
Appendix D

Engagement materials

Jenny Summersby

From: Cédric Bergé <cedric.berge@acenrenewables.com.au>
Sent: Thursday, 29 May 2025 4:55 PM
To: David Allworth
Cc: John Fuller; Michael Cooper; Carolay Guarin; sharon nott
Subject: Re: CWCT/ACEN - Birrwa & Narragamba - Catch up

Hi David, John,

I hope you are well. I wanted to follow up on the Traffic Mitigation Measures that I mentioned in my previous email below. Our Modification report for the Birriwa project is currently being finalised, and I would like to share with you the details we would like to include in relation to mitigating the impacts of the project's construction activities on the cycle trail. More specifically, I would welcome your comments on the mitigation measures below, and I am open to any other traffic mitigation that we could reasonably implement during the construction of the project.

ACEN are committed to implementing traffic mitigation measures to minimise impacts on any part of the cycle trail that may be affected by project traffic. This could include:

- in consultation with the CWC Trail Inc, a signage plan will be prepared, highlighting the CWCT within and in the vicinity of the project*
- within the site induction and driver's code of conduct, the CWCT will be highlighted to increase awareness of cyclists' presence in the area*
- any site-specific circumstance, e.g. peak construction activities, a traffic controller may be required to manage the vehicular traffic and cyclists which is subject to site supervisor's safety assessment and discretion*
- a dedicated phone number will be provided for CWCT users to call confirm safe passage before using the trail during peak construction periods. This phone number would be listed on a sign approximately 1 km from the start of construction and on the CWCT website.*
- safe pull over bays for bicycles will be identified along the construction route, which would move depending on the construction schedule.*
- provision of speed management strategies.*

In addition to these, I would also like to reiterate our genuine commitment to ongoing consultation with CWCT at all future stages of our projects and exploring further mitigation options.

I am available over the phone if you wish to discuss further.

Regards,

Cédric Bergé
Project Development Manager
ACEN Australia


From: David Allworth <djallworth@gmail.com>
Date: Friday, 9 May 2025 at 9:54 am

To: Scott Thomas <scott.thomas@acenrenewables.com.au>

Cc: John Fuller <fuller.john1@gmail.com>, Michael Cooper <mjcooper56@hotmail.com>, Carolay Guarin <carolay.guarin@acenrenewables.com.au>, Cédric Bergé <cedric.berge@acenrenewables.com.au>, sharon nott <nottsharon@hotmail.com>

Subject: Re: CWCT/ACEN - Birrwa & Narragamba - Catch up

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Scott,

Thanks for that summary, most appreciated. Apologies I have been slow out of the blocks this week with COVID.

1. Upper Barney Reef Rd proposal - please find attached copy of our proposal of works made to Mid-Western Regional Council. If you have any expertise in costing works that would help progress the matter. I have to get back to Council to see who has carriage of the matter - there is a council meeting on 21 May and 28 May, I hope it is one the agenda of one of those meetings. The proposal was submitted on 1 April 2025.

2. On public liability of crossing private land. Before we invest too much energy into the question can your legal section explain why you are able to provide a 'dust lane' on private land at the western end Birriwa Bus Route South across the Rayner's property without us having to be the party covering liability, but we are being asked to provide public liability cover at the western end across Croake's (to be purchased by ACEN) and Roxana? If these differences can be isolated then we can ask for advice in a more targeted way.

I have added Sharon Nott as cc, as she is our president and a local Dunedoo resident.

Yours sincerely

David Allworth
Secretary
Central West Cycle Trail Inc

On Wed, May 7, 2025 at 10:32 AM Scott Thomas <scott.thomas@acenrenewables.com.au> wrote:

Good morning David & John

Thank you again for taking the time to meet with us last Friday. It was a productive discussion, and we appreciate the opportunity to continue working through the key considerations regarding the interface between ACEN's project and the Central West Cycle Trail.

Please find below a summary of the main points discussed:

- **Project Update:** We discussed an overview of the project status, including outcomes from recent meetings with Council. We also confirmed that ACEN is unable to accommodate any further upgrades beyond what has already been proposed. We expect to lodge the Modification Report in May 2025 and will include the details of our consultation, including the outcome of our meeting on Friday.
- **Adventure Trail Support:** CWCT indicated interest in understanding the costing of physical works, particularly along the adventure trail section and Barneys Reef Road. While Barneys Reef Road is not directly connected to the ACEN project route, we are open to supporting CWCT efforts in obtaining a works fee estimate to inform future planning or funding proposals.
- **Access Through Private Land:** We discussed potential access options across land where ACEN has an agreement with the landholders, and note that this raises liability issues, as landholders would remain legally responsible for any incidents occurring on their property. ACEN cannot accept liability on behalf of landholders, nor can we proceed with this access route unless CWCT is able to assume responsibility. CWCT acknowledged this and advised that they will consult further internally.
- **Traffic Mitigation Measures:** We are committed to implementing traffic mitigation measures to minimise impacts on any part of the cycle trail that may be affected by project traffic. This could include speed management strategies and potentially the provision of a contact number that cyclists can call to confirm safety before using the trail during peak construction periods. The details of traffic mitigation measures will be included in the relevant traffic management plan and prepared in consultation with CWCT.

ACEN is committed to continuing consultation with CWCT at all future stages of our projects and exploring further mitigation options.

Please let me know if we've captured everything accurately, and don't hesitate to reach out if there's anything you'd like to clarify or discuss further.

We look forward to continuing to work collaboratively on a safe and practical solution.

