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021 (Transport and Infrastructure SEPP)	The Transport and Infrastructure SEPP aims to facilitate the effective delivery of infrastructure across the State through increased regulatory certainty and improved efficiency and flexibility in the location of infrastructure and service facilities, whilst also providing for adequate stakeholder consultation. Section 2.36 of the Transport and Infrastructure SEPP provides additional options to achieve permissibility for electricity generating works. Permissibility is available through the Transport and Infrastructure SEPP. Consultation with the relevant electricity supply authority is required under Section 2.48 due to the Project's connection to the electrical supply network. Any requirements are to be resolved with the relevant authority.
State Environmental Planning Policy (Planning Systems) 2021 (Planning Systems SEPP)	The Planning Systems SEPP identifies development to which the SSD assessment and approval process under Division 4.7 of Part 4 of the EP&A Act applies. The Project is a development for the purpose of 'electricity generating works and heat or co-generation' that has a capital investment value of more than $30 million, accordingly as per clause 20(1) of Schedule 1 of the Planning Systems SEPP the project is classified as SSD.
State Environmental Planning Policy (Resilience and Hazards) 2021 (Resilience and Hazards SEPP)	**Hazard and Risk** Chapter 3 of the Resilience and Hazards SEPP establishes a comprehensive test by way of a preliminary screening assessment and preliminary hazard analysis (PHA) to determine the risk to people, property, and the environment. As the BESS is considered a 'potentially hazardous or potentially offensive development' under Part 3, a PHA in accordance with the current circulars or guidelines published by DPHI will be prepared and included in the future EIS. **Contamination** Chapter 4 of the Resilience and Hazards SEPP aims to provide a state-wide planning approach to contaminated land remediation and to promote the remediation of contaminated land to reduce the risk of harm. As noted in Table 5, a search was made on 14 November 2024 of the NSW EPA POEO Public Register indicating 22 EPLs in the Cabonne LGA. None of the identified sites have relevance to the site. As no contaminated land sites or EPLs have been registered for the site and noting its rural land use, it is reasonable to consider the potential for contamination unlikely and the land suitable for the purpose of the Project, being electricity storage works. An appropriate unexpected finds protocols will be implemented during construction and decommissioning phases.
State Environmental Planning Policy (Biodiversity Conservation) 2021 (Biodiversity Conservation SEPP)	Chapters 3 & 4 of the Biodiversity Conservation SEPP aim to protect koala habitat within certain, specified LGA's by encouraging identification and conservation of areas of core koala habitat. According to Section 3.3 and Schedule 2, this SEPP applies to rural zoned land within Cabonne LGA. During terrestrial survey of the existing vegetation on site, koala habitat trees will be identified to determine potential impacts to areas of habitat or habitat links.

NSW Legislation	Requirement
Cabonne Shire Local Environmental Plan 2012	The site is within the Cabonne Shire LGA and therefore is subject to the LEP. The site is located on land zoned 'RU1 – Primary Production' under the LEP. The Project is considered to meet the definition of 'electricity generating works' which is prohibited under the LEP. Section 2.36 of the Transport and Infrastructure SEPP provides additional options to achieve permissibility for electricity generating works and has been discussed at Section 4.2. Permissibility is available through the Transport and Infrastructure SEPP. Clause 6.3 of the LEP looks to protect native fauna and flora and ecological systems. Impacts on these matters are discussed in Section 6.1.2 and will be addressed in the EIS. Clause 6.4 of the LEP seeks to maintain the hydrological functions of key groundwater systems and protect them from depletion and contamination. Impacts on groundwater is discussed in Section 6.1.6 and will be addressed in the EIS.
Cabonne Development Control Plans (DCP)	As the project is classed as SSD, it is not subject to the provisions of the DCP, in accordance with Clause 2.10 of the Planning Systems SEPP.

4.4 Commonwealth Legislation

4.4.1 Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

The *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) (EPBC Act) is the Australian Government's central piece of environmental legislation. The EPBC Act provides a legal framework to protect and manage nationally and internationally important flora, fauna, ecological communities and heritage places – defined in the EPBC Act as matters of national environmental significance.

The nine matters of national environmental significance (MNES) to which the EPBC Act applies are:

- World heritage properties.
- National heritage places.
- Wetlands of international importance (often called 'Ramsar' wetlands after the international treaty under which such wetlands are listed).
- Nationally threatened species and ecological communities.
- Migratory species.
- Commonwealth marine areas.
- The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.
- Nuclear actions (including uranium mining).
- A water resource, in relation to coal seam gas development and large coal mining development.

The findings of a desktop assessment have been summarised below in Table 7.

Table 7: Summary of MNES

MNES	Comment
World Heritage Properties	There are no World heritage properties listed within proximity of the site.
National Heritage Places	There are no National heritage places listed within proximity of the site.
Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar)	The site is proximate to four Ramsar wetlands.
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park	The site is not located either within or adjacent to the Great Barrier Reef marine park.
Commonwealth Marine Area	The is not located either within or adjacent to the Commonwealth marine area.
Listed Threatened Ecological Communities	Three EPBC Act listed TECs were associated with the PCTs present within the site.
Listed Threatened Species Listed Migratory Species	A total of 39 threatened or migratory species listed under the EPBC Act have habitats which may occur within the locality, none of which have been historically recorded within the site.

Under the EPBC Act, an action will require approval from the Environment Minister (the Minister) if the action has, will have, or is likely to have, a significant impact on an MNES. The Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1 – Matters of National Significance (DEWHA, 2013) outline a 'self-assessment' process, including detailed criteria, to assist persons in deciding whether or not referral to the Minister is required for assessment and approval under the EPBC Act. MNES impacted by the Project will require detailed assessment under the Significant Impact Guidelines as part of the future SSD.

Commonwealth listed threatened ecological communities, threatened species and migratory species may be present within the project investigation area. Field surveys will be undertaken to determine whether the plant community types (PCTs) identified within the project investigation area are representative of threatened ecological communities listed under the EPBC Act and whether threatened species habitat is present. The outcomes of these survey will be used to determine whether a referral to the Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water is required.

4.4.2 Native Title Act 1993

The *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) recognises the interests and rights Aboriginal people have to land and aims to provide recognition and protection of common law native title rights. A search of the National Native Title Register did not identify native title applications or determinations in the site or the LGA.

4.5 Pre-conditions to Exercising the Power to Grant Approval

4.5.1 Project Approvals

This section provides an overview of other approvals required to carry out the Project. Approvals required for the Project are identified in Table 8.

Table 8: Project Approvals

Legislation	Permit / Approval	Authority
EP&A Act	Development Approval	DPHI
Roads Act	Section 138 Approval	Council/TfNSW
EPBC Act	Environmental Approval	DCCEEW

4.5.2 Mandatory Matter for Consideration

Table 9 outlines the mandatory matters for consideration under relevant Environmental Planning Instruments and legislation. Any further requirements will be identified within the SEARs.

