



8th February 2023

Mr Andy Nixey

Team Leader, Energy Assessments
Department of Planning & Environment
By email

Battery Energy Storage System

Thank you for the opportunity of discussing the Battery Energy Storage System proposal for the proposed Dumaresq Solar Farm (DSF).

Background

At the time of the submission of the SEARs Scoping Report (in 2019) there were a number of discussions with Department in relation to the potential for inclusion of Battery Energy Storage. In contrast to the solar generator which was “set” at nameplate 190MW AC, the Battery Energy Storage System was a flexible target given the early adoption and application of that technology at the time in Australia.

There were 2 proposals socialised at the time specifically in relation to BESS:

1. Capacity of 190 MW & 2 hours capacity (380 MWh)
2. Capacity of 190 MW & 4 hours capacity (760 MWh)

Ultimately as discussed option (1) was submitted.

Shifts In Technology, Infrastructure & Policy

Rapid change in relation to BESS strategy has taken place in the last 2 years, with a key catalyst being grid challenges with coal fired generation capacity on the decline.

Both Federal & NSW State Policy (along with other states) has shifted significantly since the SEARs for DSF was issued. There are widespread initiatives for the application of BESS infrastructure to both stabilise grid demand, and to provide additional energy during peak demand periods. This has been referred to as the “Capacity Investment Scheme” which in December 2022 highlighted the need for the fast tracking of big batteries with longer storage duration.

We also note the A\$236 million Transgrid Queensland-NSW Interconnector upgrade project completed, which has included work at the Dumaresq Switch located near to the Dumaresq Solar Farm Project.

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To that end we would seek to vary the BESS proposal under the SEARs to the original 190 MW / 760 MWh alternative to allow flexibility in the size of the BESS that will be finally adopted. We believe that this has both community wide and project specific benefits and is in line with government policy to enhance & accelerate Australia's energy transition.

Environmental Impact Studies Impact

Our environmental impact studies are, as also discussed this week and last, all but complete and we anticipate submission in the near future.

We anticipate that the only impact to the workstreams required to be delivered are in relation to Preliminary Hazard Assessment (PHA) and Fire. We are already considering the best practice operational matters that would need to be adopted to cater for larger Battery Energy Storage System infrastructure, and to detail those in the Environmental Impact Statement submission.

Any specific comment that Department would like to make, or additional work in relation to PHA / Fire that Department would see as being required to be included in studies, can be accommodated & is welcomed.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Nicholas Assef". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

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