



Burgmann's Battery Energy Storage System

Scoping Report

Burgmann's BESS Pty Ltd

7 August 2026

→ The Power of Commitment



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S4	4	Marianne Rajkumar	Aisling O'Grady	On file	J. McKinney	On file	7/08/26

GHD Pty Ltd | ABN 39 008 488 373

Contact: Aisling O'Grady, Technical Director - Environment | GHD Pty Ltd

133 Castlereagh Street, Level 15

Sydney, NSW 2000, Australia

T +61 2 9239 7100 | **F** +61 2 9239 7199 | **E** sydmal@ghd.com | **www.ghd.com**

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Executive summary

Introduction

Burgmann's BESS Pty Ltd (Burgmann's BESS), a subsidiary of Trina Solar Pty Ltd, proposes to construct and operate a 200-megawatt (MW) battery energy storage system (BESS) and associated infrastructure (the project). The project would be located at 651 Burgmanns Lane, Calala (NSW), about six kilometres south-east of Tamworth (the project site). The project is located within the Tamworth Regional Council local government area (LGA).

The project site is located approximately 400 metres west of the existing Transgrid Tamworth 132/330 kilovolt (kV) substation, to facilitate connection to the NSW high voltage electricity transmission network.

As NSW seeks to utilise renewable energy sources, Burgmann's BESS's project would directly respond to the demand for increased renewable electricity supply across NSW, by storing excess renewable energy in times of surplus, and releasing this energy in times of high demand.

The project site

The project site has an indicative operational footprint of about eight hectares (excluding the underground transmission line). The development footprint is estimated to be approximately 10 hectares including the BESS development area, underground transmission line corridor and laydown area. The site is currently used as a rural residential property containing a dwelling and associated outbuildings, and is characterised by gently undulating, largely cleared agricultural land with scattered trees and small shelterbelts. The surrounding landscape comprises rural residential allotments, agricultural production and existing electricity infrastructure, including underground transmission lines and the nearby Tamworth substation.

Project overview

The project would have a capacity of up to 200 MW, with up to 1600-megawatt hour (MWh) output capacity. A 132 kV underground transmission line would connect the battery to the existing Transgrid Tamworth substation located approximately 400 metres east of the project site.

The construction works would involve:

- Clearing of vegetation within the approved construction footprint and earthworks
- Installation of concrete foundations and slabs to support battery modules
- Installation of power conversion systems and transformer structures
- Delivery, installation and electrical fit-out of the battery modules
- Installation of a 132 kV underground transmission line from the BESS to the existing Transgrid Tamworth substation, and connection works within the existing substation
- Potential upgrades to local road intersections, subject to further traffic assessment.

Once operational, the project would provide energy storage and energy exports as required, contributing to the stability of the NSW electricity transmission network. The project would create up to 150 jobs during the approximate 12 to 18-month construction period and provide about 10 to 12 jobs on site once operational.

Strategic context

Traditionally, the major source of electricity generation in NSW has been large coal-fired power stations. Since 2012, three coal fired power stations have been decommissioned, most recently Liddell Power Station in 2023. The remaining coal-fired power stations are planned to be progressively decommissioned over the coming decades. The transition in energy supplies from coal-fired power stations to renewable energy sources requires the development of a reliable and sustainable energy supply, including BESS, to ensure grid stability.

The NSW Government has announced renewable energy zones (REZs) and additional transmission infrastructure to generate and transmit renewable electricity to meet the forecast energy shortfall. The project would firm variable renewable energy in the Tamworth region, which sits within the broader New England REZ. Locating large energy storage near existing transmission infrastructure and proposed renewable generation projects in the region would reduce requirements for additional transmission lines, reduce energy losses and improve grid stability.

Statutory context

Section 4.36(3) of the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979* provides that a state environmental planning policy may declare any development, or any class or description of development, to be State Significant Development (SSD). The project would be SSD in accordance with section 2.6(1) of State Environmental Planning Policy (Planning Systems) 2021, since the project is electricity generating works with a Capital Investment Value of more than \$30 million. The project is permissible under section 2.36(1)(b) of the State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021, as the project would be electricity generating works undertaken in a prescribed non-residential zone (the site is predominantly zoned RU4 Primary Production Small Lots under the Tamworth Regional Local Environmental Plan 2010).

Assessment of impacts

The identification of issues to be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) has been undertaken through a risk-based approach in accordance with the State significant development guidelines – preparing a scoping report (DPE 2022a). The following environmental matters identified during the risk assessment will form the key assessment matters in the EIS:

- Biodiversity
- Amenity (noise and vibration and visual impacts)
- Aboriginal cultural heritage
- Social impacts
- Hazards and risks (including bushfire)
- Land use and soil.

Other matters that would require more limited assessment in the EIS include traffic and access, historic heritage, air quality and greenhouse gases, built environment, contamination, waste, and water impacts. For each environmental matter, the potential impacts associated with the construction, operation, and decommissioning and rehabilitation of the project would be identified in the EIS. Mitigation measures would be provided in the EIS to eliminate or reduce potential impacts associated with the project.

Engagement undertaken to date

Early engagement has commenced. This has comprised early discussions with directly affected landowners and neighbours, initial engagement with Registered Aboriginal Parties (including the Tamworth Local Aboriginal Land Council), early discussions with Transgrid and Lumea regarding grid connection requirements (commenced December 2024), and initial approach to Tamworth Regional Council. An introductory letter was distributed to local residents on 11 May 2026 to notify them of the project, engage and seek their feedback. Feedback received to date has been preliminary and introductory in nature, with key matters relating to project location and layout, construction traffic and access, potential noise, visual and bushfire impacts, and the timing of further consultation.

Purpose of this Scoping Report

This Scoping Report has been prepared in accordance with the form and content requirements of the State Significant Development Guidelines – preparing a scoping report (DPE 2022a). This Scoping Report provides:

- A description of the project
- An analysis of feasible alternatives considered having regard to the objectives of the development, and identifies the alternatives that would be investigated further in the EIS
- An early indication of community views on the project and identifies what engagement would be carried out during the preparation of the EIS
- A summary of the key matters requiring further assessment in the EIS and the proposed approach to assessing each of these matters having regard to any relevant Government legislation, plans, policies or guidelines.

This Scoping Report seeks to obtain the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) for the project.

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Abbreviations and glossary of terms

Term	Definition
ACHAR	Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report
AEMO	Australian Energy Market Operator
AHIMS	Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System
BAM	Biodiversity Assessment Method
BC Act	<i>NSW Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i>
BDAR	Biodiversity development assessment report
BESS	Battery energy storage system
BOS	Biodiversity Offsets Scheme
Burgmann's BESS	The proponent
CEEC	Critically endangered ecological community
CHDDA	Cultural Heritage Due Diligence Assessment
CIV	Capital Investment Value
Cross Station	An area located on the project site consisting of several farm buildings that form an agricultural facility.
DPE	Former NSW Department of Planning and Environment
DPHI	Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EMF	Electric and magnetic fields
EP&A Act	<i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i>
EP&A Regulation	Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021
EPBC Act	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>
GHD	GHD Pty Ltd
GW	Gigawatt
ha	Hectares
ILUA	Indigenous Land Use Agreement
ISP	Integrated System Plan
IRSAD	Index of Relative Socio-Economic Advantage and Disadvantage
km	Kilometres
kmph	Kilometres per hour
kV	Kilovolt
LETS	Low Emissions Technology Statements
LGA	Local government area
LSPS	Local Strategic Planning Statement
MW	Megawatt
MWh	Megawatt hours
N/A	Not applicable
NEM	National Electricity Market
NSW	New South Wales

Term	Definition
PCT	Plant community type
PHA	Preliminary Hazard Assessment
Planning Systems SEPP	NSW State Environmental Planning Policy (Planning Systems) 2021
PMST	Protected Matters Search Tool
SAII	Serious and irreversible impact
SEARs	Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements
SOHI	Statement of Heritage Impact
SSD	State Significant Development
SSI	State Significant Infrastructure
SEIFA	The Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas
Tamworth substation	Transgrid's existing Tamworth 330/132 kV substation
TEC	Threatened ecological community
The project	Construction and operation of Burgmann's BESS
The project site	The location of the project, at Burgmanns Lane, Calala NSW in the Tamworth Local Government Area
The Roadmap	NSW Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap
Transport and Infrastructure SEPP	State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021

1. Introduction

1.1 Overview

Burgmann's BESS Pty Ltd (Burgmann's BESS) (the Proponent), a subsidiary of Trina Solar Pty Ltd, strive to support Australia's transition to renewable energy, by providing firm green energy to a range of commercial and industrial customers in Australia.

Burgmann's BESS is seeking development consent for construction and operation of a 200-megawatt (MW) battery energy storage system (BESS) with up to eight-hour storage duration, equating to 1600 megawatt hours (MWh) of storage and discharge capacity and associated infrastructure (the project). The project would be located at 651 – 633 Burgmanns Lane, Calala in New South Wales (NSW), in a rural area approximately six kilometres (km) south-east of Tamworth.

The project site is located approximately 400 metres (m) west of the existing Transgrid Tamworth 132/330 kilovolt (kV) substation (Tamworth substation), to facilitate connection to the NSW high voltage electricity transmission network. In addition to the battery storage infrastructure, the project would include electrical transformers and inverters, an underground transmission line to the Tamworth substation, connection works to the Transgrid Tamworth substation, site access and road intersection upgrades on the local road network.

As NSW seeks to utilise renewable energy sources, BESS projects would directly respond to the demand for increased renewable electricity supply across NSW, by storing excess renewable energy in times of surplus, and releasing this energy in times of high demand (refer to sections 2.5 and 3.6 for detailed discussion on project site selection and alternatives).

1.2 Project background

Traditionally, electricity generation in New South Wales (NSW) has relied heavily on large coal-fired power stations. Since 2012, three major coal plants have been decommissioned, most recently Liddell in 2023, and further retirements are expected as the remaining facilities age or lose economic viability. This transition highlights the need to develop reliable and sustainable alternatives.

The NSW Electricity Strategy sets out the NSW Government's plan for a reliable, affordable and sustainable electricity future. It recognises that renewable generation and battery storage are now cost-competitive and essential to replacing ageing coal-fired assets. The proposed project is consistent with the Strategy's objectives by supporting investment in demand-response technologies. In particular, the BESS would enhance grid stability by 'smoothing out' peaks and troughs in supply associated with variable renewable sources such as solar and wind.

1.3 The proponent

Trina Solar Pty Ltd is developing large-scale battery energy storage projects in Europe, Asia and Australia, including a 250 MW / 500 MWh system at the Limestone Coast North Energy Park in South Australia, and maintains a global pipeline exceeding 10,000 MWh.

Trina has established a trust for the project. The legal entity details of the trust are as follows:

- Name: Burgmann's BESS Pty Ltd
- ABN: 64 684 784 254
- Address: Level 19, 109 Pitt Street, Sydney, NSW 2000.

1.4 Purpose and structure of this report

This report has been prepared to support an application to the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) to request the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) and has been developed in accordance with the *State significant development guidelines – preparing a scoping report* (DPE 2022a). It includes an outline of the strategic context, description of the project, the statutory context, stakeholder engagement completed to date and proposed ongoing engagement, preliminary identification of relevant environmental matters, potential impacts and the proposed scope of the assessment to be undertaken in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

- The EIS would be prepared in accordance with the requirements of the SEARs, the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act), the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act), and the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021 (EP&A Regulation).

2. Strategic context

2.1 National policies

2.1.1 Australia's Long-Term Emissions Reduction Plan

Australia's Long-Term Emissions Reduction Plan (DISER 2021) is focused on technology and sets out how Australia would achieve net zero emissions by 2050. One of the key principles of the plan is keeping energy prices down with affordable and reliable power. The plan identifies low emissions technology solutions including battery storage as a priority technology to achieving clean, cheap electricity.

The Technology Investment Roadmap is the cornerstone of the Long-Term Emissions Reduction Plan and sets a process to develop and deploy low emissions technologies. By focusing government investment, it aims to make these technologies cost about the same as existing high emission technologies.

The Technology Investment Roadmap includes a requirement to prepare Low Emissions Technology Statements which review, refine and evaluate the government's investments in low emission technologies. The current *Low Emissions Technology Statement 2022* (DCCEE 2022) includes energy storage as an existing priority technology for government investment.

LETs 2022 indicates that broad deployment of electrical energy storage would facilitate further integration of low-cost solar and wind electricity in the grid. Energy storage would provide system security services and be a source of reliable, dispatchable electricity, and reduce pressure on electricity prices by meeting peaks in consumer demand.

The project is consistent with the high priority technologies outlined in the Long-Term Emissions Reduction Plan which would enable ongoing renewables deployment.

2.1.2 Integrated System Plan

The Integrated System Plan (ISP) is a whole-of-system plan that provides a coordinated generation and transmission investment plan to transition the National Electricity Market (NEM) over the next 30 years. The Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) published the recent Draft ISP 2026 in December 2025, as a revision to the existing ISP 2024 for the NEM. The 2026 Draft ISP re-iterates that renewable energy, connected by transmission and distribution, firmed with storage and backed up by gas is the least-cost way forward for the Australia (AEMO 2025).

Under the 'Step Change' scenario, identified in the 2026 Draft ISP as the most likely scenario, the NEM would need to cater for total electricity consumption to double over the period to 2050. This would require significant investment in generation capacity, storage, firming generation and transmission augmentation as coal generation withdraws through to 2050.

The 2026 Draft ISP predicts under the Step Change scenario that about 65 per cent of the current 21 gigawatts (GW) of coal capacity would retire by 2035, with all coal capacity retiring by 2050. Total electricity generation and storage capacity would need to triple; and storage capacity alone (including batteries) would need to increase significantly from 3 GW (currently) to 35 GW by 2035, and to 55 GW in 2050 (AEMO 2025).

The project would support the transition to a renewable-dominated electricity system by providing firming and dispatchable capacity to manage variability in renewable generation. In doing so, it would contribute to meeting the system needs identified in the 2026 Draft ISP, including managing peak demand, addressing supply gaps during low renewable output, and supporting efficient power transfer across the NEM.

2.2 NSW policies

2.2.1 The Climate Change (Net Zero Future) Act 2023

The *Climate Change (Net Zero Future) Act 2023* is the NSW Government's legislative framework to address climate change and achieve net zero emissions by 2050. The Act legislates:

- Guiding principles for action to address climate change that consider the impacts, opportunity and need for action in NSW
- Emissions reductions targets for NSW based on 2005 levels of a 50 per cent reduction by 2030, a 70 per cent reduction by 2035, and achieving net zero by 2050
- An objective for NSW to become more resilient to climate change
- Establishing an independent Net Zero Commission to monitor, review, report on and advise on progress toward these targets.

The project aligns with the Act's objectives by reducing emissions through electricity storage and enhances NSWs climate resilience. By storing energy in the BESS for release during peak demand periods, this helps to lessen reliance on fossil fuels.

2.2.2 NSW Electricity Strategy

The *NSW Electricity Strategy* (DPIE 2019) is the NSW Government's plan for a reliable, affordable and sustainable electricity future. The strategy identifies the need to maintain system reliability while transitioning away from ageing coal-fired generation and increasing the share of renewable energy supported by firming infrastructure.

The strategy notes that four of the state's five remaining coal-fired power stations are expected to reach the end of their technical lives over the coming decades. Since 2012, three coal-fired power stations have been decommissioned, most recently the Liddell Power Station in 2023. While the Eraring Power Station was previously scheduled to close in 2025, its operation has been extended until 2029 to maintain energy reliability during the transition to renewable generation.

As these generators age, they may become increasingly susceptible to outages, reducing overall system reliability. The strategy recognises that firmed renewables, including battery energy storage systems, are now among the most cost-competitive forms of new generation and are critical to ensuring reliable electricity supply.

The project is consistent with the objectives of the strategy by contributing to system reliability, supporting peak demand management, and reducing reliance on ageing thermal generation.

2.2.3 NSW Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap

The *NSW Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap* (DPIE 2020) (the Roadmap) is the NSW Government's plan to transition the electricity sector and deliver the major infrastructure needed to modernise our electricity system and power the economy. Under the roadmap, consumers would benefit from low cost, clean electricity generation backed up by 24-hour power sources.

The roadmap is a coordinated framework to modernise the electricity system and deliver new generation, transmission, long duration storage and firming that would also deliver on the ambition of net zero emissions by 2050.

The modernisation of the electricity system would be built on five pillars:

1. Driving investment in regional NSW
2. Delivering energy storage infrastructure
3. Delivering Renewable Energy Zones
4. Keeping the grid secure and reliable
5. Harnessing opportunities for industry.

As the electricity market moves towards more generation that relies on variable conditions, like weather, generators need to be backed up by long duration storage to ensure power is available at all times when it is needed. Energy storage infrastructure such as batteries allows renewable energy to be stored and then released on demand when it is needed, creating stability and reliability in the electricity system.

The project is consistent with Pillar 2 of the roadmap to provide additional energy storage infrastructure that can quickly stabilise the electricity system and reliably meet peak demand.

2.3 Regional and local policies

2.3.1 Tamworth Local Strategic Planning Statement / Blueprint 100

The Tamworth Regional Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) (2020), prepared under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act), sets out the 20-year vision for land use and growth in the Tamworth region. It establishes planning priorities around economic development, infrastructure provision, and sustainable growth, and guides amendments to the Tamworth Regional LEP (2010). The LSPS is supported by Tamworth Regional Council's "Blueprint 100" initiative, which seeks to plan for a population of 100,000 by 2041 through coordinated land use, infrastructure, and investment planning. The project is consistent with these strategies by supporting investment in renewable energy infrastructure and contributing to the region's economic growth and resilience.

2.3.2 Tamworth Tomorrow Economic Development & Investment Strategy 2022–2026

The Tamworth Tomorrow Strategy identifies the 'renewable economy' and infrastructure investment as key strategic priorities for the region, and seeks to attract new industries, innovation and investment. The BESS project aligns with this economic strategy by providing energy infrastructure and supporting the transition to low-emission industries (Tamworth Regional Council, 2022). The project supports these priorities by delivering renewable energy infrastructure that contributes to the transition to low-emission industries.

2.3.3 New England North West Regional Plan 2036

The New England North West Regional Plan 2036 is the 20-year strategic planning blueprint that sets the land use planning framework, vision and direction for the New England North West region. The vision is to create a dynamic and prosperous region that builds on its diverse landscapes, natural resources and strong communities (DPIE, 2017).

Emerging opportunities in renewable energy and green technologies are increasingly recognized as complementary economic drivers. The plan underscores the importance of leveraging natural assets, infrastructure connectivity, and innovation to support diverse economic growth, while protecting key landscapes and fostering vibrant regional communities (DPIE, 2017). The project aligns with this strategic direction and helps to realise the plan's vision for a strong and dynamic regional economy.

2.4 Site setting

As outlined in section 1, Burgmann's BESS is seeking planning approval for the development of a 200 MW battery BESS, an underground transmission line to Tamworth substation, connection works to the substation and associated site access at 651 Burgmanns Lane, Calala, NSW, as well as and road intersection upgrades within the Tamworth Regional Council Local Government Area (LGA).

The project site and surrounding land are subject to multiple land use zones under the Tamworth Regional LEP (2010), including RU4 Primary Production Small Lots, and R5 Large Lot Residential. The proposed footprint for the BESS facility is predominantly located within land zoned RU4 Primary Production Small Lots.

2.4.1 Local access and intersections

The project site is accessed via the existing local and regional road network. Key intersections in the vicinity of the project that may be relevant to construction and operational transport and access include:

- Burghmanns Lane / New England Highway (RU4 Primary Production Small Lots)
- Burghmanns Lane / Burgess Lane (RU4 Primary Production Small Lots).

At the time of this Scoping Report, the detailed design of site access arrangements and the need for any intersection upgrades have not been completed. Potential road intersection upgrades may be required for the following four intersections:

- Burghmanns Lane/ Goonoo Goonoo Road
- Burghmanns Lane/ Ascot Calala Road
- Goonoo Goonoo Road/ Whitehouse Lane
- Ascot Calala Road/ Whitehouse Lane.

These would be subject to further investigation during design, informed by construction methodologies, vehicle types and traffic volumes and would be assessed in consultation with the relevant road authorities would also be undertaken. Potential intersection upgrades would be assessed as part of a Traffic Impact Assessment that will support the EIS.

2.4.2 Existing land use and landscape character

The land within the project site allocated to the proposed BESS is currently used as a rural residential property, containing a dwelling and associated outbuildings. The surrounding landscape is characterised by rural residential allotments and semi-rural land uses, with a pattern of cleared grassed areas interspersed with scattered trees and small shelterbelts, refer to Figure 2.1 and Figure 2.2.

The site is gently undulating and forms part of a broader landscape that includes existing electricity infrastructure, including underground transmission lines and the nearby Tamworth substation, which are visible elements within the wider setting. This existing infrastructure contributes to an established electricity network in the locality.

The project site contains several built structures associated with its current rural residential use, including a dwelling and ancillary buildings. The location and treatment of these structures will be confirmed as part of detailed design and future assessment stages.

The project location and regional context are shown in Figure 2.1 and Figure 2.2, and Figure 2.4 and Figure 2.5 identify the project site, including the BESS, proposed transmission line connection, connection works to Tamworth substation, and access upgrades.



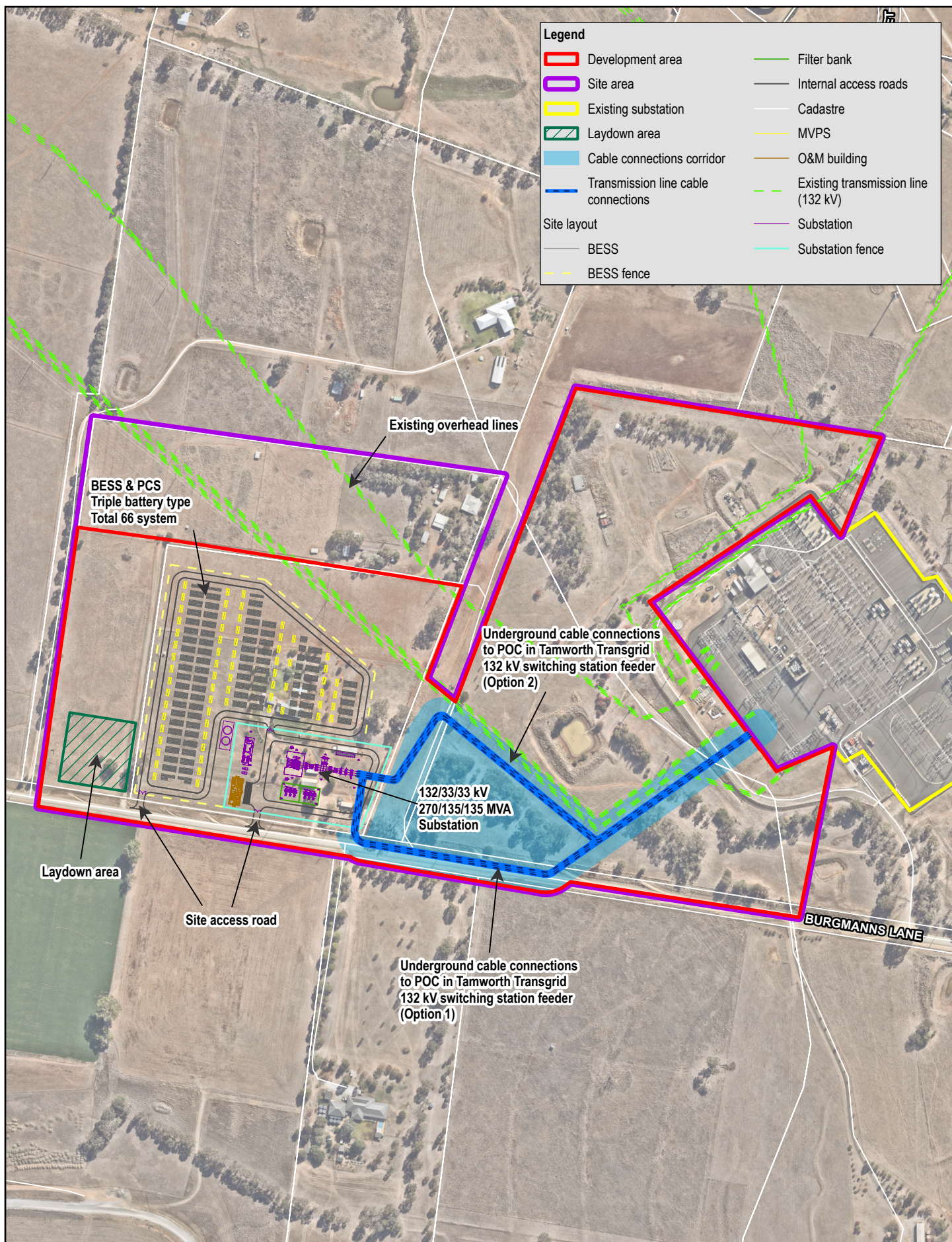
Figure 2.1 *Project landscape showing cleared agricultural land*



Figure 2.2 *The view from 651 Burgmanns Lane looking towards the Transgrid substation*

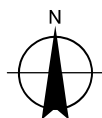


Figure 2.3 Regional Context



Paper Size ISO A4
0 50 100 150 200
Meters

Map Projection: Transverse Mercator
Horizontal Datum: GDA2020
Grid: GDA2020 MGA Zone 56



Trina Solar
Burgmann's BESS
Scoping Report

Project No. 12669575
Revision No. 0
Date 07/08/2026

Project Site

FIGURE 2.4

2.4.3 Property

The BESS project and associated infrastructure would be located on the Lots and DP's as described in Table 2.1 and on the lands of the Gomeroi people.