Table 9: Mandatory Matters for Consideration

Mandatory Consideration
Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 • Section 1.3 Objects of Act • Section 1.7 Application of Part 7 of *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* and Part 7A of *Fisheries Management Act 1994* (cf previous s 5AA) • Section 4.14 Consultation and development consent—certain bush fire prone land (cf previous s 79BA) • Section 4.15 Evaluation (a) The provisions of— (i) any environmental planning instrument (ii) any draft environmental planning instrument) (iii) any development control plan (iiia) any planning agreement or draft planning agreement (iv) the regulations (b) the likely impacts of that development, including environmental impacts on both the natural and built environments, and social and economic impacts in the locality, (c) the suitability of the site for the development, (d) any submissions made in accordance with this Act or the regulations, (e) the public interest.
Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021 • Clause 23 Persons who may make development applications • Clause 28 Development applications relating to Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 • Clause 59 Additional requirements for State significant development—the Act, s 4.39 • Clause 190 Form of environmental impact statement • Clause 191 Compliance with environmental assessment requirements • Clause 192 Content of environmental impact statement • Clause 193 Principles of ecologically sustainable development
Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 • Section 7.9 Biodiversity assessment for State significant development or infrastructure
National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 • Part 6 Aboriginal objects and Aboriginal places
State Environmental Planning Policy (Resilience and Hazards) 2021

Mandatory Consideration
• Clause 3.11 Preparation of preliminary hazard analysis. • Clause 3.12 Matters for consideration by consent authorities. • Clause 4.6 Contamination and remediation to be considered in determining development application.
State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021 • Section 2.48 Determination of development applications—other development
State Environmental Planning Policy (Biodiversity and Conservation) 2021 • Part 3.2 Development control of koala habitats
Cabonne Shire Local Environmental Plan 2012 • Clause 6.1 Earthworks • Clause 6.3 Terrestrial biodiversity • Clause 6.4 Groundwater Vulnerability • Clause 6.6 Riparian land and watercourses • Clause 6.8 Essential services

5.0 Engagement

On 16 January 2025, Stor and SLR met with representatives of DPHI to introduce this project and obtain preliminary feedback. The advice provided by DPHI has helped to inform this scoping report and the preliminary assessment requirements, including consultation and engagement requirements. The matters discussed are summarised as follows:

- Scoping report and Mapping to comply with SSD guidelines
- TL indicative alignment to be shown and detailed in Scoping Report
- Department of Climate Change, Energy the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) to be contacted if Controlled action needed under the EPBC Act.
- Noise Report to assess approved on-site subdivision and consider most conservative scenarios (e.g. during quiet weather conditions and BESS operating at full capacity).
- Scoping report to considered Planning proposal to the west of the Site and monitor progress with Council.
- Site Access for construction and impacts on roads and neighbours to be considered.
- Road access and route options to be provided in Scoping Report (if available).
- Land and Soil Capability (LSC) to be considered.
- Engagement to comply with State Significant Development guidelines.
- Cumulative Impacts to be considered in accordance with Cumulative Impact Assessment Guidelines for State Significant Projects.
- Discussions to continue regarding water source for Site, noting that impacts from trucking water to be addresses in TIA.

All matters raised in the meeting have been addressed in this scoping report and will be elaborated on in the EIS. In particular, this scoping report, mapping, engagement and cumulative impacts have been prepared and/or undertaken in accordance with the relevant SSD guidelines and the TL alignment and consideration of LSC has been included. The Noise Report will consider the impacts of the approved sites on-site, all potential scenarios as well as potential sites further west, pending progress of the Planning Proposal. Site access and road routes, the latter still to be confirmed, will be addressed in the TIA including impacts on neighbours and those associated with trucking water on-site (if needed).

Stor has engaged SLR to undertake a Social Impact Assessment (SIA). This is currently in progress and will inform the preparation of the EIS and assist with engagement activities. A copy of the Phase 1 SIA is included in Appendix D.

5.1 Key Stakeholder and Government Consultation

Consultation with several stakeholders at various levels has commenced. Consultation to date has been, and all future engagement will be, documented through consultation records entered into a database for review and consideration during the preparation of the EIS phase Feedback has been and will continue to be shared across the project team with relevant technical specialists. Consultation with regulatory bodies which have been undertaken to date are detailed below.

5.1.1 Council

Preliminary engagement has occurred with Cabonne Shire Council (Council), with details of the Project provided via an email and letter issued 4 December 2024. The intent of preliminary engagement was to introduce Stor and the Project.

On 12 December 2024 a meeting was held with representatives from Stor, SLR and Council, to introduce the Project and invite comment from Council.

The following matters were noted in the meeting:

- Land west of the site is currently going through a rezoning process, and which may eventually comprise approximately 650 residential lots.
- Currently five (5) proposals for wind farms are in the region.
- Flooding, bushfire and cumulative traffic impacts and Cabonne Settlement Strategy to be considered.
- Council recommended the following matters are addressed:
    - Impacts on road network and community.
    - Timing of project and potential cumulative construction impacts with other renewable projects, particularly on road network and staff accommodation.
    - Biosecurity including weed and pest control and fence management.
    - Waste management.

The abovementioned matters have been considered in this Scoping Report and will be comprehensively addressed in the EIS.

In particular, the Planning Proposal to the west of the site is expected to progress during the preparation of the EIS and impacts on this development will be addressed as needed. Technical assessment for any constraints including flooding and bushfire, cumulative traffic and accommodation impacts will be assessed including consideration of renewable projects in the region. Impacts on the road network and community will be addressed in the EIS as well as biosecurity matters and waste management.

5.1.2 Transport for NSW

Preliminary engagement has occurred with Transport for NSW (TfNSW) with details of the Project provided via a letter and email on 4 December 2024. A response was received on 16 December 2024. Comments are summarised to comprise of the following matters for future consideration:

A Traffic Impact Assessment (TIA) should be prepared in accordance with the Guide to Transport Impact Assessment and part 12 of Austroads Guide to Traffic Management including consideration of:

- Hours, days and periods of construction.
- Traffic volumes inclusive of background and project related traffic.
- Traffic characteristics including; ratio of heavy to light vehicles, peak times, hours of transportation and the like.
- Capacity analysis.
- Heavy vehicle and OSOM routes (NVHR approved) including a logistics route analysis, locations where civil works are required, pinch points and the like.

- Cumulative impacts, including projects nearby with overlapping construction periods.
- Consideration of accommodation and transport needs/facilities.
- Road safety assessment of haulage routes.
- Project schedule including detail on shifts to be worked, targeted construction timeframes.
- Origins, destinations and routes for commuter vehicles, heavy vehicles and OSOM vehicles.
- Any road upgrades required, with strategic drawings.
- Details of emergency access/egress.
- Designs and details of any Electricity Transmission Lines that cross or near State classified roads or rail infrastructure including construction details.
- Impacts of workforce accommodation.
- Concept Level Route Analysis required for High Risk OSOM.

Ongoing consultation with Cabonne Shire Council and TfNSW will be undertaken to determine the best access route for construction traffic. Following these discussions a TIA will be prepared addressing the abovementioned requirements and submitted with the EIS.

5.1.3 Transgrid

Pre-enquiry engagement was undertaken with Transgrid's connection teams in September 2023 and again in June 2024. Following preliminary engagement, a formal Connection Enquiry process was lodged with Transgrid in July 2024 in accordance with the requirements of Chapter 5 the National Electricity Rules (NER). Following the receipt of Transgrid's response to the Connection Enquiry, a Connection Process Agreement was entered into with Transgrid. Ongoing engagement with Transgrid continues as part of the formal Connection Application process governed by Chapter 5 of the NER.

5.1.4 Fire and Rescue NSW

Preliminary engagement has occurred with Fire and Rescue NSW with details of the Project provided via a letter and email on 4 December 2024. A response was received on 17 December 2024 advising that the Project will be reviewed as part of the SEARs process which is accepted by Stor.

5.1.5 Water NSW

Preliminary engagement has occurred with Water NSW with details of the Project provided via a letter and email on 4 December 2024.

A response was received on 12 December 2024 advising that the site is not located near any Water NSW land or assets and therefore have no comments at this stage. Stor acknowledges that comments may be received as part of the SEARs process.

5.1.6 NSW Rural Fire Service

Preliminary engagement has occurred with NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) with details of the Project provided via a letter and email on 4 December 2024. A response was received 17 February 2025 advising that comments will be provided if referred as part of the SEARs process.

An in-person meeting was held with Orange RFS on 9 December 2024 to discuss the project, introduce Stor-Energy, and provide key contact details for any future enquiries. A site meeting was also conducted on 18 December 2024 with the RFS Community Liaison.