Kind regards,

Scott Thomas

Project Developer



ACEN Australia



E: scott.thomas@acenrenewables.com.au

Level 10, 330 Collins St, Melbourne, VIC 3000

www.acenrenewables.com.au

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From: Cédric Bergé <cedric.berge@acenrenewables.com.au>
Date: Monday, 28 April 2025 at 9:46 am
To: Scott Thomas <scott.thomas@acenrenewables.com.au>, John Fuller <fuller.john1@gmail.com>, David Allworth <djallworth@gmail.com>
Cc: Michael Cooper <mjcooper56@hotmail.com>, Carolay Guarin <carolay.guarin@acenrenewables.com.au>, Zara Zoe <zara.zoe@acenrenewables.com.au>
Subject: Re: CWCT/ACEN - Birrwa & Narragamba - Catch up

Hi all,

I will be in Mudgee on Friday afternoon, so happy to catch up in town if that works for you.

See you later in the week.

Cheers,

Cédric Bergé

Project Development Manager

ACEN Australia



From: Scott Thomas <scott.thomas@acenrenewables.com.au>
Date: Monday, 28 April 2025 at 9:44 am
To: John Fuller <fuller.john1@gmail.com>, David Allworth <djallworth@gmail.com>
Cc: Michael Cooper <mjcooper56@hotmail.com>, Cédric Bergé <cedric.berge@acenrenewables.com.au>, Carolay Guarin

<carolay.guarin@acenrenewables.com.au>, Zara Zoe <zara.zoe@acenrenewables.com.au>

Subject: Re: CWCT/ACEN - Birrwa & Narragamba - Catch up

Morning John,

Thanks for the update.

Let's pencil 3pm in, I will send a calendar invite through shortly. As Cedric will be travelling the region, he will give David a call during the week to fine tune the details, meeting location and timing (if necessary).

In the meantime, please feel free to reach out if there is anything else I can assist with.

Kind regards,

Scott Thomas

Project Developer



ACEN Australia



E: scott.thomas@acenrenewables.com.au

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From: John Fuller <fuller.john1@gmail.com>

Date: Sunday, 27 April 2025 at 6:52 pm

To: Scott Thomas <scott.thomas@acenrenewables.com.au>

Cc: David Allworth <djallworth@gmail.com>, Michael Cooper <mjcooper56@hotmail.com>, Cédric Bergé <cedric.berge@acenrenewables.com.au>, Carolay Guarin <carolay.guarin@acenrenewables.com.au>, Zara Zoe <zara.zoe@acenrenewables.com.au>

Subject: Re: CWCT/ACEN - Birrwa & Narragamba - Catch up

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Hi Scott & Cedric

Thanks for the opportunity to meet in the region. Unfortunately Mick is not available but Davis Allworth is able to be involved in person and I can hook up via phone (or screen). We would prefer 3 pm on Friday if that still suits you, I expect we'd probably need about 1.5 hrs.

best regards

John

[REDACTED]

On Thu, 24 Apr 2025 at 12:43, Scott Thomas <scott.thomas@acenrenewables.com.au> wrote:

Morning John,

Thanks for your time on the phone.

As discussed, Cedric will be in Mudgee next week (and Gulgong the following), would any of these times suit for a catch up?

- Friday 2 May
 - Between 11am – 1pm
 - After 3pm
- Monday 5 May
 - TBC (Similar to Friday), are there any times that do/don't work for you?
- Tuesday 6 May

- We are holding a community information session all day at our Gulgong office. You are more than welcome to stop by any time to meet Cedric or broader team
- 79b Herbert Street Gulgong, NSW, 2852

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,

Scott Thomas

Project Developer



ACEN Australia



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From: John Fuller <fuller.john1@gmail.com>

Date: Monday, 14 April 2025 at 5:17 pm

To: Scott Thomas <scott.thomas@acenrenewables.com.au>

Cc: David Allworth <djallworth@gmail.com>, Michael Cooper <mjcooper56@hotmail.com>, Cédric Bergé <cedric.berge@acenrenewables.com.au>, Carolay Guarin <carolay.guarin@acenrenewables.com.au>, Zara Zoe <zara.zoe@acenrenewables.com.au>

Subject: Re: CWCT/ACEN - Birrwa & Narragamba - Catch up

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Hi Scott

Very sorry for taking so long to get back.

Both Mick and I are tied up almost this week (since last Thur) on a bicycle tour and David is working, at times remotely, near Broken Hill. So don't think this week will work for us.

I'll get back with a few other options, probably next week.

Are there any days that don't work for you?

regards
John

On Mon, 7 Apr 2025, 12:59 pm Scott Thomas, <scott.thomas@acenrenewables.com.au> wrote:

Hi David, Mick & John, I hope you have all been well.

David, just following up on my voicemail. Are you all free for an MS Teams catch up in the next week or two?

Some times that are available for us:

- Friday 11th April
 - 2-4pm
- Monday 14th April
 - 9-11am
- Wednesday 16th April
 - 9-11am

- 2-3pm
- Thursday 17th April
 - 11am – 4pm

Please feel free to suggest an alternative time if none of the above suit and we will see what we can do.

Kind regards,

Scott Thomas

Project Developer



ACEN Australia



E: scott.thomas@acenrenewables.com.au

Level 10, [330 Collins St, Melbourne, VIC 3000](#)

www.acenrenewables.com.au

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--

regards
John

Jenny Summersby

From: Erin Player <erin.player@warrumbungle.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 30 April 2025 9:14 AM
To: 'carolay.guarin@acenrenewables.com.au'
Subject: RE: Birriwa Solar and Battery project modification update - Warrumbungle Shire Council

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Good morning Carolay

In regards to your email below, anytime from 2pm on Thursday or Friday morning would be suitable for briefing next week.