A search of the Native Title Claims register undertaken in October 2025. Gomeroi People claim NC2011/006 includes the entire Tamworth LGA, including the project site. However, the project site is not subject to any Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA).

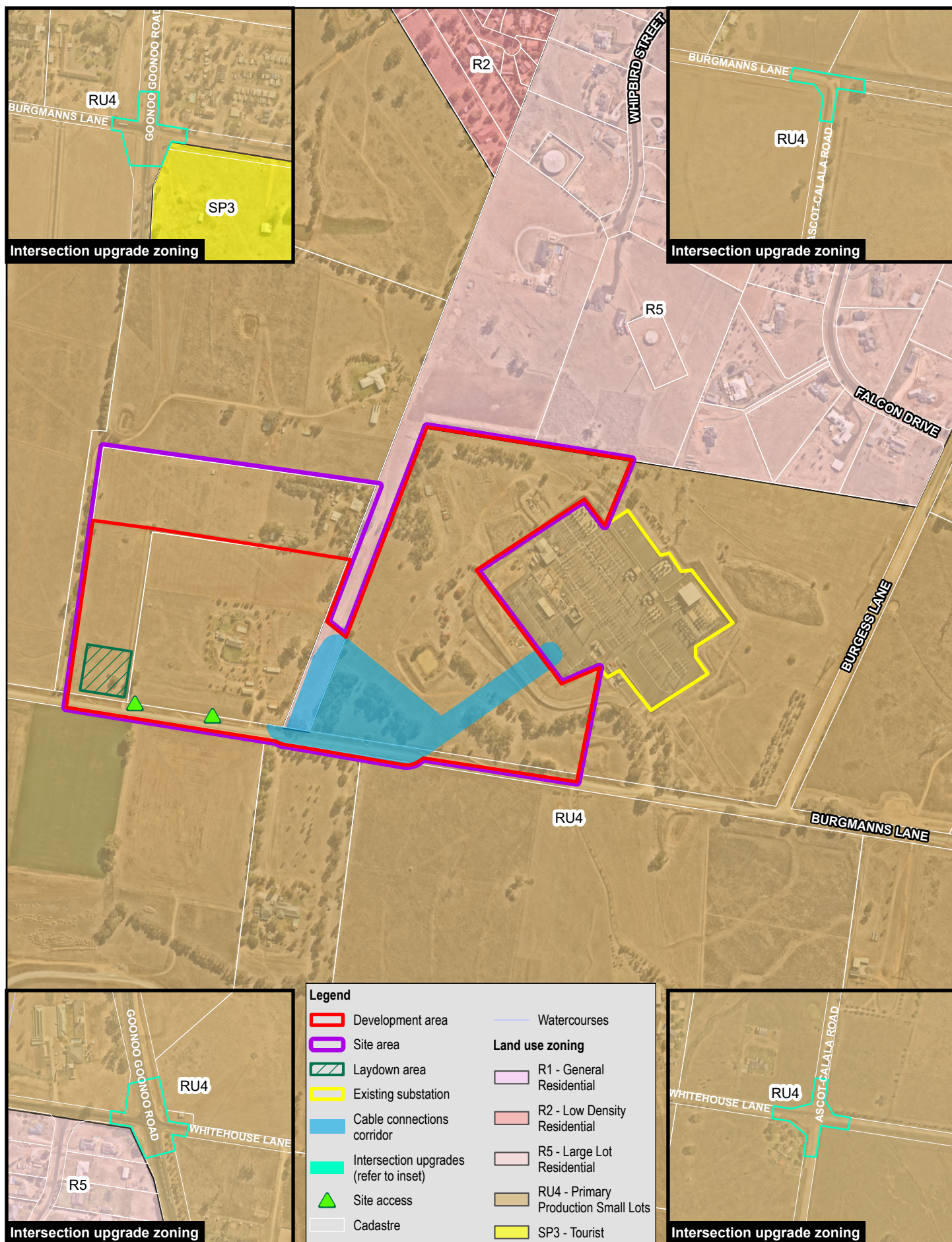
The project will ensure that the appropriate Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) are identified, consulted in line with the stakeholder engagement activities for the project and involved in the assessment of Aboriginal cultural heritage.

Table 2.1 *Property applicable to the proposed development*

#	Address	Lot / DP	Ownership and lease areas	Land use zoning ¹
BESS	651 Burgmanns Lane, Calala 2340, NSW	Lot 2 DP162223	Privately owned land, property agreement in place with Burgmann's BESS Pty Ltd	RU4 Primary Production Small Lots
	633 Burgmanns Lane, Calala 2340, NSW	Lot 4 DP509370	Privately owned land, property agreement in place with Burgmann's BESS Pty Ltd	RU4 Primary Production Small Lots
Transmission connection	651 Burgmanns Lane, Calala 2340 NSW	Lot 2 DP162223	Privately owned land, property agreement in place with Burgmann's BESS Pty Ltd.	Unzoned, RU4 Primary Production Small Lots
	10 Whipbird Street Calala 2340	Lot 137 DP1146241	Privately owned land.	R5 Large Lot Residential
	707 Burgmanns Lane, Calala 2340 NSW	Lot 6 DP219993	Transgrid	RU4 Primary Production Small Lots
Laydown area	633 Burgmanns Lane, Calala 2340, NSW	Lot 4 DP509370	Privately owned land, property agreement in place with Burgmann's BESS Pty Ltd	RU4 Primary Production Small Lots
Substation upgrade	707 Burgmanns Lane, Calala 2340, NSW	Lot 6 DP219993	Transgrid	RU4 Primary Production Small Lots
Intersection upgrade 1	Burgmanns Lane / Goonoo Goonoo Road	Road / infrastructure corridor	Tamworth Regional Council	RU4 Primary Production Small Lots
Intersection upgrade 2	Burgmanns Lane / Ascot Calala Road	Road / infrastructure corridor	Tamworth Regional Council	RU4 Primary Production Small Lots
Intersection upgrade 3	Goonoo Goonoo Road/ Whitehouse Lane	Road / infrastructure corridor	Tamworth Regional Council	RU4 Primary Production Small Lots
Intersection upgrade 1	Ascot Calala Road/ Whitehouse Lane	Road / infrastructure corridor	Tamworth Regional Council	RU4 Primary Production Small Lots

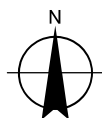
Note: 1. Tamworth Regional Council Local Environmental Plan 2010

The project site is located approximately 900 metres east of Gonoo Gonoo Creek, which is mapped as Crown Land.



Paper Size ISO A4
0 50 100 150 200
Meters

Map Projection: Transverse Mercator
Horizontal Datum: GDA2020
Grid: GDA2020 MGA Zone 56



**Trina Solar
Burgmann's BESS
Scoping Report**

Project No. 12669575
Revision No. 0
Date 07/08/2026

Land Use Zoning

FIGURE 2.5

2.4.4 Surrounding land uses and sensitive receivers

The project site is currently used as private rural residential property. Land uses within the broader locality comprise a mix of rural residential allotments, agricultural production and existing electricity infrastructure.

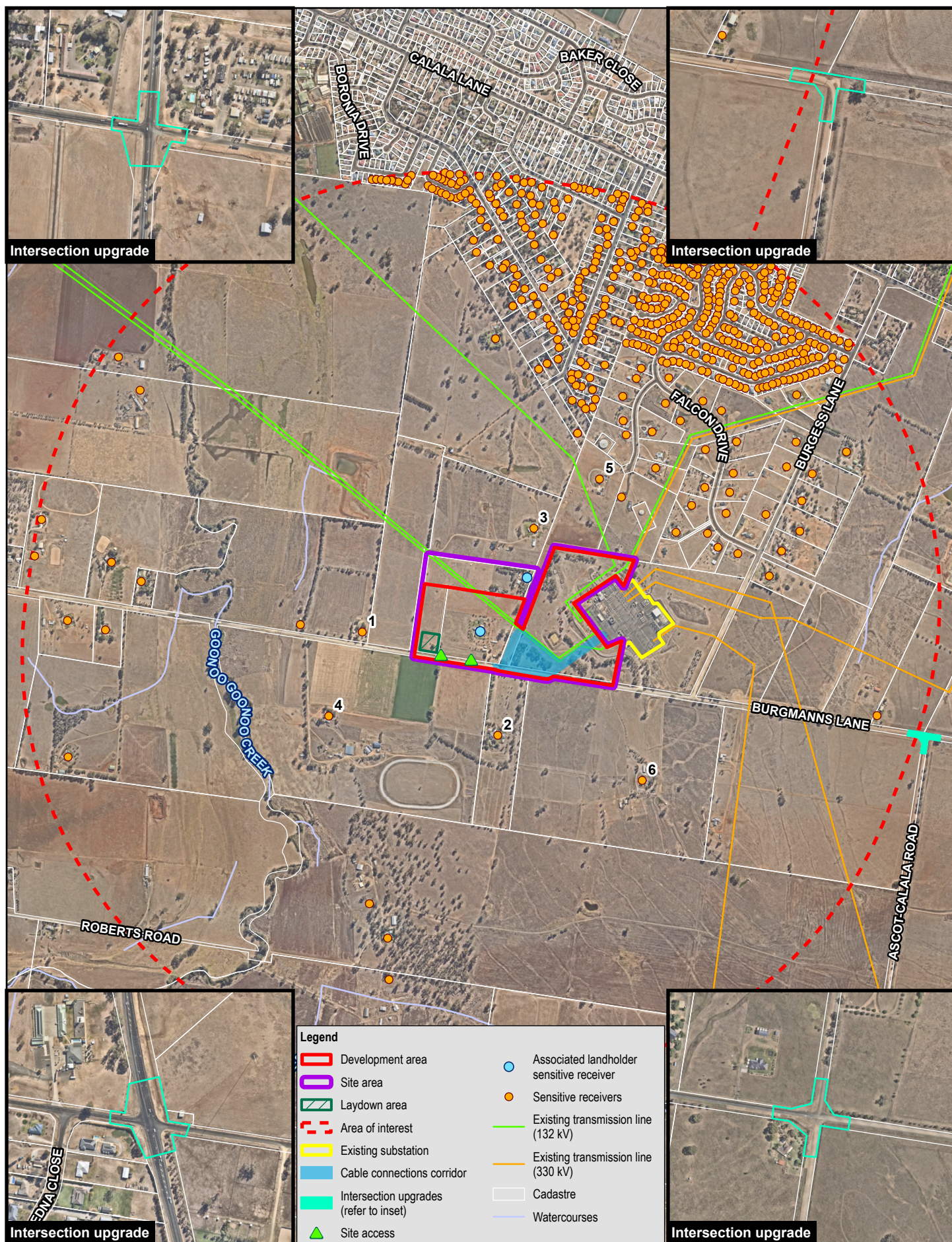
The nearest identified sensitive receivers are located on land at which Burgmann's BESS have property agreements in place with each landowner for the purposes of the project. As these dwellings would be associated with the project, they have been excluded from the sensitive receiver assessment.

Sensitive receivers are typically regarded as residential properties, schools, childcare centres, aged-care facilities, hospitals and neighbouring businesses. Eight sensitive receivers in the form of residences have been identified within one kilometre of the project site. Potential residential sensitive receivers are presented in Table 2.2.

Table 2.2 Closest identified sensitive receivers and potential impacts

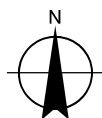
ID	Address	Legal description	Approximate location	Potential sensitive receiver impacts
1	605 Burgmanns Ln, Calala 2340, NSW	Lot 8 DP537934	320 m west of the project site	Potential for visual impacts. Impacts from increased traffic (due to proximity to Burgmanns Lane) and dust during construction. Impacts from construction and operational noise due to proximity to the project site.
2	652 Burgmanns Ln, Kingswood 2340, NSW	Lot 45 DP1064582	350 m south of the project site	Potential for visual impacts. Impacts from increased traffic (due to proximity to Burgmanns Lane) and dust during construction. Impacts from construction and operational noise due to proximity to the project site.
3	625 Burgmanns Ln, Calala 2340, NSW	Lot 6 DP509906	400 m north east of the project site	Potential for visual impacts. Impacts from dust during construction. Impacts from construction and operational noise due to proximity to the project site.
4	586 Burgmanns Ln, Kingswood 2340, NSW	Lot 46 DP1064582	600 m south west of the project site	Potential for visual impacts. Impacts from increased traffic during construction (due to proximity to Burgmanns Lane).
5	10 Whipbird St, Calala 2340, NSW	Lot 137 DP1146241	680 m north east of the project site	Potential for visual impacts (likely low given distance and existing substation in proximity). Impacts from increased traffic during construction (due to proximity to Burgmanns Lane).
6	696 Burgmanns Ln, Kingswood 2340, NSW	Lot 44 DP1064582	800 m south west of the project site	Potential for visual impacts (likely low given distance and existing substation in proximity). Impacts from increased traffic during construction (due to proximity to Burgmanns Lane).

Figure 2.6 indicates the potential sensitive receivers within 800 metres of the project site as outlined above. These potential sensitive receivers would be confirmed in further detail in the EIS.



Paper Size ISO A4
0 100 200 300 400
Meters

Map Projection: Transverse Mercator
Horizontal Datum: GDA2020
Grid: GDA2020 MGA Zone 56



Trina Solar
Burgmann's BESS
Scoping Report

Project No. 12669575
Revision No. 0
Date 07/08/2026

Sensitive Receivers

FIGURE 2.6

2.4.5 Topography and water resources

The topography of the project site and its surrounds is generally hilly, with higher elevations to the north and east. Ground levels range from approximately 411 metres above sea level at the northern boundary of the lot, sloping down to about 408 metres at the southern boundary. Landform continues to fall to the south and west towards Gonoo Gonoo Creek. No natural watercourses traverse the project site; however, several small private farm dams are present in the broader locality, including to the north, west and east of the site.

Based on a search of the Bureau of Meteorology Australian Groundwater Explorer (BoM, 2025), there are eight groundwater bores (see Table 2.3) located within 500 metres of the project site.

Table 2.3 Groundwater bores

Bore ID	Bore depth	Purpose	Status	Latitude	Longitude
GW969356.1.1	36.5	Water Supply	Functioning	-31.143783	150.944659
GW969334.1.1	24.4	Water Supply	Functioning	-31.147298	150.941646
GW900591.1.1	8.5	Water Supply	Unknown	-31.14448	150.937928
GW037936.1.1	10	Irrigation	Unknown	-31.145644	150.936681
GW032129.1.1	30.5	Irrigation	Unknown	-31.145644	150.947236
GW024519.1.1	7.9	Irrigation	Unknown	-31.148397	150.938075
GW015486.1.1	27.4	Water Supply	Unknown	-31.147311	150.946125
GW013541.1.1	7.9	Irrigation	Unknown	-31.148977	150.938625

2.5 Existing and proposed energy infrastructure

The project site is located within an established electricity infrastructure corridor centred on the existing Tamworth Substation. Several BESS projects have been approved or are progressing through the NSW planning system in the surrounding locality, including the Calala BESS, Tamworth BESS and Kingswood BESS projects, which are shown on Figure 2.3 and discussed in section 6.9.

The concentration of existing and proposed energy infrastructure in the area reflects the suitability of the locality for energy storage development, particularly due to its proximity to the existing Tamworth Substation and established transmission network. The proximity of these projects will be considered in the cumulative impact assessment prepared for the EIS, particularly in relation to visual amenity, traffic, noise and social impacts.

2.6 Project justification

Australia aims to achieve net zero emissions by 2050. To assist the transition to net zero, the NSW Government has planned to transition the state's energy sector to renewables. The NSW Electricity Strategy (refer to section 2.2.1) outlines the planned closure and end-of-life of coal-fired power stations in NSW. As these facilities wind-down, reliable, affordable and sustainable energy sources to transition to renewables are required. Battery facilities have been identified as one of the most cost competitive forms of new generation, and cost less than the current wholesale electricity price.

The Burgmann's BESS project would perform a critical role in supporting and storing energy generated by the existing and proposed renewable infrastructure in the region, such as solar and wind. The project would provide additional energy storage that would be delivered on demand to quickly stabilise the electricity system and reliably meet peak energy demand. The BESS would also help manage the variability of renewable energy sources, to ensure a consistent and stable power supply.

3. Project description

3.1 Overview

The project comprises the construction and operation of a grid-scale battery energy storage facility and associated electrical and ancillary infrastructure at Calala, New South Wales.

The project would include the following key components:

- A battery energy storage facility comprising battery modules, inverters, transformers and associated electrical equipment
- An onsite switchyard and connection infrastructure
- A 132 kV underground transmission line connecting the BESS to the existing Tamworth substation
- Connection work to the existing Transgrid Tamworth substation to accommodate the project connection
- Site access, internal roads, fencing, drainage and ancillary infrastructure
- Potential road upgrades to intersections and sections of the surrounding road network, if required.

The project would operate continuously, with automated charging and discharging of stored electricity in response to grid demand. Operational activities would be supported by periodic inspection, maintenance and monitoring undertaken by onsite or visiting personnel.

At the time of preparing this Scoping Report, aspects of the project design remain subject to further refinement, including the final layout, detailed connection works at the Tamworth substation, construction access arrangements and the scope of any intersection or road upgrades. These elements will be confirmed through ongoing design development, technical investigations (including noise, hazard, traffic, bushfire, ecology and heritage assessments), and consultation with stakeholders, the community and relevant authorities. The final scope and configuration of project infrastructure will be documented and assessed in detail in the EIS.

The key project characteristics are summarised in Table 3.1 and shown in Figure 2.4.

Table 3.1 Key project characteristics

Project element	Description
Project summary	Development of a BESS at Calala NSW, involving: – Approximate 200 MW BESS, inverters and transformers – 132 kV underground transmission line and related infrastructure to connect the BESS to the existing Tamworth substation – Road upgrades to intersections and sections
BESS project site	– 651 Burgmanns Lane, Calala 2340 NSW on Lot 2 DP162223 – 633 Burgmanns Lane, Calala 2340 NSW on Lot 4 DP509370
Underground transmission line corridor	– 651 Burgmanns Lane, Calala 2340 NSW on Lot 2 DP162223 – 10 Whipbird Street Calala 2340 NSW on Lot 137 DP1146241 – 707 Burgmanns Lane, Calala 2340 NSW on Lot 6 DP219993
Laydown area	– 633 Burgmanns Lane, Calala 2340, NSW on Lot 4 DP509370
BESS capacity	Up to 200 MW capacity with an up to eight-hour storage duration, resulting in a total of up to 1600 MWh of storage and discharge capacity
Battery chemistry	Lithium-ion
Operation	24 hours a day / 7 days a week / 365 days per year
Ancillary facilities	Switchyard, underground transmission line connections, site services
Estimated employment	Up to 150 during construction (peak), 10-12 during operation
Capital Investment Value	Approximately AUD \$200 million

3.2 Operational infrastructure

The indicative operational footprint of the project (excluding the underground transmission line) is about eight hectares.

3.2.1 Subdivision

A potential subdivision may be required relating to the ongoing ownership and operation of electrical infrastructure for the project. The need for subdivision, particularly in relation to the onsite substation, would be confirmed and detailed in the EIS following further engagement between Burgmann's BESS and the landowner.

3.3 Construction

3.3.1 Construction staging and methodology

During this stage of early project scoping, detailed construction methodology and staging has not been finalised and will be refined during detailed design and procurement. Construction of the project is anticipated to occur over a period of approximately 12 to 18 months, as a single overall phase, with some activities overlapping. The peak construction period is expected to occur during the equipment delivery and installation stages.

The development footprint is estimated to be approximately 10 hectares including the BESS development area (6.1 ha), underground transmission line corridor (3.2 ha) and laydown area (0.4 ha).

Indicative construction methodology and staging includes:

- Site establishment and early works
 - Site mobilisation, establishment of site access and temporary site facilities, environmental controls and fencing
 - Clearing of vegetation, limited to the approved construction footprint and undertaken in accordance with relevant environmental approvals
 - Removal or relocation of existing infrastructure within the construction footprint, where required.
- Civil works
 - Bulk earthworks, site grading, drainage works, internal access roads and construction of hardstand areas
 - Temporary or permanent works to the public road network and site entrance, including potential intersection upgrades, may be required, subject to further traffic assessment and consultation with relevant authorities.
- BESS infrastructure and underground transmission connection
 - Development of ancillary infrastructure and buildings, including control rooms, operations and maintenance facilities and amenities
 - Establishment of hardstand areas and construction laydown areas for the storage, assembly and staging of equipment and materials
 - Construction of concrete foundations and slabs to support battery modules, power conversion systems and transformer structures
 - Delivery of BESS infrastructure, including battery enclosures, inverters, transformers and associated electrical equipment, occurring progressively over the construction period
 - Installation and electrical fit out, including placement of battery units, installation of inverters and transformers, cabling and integration with grid connection infrastructure
 - Installation of a 132 kV underground transmission line connecting the BESS to the existing Tamworth substation
 - Connection works and adjustments within the existing Tamworth substation, as required to facilitate grid connection.

- Testing and commissioning
 - System testing, commissioning and energisation prior to commencement of operations.
- Removal of construction equipment and rehabilitation of construction areas.

3.3.2 Construction hours

The majority of construction activities would be carried out consistent with the recommended standard hours of construction, detailed in the Interim Construction Noise Guideline (DECC, 2009):

- 7:00 am to 6:00 pm Monday to Friday
- 8:00 am to 1:00 pm Saturdays
- No work on Sundays or public holidays.

Out-of-hours works are not anticipated at this stage. However, if required (for example, for safety-critical activities, commissioning works, or delivery of oversized plant or equipment), any works outside the standard construction hours would be undertaken in accordance with relevant guidelines and approvals, and with appropriate mitigation measures in place. Any out-of-hours works would be considered as part of the EIS, and appropriate mitigation measures would be provided for consultation and notification.

3.3.3 Site clearance, vegetation removal and earthworks

Preliminary ecology surveys are progressively underway. On those areas of the project site where preliminary surveys have been carried out native vegetation is consistent with the following Plant Community Types (PCTs):

- 3396: Northwest Slopes Box-Blakely's Red Gum Woodland
- 4080: Northwest River Oak-Apple Forest
- 4147: Northwest White Box Sparse Grassy Woodland.

Construction of the project would require the removal of some existing vegetation within the site. The extent of vegetation clearance and any associated requirement for biodiversity offsets would be further assessed and defined during the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) stage.