5.2 Community and Stakeholder Engagement

Stor has conducted some preliminary engagement with landowners and residents surrounding the BESS site and with the Council. The purpose of this early engagement was to introduce the Project and BESS technology, to identify potential impacts, understand current concerns and to answer any questions.

Early consultation included:

- A door-knocking initiative took place with near neighbours on 9 and 10 December 2024, allowing direct engagement with residents and nearby landholders. This provided an opportunity to introduce the project, address any immediate queries or concerns, and share contact details for ongoing engagement. The outcomes of this door knocking initiative are included in the Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan CSEP attached as Appendix E.
- A site meeting was conducted on 18 December 2024, attended by representatives from SLR, Orange Local Aboriginal Land Council (OLALC) and the RFS Community Liaison.

Stakeholders were advised that any future engagement will be communicated to them via their preferred contact method. Stor remains committed to conducting engagement that is inclusive, transparent and responsive to community and stakeholder input.

It is proposed that all community engagement relevant to the Project will be completed during the preparation of the EIS via a CSEP and engagement campaign (as detailed in Section 5.2.1 below) and Social Impact Assessment (SIA) (as detailed in Section 6.1.9 below).

5.2.1 Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan

A CSEP has been developed in accordance with the Undertaking Engagement Guidelines for State Significant Projects (DPHI, 2024) and will be routinely updated throughout the Project duration. It identifies community members and stakeholders to be engaged through the SIA scoping worksheet (detailed in Section 6.1.9). A copy of the CSEP has been attached, refer Appendix E.

The CSEP informs the type and depth of consultation to be completed during the preparation of the EIS, as well as recommendations for future community and stakeholder engagement following approval. The scoping worksheet will be utilised to identify potential impacts of the Project and the parties to be consulted with respect to those impacts and will be included within the CSEP for submission to DPHI at EIS stage.

Stor's stakeholder engagement program aims to ensure that community and stakeholders are provided with accurate information regarding the development of the Project. The following are key objectives which have guided the development of the CSEP and its methodology:

- Provide clear, accurate and up-to-date information:
  - To introduce Stor, the Project, benefits and drivers.
  - To familiarise the community and build awareness around the SSD process and EIS project approvals.

  - To build awareness and understanding of BESS technology and the broader, longer-term benefits of grid stability and energy security.
  - To demonstrate an appreciation of interests and concerns of communities and stakeholders and how feedback has informed Project refinement.
  - To promote opportunities to be involved in the project and establish realistic expectations about how community and stakeholder feedback may be incorporated.
  - To articulate Project negotiables that can be influenced through community and stakeholder contribution and Project constraints and decisions that cannot be influenced.
  - To explain Project timeframes and processes to establish realistic expectations and build community empowerment.
- Consult meaningfully with communities and stakeholders and provide suitable opportunities and channels:
  - To ensure their interests, values and concerns are understood.
  - To drive productive conversations.
  - To capture meaningful feedback to inform Project decisions and promote mutually beneficial outcomes.
  - To identify opportunities and methods to deliver community benefits.
- To support technical assessments undertaken as part of the EIS, where possible, by:
  - Promoting awareness of technical investigations, methodology and findings.
  - Exploring potential impacts and mitigations.
  - Aligning community and stakeholder consultation with technical investigations to minimise stakeholder fatigue or confusion.
- Build and maintain Social and Cultural Licence with community and stakeholders to facilitate approvals of the Project.
- Establish and strengthen relationships with stakeholders and communities and across the Project team:
  - Collaborate with First Nations groups, social enterprises, and Indigenous businesses to enhance Stor's capacity for meaningful partnerships and foster mutually beneficial relationships.
  - To establish acceptance and trust in the Project through responsiveness, consistency and accountability.
  - To establish and maintain positive and productive relationships with approval authorities and decision makers.
  - To build internal capture of engagement across the Stor/Project team and encourage for continual improvement of engagement practices.

The choice of engagement tools and techniques depends on the desired outcome of the Project's engagement. If the goal is to gather information from the community such as identifying issues, opportunities, and local knowledge, the engagement methods will differ from those used to involve the community in discussions to shape or influence project outcomes. The engagement methods will be customised to meet the needs of the community and stakeholders, addressing any barriers that may prevent effective

engagement. A list of engagement tools and activities and their application is provided in Table 10.

Table 10: Engagement Tools and Activities

Tool	Description
Face-to-face meetings	Face-to-face meetings with local Councils, landowners and other key stakeholders to discuss the Project and its objectives.
Stakeholder briefings	Targeted meetings (online or in-person) to provide project introductions and updates relevant to specific stakeholder interests.
Kitchen table discussions	One-on-one meetings by arrangement with directly impacted stakeholders to discuss specific impacts and potential mitigations or negotiate compensation.
Letter drops	Letter drops to directly impacted properties to introduce the project and offer a meeting or discussion.
Public engagement events (drop-in sessions)	In-person, informal drop-in sessions to build awareness of the Project, inform and educate the community on the Project. These sessions provide an opportunity for all stakeholders to meet with the Project team and raise any concerns or questions about the project and provide feedback through appropriate feedback channels.
Pop-ups	Informal activations in public sites to promote the project and engagement opportunities and information and feedback channels.
Project enquiry phoneline/email	A direct contact point for the community and stakeholders to ask questions and seek support to participate in the process.
Business procurement register	An online portal to collect information and register businesses expressing an interest to be included on the local procurement panel for construction and operation phases. This register would be promoted through project collateral and website.
Project enquiry portal	An online, public portal hosted on the project website to collect feedback, questions and ideas from community and stakeholders.
Project website (updated by SLR and managed by 23 Digital)	A central hub of project information and interactive opportunities to participate through digital engagement tools. Written materials such as e-updates and printed communication materials and advertising will direct people to the online engagement hub on the website as a central project resource.
SIA surveys and feedback portal	Feedback forms, surveys (online or hard copy) and interactive maps to capture feedback from stakeholders to inform project designs and contribute to community benefit opportunities. Feedback tools will be made available at all engagement events.
Printed communication materials	Including project factsheets, posters and flyers distributed to key locations and made available at engagement events and in digital formats on all online engagement platforms.
Local newspaper and media	Traditional media campaign to promote the project, share information and advertise engagement platforms, events and opportunities.
Community benefit model	Stor-Energy strives to deliver lasting community benefits through community programs, sponsorships or funds. Stor-Energy will work with Council, stakeholders and community members to design an appropriate model and approach to delivering community benefits through the Molong BESS.

6.0 Proposed Assessment of Impact

Section 6.0 identifies key matters proposed to be assessed within the EIS for the construction, operation, and decommissioning of the Project, as determined by preliminary desktop assessment.

6.1 Key Matters Requiring Assessment in the EIS

Based on preliminary desktop assessments of the environmental constraints identified for the Project, the following key matters have been identified as areas of priority for further investigation within the EIS. The proposed level of assessment is also summarised in Table 11.

Table 11: Key Assessment Issues

Key Issue	Level of assessment proposed
Noise and vibration	Detailed Assessment.
Biodiversity	Detailed Assessment.
Aboriginal heritage	Detailed Assessment.
Traffic and access	Detailed Assessment.
Visual amenity	Detailed Assessment.
Water Impacts • Hydrology • Flooding • Stormwater • Groundwater	Detailed Assessment.
Land quality and Agriculture	Detailed Assessment.
Air quality and greenhouse gas	Standard Assessment.
Social and economic	Detailed Assessment.
Waste management	Standard Assessment.
Hazard and risk • Preliminary Hazard Assessment • Bushfire • Electromagnetic Fields	Detailed Assessment.
Historic Heritage	Standard Assessment.
Accessibility	No further assessment required.
Odour	No further assessment required.