Kind regards

Erin

Erin Player | REZ Coordinator
Warrumbungle Shire Council
PO Box 191, Coonabarabran NSW 2357
[REDACTED]
E erin.player@warrumbungle.nsw.gov.au

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From: Carolay Guarin <carolay.guarin@acenrenewables.com.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 29 April 2025 2:47 PM
To: Leeanne Ryan <Leeanne.Ryan@warrumbungle.nsw.gov.au>; Nicole Benson <Nicole.Benson@warrumbungle.nsw.gov.au>
Cc: Cédric Bergé <cedric.berge@acenrenewables.com.au>; Scott Thomas <scott.thomas@acenrenewables.com.au>
Subject: Birriwa Solar and Battery project modification update - Warrumbungle Shire Council

Hi Leeanne and Nicole,

I hope you are both doing well.

As mentioned in our last project update meeting, the approved Birriwa Solar and Battery Project will be submitting a project modification to the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) next month.

To support this, the project team will be hosting a Community Information Drop-In Session next Tuesday, 5 May, from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM at ACEN Australia's Gulgong office (79b Herbert Street, Gulgong). You are warmly invited to attend the session.

Additionally, we would like to provide Warrumbungle Shire Council with a briefing on the proposed modification via Microsoft Teams. We are proposing a meeting sometime next week, preferably on Thursday or Friday.

Could you please share your availability so we can schedule a suitable time?

Kind regards,

Carolay Guarin
Project Developer



ACEN Australia

E: carolay.guarin@acenrenewables.com.au
Sydney: Level 25, 25 Bligh Street, Sydney NSW 2000
www.acenrenewables.com.au

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Birriwa Solar

Renewable Energy from ACEN

January 2025

The Birriwa Solar and Battery project was approved by the Independent Planning Commission in August 2024.

The approval is a significant milestone for ACEN Australia as we progress development of our 13GW pipeline across Australia.

Since then, the project team has been finalising elements of the project to prepare for construction, that we anticipate commencing in late 2026 or early 2027.

This included considering opportunities to optimise the project's design to support generation of 600MW of renewable energy capacity, while avoiding constraints identified during the planning process.

As a result of these opportunities and the securing of additional land, ACEN Australia is preparing to submit a modification application for approval to the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure, around April 2025.

The modification application also allows us to consider a secondary access route specifically for the construction and operation of the temporary workers accommodation facility and operation of the BESS, as well as EnergyCo's infrastructure associated with the project; this secondary access route will be aligned with roads used by EnergyCo for access to the CWO REZ infrastructure - meaning we can better manage the impact of construction traffic on local roads.



Learn more about the project modification application and meet the project team

The team will be in our Gulgong office (79b Herbert Street, Gulgong)

on

Wednesday, 29 January 2025

from

9:00am- 5:00pm

We welcome your ongoing feedback on the project modification application.

If you are unable to make it on the day our community engagement team are in the office Tuesday- Thursday between 9:00am and 5:00pm, or you can contact us on the below for more information.



www.facebook.com/birriwasolar



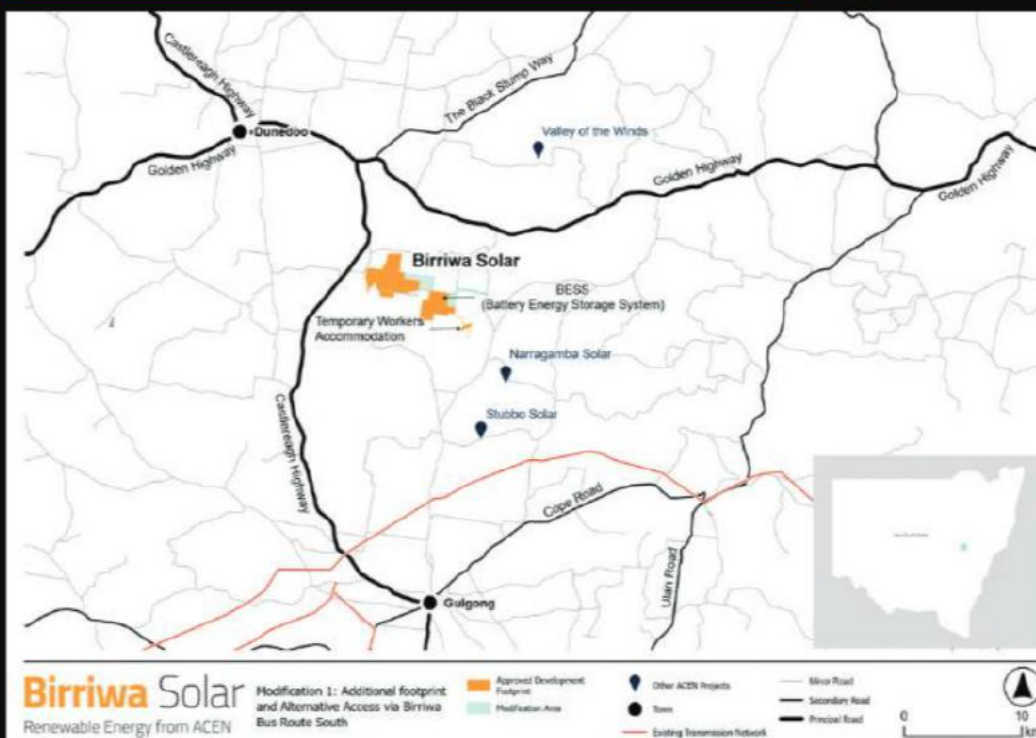
www.birriwasolar.com.au



info@birriwasolar.com.au

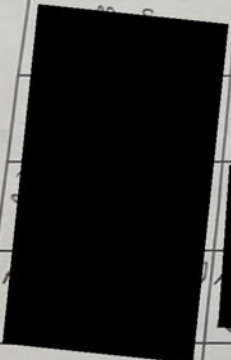
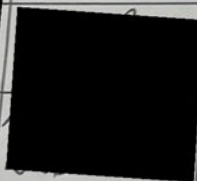
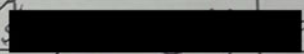


1800 290 995



We thank the community and stakeholders for their feedback that has provided us the opportunity to make amendments to the project design, and reflecting this feedback we will continue to refine this body of work for the project.