3.3.4 Access

Two potential construction access options have been identified for the project:

- Option 1: Access via the New England Highway / Goonoo Goonoo Road, connecting to the local road network and proceeding via Burgmanns Lane to the project site.
- Option 2: Access via the New England Highway / Goonoo Goonoo Road, connecting to Whitehouse Lane and Ascot-Calala Rd and proceeding via Burgmanns Lane to the project site.

The final access arrangements will be confirmed as part of the EIS, following further assessment of construction traffic, access requirements associated with the project (including substation connection works), and consultation with relevant authorities.

3.3.5 Utilities

Power

Residential power supply connection exists at the project site. The need for connection of additional power services would be investigated and considered during the EIS. Power supply to the construction site may be from the existing distribution network, or from on-site generators.

Water

The project site forms part of a mixed rural-residential and agricultural area; therefore, it is unlikely that an existing water supply or sewer line is unavailable. The EIS would consider water supply requirements for the project.

3.4 Operation

The project would operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week with electricity storage and export activities occurring as required on an automated basis. Operations and maintenance by operational staff would be undertaken during standard working hours. Emergency response, inspections and maintenance may be required to be undertaken out of hours.

The project would provide approximately 10 to 12 jobs on site once.

3.5 Decommissioning

At the end of the design life the batteries would either be disposed of and recycled at approved disposal facilities. Opportunities to extend the initial design life of 20 years would be reviewed subject to the refurbishment or replacement of components and market conditions.

Following decommissioning, the project site would be rehabilitated as far as reasonably practical, to pre-development conditions or better.

3.6 Alternatives considered

Alternatives to the project are considered at a site level and overall project level and would continue to be developed through the design stages to ensure the design meets best practice requirements and can avoid or minimise identified environmental, social and economic impacts. The following alternatives have been assessed:

- The “do nothing” approach
- Project site location alternatives
- Battery energy storage layouts.

3.6.1 The “do nothing” approach

The “do nothing” approach would involve not constructing and operating the project at the Calala site. This approach would not support the NSW and Australian Government plans, policies and strategies identified in section 2 to ensure investment in new demand response technologies in NSW, and improve grid stability in the region, helping to ‘smooth out’ energy peaks and troughs created by variable energy such as solar and wind.

The ‘do nothing’ option would 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.

3.6.2 Strategies to minimise impacts

3.6.2.1 Alternative sites

In order to select a suitable region within NSW, to locate a BESS, Burgmann’s BESS considered the current and forecast electricity needs across NSW, and relevant planning and policy considerations. It was determined that the Tamworth region and specifically the area around Tamworth substation, was most appropriate. Potential sites in the area were considered on the following basis:

- Proximity to the substation
- Grid capacity and viable grid connection opportunities
- Existing and other proposed energy developments
- Land zoning
- Availability of land and potential impact upon productive land
- Proximity to potential sensitive receivers
- Potential environmental and cultural heritage sensitivities

- Accessibility and constructability
- Socio-economic considerations.

The objective of the site selection process was to identify land that minimised impacts and costs while maximising overall benefit. Alternative locations were assessed as follows:

- **North:** Land to the north of the substation contains a higher density of rural dwellings, smaller lot sizes and established residential areas. The number of sensitive receivers and lack of suitably zoned, appropriately sized land discounted this option.
- **South:** Land to the south is predominantly rural and would require longer transmission connections and easements, resulting in greater environmental disturbance and potential land use conflicts. This area is also subject to the Tamworth and Calala BESS developments and was therefore discounted.
- **East:** Sites east of the substation are located further from the preferred connection point and include higher densities of rural dwellings and active agricultural uses. The area is also affected by the Calala BESS development and was not considered suitable.
- **West:** Several parcels immediately west of the substation were considered. While the land is relatively cleared, proximity to existing dwellings limited achievable setbacks and fragmented lot arrangements prevented formation of a suitably sized contiguous development footprint, resulting in these parcels being ruled out.

3.6.2.2 Alternative layouts

Several concept layout options have been considered within the selected Burgmann's BESS site as part of early project planning, to determine the most suitable infrastructure arrangement. Early design was initially limited the proposed concept layout to Lot 2 DP162223 due to its proximity to the substation and capacity to accommodate the required footprint. Further refinement has resulted in incorporation of Lot 4 DP509370 to increase separation from neighbouring properties and further minimise potential impacts. This provides improved buffering while retaining development within cleared land and maintaining suitable setbacks.

Preliminary biodiversity surveys and Aboriginal cultural heritage investigations are currently underway, and any constraints identified will further inform the development of the site layout. Assessments for noise, hazards, bushfire, landscape and visual will be prepared as part of the EIS and will further inform the preferred site layout. While a preferred layout is still being determined, the key strategy is to site the BESS infrastructure within an existing cleared area to minimise impacts, enabling a short and direct substation connection while achieving appropriate separation from surrounding dwellings and land uses.

3.6.3 The preferred site

The development strategy considered a range of alternative project sites and layouts in the vicinity of the substation. The Burgmann's BESS site was selected due to its immediate proximity to existing Tamworth substation infrastructure (approximately 400 m), enabling co-location with the grid connection point and significantly reducing the length of required electrical connections. This minimises ground disturbance, easement requirements and construction complexity. The site is also subject to fewer planning overlays than surrounding parcels, reducing approval complexity, and is located within an area of compatible rural land uses and established energy infrastructure, supporting efficient integration of the project within its local context.

The preferred site also benefits from an existing road access, therefore avoiding the need for significant roadworks.

4. Statutory Context

The key requirements of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act) and other relevant State and Commonwealth legislation in relation to the approval and assessment of the project are summarised in Table 4.1. The project would be State Significant Development (SSD) in accordance with section 2.6(1) of State Environmental Planning Policy (Planning Systems) 2021, since the project is electricity generating works with a Capital Investment Value of more than \$30 million. The project is permissible under section 2.36(1)(b) of the State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021, as the project would be electricity generating works undertaken in a prescribed non-residential zone.

Table 4.1 Summary of statutory requirements for the project

Matter	Comment
Power to grant consent	Section 4.36(2) of the EP&A Act provides that a State environmental planning policy may declare any development, or any class or description of development, to be State Significant Development (SSD). The project is deemed SSD in accordance with section 2.6(1) of State Environmental Planning Policy (Planning Systems) 2021 (Planning Systems SEPP), since Section 20 of Schedule 1 of the Planning Systems SEPP lists electricity generating works with a Capital Investment Value (CIV) of more than \$30 million as SSD. In accordance with section 4.5(a) of the EP&A Act, the consent authority for State significant development is the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces or the Independent Planning Commission (pursuant to section 2.7 of the Planning Systems SEPP).
Permissibility	The project site is located within the Tamworth Local Government Area, and the relevant local environmental plan is the Tamworth Regional LEP 2010. The project site comprises the following land use zones: – RU4 Primary Production Small Lots – R5 Large Lot Residential (potential underground transmission corridor). Pursuant to Section 2.35 definitions, RU4 is a prescribed non-residential zone under the Tamworth Regional LEP 2010. The project is characterised as ‘electricity generating works’ under clause 2.36 of the Transport and Infrastructure SEPP and is therefore permissible with development consent under 2.36(1)(b) of the Transport and Infrastructure SEPP on land zoned for prescribed non-residential purposes, including RU4 Primary Production Small Lots. Clause 2.36 of the Transport and Infrastructure SEPP prevails over the zoning provisions of the Tamworth Regional LEP to the extent of any inconsistency. Clause 2.35 provides the following relevant definition of electricity generating works: <i>electricity generating works</i> means a building or place used for the following purposes, but does not include a solar energy system— (a) making or generating electricity, (b) electricity storage. Clause 2.44 of the Transport and Infrastructure SEPP permits development without consent on land for the purpose of electricity transmission lines carried out by or on behalf of an electricity supply authority. Clause 2.44 of the Transport and Infrastructure SEPP prevails over the zoning provisions of the Tamworth Regional LEP to the extent of any inconsistency.
Other approvals	Consistent approvals Any authorisations under certain legislation, identified in Section 4.42 of the EP&A Act, cannot be refused if it is necessary for carrying out an approved SSD project and is to be substantially consistent with the SSD approval. In relation to the project, these authorisations could include: – An environment protection licence under Chapter 3 of the <i>Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997</i> – Road intersection upgrades will be required on a public road in land zoned as RU4. A consent under section 138 of the <i>Roads Act 1993</i> will be required within the meaning of section 138 of the <i>Roads Act 1993</i>, namely road works to support construction traffic. Accordingly, a consent under section 138 is anticipated to be required and, in accordance with section 4.42 of the EP&A Act, must be applied consistently with any development consent granted for the project. Approvals not required

Matter	Comment
	An authorisation under certain other legislation, identified in Section 4.41 of the EP&A Act, is not required for approved State significant development. In relation to the project, these authorisations could include: – A permit under Section 201, 205 or 219 of the <i>Fisheries Management Act 1994</i> – An approval under Part 4, or an excavation permit under section 139, of the <i>Heritage Act 1977</i> – An Aboriginal heritage impact permit under Section 90 of the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i> – A bush fire safety authority under Section 100B of the <i>Rural Fires Act 1997</i> – 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 the <i>Water Management Act 2000</i>. Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) The EPBC Act is Australia's main environmental law. It outlines nine protected matters known as 'matters of national environmental significance'. These matters include World Heritage areas, listed threatened species, ecological communities and migratory birds, among others. Biodiversity surveys undertaken to date have not identified the potential for a significant impact on biodiversity values of any threatened species and communities listed under the EPBC Act. Therefore, a referral for a controlled action under the EPBC Act is not proposed to be lodged for this project at this stage. If further biodiversity surveys do indicate that a significant impact is likely, a referral will be lodged. Native Title Act 1993 The Commonwealth <i>Native Title Act 1993</i> gives Indigenous Australians who hold native title rights and interests - or who have made a native title claim - the right to be consulted and, in some cases, to participate in decisions about activities proposed to be undertaken on the land. The project is not located on any land to which Indigenous Land Use Agreements are in effect. However, the project will ensure that the appropriate Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) are identified and consulted in line with the stakeholder engagement activities for the project.
Pre-conditions to exercising the power to grant approval	Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 Part 7 of the BC Act applies to approvals under the EP&A Act. Section 7.9 requires a development application for State significant development to be accompanied by a Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR). Section 7.14 requires the consent authority to take into consideration the likely impact of the proposed development on biodiversity values as assessed in the Biodiversity Development Assessment Report.
Mandatory matters for consideration	State Environmental Planning Policy (Resilience and Hazards) 2021 Section 4.6 stipulates that a consent authority must not consent to the carrying out of development unless: – It has considered whether the land is contaminated, and – If the land is contaminated, it is satisfied that the land is suitable in its contaminated state (or would be suitable, after remediation) for the purpose for which the development is proposed to be carried out, and – If the land requires remediation to be made suitable for the purpose for which the development is proposed to be carried out, it is satisfied that the land would be remediated before the land is used for that purpose. Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 The following sections of the EP&A Act need to be considered by the consent authority prior to granting approval: – Section 1.3 – Objects of the Act – Section 4.15 – Evaluation – Section 4.38 – Consent for State Significant Development. Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021 The EIS will be prepared having regard to the applicable provisions of Part 8 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021. In particular, the EIS will address the content requirements for environmental impact statements, including a description of the project, the existing environment, assessment of likely environmental impacts, mitigation measures, other required approvals and justification of the project. Tamworth Regional Local Environmental Plan 2010

Matter	Comment
	The EIS would need to demonstrate consideration of the objectives of the RU4 Primary Production Small Lots, and R5 Large Lot Residential. The following sections of the LEP would be considered during the preparation of the EIS. Part 2 Permitted or prohibited development: This part describes the land use zones and zone objectives based on which the EIS would demonstrate consideration of the objectives of the identified land use zones. Clause 4 Principal development standards: Assess compliance with applicable building height controls for battery units, switchyard infrastructure, control buildings and other ancillary structures. Clause 5.10 Heritage Conservation stipulates that development consent is required for development affecting a heritage item, Aboriginal object, Aboriginal place of heritage significance, archaeological site or heritage conservation area. Development consent is not required where: – The applicant has notified the consent authority of the proposed development, – The consent authority has advised in writing that the proposed development is of a minor nature or relates to maintenance – The proposed development would not adversely affect the heritage significance of the heritage item, Aboriginal object, Aboriginal place, archaeological site or heritage conservation area. Clause 5.11 Bush fire hazard reduction: The clause authorises bush fire hazard reduction work in accordance with the <i>Rural Fires Act 199</i>. The EIS would assess bush fire risks in detail In compliance with the Clause. Part 7 Additional local provisions: • Clause 7.1 Earthworks • Clause 7.14 Essential services.

5. Engagement

5.1 Interest groups identified

Burgmann's BESS has undertaken an initial stakeholder scoping exercise and has identified a number of key interest groups and stakeholders as outlined in Table 5.1.

Table 5.1 Stakeholders identified

Stakeholder type	Stakeholder
Federal Government	– Hon Barnaby Joyce MP (Federal Member for New England) – Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) – Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO)
State Government	– Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) – Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development – Hon Kevin Anderson MP (State Member for Tamworth) – National Parks and Wildlife Service
Local government	– Tamworth Regional Council – Paul Bennett (Mayor), Paul Bennett or CEO (General Manager)
Emergency services	– NSW Rural Fire Service – Fire and Rescue NSW – NSW State Emergency Service
Aboriginal community and stakeholder groups	– Local Aboriginal Land Council: Tamworth LALC – Kamilaroi / Gomeroi Traditional Owners – Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs)
Utility owners and infrastructure providers	– Transgrid (Transmission line and substation connection)
Neighbouring landholders and residents	– Landowners and residents along Burgmanns Lane and adjoining rural allotments
Broader community	– Calala residents and businesses – Tamworth residents and businesses (broader community)
Community and interest groups	– Tamworth Business Chamber – Tamworth Regional Landcare Group – Any local community or action groups that may form or respond to infrastructure development

Further detail regarding stakeholder interests, engagement objectives and proposed engagement approaches is provided in the Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan (CSEP) (refer to Appendix B).

5.2 Early engagement carried out

Early neighbour and stakeholder engagement for the project has commenced to inform the Scoping Report and the ongoing development of the project.

Initial engagement activities have included:

- Early discussions with directly affected landowners and neighbours to introduce the project and identify any preliminary concerns
- Initial engagement with RAPs, including the Tamworth Local Aboriginal Land Council, to advise of the project and outline opportunities for ongoing consultation
- Early discussions with Transgrid and Lumea in relation to grid connection requirements commenced in December 2024 and have continued in relation to works within and adjacent to the existing Tamworth substation

- Approach to Tamworth Regional Council, noting that Council advised they would prefer to defer further engagement until after the SEARs are issued.

Early community engagement has also included distribution of a landowner notification letter on the 11th of May 2026 to local landowners surrounding the project, providing them with an introduction to the proponent and the project, providing the contact details to engage with the project team and seeking the landowners feedback (refer to Appendix C). Opportunities for community members to discuss the project and provide early feedback will continue throughout the scoping and EIS phases, in accordance with the CSEP.

Feedback received to date has been preliminary and introductory in nature, with key matters raised generally relating to:

- Project location and layout
- Construction traffic and access
- Potential noise, visual and bushfire impacts
- Timing of further consultation.

These matters will be further investigated as part of the EIS, and ongoing engagement will be used to inform project design, mitigation measures and the assessment of potential impacts. A detailed summary of engagement activities, issues raised and how the project has responded to feedback will be provided in the EIS.

5.3 Engagement to be carried out

5.3.1 Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan

A CSEP has been prepared for the project to guide engagement during the Scoping Report and EIS phases (Appendix B). The CSEP outlines the approach and activities that Burgmann's BESS will undertake to inform and consult the community and other identified key stakeholders throughout the assessment process.

Engagement activities will continue as the EIS is prepared, including prior to and during public exhibition of the EIS, in accordance with the NSW Community Participation Plan and relevant engagement guidelines.

Project-related information will also be made available through the proponent's website and other communication channels identified in the CSEP.

The effectiveness of engagement will be monitored throughout the engagement process, including consideration of participation levels and the nature of feedback received from the community and neighbouring landholders. Engagement approaches may be refined as the project progresses, including consideration of locations within Calala that are recognised as community hubs for future engagement activities.

Consistent with the CSEP, notification to nearby residents, including those along Burgmanns Lane and Whipbird Street, will be undertaken to support ongoing engagement during the EIS phase, noting that early engagement identified that some properties in the local area may not be occupied on a full-time basis.

5.3.2 Potential issues from community and stakeholders

Based on the location and nature of the project, and having regard to issues commonly raised for similar developments, the following matters may be of interest or concern to the community and stakeholders during the EIS phase:

- Potential community impacts and benefits, including employment opportunities and local economic activity, and the role of the Project in the transition to renewable energy
- Interest in how battery energy storage systems operate, including matters related to safety, fire management and ongoing operation
- Potential community benefits, including broader network reliability outcomes
- Potential for increased traffic movements during construction, and implications for the local road network and nearby residents
- Potential visual, noise and dust impacts during construction, operation and decommissioning
- Potential concerns regarding the loss of agricultural land.

It is anticipated that feedback received during the EIS phase may inform aspects of the project, including:

- Refinement of the location and layout of project infrastructure to minimise potential visual and noise impacts
- Identification of landscape and visual mitigation measures
- Consideration of construction methods and management measures to minimise impacts on the community
- Consideration of community benefit initiatives, where appropriate.

Details of issues raised through engagement and how they have been considered in the project design and assessment will be documented in the EIS.

5.3.3 Agency consultation

Consultation will be undertaken with the government agencies identified in section 5.1, having regard to the SEARs and other relevant agency requirements.

Engagement with government agencies will occur throughout the preparation of the EIS, as required, to support the assessment of the project. Details of agency consultation undertaken and the outcomes of that consultation will be documented in the EIS.

6. Proposed assessment of impacts

The identification of issues to be addressed in the EIS has been undertaken through a risk-based approach in accordance with Appendix A of the *State Significant Development Guidelines – Preparing a Scoping Report* (DPE, 2022a). This process involved reviewing previous reports, undertaking limited investigations (such as site inspections), and desktop searches of proprietary environmental databases to identify key issues and sensitive areas from February to September 2024.

A summary of the key environmental matters identified during the risk assessment is provided in section 6.1 through to section 6.6. Other matters for consideration are identified in section 6.8. A Scoping Summary Table (as required by Appendix A of the *State Significant Development Guidelines – Preparing a Scoping Report* is provided in Appendix C of this Scoping Report. The intent of the discussion is to demonstrate an understanding of the matters and the need for further environmental assessment and mitigation measures to inform the preparation of the SEARs.

6.1 Biodiversity

6.1.1 Existing environment

Overview

Preliminary biodiversity investigations have been undertaken for the project, including desktop assessments and site-based flora and fauna surveys. An initial field assessment was conducted in October 2025 by a BAM-accredited assessor to map vegetation communities, assess vegetation integrity and inform targeted survey requirements.

Targeted surveys for threatened species are currently in the early stages, with additional surveys planned in appropriate seasonal windows to inform the EIS and Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR).

Threatened species database searches

A search of the BioNet Atlas and the EPBC Act Protected Matters Search Tool (PMST) was undertaken in October 2025 for the project site, using a 10-kilometre search radius.

The BioNet Atlas search identified 15 threatened species (NSW-listed and/or EPBC-listed) previously recorded within 10 kilometres of the project site, comprising:

- Four mammals (including Grey-headed Flying-fox, Koala, Spotted-tailed Quoll and Eastern Coastal Free-tailed Bat)
- Seven birds (including Little Lorikeet, Diamond Firetail, Powerful Owl, Square-tailed Kite, Black Falcon, Turquoise Parrot and the endangered population of Australian Brush-turkey)
- One reptile (Pink-tailed Legless Lizard)
- One amphibian (Booroolong Frog)
- Two plant species (Bluegrass *Dichanthium setosum* and Magenta Lilly Pilly *Syzygium paniculatum*).

The PMST identified the potential presence of four Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs), 40 threatened species and eight migratory species within 10 kilometres of the project site.

No threatened species were recorded during the initial site assessment; however, this does not preclude their presence, as targeted surveys for many species have not yet been completed.

Vegetation and plant community types

The project site is located on land with a history of small-scale agricultural use and has been subject to extensive historical disturbance and clearing. Native vegetation within the project area is generally limited to scattered paddock trees, planted vegetation and areas of derived native grassland.

Field surveys identified three Plant Community Types (PCTs) within the BESS and substation sites (excluding potential intersection upgrade areas):

- PCT 3396 – Northwest Slopes Box–Blakely’s Red Gum Woodland
- PCT 4080 – Northwest River Oak–Apple Forest
- PCT 4147 – Northwest White Box Sparse Grassy Woodland.

These PCTs were further stratified into vegetation zones based on structure, composition and condition, including remnant, planted and derived native grassland communities. The extent and condition of each vegetation zone are summarised in Table 6.1 and shown on Figure 6.1.

Threatened ecological communities

Two of the three PCTs recorded within the site (PCT 3396 and PCT 4147) are associated with the White Box–Yellow Box–Blakely’s Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland Critically Endangered Ecological Community listed under the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016.

Based on the initial assessment:

- Some vegetation zones within PCT 4147 meet the criteria for the BC Act-listed TEC,
- None of the vegetation within the main project site is currently considered likely to meet the minimum condition or size thresholds for listing under the EPBC Act, and
- Additional assessment may be required for areas associated with potential intersection upgrade works, which were only provisionally mapped at this stage.

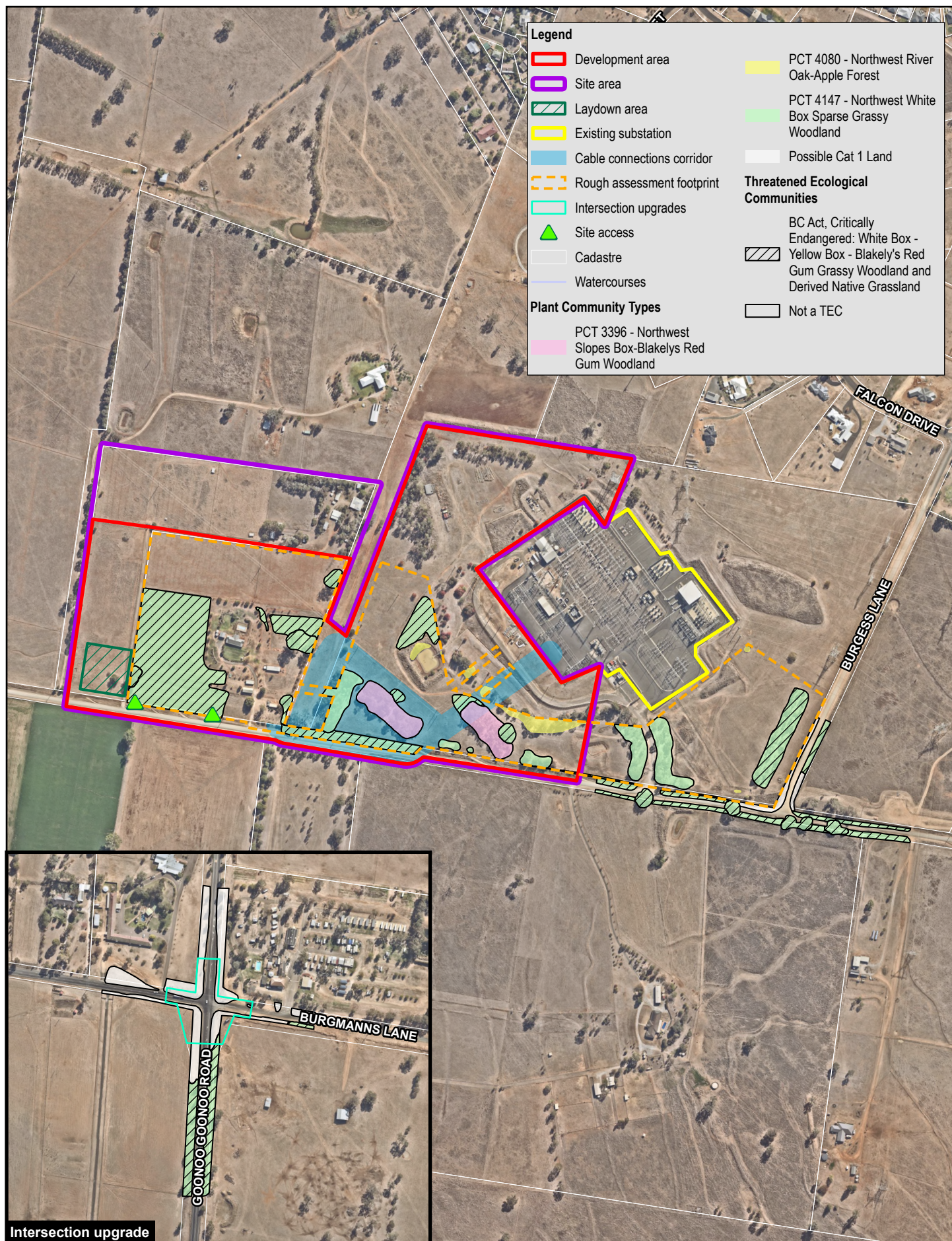
Approximately 3.21 hectares of BC Act-listed TEC were identified within the project site.