6.1.1 Noise and Vibration

6.1.1.1 Preliminary Assessment

The Indicative BESS area is in a predominantly rural setting with some rural residential properties and the substation situated in close proximity. Nearby sensitive receivers will need to be considered, refer back to Figure 4 and Table 2. Table 2 particularises the closest receptors (within 1 km) to the Indicative BESS area. Three additional receivers are also identified from the subdivision to be undertaken on the Site.

The Transgrid substation, Molong Solar Farm and surrounding road network are the likely sources of existing background noise levels.

The application will need to consider noise impacts associated with the following aspects of the Project:

- Vehicle movements during the construction, operational and decommissioning phases.
- Plant and heavy machinery during the construction phase.
- Noise emitting from the BESS facility once operational.

The construction and decommissioning of the Project are anticipated to have short-term impacts to sensitive receivers that will require best practice mitigation measures to reduce potential noise disturbances, including standard hours of construction.

Vibration impacts on sensitive receivers are not expected during operation, construction, or decommissioning.

6.1.1.2 Proposed Level and Approach of Assessment

A Noise and Vibration Assessment (NVIA) will be prepared as part of the EIS. It is expected that the key elements of the NVIA of activities associated with the Project will include:

- Defining the assessment scenarios for the construction and operation stages of the development.
- Determination of the noise criteria for the Project and an assessment of likely noise impacts during construction, operation, and decommissioning will be undertaken in accordance with the Interim Construction Noise Guideline (ICNG), operational noise impacts in accordance with the NSW Noise Policy for Industry (2017), cumulative noise impacts (considering other developments in the area).
- Assessment of predicted noise levels for construction and operational phases of the development against the noise assessment criteria adopted from the relevant environmental legislation and acoustic guidelines.

Where required, a range of reasonable and feasible (concept level) mitigation measures would be recommended to manage potential impacts and, where reasonable and feasible, achieve compliance to all relevant noise assessment criteria.

6.1.2 Biodiversity

6.1.2.1 Preliminary Assessment

A desktop review has been undertaken, involving a review of relevant information and relevant database searches. The Development Footprint is proposed within an area mapped as having terrestrial biodiversity values with vegetation clearance needed to facilitate the proposed development. The extent of the vegetation clearance is to be confirmed, however any clearance required will adopt an avoid and minimise approach as first principles.

The Development Footprint is separated from the mapped biodiversity values associated with Molong Creek with no adverse impacts anticipated.

A Protected Matters Search was undertaken on the DCCEEW website to ascertain if any matters of national environmental significance protected by the EPBC Act had been identified as occurring in or relating to, the site.

There were four Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar) identified as part of the EPBC Act Protected Matters Report. Of these, the closest in proximity to the site is 200-300km away (the Macquarie marshes). The remainder of the Ramsar Wetlands are between 700km and 1000km away from the site. Given the distance from the site, impacts are unlikely.

The Site may also Commonwealth listed threatened ecological communities, threatened species and migratory species.

6.1.2.2 Proposed Level and Approach of Assessment

A BDAR will be prepared under Part 4 of the EP&A Act in accordance with the Biodiversity Assessment Method (BAM) as part of the EIS, with the following scope of works:

- Completion of plot/transect surveys according to the BAM ('BAM plots'), general fauna habitat assessment, and targeted threatened species surveys are proposed to be completed as part of the BDAR field program.
- Mapping of any native vegetation, noting extent and condition of PCTs according to published mapping, and presence of threatened ecological communities.
- Impact assessment inclusive of the following:
  - Assessment of direct and indirect impacts unable to be avoided at the site.
  - Demonstration of efforts to avoid and minimise impact on biodiversity values.
  - Identification of prescribed impacts.
  - Detailed assessment of potential serious and irreversible impacts (SAIIs) if present on the site.
  - Running of the BAM Calculator, using data collected from the site surveys, by an accredited BAM assessor. Calculation of biodiversity credits required to offset the loss of vegetation and habitat associated with the development, comprising ecosystem credits and (where applicable) species credits.
  - Identification of impact avoidance and mitigation measures.

6.1.3 Aboriginal Heritage

6.1.3.1 Preliminary Assessment

A desktop assessment was conducted on 23 October 2024 using the NSW Government's AHIMS Search Tool, measuring approximately 1km surrounding the Site, which is included at Appendix A.

The search determined that there are 7 registered Aboriginal sites within the search area, 4 of which were included on the Site (refer to Figure 12). These Aboriginal sites are situated in the southeastern corner of the site, approximately 2.3km away from the Development Footprint.

A search of the National Native Title Register did not identify native title applications or determinations.

6.1.3.2 Proposed Level and Approach of Assessment

To ensure the Project has full knowledge of Aboriginal cultural values at the project location and suitably mitigates any harm to these values, a detailed level of assessment is required of this specific matter and a comprehensive assessment undertaken. An ACHAR will be

prepared in consultation with the Orange Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC) and Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs).

This assessment will be undertaken in accordance with the following Aboriginal heritage assessment guidelines:

- The Code of Practice for the Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW (DECCW, 2010) [the Code].
- The Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW (Office of Environment and Heritage, 2011) [the Guide].
- The Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010 (DECCW, 2010).

The ACHAR will have the following scope of works:

- Consultation with the Aboriginal community with registration of interest in the Project and the gathering of the information about cultural significance.
- Detailed findings of an archaeological survey of the site to further assess levels of disturbance and archaeological potential to refine the predictive modelling and clarify any identified areas of high and moderate sensitivity within the study area. The field survey will be completed by an archaeologist with a member of the LALC, and in accordance with Requirement 5 of the Code.
- Should the archaeological survey identify that there are areas of archaeological potential within the site, a notification and sampling strategy will need to be prepared. Requirement 15c of the Code states that this needs to be provided to Heritage NSW a minimum of 14 days before test excavations commencing.
- Preparation of the draft ACHAR and review by Aboriginal stakeholders, with a 28 day period for review and comment. Once this timeframe elapses, the ACHAR will be finalised to include all comments and correspondence sent and received regarding the project as an appendix.

6.1.4 Traffic and Access

6.1.4.1 Preliminary Assessment

Access to the BESS site will be achieved from Back Saleyards Road and designed to accommodate heavy vehicles required during construction and decommissioning. A detailed route analysis is currently being undertaken to determine the best route to the Site for delivery of the BESS components and construction materials.

Any significant traffic impacts associated with the development are generally expected to occur during the construction phase of the development . Any temporary parking and set down areas required during the construction phase will be reinstated and revegetated as necessary, once the facility is operational. Ongoing traffic impacts associated with the replenishment and augmentation phase/s will also be documented.

6.1.4.2 Proposed Level and Approach of Assessment

A Traffic Impact Assessment (TIA) will be undertaken and the associated report provided with the EIS. It is expected that the key elements of the TIA or activities associated with the Project will include:

- A review of the existing road conditions and future road network, including potential road upgrades.

- Assessed traffic demands (construction, operation and decommissioning phases).
- Road safety assessment and road use management planning.
- Identification of any mitigation measures.

6.1.5 Visual Amenity

6.1.5.1 Preliminary Assessment

The Development Footprint may visually impact the surrounding landscape as well as nearby residents (predominantly to the west) and motorists along roadways. This includes temporary impacts during construction and long-term impacts once operational.

Landscape planting may be required to mitigate any potential visual impacts.

6.1.5.2 Proposed Level and Approach of Assessment

The impacts on visual amenity for the nearest sensitive receivers and road users will be considered in the SSD application.

A Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) will be undertaken and the associated report provided with the SSD Application. The LVIA will consider the effect of the Project on the physical and visual landscape which may give rise to changes in its character and the resultant effects on visual amenity. The potential visual impact will be assessed using a methodology that involves on-site assessments, Geographical Information Systems (GIS) modelling, and preparation of photomontages and an impact assessment to illustrate the predicted visual effect of the Project on the visual environment.