We remain committed to our engagement and consultation activities and will continue to engage with stakeholders and the broader community throughout the modification, construction and operation of the project.

Name	Phone number	Organisation, Community Member, Local Resident	Contact (email or postal and residential address)	Would you like to join our mailing list? Y/N	How did you hear about today's session?
		Neighbour		N	email
		MWRC			
		NEIGHBOUR ↓		Y	DAILY.
				—	—

Birriwa Solar

Renewable Energy from ACEN

PROJECT UPDATE

May 2025

Modification application

The Birriwa Solar and Battery project was approved by the Independent Planning Commission in August 2024.

The approval is a significant milestone for ACEN Australia as we progress development of our 13GW pipeline across Australia.

Since then, the project team has been finalising elements of the project to prepare for construction, that we anticipate commencing in late 2026 or early 2027.

This included considering opportunities to optimise the project's design to support generation of 600MW of renewable energy capacity, and increasing the duration and capacity of the storage component of the project.

As a result of these opportunities and the securing of additional land, ACEN Australia is preparing to submit a modification application for approval to the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure, around May 2025.

Modification application summary



Increase the storage capacity and duration of the BESS from up to approximately 600 MW for 2-hour duration up to approximately 900 MW for a 4-hour duration.



Include an alternative access via the existing Birriwa Bus Route South Road from the Golden Highway via Merotherie Road.

This will enable access to the project for the purpose of constructing and operating the approved temporary accommodation facility, construction, operation and maintenance of the BESS and EnergyCo's infrastructure associated with the project.



Increase the project area and development footprint to additional land to be used for solar generation, BESS, and associated ancillary infrastructure, as needed.



Increase the approved project's accommodation facility capacity from 500 workers to 650 workers, within the approved accommodation footprint



**Learn more about
the project
modification
application and
meet the project
team**

The project team will be in our
Gulgong office
(79b Herbert Street, Gulgong)
on

Tuesday, 6 May 2025
from
9:00am- 5:00pm

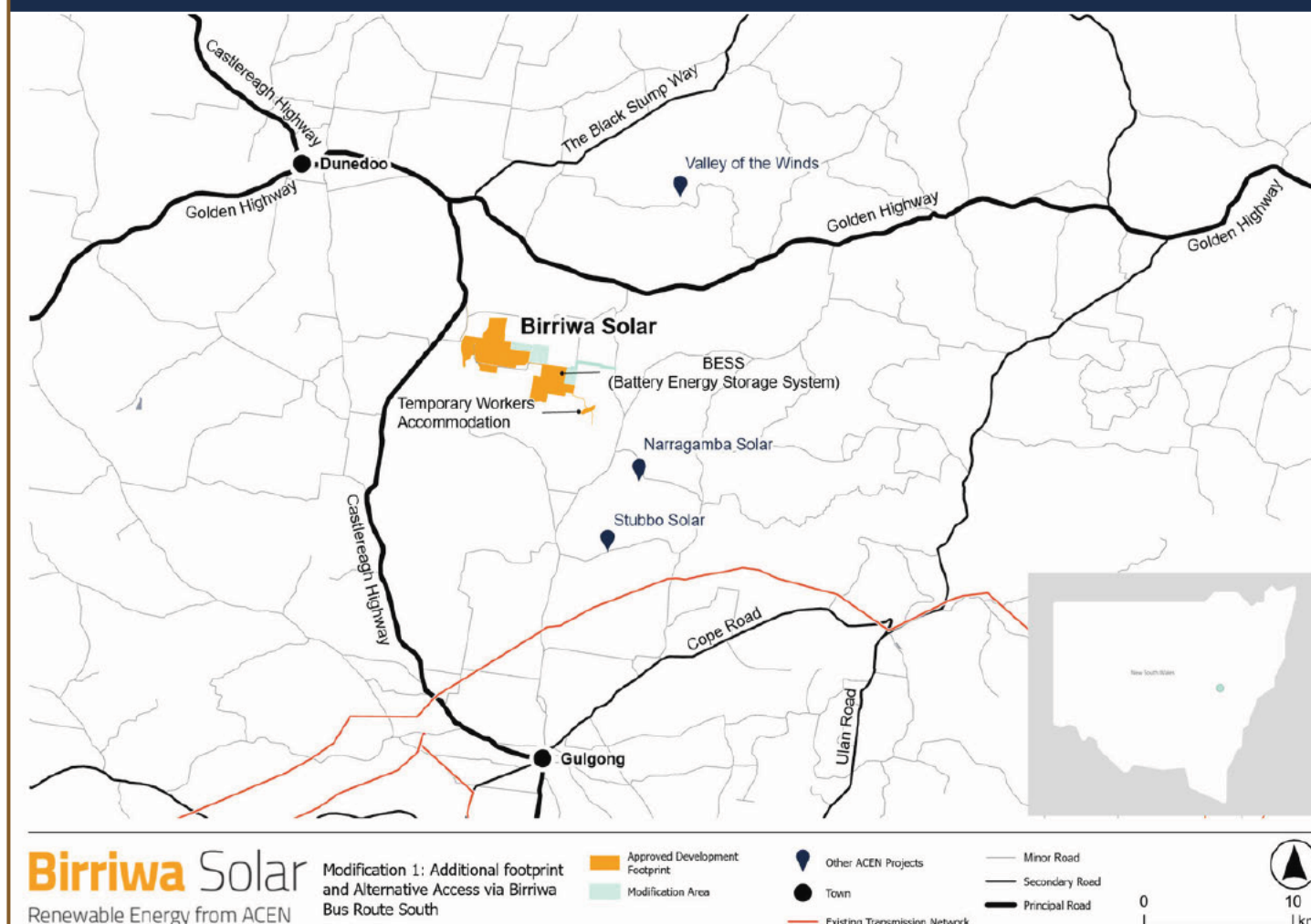
We welcome your ongoing
feedback on the project
modification application.