Summary

Overall, the project site is characterised by highly disturbed agricultural landscapes with limited areas of native vegetation, including remnant trees, planted woodland and derived native grassland. Further targeted surveys will be undertaken during the EIS phase to confirm the presence or absence of threatened species, refine the extent of TECs, and inform impact assessment and offset requirements under the NSW Biodiversity Offsets Scheme (BOS).

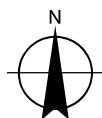
Table 6.1 PCTs and associated threatened ecological communities mapped within the project site, based on biodiversity surveys to date

Current PCT ID	PCT name	Threatened Ecological Communities (BC Act)	Threatened Ecological Communities (EPBC Act)
PCT 3396	Northwest Slopes Box-Blakely’s Red Gum Woodland	Critically Endangered Ecological Community (CEEC): White Box - Yellow Box - Blakely’s Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland in the NSW North Coast, New England Tableland, Nandewar, Brigalow Belt South, Sydney Basin, South Eastern Highlands, NSW South Western Slopes, South East Corner and Riverina Bioregions.	CEEC: White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely’s Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland.
PCT 4080	Northwest River Oak-Apple Forest	N/A	N/A
PCT 4147	Northwest White Box Sparse Grassy Woodland	CEEC: White Box - Yellow Box - Blakely’s Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland in the NSW North Coast, New England Tableland, Nandewar, Brigalow Belt South, Sydney Basin, South Eastern Highlands, NSW South Western Slopes, South East Corner and Riverina Bioregions.	CEEC: White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely’s Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland



Paper Size ISO A4
0 50 100 150 200
Meters

Map Projection: Transverse Mercator
Horizontal Datum: GDA2020
Grid: GDA2020 MGA Zone 56



Trina Solar
Burgmann's BESS
Scoping Report

Project No. 12669575
Revision No. 0
Date 07/08/2026

PCTs and TECs recorded
during the initial survey

FIGURE 6.1

Threatened species

No threatened flora or fauna species were recorded during the initial site-based biodiversity assessment undertaken in October 2025. This outcome should not be interpreted as evidence that threatened species are absent from the project site, as targeted seasonal surveys for a number of species have not yet been completed.

Database searches and habitat assessment indicate that the project site contains potential habitat for a range of threatened fauna species listed under the BC Act and/or the EPBC Act. Species with the potential to occur within or adjacent to the site include, but are not limited to, a range of woodland-dependent birds, arboreal mammals, reptiles and amphibians, subject to the presence of suitable habitat and confirmation through targeted surveys.

Targeted surveys for threatened species will be undertaken during appropriate seasonal windows as part of the EIS and BDAR to confirm the presence or absence of threatened species and to inform impact assessment and offset requirements.

6.1.2 Potential impacts

Based on the existing biodiversity values within the study area, the project site is considered to have moderate biodiversity constraints, primarily associated with the presence of native vegetation communities aligned with CEECs listed under the BC Act.

Potential biodiversity impacts associated with the project may include:

- Removal of remnant, planted or derived native vegetation, which may comprise threatened ecological communities or provide habitat for threatened species
- Impacts to vegetation associated with BC Act-listed CEECs, particularly White Box–Yellow Box–Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland
- Disturbance or loss of habitat resources for a number of threatened fauna species, including hollow-bearing trees, woodland foraging habitat and derived native grasslands
- Potential impacts to habitat suitable for threatened flora species.

Where native vegetation removal is proposed for a State Significant Development, impacts would require assessment and offsetting in accordance with the BC Act, the NSW BOS and the Biodiversity Assessment Method (BAM).

6.1.3 Assessment approach

A BDAR will be prepared as part of the EIS in accordance with the BAM and the Project's SEARs.

The BDAR will include:

- Detailed seasonal flora and fauna surveys undertaken during appropriate survey windows
- Confirmation of the presence or absence of threatened species, populations and ecological communities
- Assessment of potential impacts to biodiversity values in accordance with the BC Act and, where relevant, the EPBC Act
- Calculation of the biodiversity credit obligations required to offset residual impacts under the NSW Biodiversity Offsets Scheme.

The assessment will apply the avoid, minimise and mitigate hierarchy, with offsetting considered as a last resort where impacts cannot be avoided or adequately minimised.

6.2 Amenity

6.2.1 Noise and vibration

Existing environment

The project site has historically been used for agricultural purposes, with surrounding land uses comprising a mix of agriculture and rural-residential development.

An existing source of operational noise in the vicinity of the project site is the Transgrid Tamworth 330 kV substation, located on adjoining land. The substation operates on a continuous basis and contributes to the existing ambient noise environment, particularly for nearby rural-residential receivers.

Aside from the Transgrid substation, the surrounding area is generally characterised by low background noise levels, typical of rural and rural-residential settings, with intermittent noise associated with agricultural activities, local traffic and natural sources.

A total of six sensitive receivers have been identified within 800m of the project site. These receivers are identified in Table 2.2.

Potential impacts

Construction

During construction, noise and vibration has the potential to be generated as a result of the following activities:

- Project site establishment and earthworks
- Movement of heavy and light vehicles to and from the project site (construction traffic noise)
- Loading and unloading of materials and waste
- Construction of ancillary facilities
- Concrete pouring activities
- Potential road upgrade work.

Noise generating activities during construction works are likely to exceed the noise management limits, given the close proximity some of the sensitive receivers. Noise and vibration impacts would be short-term and temporary during construction and limited to the proposed working hours (refer to section 3.3.2). Mitigation measures to avoid or reduce noise impacts would be outlined in the EIS. An environmental management plan would also be developed prior to construction, containing measures to minimise noise during the construction phase of the project.

Construction of the underground transmission line to the existing substation has the potential to generate noise and vibration impacts for nearby sensitive receivers. The main sources of noise would be associated with excavation, trenching and construction traffic, while vibration would primarily arise from heavy vehicle movements, trenching equipment and compaction during backfilling. These impacts will be assessed in detail at the EIS stage once the final alignment and construction methodology are confirmed.

It is expected that sensitive receivers are located at a sufficient separation distance to be unaffected by vibration. This would be assessed in further detail during the preparation of the EIS. The proposed construction schedule minimises the construction period (and associated construction noise and vibration) as far as practicable.

Operation

- Key noise generating sources during operation would include:
- Battery enclosures with associated cooling fans and inverters
- Transformers
- A singular battery unit is relatively quiet however when a significant number of units are required, then cumulatively the noise generated can become significant. As the requirement for battery cooling increases so too does the noise emissions from the cooling fans.

There are also existing noise emissions from the existing Transgrid substation that would be considered in the assessment. Background noise monitoring would capture existing noise levels from the substation for consideration in the Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment.

Decommissioning

Noise generated during decommissioning would be similar to noise generated during construction (e.g. movement of heavy and light vehicles, loading and unloading of materials and waste, removal of facilities, etc.) and would be short-term and temporary, and limited to within the proposed working hours. Mitigation measures to avoid or reduce noise impacts would be outlined in the EIS. In addition, an environmental management plan would be developed prior to decommissioning that would contain measures to minimise noise during decommissioning of the project.

Assessment approach

A detailed Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment of the potential impacts of construction and operation noise and vibration on sensitive receivers would be undertaken to support the EIS. The significance of these impacts would be assessed in accordance with relevant guidelines. This would include:

- Adopting minimum Rating Background Levels from the Noise Policy for Industry, due to the rural (and therefore quiet) location of the site.
- Modelling of construction and operational activities and noisy equipment. The operational noise assessment would include consideration of cumulative impacts with other nearby infrastructure or industrial activities, if relevant.
- Identification of noise minimisation measures and modelling the effectiveness of these measures.

Consultation would be undertaken with sensitive receivers potentially impacted by the project, including those near access routes.

6.2.2 Visual

Existing environment

The project site is characterised by rural open terrain that is generally hilly, with higher elevations to the north and east, and lower elevations towards the south and west. The landscape consists primarily of cleared agricultural land with scattered farm infrastructure, consistent with the surrounding rural residential pattern. The landscape also includes the existing Transgrid substation and associated transmission lines and towers, which may have some existing impact on sensitive receivers in the area.

Potential impacts

The main visual impacts would be associated with the introduction of the BESS component on the project site. Such electricity infrastructure is not entirely new to the local landscape, given the presence of the existing Transgrid substation and associated underground transmission lines in the vicinity.

Burgmann's BESS has property agreements in place with the landowners of the two properties on which the BESS infrastructure would be located (651 and 633 Burgmanns Lane, shown within the red boundary on the Figure 2.6); no properties have been purchased. Visual impacts from the project would potentially be experienced by some of the sensitive receivers identified in Table 2.2; however, the most pronounced effects are anticipated for Sensitive Receiver ID 2 (625 Burgmanns Lane) due to its proximity to the project site and its elevated position on the hill overlooking the proposed BESS. This location increases the likelihood of direct views of the development compared with other receivers situated at greater distances or at lower elevations.

Construction of the project would contribute to additional electricity infrastructure in the locality. This would further add to a change in visual character from one of a predominantly rural landscape to one that includes an increased mix of industrial and rural land uses. While this may result in some additional visual impacts in the area, the presence of the existing Transgrid substation reduces the potential impact, as the locality already contains an element of industrial character.

Assessment approach

A Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) would be undertaken for the EIS, to assess visual impacts of all components of the project, including substation and other ancillary infrastructure. The LVIA would consider the locality of the project, including surrounding residences in view of the project site, as well as local roads that may have a view of the project site. The assessment would also include consideration of cumulative impacts with Transgrid Tamworth substation. The LVIA would provide details of measures to mitigate and/or manage potential impacts.

6.3 Heritage

Aboriginal cultural heritage investigations for the project have commenced and are currently in the early stages of assessment. OzArk Environment & Heritage (OzArk) has been engaged by GHD, on behalf of Burgmann's BESS, to undertake Aboriginal community consultation in accordance with the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010 (DECCW, 2010) and to prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) to support the EIS.

A desktop Cultural Heritage Due Diligence Assessment (CHDDA) has been undertaken to support this Scoping Report. The assessment and Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) search findings are summarised in section 6.3.1.

6.3.1 Aboriginal

Existing environment

The project site has undergone moderate disturbance from activities including vegetation clearing, livestock grazing, fluvial and alluvial erosion, construction of dwellings/farm buildings, water-source modification, dam excavation and vehicle tracks.

A field survey of the project site in relation to aboriginal heritage survey has not yet been undertaken. A desktop review of the local archaeological context indicates that the project site is characterised by historical disturbance from agricultural activities and is not in close proximity to a reliable water source, both of which reduce the likelihood of intact Aboriginal sites being present. These conclusions are consistent with the outcomes of recent cultural heritage assessments completed for nearby BESS developments at Calala, Tamworth and Kingswood.

As part of further investigations to be undertaken as part of the ACHAR, a site inspection of the project site would be completed by archaeologists and members of the Aboriginal community. A search of the National Native Title Tribunal's Register of Native Title Claims identified that the project site is located within the Gomeri People native title claim area, Tribunal No: NI2011/006 (National Native Title Tribunal 2023).

An AHIMS search undertaken on 1 October 2025 showed no recorded sites located in the one-kilometre radius of the project site.

Potential impacts

There is a low likelihood for further Aboriginal objects being recorded within the project site. The site prediction model as part of the CHDDA assessment identified that the following Aboriginal objects and places within the project site may be identified:

- Ovens and hearths as roughly circular areas of heat fractured rock associated with charcoal fragments and stone artefacts
- Grinding grooves located amongst sandstone outcrops
- Large remnant native trees within the project site may contain cultural modification
- Quarries within the project site would likely occur in rocky outcrops of silcrete, quartz or quartzite.

The project would disturb the previously disturbed ground surface through activities described above in section 3.

Assessment approach

An ACHAR would be prepared for the project as part of the EIS. As part of further investigations to be undertaken as part of the ACHAR, a site inspection of the project site, including all areas required for construction and operation, would be completed by archaeologists and members of the Aboriginal community in accordance with the *Code of Practice for the Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW* (DECCW, 2010b). This would involve systematic surveys for Aboriginal objects on the project site, supported by consultation with the Aboriginal community to gain an appreciation of cultural significance of any Aboriginal objects found. The results of the surveys would indicate whether test excavation at any specific landforms is warranted. Further investigations would include full consultation with the Aboriginal community following the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW, 2010a).

6.3.2 Historic

Existing environment

A desktop search of the relevant NSW and Commonwealth heritage databases, and the Tamworth Regional LEP 2010 was undertaken in October 2025 for items of historic heritage. The search did not identify any heritage items within two kilometres of the project site. It is unlikely that the project site supports historic heritage values.

Potential impacts

No direct impacts on heritage listed structures or places are expected as no recorded heritage items are located near to the project site. Potential indirect impacts to historic heritage, through vibration or amenity impacts may occur from the use of heavy vehicle transport routes and changes to landscape character or visual settings of nearby historic heritage items.

Assessment approach

A Statement of Heritage Impact (SOHI) would be undertaken to support the EIS. As part of the investigations to be undertaken for the SOHI, the project area would be subject to pedestrian surveys by archaeologists to assess the potential for additional historic values being present. The SOHI would also identify the potential impacts and mitigation strategies required to protect any recognised historic heritage values identified during the assessment as well as any other non-listed items in the locality.

6.4 Traffic and Access

6.4.1 Existing environment

The project site is located at 651 Burgmanns Lane, Calala, approximately six kilometres south-east of Tamworth and approximately 400 metres west of the existing Transgrid Tamworth substation. Access to the project site is currently available via Burgmanns Lane, a local rural road that connects to the surrounding road network, including Goonoo Goonoo Road and the New England Highway. The surrounding road network services a mix of rural residential, agricultural and electricity infrastructure land uses. The project includes potential access upgrades and intersection improvements to facilitate the safe movement of construction vehicles and equipment to and from the site.

6.4.2 Potential impacts

Construction

Construction of the project would require the transport of construction materials, plant and heavy equipment to the project site by road. The existing Transgrid substation to the east of the project demonstrates that similar construction activities have already taken place in the area via the project site's access roads and are likely to be suitable for navigation by heavy vehicles.

This would result in a temporary increase in traffic associated with the transport of construction materials, plant, equipment and workforce personnel. Construction traffic would include light vehicles used by the workforce, heavy

vehicles delivering construction materials and equipment, and potential oversize and/or overmass (OSOM) vehicle movements associated with battery infrastructure, transformers and electrical equipment.

Since Burgmanns Lane is a local rural road, peak construction times may impact surrounding residents and local users of the road. These impacts are expected to be short-term and moderate.

The project may require upgrades to existing site access arrangements and intersection upgrades on the surrounding road network to accommodate construction traffic and ensure compliance with road authority requirements. The increase in traffic volumes has the potential to result in:

- Increased traffic movements on Burgmanns Lane, Goonoo Goonoo Road and other roads used to access the project site.
- Increased interaction between construction traffic and local road users, including rural residents, agricultural operators and school bus services.
- Temporary impacts on road safety, traffic efficiency and road pavement condition associated with heavy vehicle movements.
- Temporary disruptions associated with any required access upgrades, road works or intersection improvements.
- Cumulative traffic impacts in combination with other existing and proposed energy developments in the vicinity of the Tamworth substation.
- The project may require upgrades to site access arrangements and nearby intersections to accommodate construction traffic and ensure compliance with road authority requirements. The nature and extent of these works would be confirmed during detailed design and consultation with the relevant road authorities. The project review comments also identified traffic and access as requiring detailed assessment due to potential intersection upgrades and construction traffic generation.

Operation

Operational traffic is expected to be limited and would primarily comprise routine inspections, maintenance activities and occasional equipment replacement. Operational traffic volumes would be substantially lower than those generated during the construction phase and are not expected to materially affect the operation, capacity or safety of the surrounding road network.

Decommissioning

Traffic impacts during decommissioning would be similar in nature to those experienced during construction, including increased heavy vehicle movements associated with the removal of project infrastructure and site rehabilitation activities.

6.4.3 Assessment approach

A Traffic and Transport Impact Assessment would be prepared to support the EIS. The assessment would be undertaken in accordance with relevant Transport for NSW and Austroads guidance and would include:

- Identification of the road network proposed to be used during construction, operation and decommissioning.
- Assessment of proposed site access arrangements and required access or intersection upgrades.
- Identification and assessment of OSOM vehicle requirements.
- Assessment of the capacity, efficiency and safety of the local and regional road network.
- Estimation of construction workforce traffic, light vehicle movements and heavy vehicle numbers.
- Assessment of potential impacts on road condition, road safety, nearby residents and other road users.
- Consideration of cumulative traffic impacts associated with other existing or proposed developments in the locality.
- Development of mitigation measures and traffic management strategies to minimise traffic and access impacts.

- Consultation would be undertaken with Transport for NSW, Tamworth Regional Council and other relevant stakeholders to inform the assessment and identify any road infrastructure upgrades, permits or approvals required for the project. This would include consideration of the proposed access upgrades and intersection improvements associated with the project.

6.5 Social

The initial scoping of social impacts has been prepared in accordance with the DPHI *Social Impact Assessment Guideline for State Significant projects* (DPE, 2023).

In accordance with these guidelines, social impact assessment (SIA) scoping and initial assessment is undertaken early in project development and involves:

- Establishing the social locality to understand the communities likely to be affected by the project
- An initial evaluation of the social baseline of the social locality
- An initial evaluation of social impacts
- Consideration and articulation of any project refinements.

This process is assisted by applying the SIA worksheet provided by DPHI. The following section provides an overview of the social locality and the outcomes of the initial evaluation of potential social impacts and benefits.

6.5.1 Existing environment

A preliminary social locality (study area) was identified based on the location of the project site and the communities most likely to experience impacts or benefits as a result of the project. The preliminary social locality is outlined in Table 6.2.

Table 6.2 Preliminary social locality

Study area	Interaction with project	Relevant ABS Statistical area
Local	The project site is located in Calala Suburb and Locality (SAL), within the Tamworth Regional Council area. Residents in the local study area may experience social impacts and benefits resulting from construction and operation of the project, particularly in relation to construction impacts such as increased traffic and decreased local amenity.	Calala Suburb and Locality (SAL)
Regional	Burgmann's BESS is located in the Tamworth Regional local government area (LGA). Communities across the LGA may experience some impacts and benefits during construction and operation of the project, particularly in relation to local employment and procurement opportunities, demand for accommodation and services, and cumulative impacts. .	Tamworth Regional local government area (LGA).

The project site is located at 651 – 633 Burgmanns Lane in the suburb of Calala, in Tamworth Regional LGA. The project site would be located on rural land currently used for farming and livestock grazing adjacent to the existing 330 kV Transgrid Tamworth Substation. As of May 2026, the proponent is still negotiating land acquisition from the current landowner. The Gomeroi people are the Traditional Custodians of Tamworth Regional LGA.

The suburb of Calala is characterised by a mix of semi-rural residential area and development, and agricultural and production land uses. Land use within Calala is predominantly zoned for primary production small lots and primary production, with limited areas of general residential development, reflecting its semi-rural character. The majority of Calala residents live in a residential area to the northwest of the suburb, immediately north of the project site.

The suburb is situated approximately 4.5 kilometres southeast of the Tamworth central business district and is bordered by other peri-urban and rural localities including South Tamworth, Hillvue, Kingswood, East Tamworth, Nemingha, Piallamore, Timbumburri, and Loomberah. Services in Calala include a grocery store, pharmacy, butcher, bottle shop, medical centre, a combined pre-school to year 12 school, and an agricultural high school. While Calala contains some local services and community facilities, residents primarily rely on the Tamworth township to access retail, health, education and government services.

The project site would be located along Burgmanns Lane and accessed via the New England Highway, Calala Lane, and Burgess Lane. Calala Lane provides access from Calala to Tamworth CBD, whilst the New England Highway provides links to Armidale in the northeast, Muswellbrook in the south, and southeast to Newcastle and Sydney.

At the time of the 2021 Census, Calala had a population of 3,930 residents, living across 1,668 dwellings (ABS, 2021). Calala is characterised by the following:

- A young population with a high proportion of residents aged under 18 years (30.2 per cent), and a median age of 33 years (compared to 39 years for the LGA)
- A high proportion of residents identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander (11.0 per cent). Tamworth Regional LGA also has a high population of residents who are identified as aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander (12.7 per cent)
- A lower unemployment rate (2.7 per cent) compared to the LGA (4.5 per cent), and higher labour force participation rate (65.5 per cent compared to 59.5 per cent)
- The top industry of employment was health care and social assistance (16.3 per cent), followed by education and training (14.0 per cent), and retail trade (11.5 per cent).

Tamworth Regional LGA supports a diverse regional economy supported by agriculture, public services, manufacturing, retail and emerging energy industries. Agriculture and agribusiness are primary contributors, with the region known for cattle, sheep and poultry production, grain handling, food processing, and associated freight and logistics activities (Tamworth Regional Council, 2020). The LGA also functions as a key regional service centre for northern New South Wales, with health care and social assistance representing the largest employment sector, alongside education, training and public administration services supporting a broad regional catchment. (Department of Planning and Environment) Retail trade, accommodation and food services further contribute to employment, reflecting Tamworth's role as a regional retail and cultural hub. Looking ahead, future growth is expected to be supported by infrastructure, logistics and energy investment. The Tamworth Regional LGA sits within the broader New England Renewable Energy Zone (REZ), with solar, wind and large-scale battery energy storage projects proposed or under development, positioning renewable energy as an increasingly important contributor to economic diversification and employment over time (EnergyCo, 2026).

6.5.2 Initial evaluation of social impacts and benefits

The potential social impacts and benefits that may result from construction and operation of the project have been identified through a review of the information presented in this Scoping Report, a desktop review and understanding of the social locality, and based on previous professional experience undertaking social impact assessment for state significant projects in NSW. The outcomes of the social impact scoping process are summarised below.

Some suburban and rural residences located in close proximity to the project site would likely be impacted by reduced amenity during construction. Due to the rural nature of the local area and landscape, residents may be sensitive to increased noise, dust, traffic and visual amenity impacts.

Light and heavy vehicles would utilise the existing road network in Calala and the LGA. Due to the low baseline of existing traffic on rural local roads in Calala and the agricultural nature of the area, residents living on Burgmanns Lane are likely to notice increased construction traffic, and there is potential for local community members to experience considerable disruptions on Calala Lane and Burgess Lane.

There is potential for skilled and unskilled residents in the LGA to benefit from the 150 peak construction employment opportunities, and 10 to 12 employment positions during operation. A small number of local and regional businesses may participate in procurement opportunities on the project, while some local businesses such as food and retail outlets in Calala or Tamworth may also benefit from construction workers spending wages.