It is expected that the key elements of the LVIA of will involve:

- Review of the Project (scale, bulk, height, technical specifications and landscape).
- Analysis of the site (visual exposure, visual qualities and landscape values).
- Identifications of potential impacts on key receptors including the rating of magnitude for each receptor group.
- Rating of the impact significance for each receptor group.
- The impact significance is evaluated as a product of the sensitivity of the receptor, and the magnitude of the change that occurs when viewed from the receptor point location.
- Potential mitigation measures to meet the necessary planning requirements and any community expectations.

6.1.6 Water Impacts

6.1.6.1 Preliminary Assessment

There is potential for surface water quality impacts during construction and decommissioning of the Project due to ground disturbance and minor earthworks, which could impact the downstream environment, including Molong Creek if appropriate mitigation measures are not established. The Development Footprint is not mapped or identified as flood prone.

The Project will result in an increase in impervious area over the site. The EIS will consider any impacts associated with increases in runoff volume and peak flows, altered timing of flows, increases in pollutant runoff and reduced infiltration and identify potential mitigation options, if required.

The development footprint is in a portion of the site that is subject to the Groundwater Vulnerability Map in the LEP.

6.1.6.2 Proposed Level and Approach of Assessment

A Surface and Groundwater Water Impact Assessment (SGWIA) will be prepared as part of the EIS, with the following scope of works:

- An assessment of potential surface water and groundwater impacts associated with the Project.
- An assessment of flooding impacts associated with the BESS (including a review of avoid, minimising and mitigating impacts).
- Details of stormwater management system including appropriate mitigation measures to adequately ameliorate environmental risk.
- Description of the proposed erosion and sediment controls during construction.
- Details of water requirements and supply arrangements for construction and operation.

6.1.7 Land Quality and Agricultural Impact

6.1.7.1 Preliminary Assessment

The site is classified by the NSW DPHI eSPADE mapping tool as having 'moderate limitations' and is rated as Land & Soil Capability Class (LSC) 3.

Contaminated land is not recorded on or in the general vicinity of the site.

The construction and operation of the BESS would partially change the existing land use of the development footprint from agriculture (grazing and native vegetation) to electricity generating works. Areas beyond the site and within the locality are expected to continue to support their existing land use where practicable. The existing land conditions are likely to return following decommissioning of the BESS and associated infrastructure.

Land zonings surrounding the Site (refer Figure 15) includes:

- RU1 Primary Production.
- RU5 Large Lot Residential.
- RE2 Private Recreation.

The site is included on the Biophysical Strategic Agricultural Land (BSAL) mapping provided under SEPP (Resources and Energy) 2021. Consideration of the loss of agricultural land and how this project may impact agricultural productivity on adjoining land, will be included in the future EIS.

6.1.7.2 Proposed Level and Approach of Assessment

A Soil and Agricultural Land Resource Assessment (SALRA) will be prepared as part of the EIS, with the following scope of works:

- A soil survey to determine the soil characteristics and consider the potential for erosion to occur:
  - Describing the site's sensitivity to environmental change.
  - ASC (Isbell, 2002) soil types across the Study Area.

- LSC class/es according to the Land and Soil Capability Scheme Second Approximation (OEH, 2012).
- Confirm Biophysical Strategic Agricultural Land (BSAL) status according to the Interim Protocol for Site Verification and Mapping of Biophysical Strategic Agricultural Land (OEH, 2013).
- Determine erosive potential for soil types within the Site.

- A Land Use Conflict Risk Assessment (LUCRA) will be prepared as part of the EIS, with the following scope of works:
  - Accurately identify and address potential land use conflict issues and risk of occurrence before a new land use proceeds or a dispute arises.
  - Objectively assess the effect of a proposed land use on neighbouring land uses to identify any land use conflicts.

As there is no evidence to suggest contamination exists in the underlying soil, no testing will be undertaken.

6.1.8 Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas

6.1.8.1 Preliminary Assessment

The Project is not anticipated to generate significant air quality impacts during construction or operations. Construction traffic utilising the access road to the site may contribute to localised dust generation. This impact is considered to be consistent with existing sources of pollution within a local setting, primarily of dust and vehicle and machinery exhaust emissions associated with agricultural production.

An Air Quality Assessment is not considered to be required, as part of the EIS as potential impacts will be temporary in nature, able to be mitigated through standard practice and will not extend beyond the construction phase of the project.

The Project will contribute to Australia's emissions reduction effort, facilitating the energy shift from aging fossil fuel generation infrastructure and will contribute to Australia's goals to achieve net zero by 2050. Accordingly, the Project is anticipated to have positive impacts in relation to greenhouse gas emissions.

6.1.8.2 Proposed Level and Approach of Assessment

As the Project is not anticipated to generate significant air quality impacts, the inclusion of standard dust suppression and vehicle exhaust mitigation measures for construction and decommissioning as part of a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) will mitigate any expected increases in dust and vehicle exhaust.

No further assessment is proposed in relation to greenhouse gas emissions.

6.1.9 Social and Economic

6.1.9.1 Preliminary Assessment

The site is located on land to the east of the township of Molong, within the Cabonne Shire LGA. Impacts to nearby residents will be a critical assessment matter, to determine impacts to the surrounding area.

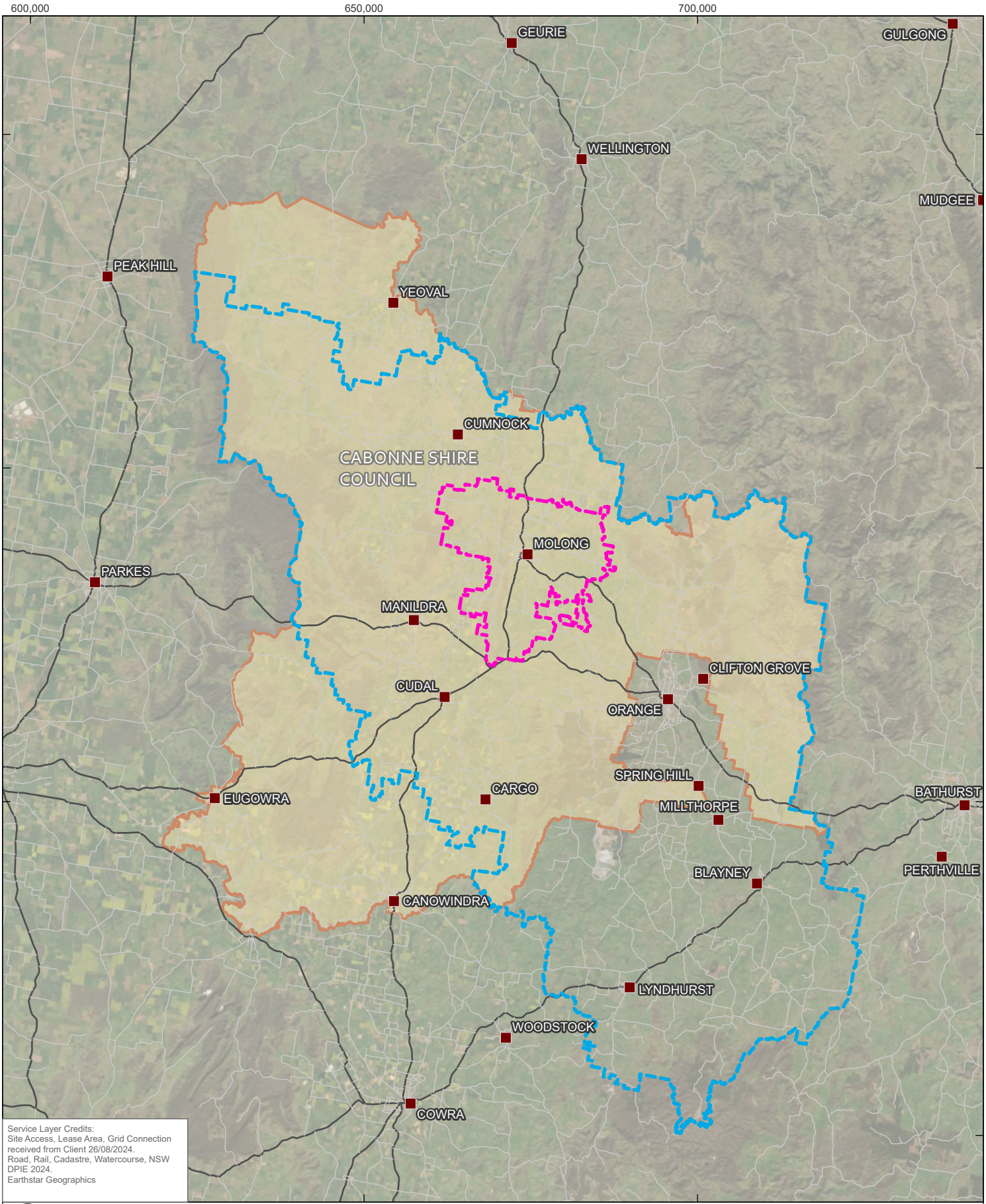
The Project is likely to provide social and economic benefits to the NSW community, due to improved energy reliability and cost and through increased employment opportunities.