Birriwa Solar

Renewable Energy from ACEN

Modification application

The modification application also allows us to consider a secondary access route specifically for the construction and operation of the temporary workers accommodation facility and operation of the BESS, as well as EnergyCo's infrastructure associated with the project; this secondary access route will be aligned with roads used by EnergyCo for access to the CWO REZ infrastructure- – meaning we can better manage the impact of construction traffic on local roads.



We thank the community and stakeholders for their feedback that has provided us the opportunity to make amendments to the project design, and reflecting this feedback we will continue to refine this body of work for the project.

We remain committed to our engagement and consultation activities and will continue to engage with stakeholders and the broader community throughout the modification, construction and operation of the project.

✉ info@birriwasolar.com.au

☎ 1800 290 995



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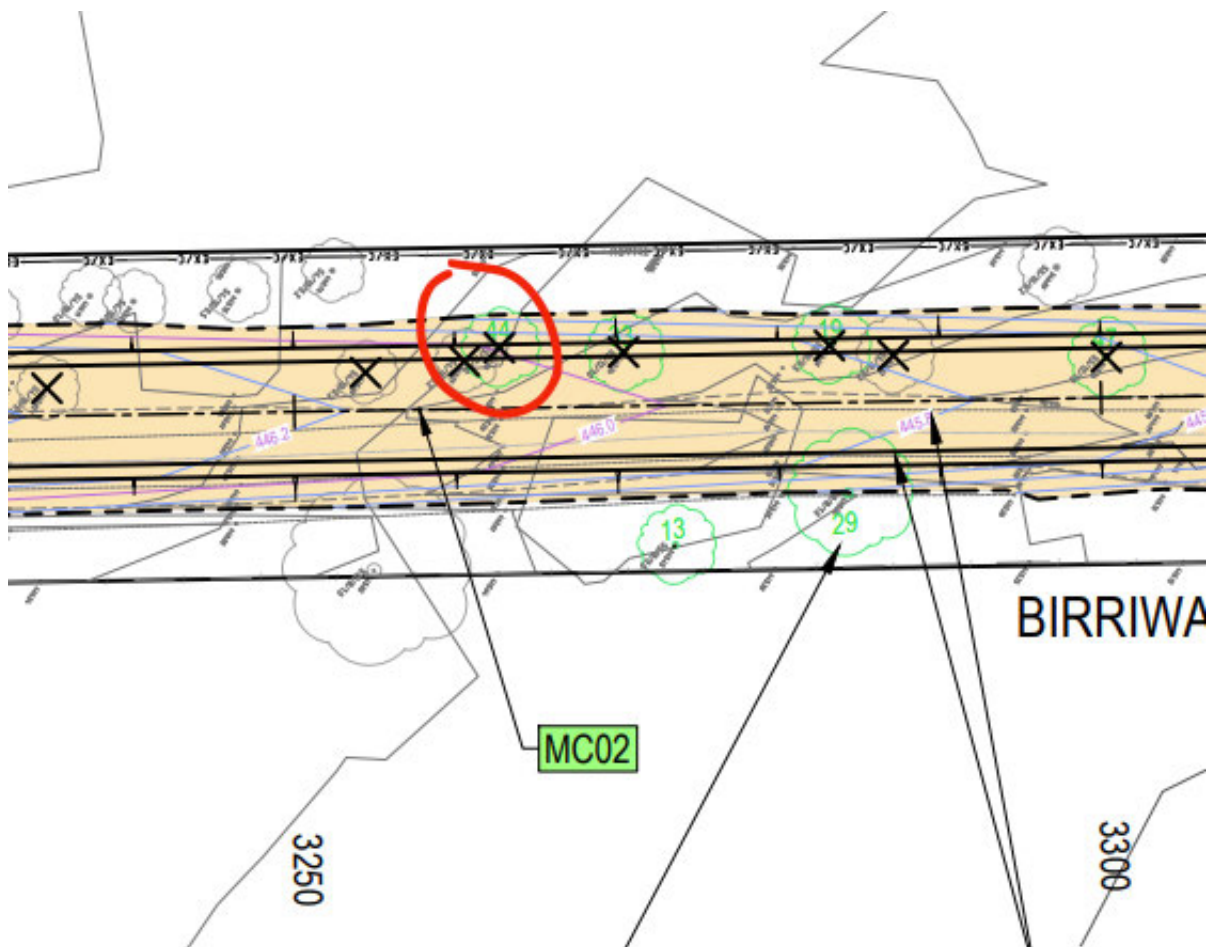
Subject: Narragamba - BBRs Designs
Date: Thursday, 6 March 2025 at 1:11:54 pm Australian Eastern Daylight Time
From: Scott Thomas
To: Julian Geddes, Lisa Penson
BCC: Narragamba - CM, Birriwa CM
Attachments: image001.png, image002.png

Hi Julian & Lisa,

Apologies for the delay getting this through to you.

Please find attached latest BBRs designs in advance of our meeting on site next week.

Since the first revision, we have had a surveyor attend site to conduct a topographical survey in order to better identify the location of trees and cadastral boundaries. Hollow Bearing Trees (HBT) are shown and labelled in green. Please be sure to look carefully when assessing, as it can seem like there a multiple HBT clashes in some areas, when in fact there may only be one. Below is an example of such an area (I have circled it in red). Please don't mistake this red circle for two HBT clashes, it is one HBT and one normal tree. The HBT is noted by its green colour and green "44" label.