Construction of the project may also require a number of non-resident workers to be accommodated in existing short-term accommodation located in the regional study area. This would benefit accommodation providers, but could reduce availability for tourists and visitor, which may impact the local tourism and events industry, and is an existing challenge in Tamworth Regional LGA due to the volume of construction projects in and around the LGA and cumulative demand for workforce accommodation. Non-resident workers and project emergency incidents may also increase demand for local health and emergency services. There will also be increased demand on local accommodation without an appropriate workforce accommodation strategy.

During operation, there may be social impacts resulting from changes to local amenity, such as permanent land use and visual changes, particularly for properties located in close proximity to the BESS. Some residents may be sensitive to this change given the rural landscape and farming identity of the area, particularly given several BESS projects are planned or being constructed in Calala (refer to section 6.9). Local residents may also be concerned about actual and perceived noise from the BESS, particularly due to existing community concerns about noise emissions from the Transgrid substation. There is also potential for some local community members to be concerned about the uncertainty of battery storage technology and perceived bushfire risk associated with potential battery overheating.

6.5.3 Assessment approach

The outcomes of the SIA scoping exercise indicate that the potential social impacts and benefits that may occur during construction and operation should be assessed in the EIS. This would include:

- A desktop review of relevant secondary data sources including population and economic data and research
- Consultation with relevant local stakeholders such as Tamworth Regional Council
- EIS communication and engagement activities, and Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation, would also be key inputs to the SIA.
- Consultation and engagement with Tamworth Regional Council to discuss additional workforce accommodation strategies.

The initial scoping of social impacts did not identify opportunities for project refinement in response to the preliminary impact evaluation.

6.6 Hazards and Risks

6.6.1 Existing environment

The project site is located within an agricultural and rural-residential landscape that also includes electricity infrastructure. The project site is situated approximately 400 metres west of the existing Tamworth substation and its associated transmission lines and structures as follows (Transgrid 2026):

- Four separate 132 kV transmission lines supported by pole structures are present. These are aligned from the west and north connecting to the substation and include:
 - Line 969 Tamworth 330 kV to Gunnedah 132 kV
 - Line 97B Tamworth 330 kV to Tamworth 132 kV
 - Line 97C Tamworth 330 kV to Tamworth 132 kV
 - Line 968 Tamworth 330 kV to Narrabri 132 kV
- Four separate 330 kV transmission lines supported by lattice tower structures are present. These are aligned from the north, east and south also connecting to the substation and include:
 - Line 86 Tamworth 330 kV to Armidale 330 kV
 - Line 84 Lidell Power Station to Tamworth 330 kV
 - Line 85 Tamworth 330 kV to Uralla 330 kV
 - Line 88 Muswellbrook 330 kV to Tamworth 330 kV.

In addition, a local 33 kV transmission line is also present along the northern edge of Burgmanns Road.

The project includes grid connection works within the existing Tamworth substation, which form part of the overall project scope. As such, the existing substation and associated electrical infrastructure are relevant to the baseline hazards and risk environment considered in this assessment.

The project site is identified as being located on mapped bushfire-prone land, including areas mapped as Category 3 bushfire-prone land, as shown in Figure 6.2. No major watercourses are present within or immediately adjacent to the project site.

6.6.2 Potential impacts

Bushfire

The project site contains areas mapped as Category 3 bushfire-prone land and is therefore required to meet the safety requirements outlined in the Planning for Bush Fire Protection guidelines. Category 3 identifies land that is medium bush fire risk consisting of vegetation including grasslands, semi-arid woodlands and arid shrublands. As such, bushfire risk will be a key consideration in the design and layout of the project.

Early phases of the project design have considered the provision of appropriate Asset Protection Zones (APZs) and separation distances between vegetation and battery infrastructure to minimise bushfire risk. Bushfire risks will be further assessed during the EIS phase.

Consultation will be undertaken with the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) and Fire and Rescue NSW, and any other relevant authorities identified, to inform bushfire risk management and mitigation measures for the Project.

Flooding

The project is not in an area identified by Tamworth City Wide Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan as being a flood prone area (TRC, 2022). Flood risks will be further assessed during the EIS phase.

BESS risks

Installation, commissioning and operation of battery energy storage can present increased hazards associated with overheating, fire, hazardous chemicals and gas emissions.

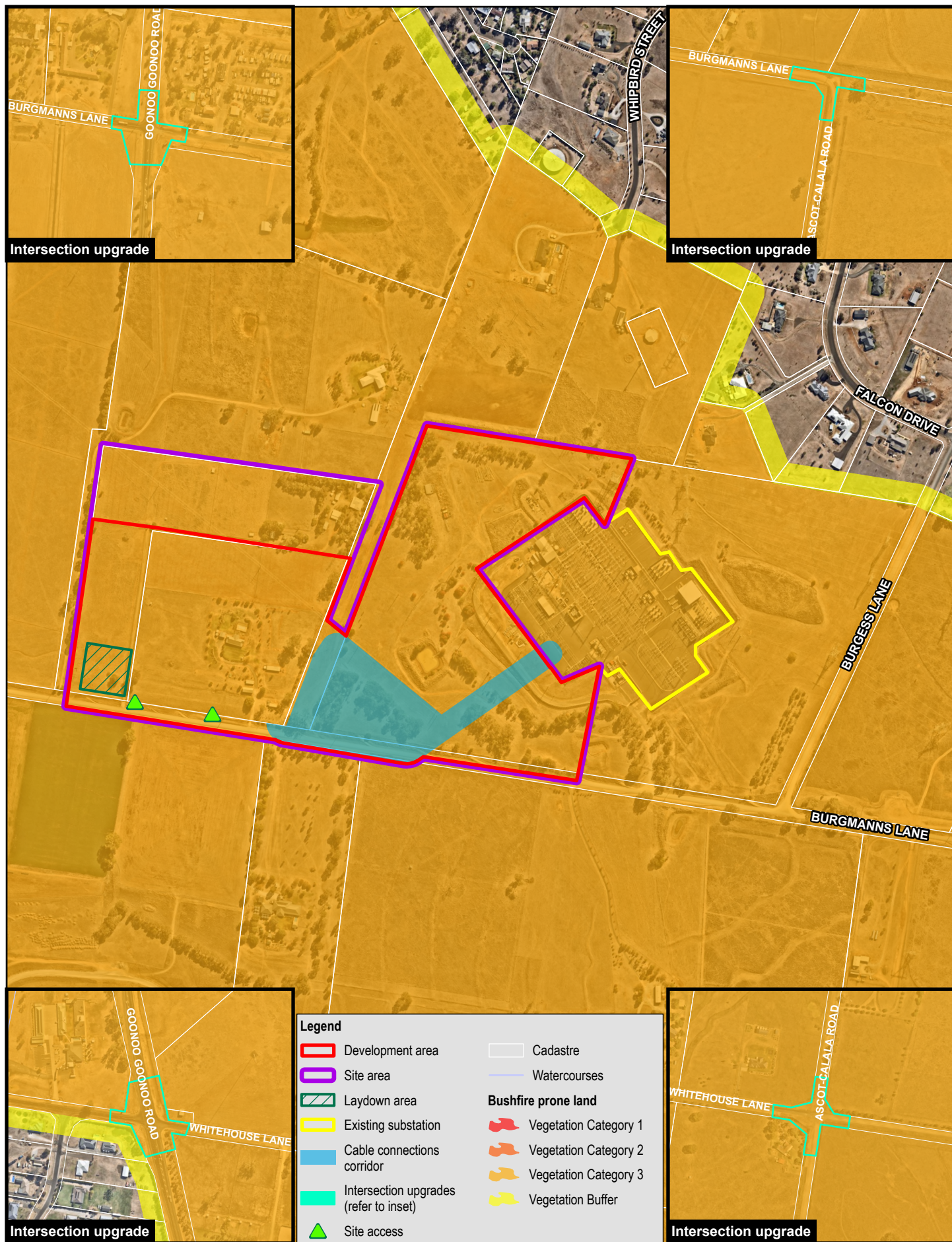
The design and installation of the battery system would be undertaken in accordance with relevant Australian Standards and guidelines and would be operated in accordance with the manufacturers requirements. Appropriate fire suppression apparatus and installations would be incorporated into the design.

A site operational management plan would be prepared by the service provider detailing information regarding procedures to be implemented in the event of a fire. Consultation would be undertaken with relevant authorities during the EIS stage.

Electromagnetic radiation

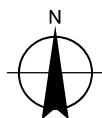
Electricity powerlines, substations, transformers and other electrical sources such as common electrical appliances and wiring, all emit electric and magnetic fields (EMF). The Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency consider that for substations and transformers, the magnetic fields at distances of five to ten metres away are generally indistinguishable from typical background levels in the home. Potential exposure to EMF would be currently experienced in the project site as a result of existing (multiple) transmission lines, the substation and other electrical infrastructure.

Electrical equipment for the project and new connections to the existing substation would contribute to the existing levels of EMF. However, this is not expected to result in unacceptable levels of increased risk as the project would be designed and constructed to comply with exposure limits outlined in the *International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) Guidelines for limiting exposure to electromagnetic fields* (ICNIRP 2020). The BESS project site and Transgrid's substation would also be controlled sites and entry would be limited to authorised personnel trained in these hazards. As a result, human health risks from EMF generated by the project are expected to be unlikely.



Paper Size ISO A4
0 50 100 150 200
Meters

Map Projection: Transverse Mercator
Horizontal Datum: GDA2020
Grid: GDA2020 MGA Zone 56



Trina Solar
Burgmann's BESS
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Bushfire prone land

FIGURE 6.2

Decommissioning

Hazards and risks during decommissioning would be similar to those during construction and may include an increased potential for bushfire and the generation of waste. Mitigation measures to avoid or reduce hazards and risks would be outlined in the EIS. In addition, an environmental management plan would be developed prior to decommissioning that would contain measures to avoid or minimise hazards and risks during decommissioning of the project.

6.6.3 Assessment approach

The following assessments would be undertaken as part of the EIS to assess potential hazards and risks:

- A preliminary risk screening completed in accordance with the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Resilience and Hazards)* and *Applying SEPP 33* (DoP, 2011c)
- A Preliminary Hazard Analysis (PHA) prepared in accordance with *Hazardous Industry Planning Advisory Paper No. 6 – Guidance for Hazard Analysis* (DoP, 2011b) and *Multi-Level Risk Assessment* (DoP, 2011a)
- An assessment of potential bushfire hazards and risks against the RFS *Planning for Bushfire Protection 2019*
- An assessment of potential electromagnetic fields or proposed grid connection infrastructure against the *International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) Guidelines for limiting exposure on Time-varying Electric, Magnetic and Electromagnetic fields* (ICNIRP, 2010).

6.7 Land Use and Soil

6.7.1 Existing environment

The existing land use of the project site is described in section 2.4.2. The following provides additional information on existing land use and soils.

Land use zoning

The project site is largely zoned RU4 Primary Production Small Lots under the Tamworth LEP 2010 (refer Figure 2.5). A small section of the transmission connection corridor is zoned R5 Large Lot Residential.

Topography

The project site is located within a generally undulating to hilly landscape on the rural fringe of Calala. Higher elevations occur to the north and east of the site, with ground levels gradually falling to the south and west. Elevations range from approximately 411 metres AHD at the northern boundary to approximately 408 metres AHD at the southern boundary, before falling further towards Goonoo Goonoo Creek, located approximately 900 metres west of the project site.

The land is largely cleared agricultural land with scattered farm infrastructure, consistent with surrounding rural and rural-residential land uses.

Soils

The project site is mapped as being underlain by Chromosols (DPIE, 2021a). These soils are generally characterised by a texture contrast profile and may be susceptible to erosion if disturbed, particularly where vegetation is removed or soils are exposed during construction.

The project site is not mapped as containing Acid Sulphate Soils under the Tamworth Regional LEP.

Agricultural productivity

The project site is used as rural residential property and is not classified as Strategic Biophysical Agricultural Land under the Strategic Regional Land Use Policy (DPHI, 2024a), nor as State Significant Agricultural Land (DPI, 2022). The nearest mapped areas of Strategic Biophysical Agricultural Land and State Significant Agricultural Land are located approximately one kilometre west of the project site.

NSW Government SEED mapping identifies the project site as having moderate to severe limitations, corresponding to Land and Soil Capability Class 4 (DPIE, 2021b). Land within this capability class typically supports grazing and limited agricultural use with appropriate management. The project site has historically been used for rural residential and agricultural purposes. See Figure 6.3 for agricultural soil land use categorisation for the project site.

Electricity infrastructure

A moderate portion of the project site supports electricity infrastructure, including transmission line easements for the existing 132 kV transmission lines. Each of these 132 kV transmission lines have a nominated 40 metre wide easement allowing right of access for Transgrid to maintain and operate the lines. Agricultural land use activities, such as livestock grazing and cropping, remain present within these easements.

6.7.2 Potential impacts

Construction

Site establishment and construction of the project would result in minor and localised alteration of landform, including vegetation clearance and earthworks. Construction of the BESS, associated infrastructure and underground transmission line has the potential to generate soil erosion, compaction and disturbance, particularly where soils are exposed.

Movement of construction plant over exposed surfaces may contribute to erosion and compaction. Topsoil and subsoil stockpiled during construction may become mobilised by wind or rainfall if not appropriately managed.

Operation

The project would result in the loss of approximately eight hectares of agricultural land on the site, comprising the BESS and onsite substation. Agricultural activities on adjacent land would not be permanently affected by connection to Tamworth substation or substation upgrade works. Such activities would remain.

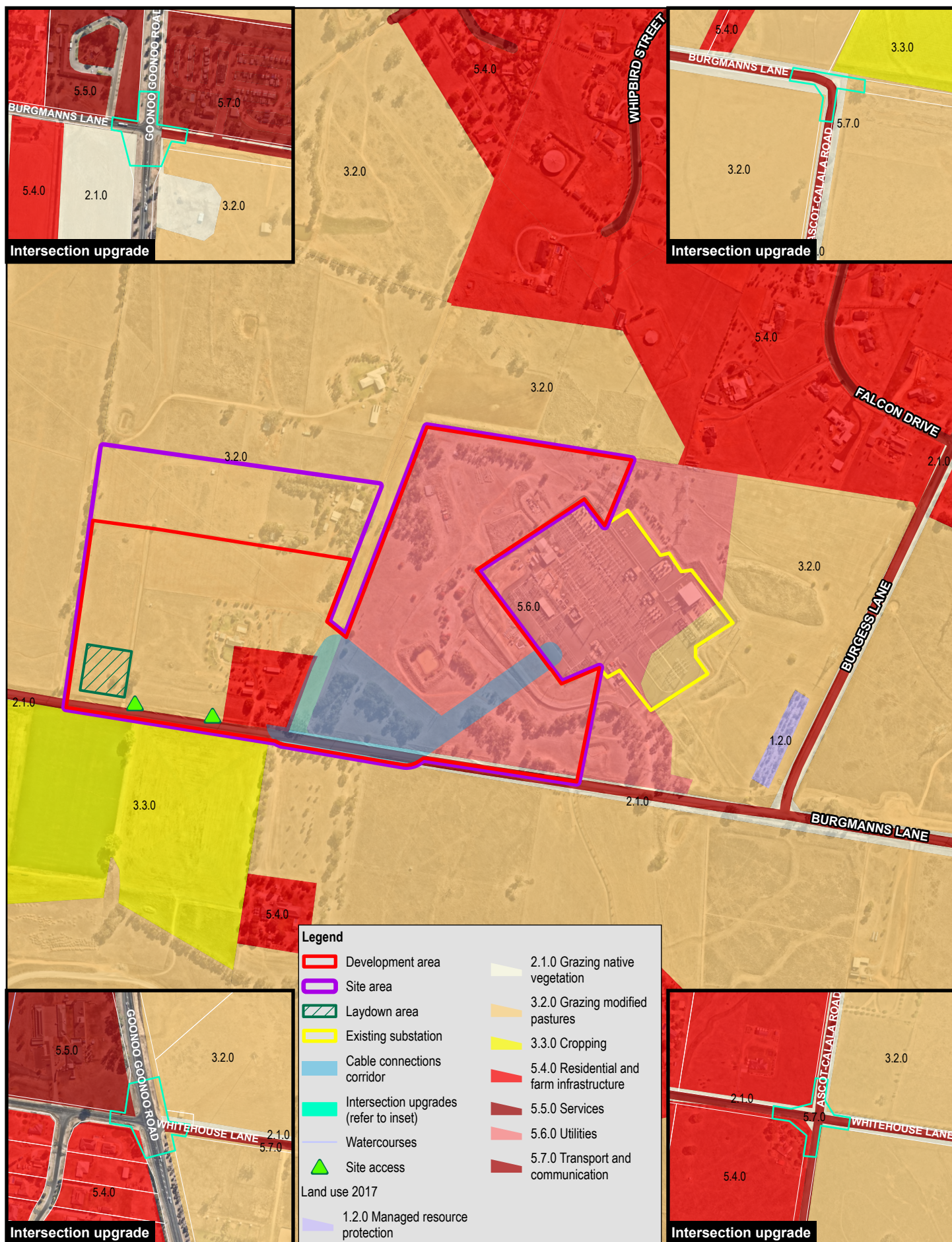
Decommissioning

Impacts to land during decommissioning would be similar to those during construction, such as alteration of the local landscape, and generation of soil erosion. Mitigation measures to avoid or reduce impacts to land would be outlined in the EIS.

An environmental management plan would also be developed prior to decommissioning that would contain measures to avoid or minimise impacts to land during decommissioning of the project.

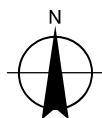
6.7.3 Assessment approach

As part of the EIS, an impact assessment on land use including agricultural land, land capability and soil characteristics would be undertaken. A Land Use Conflict Risk Assessment (LUCRA) would also be undertaken in accordance with the Department of Industry's *Land Use Conflict Risk Assessment Guide* to identify and assess potential sources of land use conflict. Given the extensive nature of electricity infrastructure in proximity to the project site, it is expected that the project is likely to be consistent with the mixed land use of agriculture and industrial (electricity infrastructure) across the landscape.



Paper Size ISO A4
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Meters

Map Projection: Transverse Mercator
Horizontal Datum: GDA2020
Grid: GDA2020 MGA Zone 56



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Burgmann's BESS
Scoping Report

Project No. 12669575
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Date 07/08/2026

**Agricultural soil
land use categorisation**

FIGURE 6.3

6.8 Other matters

This section provides an overview of other environmental matters for those environmental aspects that, based on existing information and the description of the project, would require limited or no further assessment in the EIS.

Table 6.3 Summary of relevant information for issues other than key issues for the project

Environmental matter	Existing environment	Potential impact	Level of assessment/assessment approach
Air quality and greenhouse gas	The air quality of the Tamworth is generally good as indicated by the air quality monitoring station at Goulburn (NSW Government, 2025). A search of the National Pollutant Inventory did identify two facilities in 3 km radius from the project site: 1.2 km north east Baiada Calala Poultry Facility and Calala Water Treatment Plant Tamworth in 2.5 km north west. Existing air quality would generally be impacted by dust from agricultural activities, or by strong winds in drought conditions.	Excavation has the potential to generate dust resulting in short term, localised impacts to air quality during construction. The operation of construction machinery has the potential to generate emissions to air from vehicle, plant and equipment exhausts. These emissions are considered to be negligible. Greenhouse gas would be limited to emissions associated with construction.	Air quality would be assessed qualitatively within the EIS. This would include determining the existing air quality conditions of the project site, sources of potential air pollutants and dust, predictions of air quality emissions during the construction phase, and assessment of potential impacts on air quality.
Built environment	Existing built forms in the locality and in proximity to the project site are low-density residential dwellings and agricultural structures. There is also an existing transmission line to the east of the project site.	Residential property and agricultural related facilities at the project site will be demolished or relocated by the proposed works. There would be no impact by the project works to the existing nearby residential dwellings or existing transmission line.	No further assessment is required given that the built environment elements that would be impacted are located on the project site.
Contamination	A search of the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) contaminated sites and notified sites database undertaken in October 2025 did not return any results for the project site or immediate vicinity. The closest sites are: one site 4.5 km north west and one 6 km north. The local and regional area is predominantly dominated by agricultural land use supporting grazing, as well as areas of native vegetation. Agricultural land uses within the project site could involve the application of fertilisers, herbicides and pesticides which have the potential to be present within the soils.	Excavation has the potential to generate dust resulting in short term, localised emissions.	Assessment of contamination impacts would be considered qualitatively in the land impact assessment for the EIS.

Environmental matter	Existing environment	Potential impact	Level of assessment/assessment approach
Waste	The project site is situated on largely cleared rural land which was previously used for agricultural purposes. Therefore, the existing land use does not generate a large volume of waste.	The waste streams produced from the project construction are likely to be standard with well-known management options. The likely waste generation associated with the project would mainly occur during the construction stage and may include green waste from cleared vegetation, construction materials, general waste from site personnel and earthworks spoil. Opportunities for reuse and recovery of key waste streams would be identified and documented in the Construction and Operational Environmental Management Plans for the project. All waste produced during construction and operation would be managed and disposed of at appropriate licensed facilities.	The assessment of waste impacts as part of the EIS would identify potential waste streams associated with the construction and operation of the project and identify mitigation measures to manage potential waste impacts. Waste categorisation for potential waste streams would be based on NSW Waste Classification Guidelines (NSW EPA, 2014). The EIS would include standard management practices compliant with the <i>Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2001</i> and other relevant policies and guidelines.
Water	The project site is located about 600 m east of Goonoo Goonoo Creek. No significant waterways or water bodies occur in proximity to the project site. Two surface water dams exist adjacent to the Tamworth substation and outside of the BESS project site. One dam, the larger of the two dams, is fed with runoff via concrete lined swales near the western boundary of the substation. The other smaller dam is located about 50 m south of the substation boundary. From aerial imagery and vegetation types, it appears this dam is fed with runoff from Burgmanns Road and the substation access road. A review of the Australian Groundwater Atlas (BOM 2026) indicates there are no groundwater bores located in the project site or surrounding vicinity.	Flood assessments for the area identified that there is no potential for localised flooding and inundation. Furthermore, the project is located on the higher parts of the site and therefore flood impacts are not expected to occur. Due to the project construction works of the BESS and underground transmission line, impervious surfaces would increase in area, increasing the potential for stormwater flows and increase of runoff. Project infrastructure would avoid directly impacting on the existing two dams, where possible. Given the lack of waterways within or near the project site, no waterfront land would be impacted. Should deep excavations form part of the project construction, there may be groundwater impacts from dewatering.	The assessment for water as part of the EIS would include impacts of the project on surface water runoff, the two nearby dams adjacent to the substation and groundwater resources. The assessment will identify any changes and any required mitigation measures to minimise direct and indirect impacts.

6.9 Cumulative impacts

Cumulative impacts of the project would be assessed in the EIS. The assessment would focus on the project's key issues that have the potential to generate cumulative impacts with other projects in the vicinity which are likely to have concurrent construction and/or operational timeframes.

A search of the DPHI Major projects database was undertaken in April 2026 to identify SSD within the vicinity of the project that may be relevant for the EIS cumulative impact assessment (Figure 6.4). The search identified the following key projects with potential for cumulative impacts:

- Calala BESS project (SSD-52786213) 250MW/500MWh BESS located approximately 800 metres north east of the project and in close proximity to the existing Tamworth substation
- Tamworth BESS project (SSD-23830229) a proposed 200 MW/400MWh BESS located approximately one kilometre south east of the project and in close proximity to the existing Tamworth 330 kV substation
- Kingswood BESS project (SSD-63207219) 270MW/1080MWh BESS located approximately 2.5 kilometres south east of the project.

Other major projects located within the LGA and not considered further due to the considerable distance from the project include:

- Lambruk Solar Farm (SSD-67436209) located about 13 kilometres south of the project.
- Middlebrook Solar Farm (SSD-10455) and MOD 1 located about 20 kilometres south of the project.
- New England Renewable Energy Zone Transmission Project (SSD-74175972) located about 30 kilometres south and east of the project.