SLR have completed a Phase 1 SIA Scoping Report (refer Appendix D), which seeks to provide a high-level understanding of the project's social environment to:

- Determine the preliminary local and regional social locality.
- Identify key communities and potentially affected stakeholders.
- Identify potential social impacts requiring further investigation through the Phase 2 SIA.
- Identify potential adverse impacts and benefits associated with the project.
- A SIA Scoping Worksheet has been prepared (included in Phase 1 SIA).

The social locality is comprised of three key areas: the Molong Suburb and Locality (SAL), Cabonne LGA, and the broader Orange Statistical Area Level 3 (SA3). These social localities will be further refined through consultation and detailed investigation as part of the Phase 2 SIA.

Figure 16 illustrates these social localities and adjacent regional centre of Orange.



Service Layer Credits:
Site Access, Lease Area, Grid Connection received from Client 26/08/2024.
Road, Rail, Cadastre, Watercourse, NSW DPIE 2024.
Earthstar Geographics

0 10 20 km

Coordinate System:	GDA2020 MGA Zone 55
Scale:	1:750,000 at A4
Project Number:	620.041615
Date Drawn:	03-Feb-2025
Drawn by:	NT

LEGEND

- Town/City
- Principal Road
- Local Road
- Local Study Area - Molong Statisical Area Level
- Regional Study Area - Orange Statistical Area
- Local Government Area

MOLONG BESS

SOCIAL LOCALITY

SLR

FIGURE 16

Path: H:\Projects-SLR\620-BNE\620-BNE\620.041615.00001 Stor Energy NSW\06 SLR Data\01 GIS\GIS\NSW_Stor.aprx\620041615_SSD_F16 Social Locality

6.1.9.2 Proposed Level and Approach of Assessment

A SIA will be prepared as part of the EIS, along with the supporting stakeholder and community engagement, in accordance with the Social Impact Assessment Guideline for State Significant Projects 2023 (SIA Guideline) (DPIE, 2023). SLR have commenced the SIA. Amenity considerations will be a critical assessment matter, to determine impacts to the surrounding area.

Based on the outcome of SIA scoping, a moderate level assessment will be prepared to investigate social impacts in the Phase 2 SIA.

In accordance with the SIA Guidelines, the Phase 2 SIA will:

- Predict and analyse the extent and nature of likely social impacts against baseline conditions using accepted social science methods.
- Evaluate, draw attention to and prioritise the social impacts that are important to people.
- Develop appropriate and justified responses (e.g. avoidance, mitigation and enhancement measures) to social impacts, and identify and explain residual social impacts.
- Propose arrangements to monitor and manage residual social impacts, including unanticipated impacts, over the life of the project (including post-closure phases for extractive industry projects).

The Phase 2 SIA will draw on further in-depth analysis of refined project information and findings of technical studies. It will also rely on targeted stakeholder engagement and the outcomes of the CSEP.

Primary research methods that will inform the Phase 2 SIA include structured interviews with key stakeholder groups and individuals including:

- Landowners.
- Government at agency.
- Local business and community groups and representatives.
- Emergency services and relevant service providers.

Secondary research methods will include:

- Outcomes and feedback collected through broad public consultation conducted to inform the Project.
- Targeted consultation findings conducted by technical specialists through other detailed investigations such as Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment, NVIA and Traffic Assessment.
- Secondary data sources such as census and demographic data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics.
- Regional and local strategic plans, as well as SIA reports and community engagement reports prepared for other recent, comparable, or nearby projects in the region.

As part of the SIA, regard will be given to worker availability and worker accommodation for the construction stage, in addition to the likely economic benefits of the proposal from construction jobs, benefits to local businesses from the workforce and investment in battery infrastructure.

The CSEP has been developed and outline past and planned community initiatives and is located within Appendix E.

6.1.10 Waste Management

6.1.10.1 Preliminary Assessment

The following waste product streams are likely to be produced during the construction phase of the Project:

- Green waste generated during tree removal and vegetation clearing, to be reused where possible as mulch or alternatively sent to a composting facility, with the exception of weed species which would be separated and disposed of appropriately.
- Fill material considered unsuitable to remain on site would be classified in accordance with the relevant Guideline and disposed of at an appropriately licensed facility.
- General construction litter and removal of defective site equipment.
- Waste oils and other materials from the maintenance of construction equipment and machinery.
- Erosion and sediment control materials including sediment fencing and stakes.

6.1.10.2 Proposed Level and Approach of Assessment

The following management measures to limit impacts resulting from the Project will be included within the EIS:

- All waste generated during construction activities will be managed in accordance with the POEO Act, POEO (Waste) Regulation 2014, *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2001* (NSW), and any relevant resource recovery orders and exemptions.
- A Waste Management Plan (WMP) will be prepared and implemented as part of the CEMP and detail the measures and controls to monitor and minimise waste generation during construction, the lawful handling and disposal of unavoidable waste, and classification of unsuitable fill material.
- General waste and recycling bins will be provided at all ancillary sites and throughout the Project boundary for the duration of construction.
- Any uncontrolled spills of waste oils, fuels, and other materials will be mitigated by use of a spill kit and managed by a suitably qualified professional.

6.1.11 Hazard and Risk

6.1.11.1 Preliminary Assessment

Potential hazardous scenarios and risks associated with the project include the presence and use of lithium batteries, fires and exposure to electromagnetic fields (EMF).

Bushfire risk is an environmental factor that may increase the risk to the Project, in regard to special activities or infrastructure components that intensify combustion or ignition risks. A portion of the site is mapped as 'Vegetation Category 3' under the Bushfire Prone Land mapping (refer Figure 8).

Lithium batteries are identified as Class 9 under the Australian Dangerous Goods Code (National Transport Commission 2020). Under the Hazardous and Offensive Development Application Guidelines – Applying SEPP 33 (Department of Planning 2011) given effect under Chapter 3 of the Resilience and Hazards SEPP, Class 9 goods do not exceed the screening thresholds as they "pose little threat to people or property" (Department of Planning, 2011).

6.1.11.2 Proposed Level and Approach of Assessment

The EIS will include:

- A Bushfire Risk Assessment will be completed in accordance with the Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2019. The report will examine potential bushfire risks and provide mitigation measures, including Asset Protection Zones and Strategic Fire Advantage Zone if required.
- A preliminary risk screening completed in accordance with Resilience and Hazards SEPP and Applying SEPP 33 (DoP, 2011).
- A PHA will be prepared in accordance with the Hazardous Industry Planning Advisory Paper No. 6, 'Hazard Analysis' and Multi-Level Risk Assessment (DoP, 2011).
- Consideration all recent standards and codes and verify separation distances to on-site and off-site receptors to prevent fire propagation and compliance with Hazardous Industry Advisory Paper No. 4, 'Risk Criteria for Land Use Safety Planning (DoP, 2011).
- Consideration of potential hazards and risks including but not limited to bushfires, land contamination, spontaneous ignition, EMF's associated with the proposed electrical infrastructure against the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection Guidelines for limiting exposure to Time-varying Electric, Magnetic and EMF's.