Our designers have identified possible changes for us to discuss on site, which could result in

further reduced impacts to HBT. These high-level proposed changes are below:

- Trees 28 and 48 – possible realignment to retain (some smaller trees will be lost)
- Trees 42 and 45 – are in the centre of road reserve possible realignment to retain (some smaller trees will be lost)
- Trees 39, 24 and 6 - possible realignment to retain
- Tree 5 – cannot be saved
- Tree 3 – lose to save Tree 4
- Tree 4 - possible realignment to retain
- Tree 43 – lose to save tree 38 or possible realignment to retain
- Tree 38 – lose to save tree 43 or possible realignment to retain
- Tree 25 – cannot be saved (centre of road reserve)
- Trees 40,30 and 50 - possible realignment to retain
- Trees 44,33,19,47 and 49 - possible realignment to retain
- Trees 29 and 13 – lose to save 44,33,19, 47 and 49

Looking forward to catching up with you on site, please feel free to contact me should have you any queries in the meantime.

Kind regards,

Scott Thomas
Project Developer



ACEN Australia

E: scott.thomas@acenrenewables.com.au

Level 10, 330 Collins St, Melbourne, VIC 3000

www.acenrenewables.com.au

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25 March 2025

Julian Geddes
Director - Operations
Mid-Western Regional Council
86 Market St, PO Box 156
Mudgee NSW 2850

Subject: Birriwa Solar and BESS - Narragamba Solar – Public Road Upgrades – Commitments

Dear Julian,

I'd like to extend my appreciation to both you and Mackenzie for joining Cedric Berge and myself on-site at Birriwa Bus Route South (BBRS), Merotherie on 13 March 2025. It was incredibly valuable to assess the corridor in person, particularly the identified Hollow-Bearing Trees (HBTs) and the preliminary road design considerations.

As previously discussed in our correspondence, ACEN Australia (ACEN) is preparing a Modification Report for the Birriwa Solar and Battery project and an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Narragamba Solar Project. These documents will propose access routes to both the Birriwa development footprint and the shared workers accommodation facility, including an upgrade of BBRS between the intersection of Merotherie Road and the proposed access point.

We understand that Mid-Western Regional Council (Council) is comfortable with a 6m road seal, with shoulder widths to vary based on site conditions. This approach supports a meandering alignment where possible, to minimise impacts to Plant Community Types, roadside vegetation, and Heritage Sites, with a specific emphasis on avoiding HBTs. These considerations will be assessed as part of the environmental and social impact evaluations in the Development Application.

The final road design will be prepared in accordance with the Project's development consent conditions, to the satisfaction of Council, and in consultation with relevant stakeholders. Local roads will be upgraded prior to commencement of construction of the Project.

This letter outlines the final design commitments we discussed on site for your consideration and endorsement.

1. The final road design will maintain the following HBTs: 8, 7, 27, 21, 32, 52, 9, 16, 38 (with the loss of 43 to save 38), 51, 10, 34, 31, 23, 46, 41.
2. By refining the location of the alternative access point to the Birriwa project, we can further reduce the design footprint by approximately 160 meters at the western end of the road upgrade study area, allowing avoidance of HBT's 15, 13, 29, 11, 44, 33, 19, 47 and 49.
3. If practicable, the final road design will also aim to avoid the following HBTs:
 - Trees 28, 48, 21, 30, 40, 50, 42, 45, 39, 24, and 6.
 - Trees 3 and 4, noting that Tree 4 likely to be at risk in order to preserve Tree 3.
 - Tree 43, which is proposed for removal in order to retain Tree 38.

Based on current design constraints, Trees 5 and 25 are likely to be impacted by the final design and are therefore proposed to be removed.

We will continue to refine the road alignment in line with our on-site discussions, ensuring that safety, road functionality, and biodiversity conservation remain at the forefront of our approach.

Could you please confirm at your earliest convenience that this letter accurately reflects our on-site discussions?

ACEN Australia
Suite 2, Level 2
15 Castray Esplanade
Battery Point, TAS 7004

ACN 616 856 672
ABN 27 616 856 672

Please let me know if you have any further questions or would like to discuss any aspects of the visit or proposed refinements. We greatly appreciate Council's ongoing collaboration in working towards a practical and environmentally responsible outcome for BBRS.

Looking forward to your feedback.

Scott Thomas
Project Developer



ACEN Australia



E: scott.thomas@acenrenewables.com.au

Level 10, 330 Collins St, Melbourne, VIC 3000

www.acenrenewables.com.au

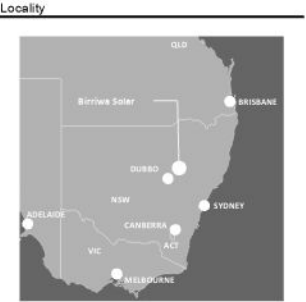


Legend

- Proposed Site Access Point
- Hollow Bear Tree's - "Consider avoiding in designs"
- Hollow Bear Tree's - "Not to be removed"
- Scar Tree "Not to be removed"
- Cadastral Boundary

Notes

1. Project details shown in this plan are preliminary only.



Project

Birriwa Solar
Renewable Energy from ACEN

Title

BBRS HBT
Commitments Map

Drawing no. BISF-100 **Date** 25/03/2025

0 100 200 m

1:8,000 @ A1 GDA2020 MGA Zone 55

Subject: Birriwa & Narragamba - Birriwa Bus Route S Commitments
Date: Tuesday, 25 March 2025 at 3:36:47 pm Australian Eastern Daylight Time
From: Scott Thomas
To: Julian Geddes
CC: Lisa Penson, Carolay Guarin, Zara Zoe, Cédric Bergé
BCC: Birriwa CM, Narragamba - CM
Attachments: image001.png, 20250325_ACEN_BBRS_Committments.pdf

Hi Julian,

Thank you for your time on site recently, and please pass on our thanks to Mackenzie as well — it's greatly appreciated.