The biodiversity, social, visual impact, Aboriginal heritage, noise and traffic assessments would include consideration of cumulative impacts, and these would be summarised in the EIS in accordance with the *Cumulative Impact Assessment Guidelines for State Significant Projects* (DPE 2022c). A cumulative impact assessment scoping summary is provided in Appendix D.

The project also has the potential to generate significant positive cumulative impacts in conjunction with other renewable energy projects in the surrounding area to decarbonise energy generation in NSW. It is also expected that the combined renewable energy projects in the region would have positive cumulative impacts on the regional economy and economies of Goulburn resulting from expenditure on local goods, services and employment. The recently released *Benefit-Sharing Guideline* (DPHI 2024b) will assist in shaping community benefits from renewable energy projects in the region.

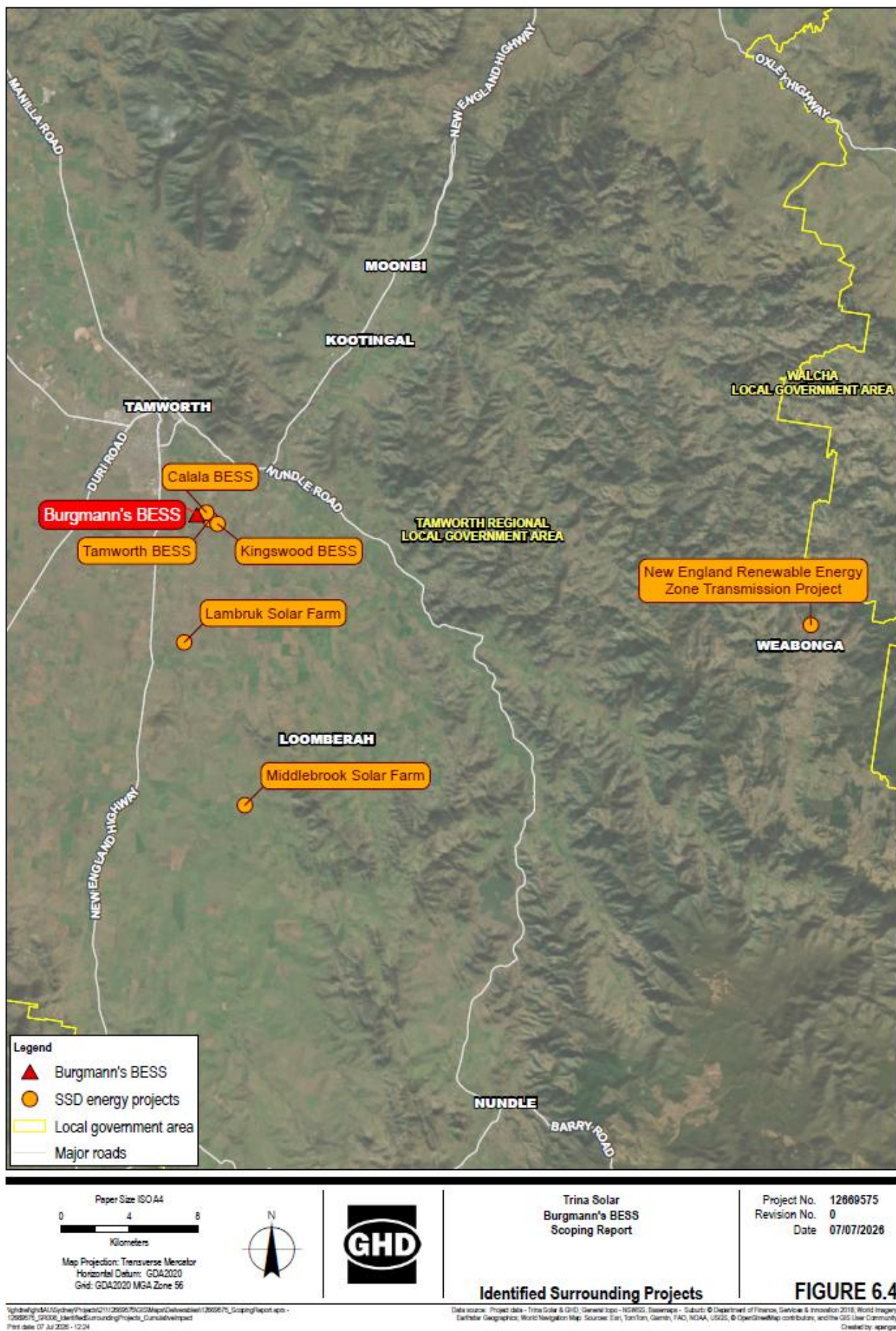


Figure 6.4 Identified surrounding projects

7. Conclusion

This Scoping Report has been prepared to support a request for the SEARs for the project, proposed at Burgmanns Lane, Calala, New South Wales. The project comprises the construction, operation and decommissioning of a grid-scale battery energy storage facility, associated underground transmission infrastructure, and connection works to the existing Tamworth substation, together with ancillary infrastructure and potential local road intersection upgrades.

The Scoping Report describes the project, its strategic and statutory context, the existing environment, and the preliminary identification of environmental, social and economic matters that may require assessment in the EIS. The identification of issues has been informed by desktop investigations, site inspections, preliminary technical studies, and early engagement with key stakeholders, including government agencies, infrastructure providers, Aboriginal stakeholders and nearby landowners.

Based on the investigations undertaken to date, a number of key matters have been identified for further assessment in the EIS. These include biodiversity, amenity (noise, vibration and visual impacts), Aboriginal and historic heritage, social impacts, hazards and risks (including bushfire), land use and soils, traffic and transport, and cumulative impacts. Other environmental matters have been identified as requiring limited or no further assessment, subject to confirmation through detailed design and assessment.

The project has been designed to respond to the strategic need for additional energy storage infrastructure to support the transition of the NSW electricity system, and to take advantage of its proximity to existing transmission infrastructure. While aspects of the project design remain subject to refinement, including the final layout, detailed substation works, access arrangements and the scope of any intersection upgrades, these elements will be confirmed and assessed in detail through the EIS process.

The EIS will be prepared in accordance with the SEARs issued by the DPHI, and will include detailed technical assessments, targeted field investigations, further consultation with stakeholders and the community, and the development of mitigation and management measures to avoid, minimise and manage potential impacts.

This Scoping Report is submitted to assist the Department in determining the SEARs and defining the scope of matters to be addressed in the EIS for the project.

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Appendix A

Scoping summary table

Table A.1 **Scoping summary table**

Level of assessment	Matter	Cumulative impact assessment?	Engagement	Relevant government plans, policies and guidelines	Scoping report reference
Detailed	Biodiversity threatened species and communities	Yes	General	– Biodiversity Assessment Method (DPIE, 2020) – NSW Threatened Species Survey and Assessment Guidelines (various) – Matters of National Environmental Significance Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1 (Commonwealth of Australia, 2013) – Commonwealth Department of the Environment – Nationally Threatened Ecological Communities and Threatened Species Guidelines (various) – Commonwealth Department of the Environment – Survey Guidelines for Nationally Threatened Species (various) – NSW Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem Policy (NSW Department of Land and Water Conservation, 2002).	Section 6.1
Standard	Amenity – construction noise and vibration, and visual impacts	Yes	General	– Noise Policy for Industry (EPA 2017) – Interim Construction Noise Guideline (DECCW, 2009) – NSW Road Noise Policy Guideline (DECCW, 2011) – Assessing vibration: a technical guideline (DECCW, 2006) – Guidelines for landscape character and visual impact assessment (TfNSW, 2023) – Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment – Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Third Edition (2013).	Section 6.2
Standard	Heritage – Aboriginal	No	Specific	– Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW (OEH, 2011) – Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents (DECCW, 2010) – Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW (DECCW, 2010b).	Section 6.3
Standard	Heritage – historic	No	General	– Assessing Significance for Historical Archaeological Sites and ‘Relics’ (DoP, 2009) – NSW Heritage Manual (Heritage Office, 1996) – Historical Archaeology Code of Practice (Heritage Council, 2006).	Section 6.3

Level of assessment	Matter	Cumulative impact assessment?	Engagement	Relevant government plans, policies and guidelines	Scoping report reference
Standard	Traffic and access	Yes	General	– Draft Guide to Transport Impact Assessment (TfNSW, 2024) – Guide to traffic management Part 12: Integrated Transport Assessments for Developments (Austroads, 2020) – Traffic Modelling Guideline (TfNSW, 2013) – Guide to Traffic Generating Developments (RTA, 2002) – Road Design Guide and relevant Austroads Standards.	
Standard	Social – community	No	General	– Social Impact Assessment Guideline for State Significant Projects (DPE, 2023) – Technical Supplement – Social Impact Assessment Guideline for State Significant Projects (DPE, 2021).	Section 6.4
Standard	Hazards and risks – major hazardous development, bushfire, BESS risks, electromagnetic radiation, decommissioning	Yes	General	– State Environmental Planning Policy (Resilience and Hazards) and Applying SEPP 33 (DoP, 2011c) – Hazardous Industry Planning Advisory Paper No. 6 – Guidance for Hazard Analysis (DoP, 2011b) and Multi-Level Risk Assessment (DoP, 2011a) – Planning for Bush Fire Protection A guide for councils, planners, fire authorities and developers (NSW RFS, 2019) – International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) Guidelines for limiting exposure on Time-varying Electric, Magnetic and Electromagnetic fields (ICNIRP, 2010).	Section 6.6
Standard	Land use and soil			– Department of Industry's Land Use Conflict Risk Assessment Guide – The Land and Soil Capability Assessment Scheme (OEH, 2012).	Section 6.7
Standard	Air quality and greenhouse gases	No	General	N/A	Section 6.8
No further assessment	Built environment – private property and public infrastructure	No	No	N/A	Section 6.8

Level of assessment	Matter	Cumulative impact assessment?	Engagement	Relevant government plans, policies and guidelines	Scoping report reference
Standard	Contamination	No	General	– National Environment Protection (Assessment of Site contamination) Measure (National Environment Protection Council 2011) – Guidelines on the Duty to Report Contamination under the Contaminated Land Management Act 1997 (Environment Protection Authority 2015)	Section 6.8
Standard	Waste	No	General	– Waste Classification Guidelines (Environment Protection Authority 2016) – NSW Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy 2041 (Environment Protection Authority 2022)	Section 6.8
Standard	Water	No	General	– Australian and New Zealand guidelines for fresh and marine water quality (ANZECC & ARMCANZ 2000) – Guidelines for Groundwater Protection in Australia – Guidelines for Groundwater Documentation for SSD/SSI Projects – Technical guideline	Section 6.8

Appendix B

Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan



Burgmann's BESS

Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan

Burgmann's BESS Pty Ltd

7 August 2026

→ The Power of Commitment



Project name		Burgmann's BESS					
Document title		Burgmann's BESS Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan					
Project number		12669575					
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S4	2	M. Ulph	A. O'Grady		A. O'Grady		07/08/26

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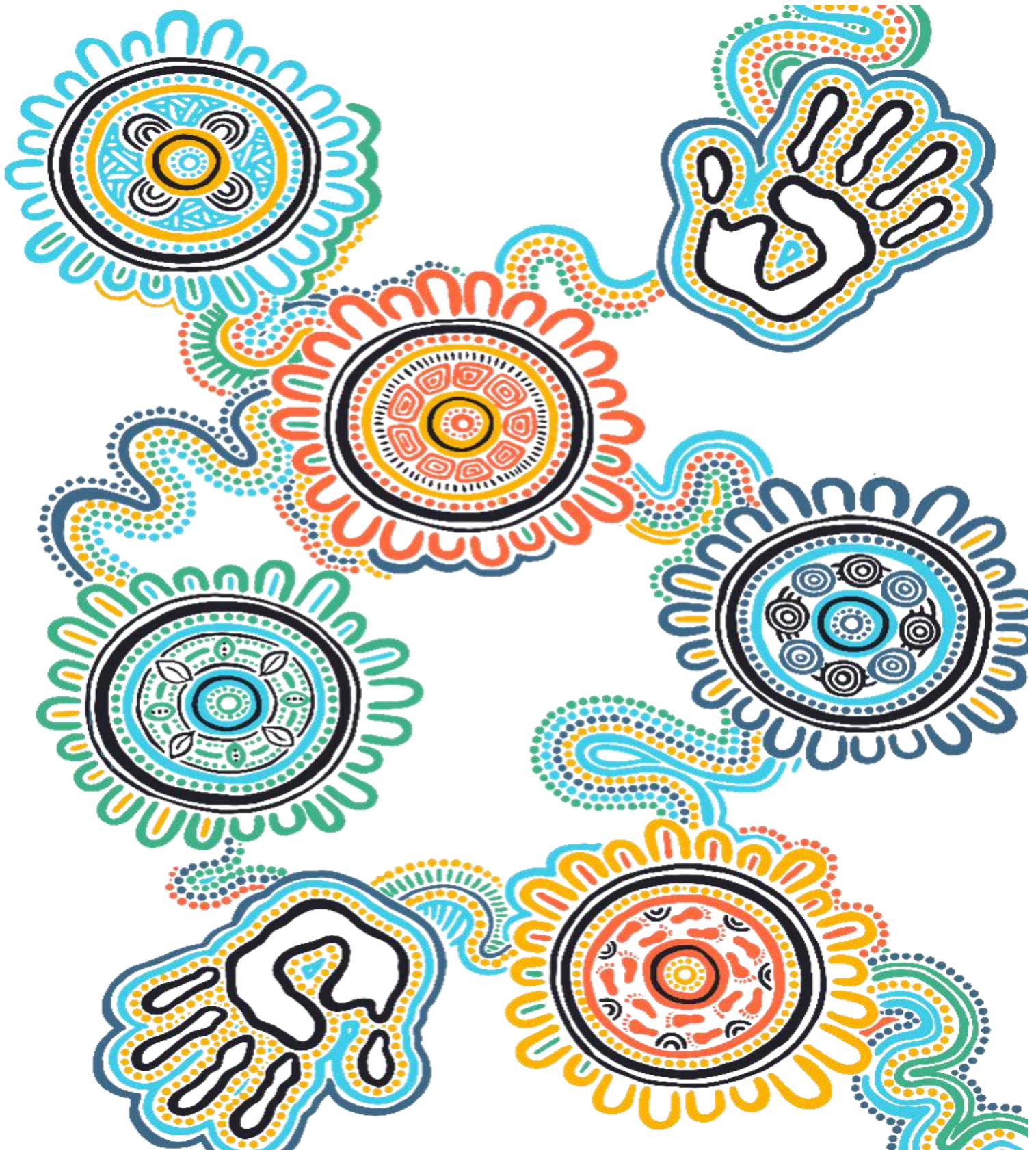
Contact: Michael Ulph, Consultant – Engagement and Communications | GHD
 133 Castlereagh Street, Level 15
 Sydney, New South Wales 2000, Australia
T +61 2 9239 7100 | **F** +61 2 9239 7199 | **E** sydmall@ghd.com | **ghd.com**

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Acknowledgement of Country

GHD acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Traditional Custodians of the land, water and sky throughout Australia on which we do business. We recognise their strength, diversity, resilience and deep connections to Country. We pay our respects to Elders of the past, present and future, as they hold the memories, knowledges and spirit of Australia. GHD is committed to learning from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the work we do.



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1. Introduction

New South Wales is in the midst of an energy transition from traditional fossil fuel generation to renewable energy generation. Transitioning to distributed and intermittent low-carbon renewable energy sources presents several challenges to our energy system. Deploying battery energy storage systems (BESS's) can ease the integration of renewable energy and help mitigate the need for costly network upgrades. Energy storage is increasingly vital for maintaining the resilience of our electricity networks. Batteries offer a scalable solution, uniquely capable of quickly and effectively addressing imbalances between electricity supply and demand. By supporting lower emissions, reducing costs, and helping to lower energy prices, battery energy storage systems play a crucial role in advancing our energy infrastructure.

Burgmann's Bess Pty Ltd as part of Trina Solar (Trina) is proposing to develop a 200 megawatt (MW) / 1600 megawatt hour (MWh) Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) at 651 Burgmann's Lane, Calala, NSW. GHD has been engaged to prepare a Scoping Report to request the project Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) from the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI). The Scoping Report will be based on project information provided by Trina and will outline the potential for environmental impacts based mainly on desktop investigations.

The Scoping Report will be prepared by GHD in accordance with DPHI's *State Significant Development Guidelines – Preparing a Scoping Report* and consider other recent examples of BESS projects prepared by GHD and other proponents. Following the Scoping Report, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be prepared in accordance with the EP&A Act, Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021¹, and the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs). The EIS involves detailed environmental assessments, community consultations, and mitigation strategies, and once complete will be submitted for review, public exhibition, and feedback, addressing all environmental and community concerns.

This Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan (CSEP) has been prepared to support engagement activities for the Scoping Report and EIS phase of the project.

1.1 Project background

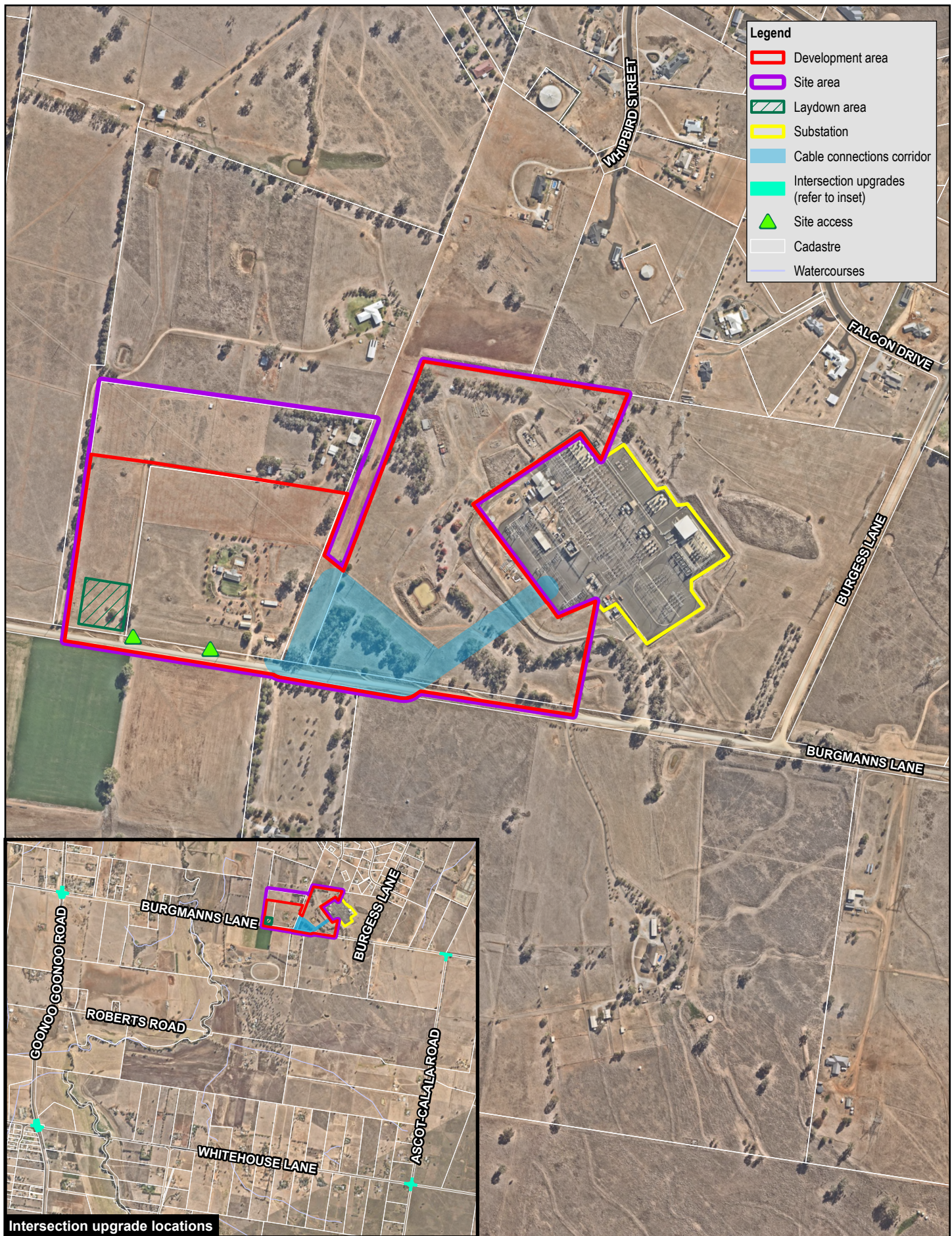
The project site is located about six kilometres (km) south-east of Tamworth (refer to Figure 1) and is in close proximity to the Transgrid Tamworth 330 kilovolt (kV) substation on the adjoining property. The project also includes the construction of an underground transmission line connection from the site to the Transgrid Tamworth substation.

The project would involve the construction, operation and decommissioning of a BESS. A BESS is an energy storage system that will store power when there is an excess of energy available and release it during periods of high demand to maintain a reliable energy supply for the network.

Construction and operation would include:

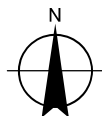
- 200 MW/ 1600 MWh battery energy storage system
- Battery containers
- Inverters
- Transformers
- Underground transmission line connection to the Transgrid Tamworth Substation
- Cooling system if required
- Fire suppressions systems, including fire water tanks
- Switch rooms
- Switchyard
- Intersection and access upgrades
- Parking, site office and amenities for operation use.

¹ Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021 (NSW)



Paper Size ISO A4
0 50 100 150 200
Meters

Map Projection: Transverse Mercator
Horizontal Datum: GDA2020
Grid: GDA2020 MGA Zone 56



Trina Solar
Burgmann's BESS
Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan

Project No. 12669575
Revision No. -
Date 07/08/2026

Project area

FIGURE 1

1.2 Scope and limitations

This report: has been prepared by GHD for Burgmann's BESS Pty Ltd and may only be used and relied on by Burgmann's BESS Pty Ltd for the purpose agreed between GHD and Burgmann's BESS Pty Ltd as set out in section 2.1 of this report.

GHD otherwise disclaims responsibility to any person other than Burgmann's BESS Pty Ltd arising in connection with this report. GHD also excludes implied warranties and conditions, to the extent legally permissible.

The services undertaken by GHD in connection with preparing this report were limited to those specifically detailed in the report and are subject to the scope limitations set out in the report.

The opinions, conclusions and any recommendations in this report are based on conditions encountered and information reviewed at the date of preparation of the report. GHD has no responsibility or obligation to update this report to account for events or changes occurring subsequent to the date that the report was prepared.

The opinions, conclusions and any recommendations in this report are based on assumptions made by GHD described in this report (refer section(s) 2.1 of this report). GHD disclaims liability arising from any of the assumptions being incorrect.

2. About this Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan

2.1 Purpose

Consultation is a key aspect of the environmental assessment process. It helps build understanding of the project and its potential impacts and enables stakeholder knowledge and views to be considered by the:

- project team in project development
- government in its assessment and approval decisions.

Engagement feedback will need to be considered during subsequent stages of this project. This Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan (CSEP) outlines the approach to consultation and engagement for the duration of the Scoping Report and EIS phases. The CSEP describes how this approach fits with the wider project timeline and closely aligns with the NSW Community Participation Plan² requirements. The CSEP also identifies and maps stakeholders, as well as their willingness to engage, and their potential interests and concerns with the project.

In summary, this document:

- provides an overview of engagement to date
- identifies key stakeholders
- provides key messages for engagement
- details the approach to engagement
- outlines the community engagement action plan and project timeline
- details the communication and engagement tools
- identifies engagement risks
- details communications protocols.

This CSEP has been prepared in line with *Undertaking Engagement Guidelines for State Significant Projects* (Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, 2021).

The CSEP outlines the specific actions and timing to be used to communicate with various stakeholders throughout the project. It also identifies appropriate channels for responding to community feedback, concerns, or suggestions. It includes key project messages, and a schedule of consultation and communication activities to provide consistent, meaningful consultation with key stakeholders and the community.

2.2 Engagement objectives

The community and stakeholder engagement objectives for the Scoping Report and EIS phases are outlined in Table 1.