6.1.12 Historic Heritage

6.1.12.1 Preliminary Assessment

A desktop heritage assessment of the site has been completed, comprising a search of the:

- Cabonne LEP.
- State Heritage Register.
- Commonwealth Heritage List.
- EPBC Protected Matters Search Tool.

The 'Gamboola Cabonne Homestead' is located south of the site (beyond Molong Creek), identified as Local Item I203.

No State listed heritage items or places are located in the vicinity of the Project.

6.1.12.2 Proposed Level and Approach of Assessment

A standard assessment for historic heritage will be completed within the EIS to identify the nearest historic heritage items and any potential impacts. Consideration of heritage will be made as part of the LVIA to be prepared for the Project, if necessary.

6.2 Cumulative Impact Consideration

As noted in Section 2.3**,** a search has been undertaken for proposed or approved major projects within the subject and adjoining LGAs which have the potential to result in cumulative impacts. Further analysis of the potential for cumulative impacts will be addressed in detail in the EIS in accordance with Cumulative Impact Assessment Guidelines for State Significant Projects (DPIE, 2022).

Particular regard will be given to worker availability and worker accommodation for the construction stage. As multiple projects in the region will bring great benefit and trade to local businesses such as hospitality and services, it is important to manage cumulative impacts associated with multiple projects in the region and to encourage the employment of locally sourced workers. Cumulative impacts may occur if the construction periods of nearby major projects overlap with the construction period of this Project.

Cumulative impacts can include traffic generation, staff accommodation requirements, disposal of construction waste, demand on local business for supply and demand, and supply of local labour. An influx of staff across multiple concurrent projects is likely to bring trade and benefit to local businesses, and can also place pressure on local short-term accommodation and other services in the community.

This in turn may restrict the availability of accommodation for other users during peak tourist periods such as school holidays and the region's annual events. Consideration will be made of potential overlapping construction periods with other projects in the region and whether there is sufficient accommodation within the wider region to accommodate those workers and maximise benefits to the local community.

One solar farm has been approved by the RPP near Orange, and two large wind farms have been lodged with the DPHI and proposed to be established east of the Site in the Dubbo Regional LGA. These projects may have overlapping construction timeframes with this project.

Other industries in the region generate a demand for accommodation and trade for local businesses, however these services range from seasonal to intermittently required throughout the year as contracts are awarded for projects.

For example, other employment generating developments include:

- Seasonal agricultural demands (e.g. harvesting, shearing).
- Contracts awarded for local projects (e.g. infrastructure projects, which on occasion require external workers or assistance).

It is noted that the Project is also likely to result in positive cumulative impacts, including:

- Local investment and job opportunity.
- Community Benefit Contributions.
- Grid stability & resilience.
- Peak demand management.
- Carbon emission reduction.

6.3 Ability to Avoid Minimise or Offset Impacts

The feasible alternatives discussion in Section 3.3**,** demonstrates the site specific and locational need for the BESS on the Site. As part of the EIS, mitigation measures will be identified, subject to technical assessment and consideration. The impact assessment will be undertaken to demonstrate whether the Project's impacts are capable of being fully mitigated.

7.0 Conclusion

Stor is seeking approval for the construction, operation, and eventual decommissioning of a BESS with a capacity of 150 MW/ 730MWh connecting to the electricity grid at the existing Transgrid Molong 132/66 kV TS via a new overhead transmission line.

This report has provided an overview of the Project, the site context and the anticipated scope of assessment requirements.

The intent of the Project is to support Australia's energy transmission and increase the energy capacity and resilience of the State and further efforts to reach net-zero emissions by 2050.

The Project will have a CIV higher than $30 million and will therefore trigger the provisions for SSD under Clause 20, Schedule 1 of the Planning Systems SEPP. The Project is permissible with consent under Clause 2.36 of the Transport and Infrastructure SEPP.

The key considerations identified by this Scoping Report for the Project are identified in Table 12.

Table 12: Key Considerations Identified by Scoping Report

Key Considerations	
Noise and Vibration	Hazard and Risk
Biodiversity	Aboriginal Heritage
Traffic and Access	Water Quality
Visual Amenity	Land Quality and Agricultural Impact
Waste Management	Social and Economic

The Project EIS is proposed to address the following:

- A detailed description of the Project including construction activities, and ancillary sites and components.
- A comprehensive assessment of the potential impacts on the key issues including a description of the existing environment and assessment of potential direct and indirect impacts of construction, operation, and decommissioning.
- Descriptions of measures to be implemented to avoid, minimise, manage, mitigate, offset, and/or monitor the potential impacts.
- Identify and address issues raised by stakeholders and community members.

Significantly, the Scoping Report demonstrates the critical importance of this project to supports Australia's energy shift and to ensure the availability of power at different times of the day. The BESS is supported by both national and state energy policy objectives.

SLR and Stor look forward to receiving the SEARs from DPHI to enable the preparation and lodgement of the application for assessment.

8.0 References

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Appendix A Scoping Summary Table

Scoping Report – Request for Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements

Molong Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)

StorEnergy 3 Pty Ltd

SLR Project No.: 620.041615.00001

20 February 2025

Appendix B Project Plans

Scoping Report – Request for Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements

Molong Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)

StorEnergy 3 Pty Ltd

SLR Project No.: 620.041615.00001

20 February 2025

Appendix C Approved Plan for DA 2000/182

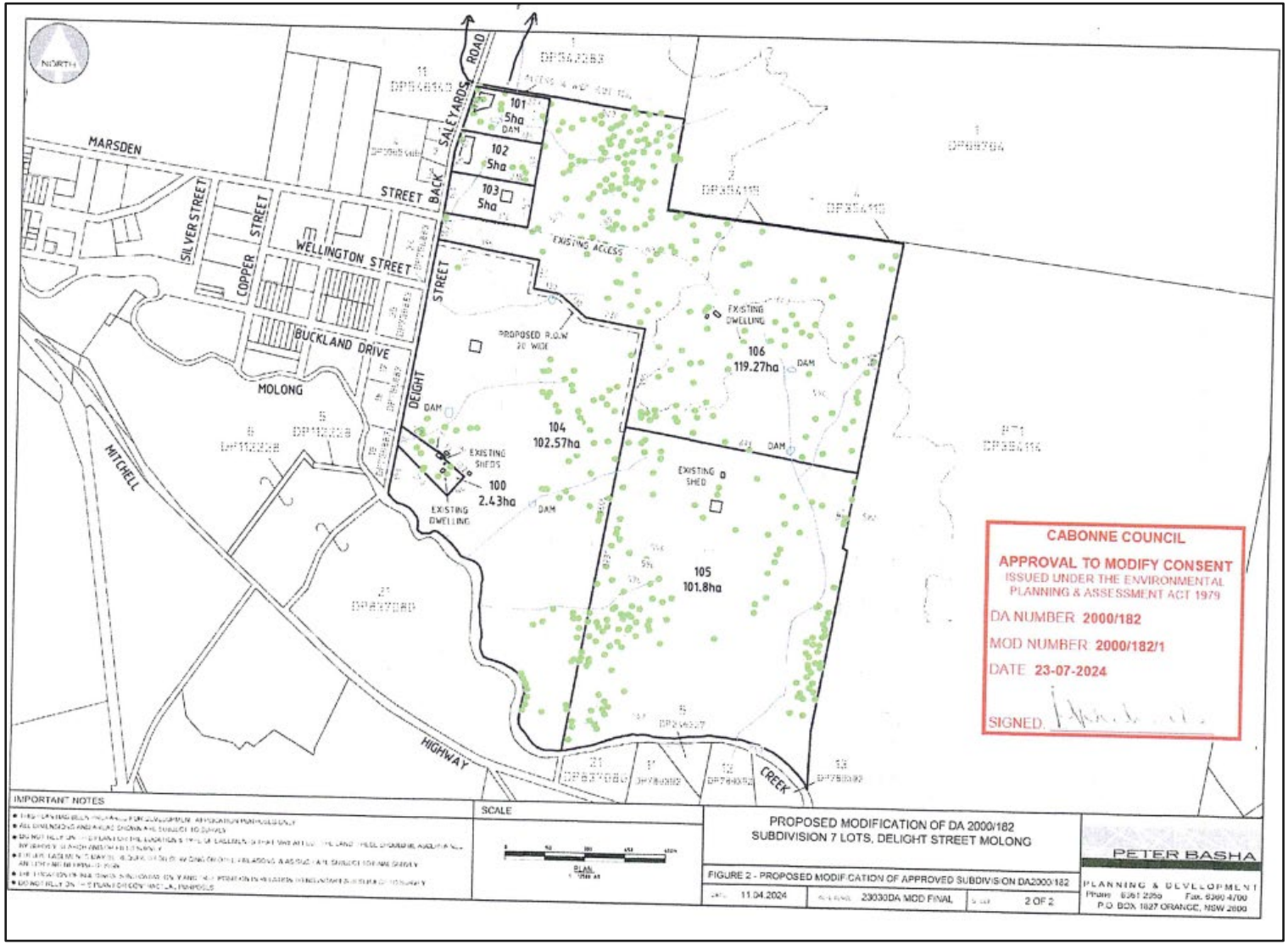
Scoping Report – Request for Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements

Molong Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)

StorEnergy 3 Pty Ltd

SLR Project No.: 620.041615.00001

20 February 2025


NORTH
MARSDEN
STREET
SILVER STREET
COPPER STREET
WELLINGTON STREET
BUCKLAND DRIVE
MOLONG
MITCHELL
HIGHWAY
SALEYARDS ROAD
BACK
DELIGHT STREET
EXISTING ACCESS
PROPOSED R.O.W 20 WIDE
101 5ha DAM
102 5ha
103 5ha
104 102.57ha
105 101.8ha
106 119.27ha
100 2.43ha
EXISTING DWELLING
EXISTING SHEDS
EXISTING SHED
DAM
CREEK
CABONNE COUNCIL
APPROVAL TO MODIFY CONSENT
ISSUED UNDER THE ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING & ASSESSMENT ACT 1979
DA NUMBER 2000/182
MOD NUMBER 2000/182/1
DATE 23-07-2024
SIGNED
IMPORTANT NOTES
SCALE
PROPOSED MODIFICATION OF DA 2000/182
SUBDIVISION 7 LOTS, DELIGHT STREET MOLONG
FIGURE 2 - PROPOSED MODIFICATION OF APPROVED SUBDIVISION DA2000/182
11.04.2024
23030DA MOD FINAL
2 OF 2
PETER BASHA
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT
Phone 6361 2259 Fax 6360 4700
P.O. BOX 1827 ORANGE, NSW 2800

Appendix D Phase 1 Social Impact Assessment

Scoping Report – Request for Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements

Molong Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)

StorEnergy 3 Pty Ltd

SLR Project No.: 620.041615.00001

20 February 2025

Appendix E Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan

Scoping Report – Request for Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements

Molong Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)

StorEnergy 3 Pty Ltd

SLR Project No.: 620.041615.00001

20 February 2025

Appendix F AHIMS Search

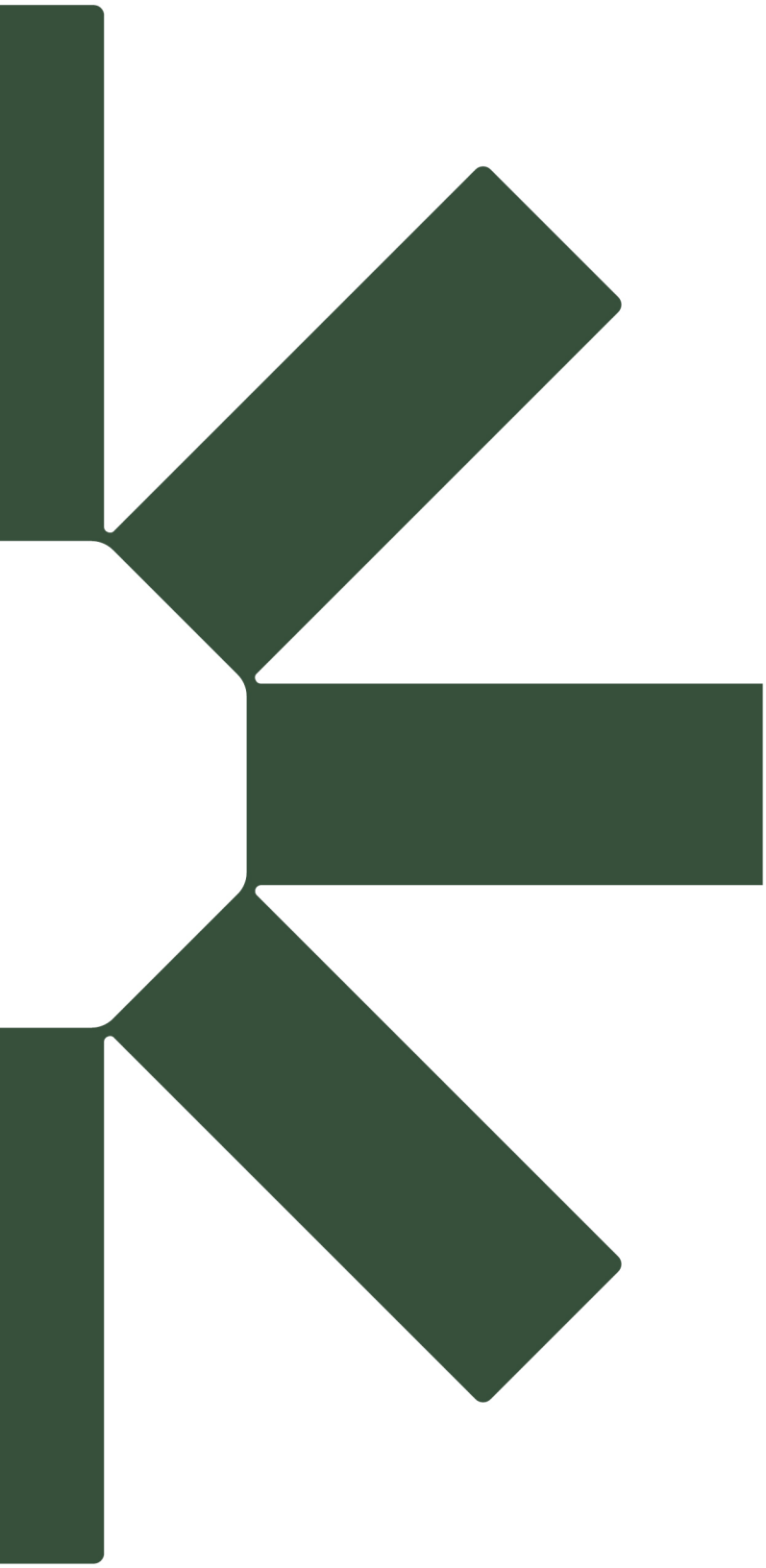
Scoping Report – Request for Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements

Molong Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)

StorEnergy 3 Pty Ltd

SLR Project No.: 620.041615.00001

20 February 2025



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