Please find attached a letter outlining ACEN's design commitments for the proposed upgrade of Birriwa Bus Route South (BBRS), as discussed during our site visit on 13 March 2025.

The commitments reflect our shared discussions and focus on minimising impacts to Hollow-Bearing Trees (HBTs), Plant Community Types, and heritage sites, while maintaining safety and functionality within the existing road reserve. The letter also clarifies how these commitments align with the Modification Report for the Birriwa Solar and Battery Project and the EIS for the Narragamba Solar Project.

Could you please confirm at your earliest convenience whether the attached accurately reflects our on-site discussions and Council's expectations?

As always, please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or would like to discuss any part of the proposal further.

Kind regards,

Scott Thomas
Project Developer



ACEN Australia

E: scott.thomas@acenrenewables.com.au
Level 10, 330 Collins St, Melbourne, VIC 3000
www.acenrenewables.com.au

ACEN Australia acknowledges the resilience and knowledge of the Traditional Custodians of this nation. We pay our respects to elders past and present, the many Aboriginal people that did not make their elder status and to those that continue to care for country.

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MID-WESTERN REGIONAL COUNCIL

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E council@midwestern.nsw.gov.au

LP | LAN900138

17 April 2025

Scott Thomas
ACEN Australia

Via e-mail: scott.thomas@acenrenewables.com.au

Dear Scott,

SUBJECT: Birriwa Solar and BESS - Narragamba Solar – Public Road Upgrades – Commitments

Council's position is to generally support a design solution that will minimise the impact on the roadside environment while providing a road design that suits the short-term construction impacts and longer-term operational use of the road.

In this regard, it is preferable that the design aligns with Austroads guidelines for road geometry, applying an appropriate AADT for the development and considering both cumulative impacts and baseline rural traffic volumes. Where non-conformances occur due to the need to preserve roadside vegetation, exemptions may be considered—provided they are supported by a comprehensive road safety assessment.

It is anticipated that Austroads guidelines will require 3.1m travel lanes, with shoulder widths adjusted as needed to minimise environmental impact. Added safety features, such as guardrails, should also be considered.

The design commitments as outlined in your letter dated 25 March 2025 are generally accepted, however, Council requires the opportunity to review a draft design, road safety audits, and any requested concessions before endorsing the final design package.

If you have any further questions, please contact Council on (02) 6378 2850.

Yours sincerely,

Julian Geddes

Julian Geddes (Apr 24, 2025 11:28 GMT+10)

JULIAN GEDDES

DIRECTOR OPERATIONS

Port to REZ – Early works and site establishment

April 2025

EnergyCo is establishing two site compounds as work begins on the Port of Newcastle to Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) road upgrades.

Overview

EnergyCo is delivering upgrades along the State Road network to enable the transportation of oversize over mass (OSOM) equipment needed to build renewable energy zones (REZs) across NSW.

BMD Constructions (BMD) has been engaged to carry out the first stage of road upgrades, referred to as the Port to REZ project, from the Port of Newcastle to the Central-West Orana REZ.

The first stage of work features upgrades at 19 locations and may include road pavement widening, drainage changes, moving signs, pruning or removing vegetation in accordance with environmental controls, lighting or utility work.

What are we doing first?

Early works will start in April across six locations at Mayfield North, Jerrys Plains, Sandy Hollow, Birriwa, Cassilis and Elong Elong. Early work will include:

- Geotechnical investigations including potholing and survey
- Installation of traffic signs, flagging and environmental controls
- Establishing site compounds

Site compounds

BMD are establishing a site compound at each end of the Port to REZ route as they prepare for work to start in the coming weeks.

Newcastle site compound (East):

- Located at Roll Shop Road, near the intersection of Industrial Drive and Selwyn Street, Mayfield
- Contains sheds for around 10 staff and includes meeting rooms, amenities, fences, security, and parking

Birriwa site compound (West):

- Located at Barneys Reef Road near the intersection of Castlereagh Highway, Birriwa
- Contains sheds for around 10 staff and includes meeting rooms, amenities, fences, security, and parking

See site compound locations on page 2.

Work hours and timing

Once work starts, standard hours will be:

- 7am and 6pm Monday to Friday, and 8am to 1pm on Saturday

Some deliveries by OSOM vehicles may have to take place outside standard work hours.

What will this mean for you?

You may see workers on site installing equipment or building the compounds, car parks or laydown areas, or observe cranes delivering equipment such as site sheds.

Managing our impacts

Noise and traffic impacts related to the construction of the site compounds is expected be minimal

Access to properties will be maintained at all times.

We will make every effort to minimise impacts by turning off machinery and vehicles when not in use. We will also monitor noise to manage any potential impacts and adjust work where possible.

Thank you for your patience during this important work.

Contact us

For more information, get in touch with our team.

E: Port2REZCommunity@BMD.com.au

T: 1800 807 561 (9am-5pm, Monday to Friday)

Read more about the project by visiting energyco.nsw.gov.au/port2rez or, carportal.com.au/energyco/rez

Translating and interpreting service



If you need help understanding this information, please contact the Translating and Interpreting Service on 131 450 and ask them to call us on 1800 807 561.

Site compound locations



Central-West Orana Transmission Project



Work notification – Merotherie Road and Golden Highway intersection upgrade

17 April 2025

The Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) transmission project will build new high-capacity transmission lines, energy hubs and supporting infrastructure to transfer power generated by solar and wind projects to electricity consumers. The REZ initial operation is anticipated in 2028 and will initially unlock up to 4.5 gigawatts (GW) of network capacity.

ACERZ, a partnership of ACCIONA, COBRA and Endeavour Energy, has been appointed by EnergyCo as the preferred network operator to design, build, finance, operate and maintain the Central-West Orana REZ transmission project.