Table 1 *Engagement objectives*

Stakeholder	Engagement objectives	Measures
Government	All levels of government have been informed about the project.	Clear records of meetings and/or correspondence with local, State and Federal government representatives informing them of the project.
Landowners	Adjoining landowners are aware of the project and how construction may impact them.	Inform adjoining landowners during the scoping phase and consult with them in pre-EIS stages through clear communication and engagement opportunities to build understanding and improve community sentiment.

² NSW Community Participation Plan (Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure, 2025)

Stakeholder	Engagement objectives	Measures
Local stakeholders and community members	Local community members are informed about the project and feedback is acknowledged.	Local stakeholders and community members have multiple avenues to access information about the project through distributed information, and by contacting the engagement team directly if they wish. Feedback from stakeholders demonstrates understanding of project goals and processes, and acknowledgement of the ability to provide feedback throughout the project lifecycle. All feedback is acknowledged and recorded in a consultation register.

2.3 Engagement to date

Landowner engagement with the owners of the property on which the BESS would be located has commenced. Early engagement with Transgrid/Lumeah has also commenced. Trina has made contact with Tamworth Regional Council, who advised that they wish to defer further engagement until after the Scoping Report has been submitted. Engagement with neighbours and other key stakeholders will commence as part of the Scoping study.

3. Other projects in the area

Consideration of other nearby projects allows an understanding of any potential issues that may be related to cumulative impacts such as long construction periods in one area, consultation fatigue and cumulative environmental impacts like additional traffic. Details of several nearby projects is provided below. The regional context of Burgmann's BESS in relation to other renewable energy projects is shown in Figure 2 .

3.1 Calala BESS

Calala BESS is a renewable energy infrastructure project located approximately 5.8 km southeast of Tamworth, at 474 Calala Lane, Tamworth, and 800 m from the proposed Burgmann's BESS site. Developed by Equis Australia, **the project was approved in June 2024**, Calala BESS will have an operational life of around 25 years and is expected to be fully operational by 2027. The facility will have a power capacity of 250 MW and energy storage capacity of 500 MWh, enabling enough power to supply electricity for up to 115,000 homes during peak periods. The system will comprise 138 Tesla Megapacks, connected via underground transmission cable to the Transgrid Tamworth 330 kV substation, and will occupy approximately 36 hectares. The project promises significant economic contributions, including around 170 construction jobs, seven ongoing operational roles, and a voluntary planning agreement of A\$2 million to Tamworth Regional Council.

3.2 Tamworth BESS

Tamworth BESS is a proposed battery energy storage project located approximately 7 km south-east of Tamworth, at 696 Burgmann's Lane, Kingswood, adjacent to the Transgrid Tamworth 330 kV substation, and 1 km from the proposed Burgmann's BESS site. Developed by Valent Energy, the facility is designed to deliver 200 MW of power with a two-hour storage duration, equating to 400 MWh of energy capacity enabling the powering of 35,000 homes. **The project is currently in the Response to Submissions phase** and construction is expected to take approximately 24 months and will require a peak workforce of around 100 people, contributing to local employment opportunities. Valent Energy has committed to a Voluntary Planning Agreement with Tamworth Regional Council, which includes financial contributions to support local infrastructure and community programs. The proposed development footprint is around 8 hectares, and the project is expected to operate for up to 20 years.

3.3 Kingswood BESS

The Kingswood Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) is a proposed project located approximately 6 km south-east of Tamworth, at 774 Burgmann's Lane, Kingswood, and 2.5 km from the proposed Burgmann's BESS site. Developed by Iberdrola Australia, the project is designed to deliver 270 MW with a storage capacity of 1,080 MWh, providing up to four hours of discharge capability, enabling the powering of 65,000 homes. The project footprint covers around 40 hectares and will connect to the nearby Transgrid Tamworth 330 kV substation via underground transmission cabling. **The project is currently in the assessment phase**, with construction expected to commence by mid-2026, once approved. Iberdrola Australia has proposed a community benefit fund as part of its planning obligations, aimed at supporting local initiatives and enhancing social outcomes in the Tamworth region. The project will also deliver benefits through local contracting opportunities and employment. The project will require a peak workforce of around 100 people over a 12 to 15 month period as well as up to two long-term operational roles on-site. Once operational, the Kingswood BESS will operate 24/7 with remote monitoring and minimal on-site staffing. The project is expected to operate for up to 20 years.

3.4 Lambruk Solar Farm

Lambruk Solar Farm is a proposed large-scale renewable energy project located approximately 15 km south of Tamworth, at Loomberah, and 12 km from the proposed Burgmann's BESS site. Proposed by Venn Energy **the project is currently in the Prepare EIS phase**. The project would include solar arrays, a substation, a switchyard, a BESS, internal access tracks, an office and amenities buildings and onsite transmission lines. The solar farm will have a generation capacity of 500 MW (direct current) and 300 MW (alternating current), and the BESS would have a capacity of 300 MW and 1,200 MWh, connecting via underground transmission cable to the Transgrid Tamworth 330 kV substation. The construction phase is estimated to take approximately 24 months from project approval and is expected to have a life of 30 years. Construction will require a peak workforce of around 170 people, and seven ongoing operational positions will be created once the facility is up and running.

3.5 Middlebrook Solar Farm

The Middlebrook Solar Farm is a proposed project located 20 km south of Tamworth, at 760 Middlebrook Road, Loomberah, 17 km from the proposed Burgmann's BESS site. **The solar farm was approved in November 2024**, with the footprint expected to cover 1,882 hectares with the solar panels and associated infrastructure expecting to cover 1,000 hectares. The project involves the construction, operation and eventual decommissioning or reconditioning of a solar facility and associated infrastructure with a capacity of up to 500 MW (alternating current), including an energy storage system of up to 100 MW and 150 MWh. The construction phase is anticipated to take approximately 12-24 months with peak construction taking around 12 months. During construction, the project is expected to generate around 400 jobs and 15 permanent operational roles, alongside opportunities for local contractors and suppliers. The project will be operational for 30 years. The project will establish a Community Benefit Fund offering annual or bi-annual grants to support local resilience, skills development, and environmental conservation. The fund will prioritise projects in Loomberah and surrounding areas to ensure direct benefits to nearby communities.

3.6 Lindsays Gap BESS

Lindsays Gap Battery Energy Storage System is a proposed large-scale battery energy storage project located approximately 40 km south of Tamworth, at 11090 New England Highway, Wallabadah, and 40 km from the proposed Burgmann's BESS site. Developed by ACCIONA Energía, the facility is designed to deliver up to 450 MW of power with a storage capacity of 1,800 MWh. The system will connect to the existing 330 kV transmission line between Tamworth and Muswellbrook. The proposed development footprint will include battery enclosures, a substation, and ancillary infrastructure.

The project is currently in the Prepare EIS phase. Construction is expected to take approximately 24 months and will require a peak workforce of around 150 to 200 people, creating significant local employment opportunities. Once operational, the facility is anticipated to operate for at least 20 years.

3.7 Wallabadah BESS

Wallabadah Battery Energy Storage System is a proposed large-scale energy storage project located south of Tamworth, on Lindsays Gap Road, Wallabadah, 40 km from the proposed Burgmann's BESS site. Developed by North Harbour Clean Energy, the facility is designed to deliver 400 MW of power with an energy storage capacity of 800 MWh. The system will connect to the existing a Transgrid 330 kV transmission line. The proposed development footprint will include battery enclosures, a substation, and ancillary infrastructure.

The project is currently in the Prepare EIS phase. Financial close is targeted for mid-2026, with construction expected to take approximately 18 to 24 months. At peak, construction will require a workforce of around 150 to 200 people, creating significant local employment opportunities. Once operational, the facility is anticipated to operate for at least 20 years.

3.8 Tamworth Solar Farm

Tamworth Solar Farm is an approved solar farm and battery energy storage project located approximately 20 km west of Tamworth, at Soldiers Settlement Road, Somerton, 35 km from the proposed Burgmann's BESS site. Developed by Tamworth Solar Farm Pty Ltd, the facility is designed to deliver 65 MW of solar generation capacity alongside a 19 MW / 19 MWh battery energy storage system. This combined capacity is expected to generate enough renewable electricity to power around 25,000 homes annually. The development footprint spans roughly 230 hectares and includes a new substation connecting to the existing 132 kV Tamworth to Gunnedah transmission line.

The project was approved and is currently in the post-approval / pre-construction phase, with construction anticipated to take approximately 12 months with completion expected in late 2026. At peak, construction will require a workforce of up to 200 people, creating significant local employment opportunities and supporting regional contractors. The project is expected to operate for 25 to 30 years.

3.9 Hills of Gold Wind Farm

The Hills of Gold Wind Farm is an approved wind farm located approximately 60 km south-east of Tamworth, on Morisons Gap Road, Hanging Rock, and 55 km from the proposed Burgmann's BESS site, covering approximately 6,800 hectares. Developed by Someva Renewables, the facility is designed to deliver up to 372 MW of clean energy through 62 wind turbines, supported by a 100 MW battery energy storage system. This capacity is expected to generate enough electricity to power approximately 150,000 homes annually.

The project has received approval and is currently preparing for construction. The construction phase is anticipated to take around 24 months and will require a peak workforce of more than 200 people, creating significant local employment opportunities. Once operational, the wind farm will provide 28 permanent jobs and contribute to regional skills development in the growing renewable energy sector. Someva Renewables has committed to a Voluntary Planning Agreement with local councils, including a Community Enhancement Fund estimated at over \$9.5 million, with upfront contributions and ongoing annual payments of \$3,000 per turbine for at least 25 years. These funds will support local infrastructure, education, and community programs. The project is expected to operate for up to 25 years.

3.10 New England Renewable Energy Zone

EnergyCo is in the early stages of planning a Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) in the New England region. The New England REZ covers an area that includes the Armidale, Glen Innes Severn, Inverell, Uralla, Tamworth, and Walcha local government areas (LGAs). While Burgmann's BESS is situated immediately west of the REZ and not within its boundaries, it remains closely connected to the region's renewable energy landscape.

The New England region offers significant advantages for renewable energy development, with its abundant solar and wind resources, suitable land (including rehabilitated farmland), established electricity transmission infrastructure, and a skilled workforce. These factors make the area an ideal location for large-scale renewable energy initiatives. The New England REZ is poised to play a crucial role in the State's renewable energy future and is also expected to attract investment in projects including battery storage, solar, and wind developments, furthering innovation in renewable technologies.

Several energy storage projects, including Burgmann's BESS, are planned or underway adjacent to or within the New England REZ, providing significant capacity to store renewable energy and strengthen grid reliability. These projects will help ensure a stable, secure electricity supply for the region and contribute to the resilience of the broader State energy network. Connecting the New England REZ with other key renewable energy zones and substations is the Hunter Transmission Project, which links the New England REZ to the Hunter Central Coast REZ and the proposed Olney substation. This above-ground 500 kilovolt (kV) transmission line, stretching about 100 km, will be a vital component of the State's modernised electricity grid, establishing a robust 500 kV ring that will underpin NSW energy system for years to come.



Figure 2 Regional context

4. Engagement approach

Engaging early with targeted landholder consultation activities to support the Scoping Report and EIS will ensure sensitive receiver and landholder perspectives are included in each phase and will help mitigate potential serious stakeholder concerns as early as possible.

By doing so, landholders can expect:

- clear and concise communication about the project and its impacts
- to look forward to engagement activities that encourage public participation
- assurance their feedback is heard and reported back on.

This will encourage a better understanding of the issues and feedback received and how they have been considered in the scope of the project.

Proactive strategic engagement will consist of:

- undertaking an in-depth stakeholder identification and analysis process
- listening to and understanding community and stakeholder concerns
- documenting and mitigating community concerns
- managing community and stakeholder expectations
- informing the community about the project's progress
- highlighting where and how the community can be expected to be engaged in the project
- providing stakeholders and the community with the opportunity to be involved in the planning, design and environmental assessment stages of the project
- building understanding of the project.

For a better understanding of the proposed Scoping Report and EIS engagement approach, refer to Table 2

Table 2 *GHD engagement approach*

Phase	What we will do	Proposed timing	Purpose
① Project is being scoped	Development of CSEP and communications collateral	December 2025	To define project benefits and develop key messages, communication material and activities that will encourage meaningful participation.
	Implementation of CSEP	From March 2026	To encourage meaningful participation of stakeholders and the community who have an interest or influence on the project, maintain open and transparent communication with key stakeholders.
	Collection, collation and analysis of feedback for inclusion in Scoping Report	From March 2026	To provide a summary of early engagement outcomes for inclusion in the Scoping Report.
② SEARs are issued and EIS is being prepared	Update of CSEP and prepare project announcement collateral	From April 2026	To ensure the CSEP and material are responsive to any revisions during the scoping phase.
	Continue delivery of engagement activities and prepare EIS collateral	From April 2026	To provide ongoing opportunities for meaningful participation that will inform the final concept.
③ EIS is exhibited	Implement activities to provide the community information about what the EIS discovered and how impacts will be mitigated.	Expected early 2027	EIS documents are displayed, and community are able to provide feedback for a 28 day period.

Phase	What we will do	Proposed timing	Purpose
④ Proponent responds to submissions	Continue delivery of engagement activities	TBC 2027	To review, collate and respond to submissions to inform a comprehensive review of the EIS and Submissions Report.
⑤ EIS is assessed	Provide regular updates on the status of the project	TBC 2027	To ensure stakeholders are kept informed on the project as it progresses through the assessment process.

4.1 Engagement planning and delivery

The community and stakeholder engagement approach for the project will be guided by the project objectives and the core values and code of ethics established by the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2). The IAP2 framework, shown in Figure 3, will guide the engagement approach designed to meet the project objectives and deliver best practice engagement. This approach is designed to build credibility and strengthen the project's reputation.

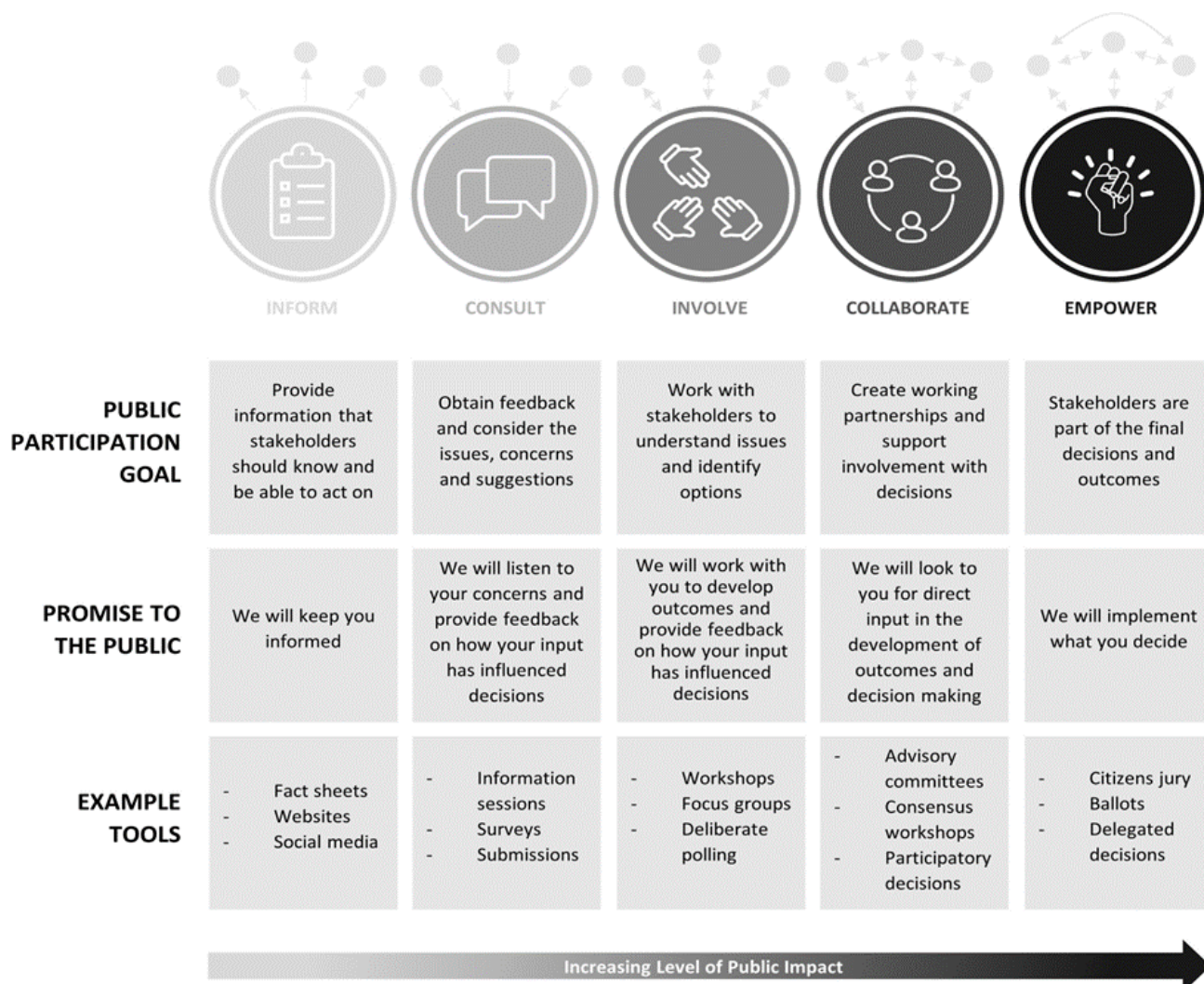


Figure 3 International Association for Public Participation - engagement spectrum

The level of participation for this project will be to **inform and consult**. By engaging the community and stakeholders at these levels, we will work with the community to ensure that concerns and aspirations are reflected.

4.2 Communications risk management

GHD has identified potential concerns and/or areas of interest that may arise when engaging with stakeholders and the community. These are identified Table 4. This risk matrix will be revised as the project progresses.

Table 3 Risk level key

Key	
Low	
Medium	
High	

Table 4 Identified risks for engagement

Risk name / rating	Details
Lack of public understanding about the EIS and approvals processes. Rating – High	Summary: Stakeholders do not understand what the EIS process involves and how it influences and affects them. Mitigation: Develop clear and simple communication tools to provide community and stakeholders with the information they need to participate meaningfully.
Consultation fatigue. Rating – High	Summary: Consultation fatigue Mitigation: It is important to develop an understanding of the other projects occurring in the project area. GHD will examine the opportunities to combine activities such as through joint stakeholder briefings and make engagement easier by bringing it to the people. Engagement tools will be developed with consideration of other projects and their impacts. The messages and information will be easy to understand and easily accessible.
Opposition to the project. Rating – Medium	Summary: Local residents are opposed to alternative energy infrastructure. Mitigation: Identify and understand who the opposition is, reasons for opposition and address the concerns proactively through clear and simple communication tools.
Negative media coverage. Rating – Medium	Summary: Negative media coverage causes reputational impacts. Given there is existing negative media coverage on the Hunter Transmission Project, this project may raise attention and thus, the GHD project team need to prepare and manage negative attention. Mitigation: Transparent, open and ongoing communication with external stakeholders will be maintained. This includes the development of Q&A responses aligned with key messages and with equivalent messaging developed and used by the GHD project team.
Stakeholder consultation difficulties. Rating – Medium	Summary: Opposition from groups may introduce various challenges, including increased regulatory scrutiny, and the need for additional studies and mitigation measures. These factors may contribute to delays in works. Mitigation: Early and transparent engagement for the purpose of working towards a balanced resolution that addresses both development and conservation concerns. An interface for stakeholder involvement will be incorporated into the engagement execution for incorporating reasonable stakeholder suggestions into the project design.
Bushfire. Rating – Low	Summary: Community concern of an increase in bushfire risk. Mitigation: Vegetation management: keeping the area clear of trees is critical to preventing bushfires. A bushfire assessment will be a component of the EIS.

5. Stakeholder and community identification

Engagement with the stakeholders outlined in Table 5, Table 6 and Table 7 has been identified as key to the success of this phase of the project. Adjoining landholders and some residents will need to be informed and consulted, while other stakeholders, who are likely to be supportive of renewables will be informed. Figure 4 highlights all sensitive receivers within 1 km radius of the project site.

5.1 Government agencies & key stakeholder groups

Table 5 Stakeholder mapping (Government agencies)

Stakeholder category	Stakeholder	Topics of Interest TBC	Key considerations	Stakeholder interest	Engagement effort	IAP2 level of engagement
Federal Government	Mr Barnaby Joyce MP (Federal Member for New England)	Job creation and economic development Environmental impact Community consultation Grid integration and impact Energy costs Stakeholder sentiments Being kept up to date.	Previous concerns about renewable energy initiatives, however, is more focused on wind and solar projects	Medium	Medium	Inform
State Government	Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure	Accurate and transparent environmental investigations.	Environmental impacts Compliance with NSW regulations and guidelines	Medium	Medium	Inform
	Mr Kevin Anderson, MP (State Member for Tamworth)	Economic development Environmental impact Community consultation Energy costs Stakeholder sentiments Being kept up to date.	Previous support for renewables however has indicated concerns about a lack of genuine consultation with local communities	Medium	Medium	Inform
	Regional Development Australia – Northern Inland	Job creation and economic development Energy costs Stakeholder sentiments Being kept up to date.	Supportive of renewables, inform of project and level of community engagement	Medium	Medium	Inform

Stakeholder category	Stakeholder	Topics of Interest TBC	Key considerations	Stakeholder interest	Engagement effort	IAP2 level of engagement
Government Agencies	DCCEEWS Water Assessments Group	Conditions regarding water supply take and licensing	Project must meet minimum requirements regarding availability of water supply	High	High	Consult
	DCCEEWS Heritage NSW	Cultural Heritage Assessment Consultation with Registered Aboriginal Parties	Project must meet minimum requirements regarding consultation and ACHA	High	High	Consult
	NSW DPI Agriculture	Protection and enhancement of productive and sustainable use and resilience of agricultural resources and the environment	Project must not unduly impact on productive agricultural resources	High	High	Consult
	NSW Environment Protection Authority	Protection of health of environments and communities	Project must minimise pollution and environmental risks. Compliance with NSW POEO Act and any environmental licensing requirements	High	High	Consult
	NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust	Protection and conservation of biodiversity values, biodiversity offsets and stewardship agreements	Project must avoid and minimise impacts on native vegetation and threatened species and demonstrate compliance with NSW biodiversity offset requirements	High	High	Consult
	DCCEEWS NSW Biodiversity Conservation	Impacts on biodiversity Mitigation measures if impacted	If biodiversity impacts cannot be adequately managed	High	High	Consult
	NSW DPI Fisheries	Impacts on any Key Fish Habitat	If impacts exist and cannot be adequately managed	High	High	Consult

Stakeholder category	Stakeholder	Topics of Interest TBC	Key considerations	Stakeholder interest	Engagement effort	IAP2 level of engagement
Local Government Council	Elected Councillors are: – Mayor Cr Russell Webb – Cr Mark Rodda – Cr Marc Sutherland – Cr Brendon North – Cr Jeff Budd – Cr Charles Impey – Cr Matt Sharpham – Cr Ryan Brooke – Cr Steve Mears	Energy supply and security Community consultation Job creation and economic development Workforce procurement strategy and accommodation Ratepayer concerns and feedback Construction traffic	Supportive of renewables, inform of project and level of community engagement. Challenged by energy transition w.r.t community and social impacts	High	High	Consult
	Council Senior Staff General Manager – Paul Bennett Executive Manager Creative Communities and Experiences – Peter Ross Director Liveable Communities – Gina Vereker Director Water and Waste – Bruce Logan	Energy supply and security Community consultation Job creation and economic development Workforce procurement strategy and accommodation Ratepayer concerns Construction traffic Waste generated from construction and/or operation	Supportive of renewables, inform of project and level of community engagement Concerns around cumulative impacts Concerns around impacts to constituents	High	High	Consult
Infrastructure Connection Entities	Transgrid	Upgrade of Transgrid substations to take connection.	Any pushback or technical issues with an upgrade	High	High	Collaborate
	Transport for NSW	Road intersection upgrades Traffic impacts during construction or operation	Any pushback or technical or guidelines issues with an upgrade	High	High	Collaborate
Emergency services	Tamworth Police Station Tamworth Hospital Tamworth State Emergency Service South Tamworth Fire and Rescue NSW NSW Rural Fire Service Tamworth	A fire management plan is in place throughout the project Explanation of controls in place Establishment of Asset Protection Zone(s) Fire risks during operation Impacts and disruption on local roads Safety	Community concern based on expected problematic fire season Understanding of fire management systems	High	High	Consult

Stakeholder category	Stakeholder	Topics of Interest TBC	Key considerations	Stakeholder interest	Engagement effort	IAP2 level of engagement
Traditional Owners	Kamilaroi/Gomeroi Traditional Owners Tamworth Local Aboriginal Land Council	Impacts to country Visual impacts Environmental changes Community benefit (see HCC REZ First Nations Guidelines) Indigenous employment and procurement Impacts on cultural heritage items and relics	Potential disruption to sacred sites or areas of cultural significance	High	High	Consult

5.2 Neighbouring properties

Table 6 Stakeholder mapping (Neighbouring properties)

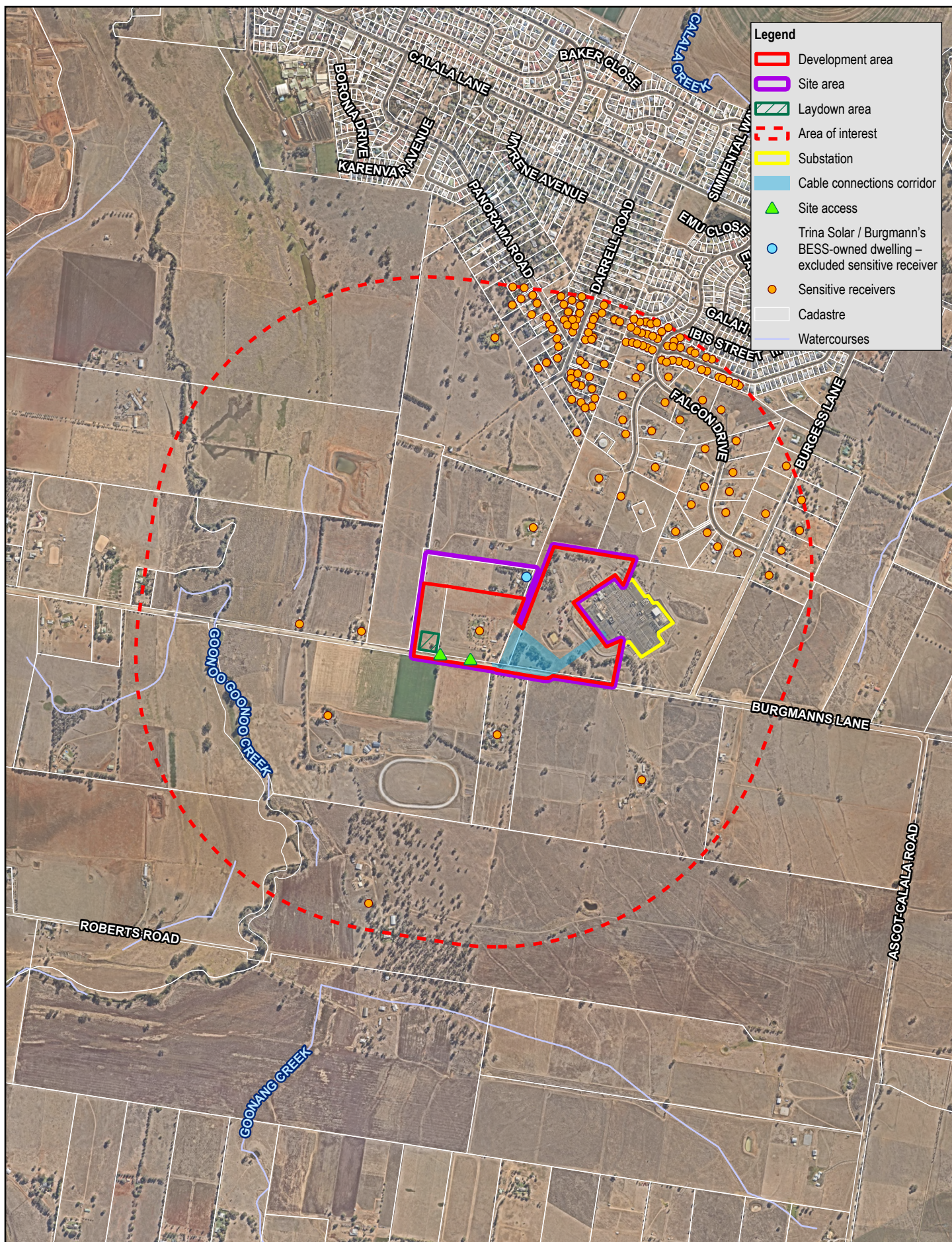
Stakeholder category	Stakeholder	Topics of Interest	Key Risk	Stakeholder interest	Engagement effort	IAP2 level of engagement
Land and easement acquisition	Landowners at 651 Burgmann's Lane, Calala Landowners at 10 Whipbird Street, Calala.	Easement discussions Impacts to property Access Property discussion	Removal of prime farmland Change in aesthetics Fear of noise/fire risks/issues during construction.	High	High	Consult
Potentially impacted landowners (immediate neighbours)	Burgmann's Lane, Calala – street numbers as follows: 605 652	Visual impact Property impacts Noise impacts Access changes Commercial agreements Community benefits Impacts on agricultural outputs Transmission infrastructure Construction impacts	Visual impacts Noise impacts. Could be influenced by misinformation or absence of information.	High	High	Consult

Stakeholder category	Stakeholder	Topics of Interest	Key Risk	Stakeholder interest	Engagement effort	IAP2 level of engagement
Indirectly impacted landowners/residents	Other neighbours on Burgmann's Lane – street numbers: 625 586 696	Impacts or disruptions on local roads Construction impacts (noise, dust, vibration) Community consultation Local jobs Energy costs Perceived impacts to property values	Opposition to project Construction traffic	High	High	Inform/consult
Utility owners	Transgrid (as neighbour)	Impacts on local infrastructure Land access Assessment process Mitigation of concerns. Application of standards and framework	Access to land and substation	Medium	Medium	Inform / consult

5.3 Community and stakeholder groups

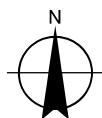
Table 7 Stakeholder mapping (Community and stakeholder group)

Stakeholder category	Stakeholder	Topics of Interests	Key Considerations	Stakeholder interest	Engagement effort	IAP2 level of engagement
Residents and businesses (Sensitive receivers)	Residents and businesses within 1.5 km of the project site. (Approx. 297 properties)	Impacts during construction and operation Impacts to neighbours Visual impacts	Potential opposition due to misinformation	Medium	Medium	Inform
Business groups	Tamworth Business Chamber	Energy supply and security Community consultation Job creation and economic development Workforce procurement strategy and accommodation	Potential opposition due to misinformation	Medium	Medium	Inform
Local sustainability group	Tamworth Regional Landcare Group	Sustainability	Unsustainable practices	Medium	Medium	Inform



Paper Size ISO A4
0 100 200 300 400
Meters

Map Projection: Transverse Mercator
Horizontal Datum: GDA2020
Grid: GDA2020 MGA Zone 56



Trina Solar
Burgmann's BESS
Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan

Project No. 12669575
Revision No. -
Date 07/08/2026

Sensitive receivers

FIGURE 4

6. Engagement action plan

The engagement and communications proposed are outlined in Table 8. These activities are designed to ensure appropriate community and stakeholder engagement, transparency, and responsiveness during the scoping and EIS phase.

Table 8 *Scoping Report phase and Pre EIS phase consultation (November 2024)*

Activity	Planned Timing	Stakeholder/s	Responsible	Status	Completion date
Scoping Phase					
Prepare briefing/ notification letters introducing the project to the community.	March 2026	Directly impacted landowners Immediate neighbours Indirectly impacted residents Sensitive receivers (residents and businesses within a 1 km radius) Tamworth Regional Council Department of Planning and Housing State Member Federal Member	GHD	Not started	TBC
Webpage development	March 2026	Visitors to the website	Trina	Not started	TBC
Door knocking	April 2026	Directly impacted landowners	Trina	Not started	TBC
Letter box drop	March 2026	Directly impacted landowners Immediate neighbours Properties within a 1 km radius Sensitive receivers	Trina	Not started	TBC
Council briefing	As required	Tamworth Regional Council – councillors and key staff	GHD	Not started	TBC
NSW Government	As required	Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure	GHD	Requested	TBC
MP Briefing	If requested	State Member Federal Member	GHD	Not started	TBC

Activity	Planned Timing	Stakeholder/s	Responsible	Status	Completion date
Pre EIS					
Prepare fact sheet or FAQ	TBC	Directly impacted landowners Immediate neighbours Indirectly impacted residents Sensitive receivers	GHD	Not started	TBC
Prepare display boards for community information session	TBC	Directly impacted landowners Immediate neighbours Indirectly impacted residents Sensitive receivers	GHD	Not started	TBC
Prepare project letter update	TBC	Directly impacted landowners Immediate neighbours Indirectly impacted residents Sensitive receivers Tamworth Regional Council Department of Planning and Housing State Member Federal Member	GHD	Not started	TBC
Letter box drop	TBC	Directly impacted landowners Immediate neighbours Properties within a 1km radius Sensitive receivers	Trina	Not started	TBC
Meetings and briefings	TBC	Directly impacted landowners Immediate neighbours Indirectly impacted residents	GHD/Trina	Not started	TBC
Community information session	TBC	Directly impacted landowners Immediate neighbours Indirectly impacted residents Sensitive receivers	GHD/Trina	Not started	TBC
Ongoing discussions with landowners for access – to allow environmental investigations	TBC	Directly impacted landowners Immediate neighbours	Trina	Not started	TBC

6.1 Alignment with Community Participation Plan requirements

The project will adhere to the Community Participation Plan (CPP) requirements as outlined by the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, division 2.6 'Community Participation'³. This ensures that all community engagement activities are conducted in a transparent, inclusive, and timely manner.

Key requirements are:

Notification and exhibition periods

- The community will be notified about planning proposals and decisions, with documents made available for public review during designated exhibition periods.

Consultation methods

- A variety of consultation methods, such as public meetings, fact sheets, and online and digital engagement tools, will be employed to gather community feedback.

Feedback mechanism

- Mechanisms will be established for the community to provide feedback, and responses will be documented and addressed.

Review and updates

- The engagement plan will be regularly reviewed and updated to reflect any changes in community needs or best practices.

By following the CPP requirements, we aim to ensure meaningful community participation throughout the project's duration.

³NSW Community Participation Plan (Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure, 2025)

7. Key messages

The key messages provided in Table 9 are designed to provide a foundation for communication activities and convey the needs, benefits and outcomes associated with the project. GHD will develop messages for each communication task, which will be tailored and refined through the life of the project to ensure currency and accuracy.

Table 9 *Key messages*

Expected Question	Response
Who is Trina What is Trina's role?	Founded in 1997, TrinaSolar Co. Ltd. is mainly engaged in PV products, PV systems and smart energy. We are committed to leading the way in smart solar energy solutions and facilitating the transformation of new power systems for a net-zero future. Trina is developing large-scale battery energy storage projects in Europe, Asia and Australia, including a 250 MW / 500 MWh system at the Limestone Coast North Energy Park in South Australia, and maintains a global pipeline exceeding 10,000 MWh. Trina is currently in the planning phase of the Burgmann's BESS and will be the developing company for this BESS.
What is a BESS?	BESS is an acronym for Battery Energy Storage System, which will store electricity when there is an excess available and release it during periods of high demand to maintain a reliable energy supply for the network.
What is the project?	The project would involve the construction, operation and eventual decommissioning of the BESS.
What are the project benefits?	The Burgmann's BESS will improve the reliability of the area's electricity network by storing power to be released during periods of high demand to maintain a reliable energy supply for the network. This project will improve national resilience in energy supply and support affordable energy for Australians. It will also contribute to achieving the NSW target of zero net emissions by 2050.
How large will the BESS be?	The BESS is planned to be 200 MW/ 1600 MWh battery energy storage system.
Why is the project needed?	By storing excess renewable energy from solar and wind production when production is high, BESS can help ensure a reliable and consistent supply of clean energy, even when weather conditions are not ideal. Additionally, a BESS can contribute to absorbing excess energy during surges and injecting it back into the grid during dips. This helps maintain grid stability and reduce the risk of outages.
When will the project be completed?	The project has not been determined and will be subject to an approval process as required by state legislation. Trina is currently in the planning stage of the Burgmann's BESS. Trina will inform the community of construction timelines if the project is approved by all relevant authorities.
How will bushfire risk be managed?	A detailed bushfire assessment will be undertaken for the EIS. This will involve understanding the geographic site (context) including topography to identify the potential for bushfire attack, and then will recommend specific bushfire mitigation measures, including asset protection zones. It should be noted that the site is only sparsely wooded, however the assessment will highlight any risks.
How will local flora and fauna be affected by construction and operation?	Extensive environmental and ecological studies will be conducted during planning to ensure minimal impact on the environment. Underground cable connections are being considered in order to reduce the potential for disturbance of flora and fauna.
Why do we need this project if there are others nearby?	More energy storage means that more of the renewable energy generated during the day when generation is higher and demand is lower, can be kept for the late afternoons and evenings when families are looking to warm or cool their houses and demand is high.
How can I give feedback or learn more?	Share your feedback and ideas at community information sessions and scheduled meetings, email via contact@ghd.com or call 1800 066 243.

8. Communication and engagement tools

A range of consultation and communication tools will be used to achieve engagement objectives. A summary of the tools able to be used is provided in Table 10.

Table 10 Communication and engagement tools, methods and responsibilities

Tool	Description	Creator/owner
Scoping		
Communication collateral		
Project letter	Draft and design project letters to be distributed to encourage contact and engagement. Draft and design project letters to be sent to Government stakeholders	GHD
Website	Project web page designed to provide general information about the project and facilitate feedback process.	Trina
Consultation methods		
Door knocking	Door knocking for directly impacted landowners to inform them about the project.	Trina
Letterbox drop	Distribution of letters to local residents.	Trina
Government meetings	Targeted meetings with key identified Government stakeholders. GHD will assist in facilitating government and departmental meetings.	GHD
1800 number and email	Continuous and ad hoc contact information that allows communication with the project team, as well as facilitating community feedback. GHD's general community number 1800 066 243 number and email contact@ghd.com to be used.	GHD
Pre EIS		
Communications collateral		
Project fact sheet and FAQ	Project fact sheet that outlines the project description, status, timing, project explanation, maps and date information.	GHD
Project letter update	Draft and design project letters to be distributed to encourage contact and engagement. Draft and design project letters to be sent to Government stakeholders.	GHD
Display boards	Display boards for community information session, outlining project site including maps and project explanation.	GHD
Social media tiles	Content for Trina's social media platforms	GHD
Letterbox drop	Distribution of letters to residents.	Trina
Meetings and briefings	One-on-one meetings with impacted landowners which would act as a mechanism for feedback to be provided to the project team.	GHD/Trina
Community information sessions	Provide opportunity for meet and greet as well as sharing project information and updates.	GHD & Trina

Note: Collateral (digital and printed) communication material will be plain-English and accessible to a wide audience. All collateral on the website will be WCAG compliant.

9. Protocols

9.1 Roles and responsibilities

To provide clarity around key responsibilities, we have outlined the roles in Table 11.

Table 11 Roles and responsibilities

Role	Responsibilities
Trina	Attend key stakeholder meetings, including Council, landowners, neighbours and Aboriginal community members, as required. Meet the <i>Undertaking Engagement Guidelines for State Significant Projects</i> and ensure that community and stakeholder engagement continues to be proactive and comprehensive. Provide guidance to the project team on stakeholders, insights and appropriate community engagement session framing. Undertake all media liaison as required Provide branding guidelines and templates for the project. Provide staff to support engagement events as required Approve reports and collateral.
GHD	Prepare and implement community and stakeholder engagement plan. Advise the team on the obligations and requirements for the project. Consult with relevant stakeholders captured in the engagement plan and maintain positive relationships with key stakeholders. Draft communication materials and coordinate approvals process – newsletter, property owner notification letter, fact sheet. Develop high quality maps to support the stakeholder identification process and collateral development. Facilitate stakeholder meetings. Attend in-person and virtual community information sessions.

9.2 Communication protocols

9.2.1 Approval of communication material

All material will be documented in plain English and will be based on approved messaging. Once the collateral has been drafted, the communication material will be reviewed and endorsed by Trina prior to distribution.

9.2.2 Media enquiries and releases

Trina will undertake all media liaison as required.

9.2.3 Record keeping

Details of all meetings, phone calls, emails, interactions, notifications and/or newsletters, along with all engagement's events, will be retained by GHD throughout the lifespan of the project. This will include the type of engagement activity and feedback received. Complaints will also be recorded.

9.3 Reporting

There are a number of ways that GHD will formally and informally report on community enquires received, community sentiment and issues / risks. These include:

- attendance and verbal reporting at meetings regarding issues and risks
- verbal reporting, on an as needed basis, for urgent issues or stakeholder contacts.

9.4 Enquires and complaints management

Responding to enquiries and complaints promptly and effectively is central to effective project communications and building relationships with stakeholders and the community.

Enquiries and complaints may be received directly by members of the Stakeholder Engagement team via the community information line (1800 066 243) or the project's community email address [**contact@ghd.com**](mailto:contact@ghd.com). All project communication materials will contain these central contact details.

The GHD Stakeholder Engagement team is responsible for managing enquiries and complaints relating to the project. They will seek input and assistance from key members of the project team (GHD and/or Trina) as needed, investigate the source of the complaint to ensure an appropriate solution is reached and will remain the point of contact until the issue is resolved.



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Appendix C

Landowner notification letter



Property Owner

8 May 2026

Address

Address

Burgmann's Battery Energy Storage System

Dear Property Owner,

We are writing to you on behalf of Burgmann's BESS Pty Ltd (Burgmann's BESS), which is seeking development consent for the construction and operation of a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) to be located at 851 Burgmann's Lane, Calala, NSW. As a nearby landowner, we wanted to ensure that you were aware of the proposal as we undertake early scoping for the project. We would like to engage with you on the project to provide information and seek your feedback.

Who is Burgmann's BESS?

Burgmann's BESS is a subsidiary of Trina Solar Energy Development Pty Ltd (Trina Solar) a photovoltaic and energy storage company who develops large-scale battery energy storage projects in Europe, Asia and Australia. They are currently developing a 250 MW / 500 MWh BESS at the Limestone Coast North Energy Park in South Australia and maintain a global pipeline exceeding 10,000 megawatt hours (MWh).

What is the project?

The project would involve the construction, operation and eventual decommissioning of a 200-megawatt (MW) BESS with a duration of up to 800 megawatt hours (MWh). A BESS is an energy storage system that stores power when there is an excess of energy available and releases it for use again during periods of high demand to maintain a reliable energy supply for the network.

The project site is about six kilometres south-east of Tamworth and is adjacent to the Transgrid Tamworth 330 kilovolt substation which connects to the high voltage transmission network. The project would include construction and operation of a 132-kilovolt underground transmission line connection to the substation, electrical transformers and inverters, a switchyard, fire suppression systems, upgrades to the substation, access points and intersections.

Why do we need the project?

Traditionally, electricity generation in NSW has relied heavily on large coal-fired power stations. Since 2012, three major coal plants have been decommissioned, most recently Liddell in 2023, and further retirements are planned. These closures highlight the need to develop reliable and sustainable alternatives.

The NSW Government's Electricity Strategy sets out the plan for a reliable, affordable and sustainable electricity future, recognising that renewable generation and battery storage are cost-competitive and essential to replacing ageing coal-fired assets. The proposed project is consistent with the Strategy's objectives by supporting investment in demand-response technologies. In particular, the BESS would enhance grid stability and complement renewable projects including solar and wind.

Please register your contact details using the project team contact details below, to receive updates and stay informed about the project and to provide feedback.

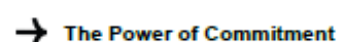
Contact details

Email: contact@ghd.com

Phone: 1800 066 243

Warm regards,

Burgmann's BESS Project Team



Appendix D

Cumulative impact assessment scoping summary

Table D.1 Cumulative impact assessment scoping summary

Future project	Approximate distance to project	Project status/ indicative timing/ overlap	Potential overlap between impact of project on assessment matter and impact of other project on the same assessment matter						
			Relevant assessment matters						
			Biodiversity	Social	Visual	Aboriginal heritage	Noise	Traffic	Waste
Calala BESS	800 m	Approved in June 2024. Anticipated to be operational in 2027, construction periods may overlap.	Biodiversity impacts nearby project site.	Cumulative social impacts given cluster of projects.	Cumulative visual impacts from transmission lines.	Potential for cumulative impacts if multiple sites identified in assessment.	Potential for cumulative noise impacts.	Access via Calala Lane.	Potential for concurrent cumulative waste generation.
Tamworth BESS	1 km	Currently in Response to Submissions phase. Construction is expected to take 24 months and therefore construction may overlap.	Biodiversity impacts nearby project site.	Cumulative social impacts given cluster of projects.	Cumulative visual impacts from transmission lines.	Potential for cumulative impacts if multiple sites identified in assessment.	Potential for cumulative noise impacts.	Access via Burgmanns Lane.	Potential for concurrent cumulative waste generation.
Kingswood BESS	2.5 km	Currently in Assessment phase, and therefore assessment and construction may overlap.	Biodiversity impacts nearby project site.	Cumulative social impacts given cluster of projects.	Cumulative visual impacts from transmission lines.	Potential for cumulative impacts if multiple sites identified in assessment.	Potential for cumulative noise impacts.	Access via Burgmanns Lane.	Potential for concurrent cumulative waste generation.
Lambruk Solar Farm	12 km	Currently in Prepare EIS phase, therefore assessment and construction may overlap.	-	Cumulative social impacts given proximity of projects.	-	-	-	-	-
Middlebrook Solar Farm	17 km	Approved in November 2024, construction is expected to take up to 24 months.	-	Cumulative social impacts given proximity of projects.	-	-	-	-	-

Future project	Approximate distance to project	Project status/ indicative timing/ overlap	Potential overlap between impact of project on assessment matter and impact of other project on the same assessment matter						
			Relevant assessment matters						
			Biodiversity	Social	Visual	Aboriginal heritage	Noise	Traffic	Waste
Tamworth Solar Farm	35 km	The project was approved and is due for completion of construction in late 2026.	-	Cumulative social impacts given proximity of projects.	-	-	-	--	-
Lindsays Gap BESS	40 km	Currently in Prepare EIS phase, therefore assessment and construction may overlap.	-	Cumulative social impacts given proximity of projects.	-	-	-	--	-
Wallabadah BESS	40 km	Currently in Prepare EIS phase, therefore assessment and construction may overlap.	-	Cumulative social impacts given proximity of projects.	-	-	-	--	-
Hills of Gold Wind Farm	55 km	The project was approved and construction is due to commence, taking approximately 24 months, therefore construction may overlap .	-	Cumulative social impacts given proximity of projects.	-	-	-	--	-

Future project	Approximate distance to project	Project status/ indicative timing/ overlap	Potential overlap between impact of project on assessment matter and impact of other project on the same assessment matter						
			Relevant assessment matters						
			Biodiversity	Social	Visual	Aboriginal heritage	Noise	Traffic	Waste
New England REZ	New England REZ includes Armidale, Glen Innes Severn, Inverell, Uralla, Tamworth, and Walcha local government areas (LGAs), the project is located immediately west of the REZ and not within its boundary	A large number of ongoing renewable energy projects in various stages of development throughout.	-	Cumulative social impacts given proximity of projects.	-	-	-	--	-

Key:

Detailed Assessment

Standard Assessment



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