Road upgrade at the intersection of Merotherie Road and Golden Highway

To support the development of the Merotherie Energy Hub including the temporary workforce accommodation and site office (see map on page 3), ACERZ is upgrading the intersection of Merotherie Road and Golden Highway.

This intersection upgrade is required by the Project's planning approval.

Work is planned to occur from **28 April 2025** between **6am and 6pm Monday to Sunday** and is expected to take approximately five weeks to complete, weather permitting.



EnergyCo

These activities are permitted under the Project's planning approval to take place outside of standard working hours (Monday to Friday 7am to 6pm, Saturday 8am to 1pm).

The noise levels to be produced by these activities have been modelled and are unlikely to affect residents. Noise monitoring will occur to ensure that any noise outside of standard working hours is compliant. Community members can contact the 24/7 Community Information Line on 1800 298 379 to make enquiries or provide feedback.

Merotherie Road will be closed to through traffic during the upgrade, however agreed access for residents, immediate neighbours and businesses will be maintained.

Signage and traffic controls will be in place to direct drivers to use the Castlereagh Highway between Gulgong and Dunedoo. Throughout the work period, speed limits will be reduced to 40km/h around the construction site on Merotherie Road and Golden Highway.

ACEREZ will regularly update the community as construction progresses.

The intersection upgrade works will include:

- Installation of signage and traffic controls
- Delivery of plant, materials and equipment
- Ground clearing
- Extension of existing drainage
- Road widening and creation of new turning lanes
- Earthworks and pavement construction
- Line marking on the new and existing roads

Equipment used will include, but is not limited to, excavators, graders, stabilisers, rollers, trucks and trailers.

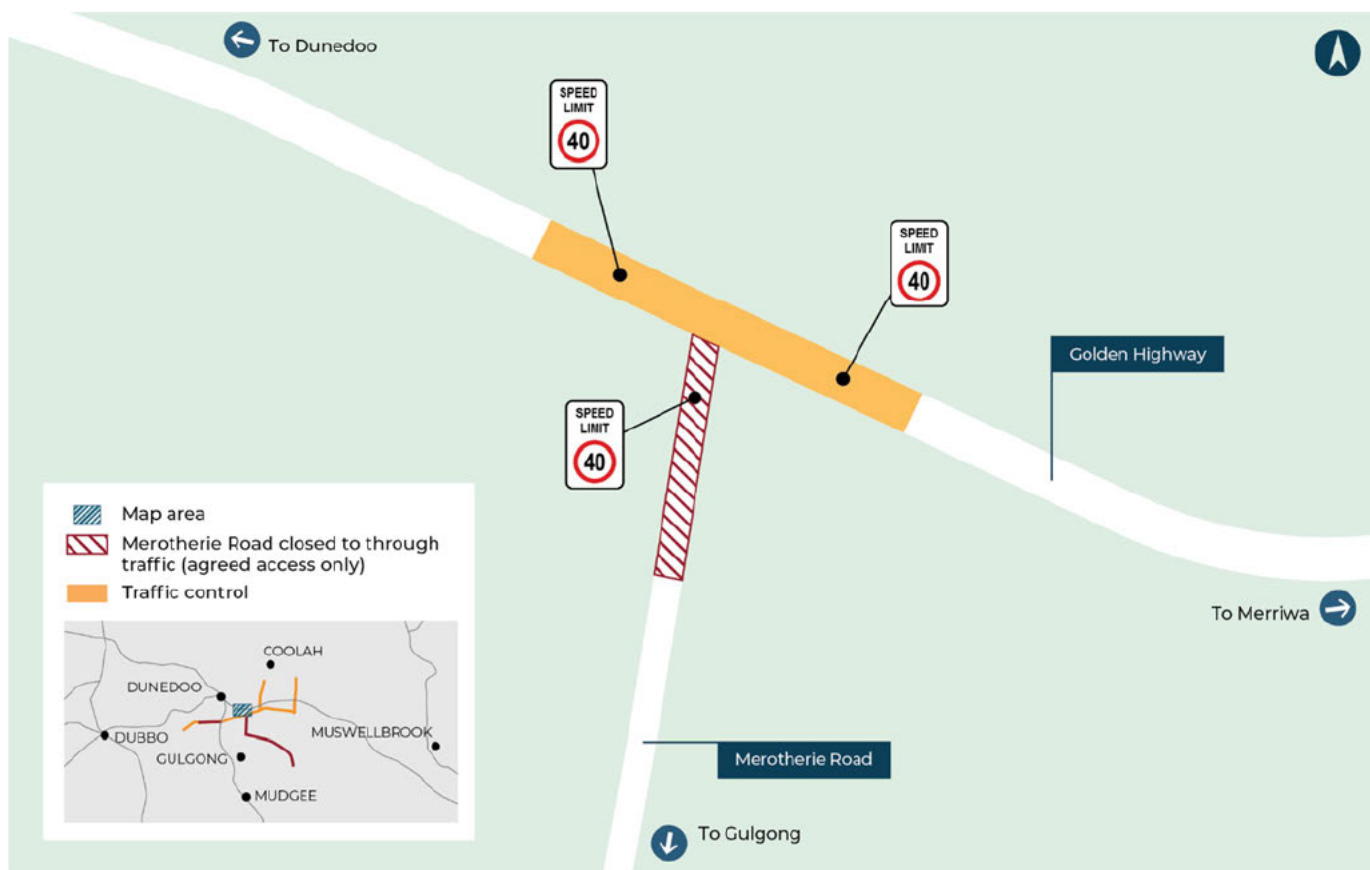
What to expect:

- Rerouting of vehicles via Castlereagh Highway
- Temporary stop-go traffic lights
- Reduced speed limit of 40km/h around the construction site
- Oversized plant and machinery within the construction site
- Water spray trucks will be used to reduce dust
- All relevant environmental controls will be in place during the work
- Access to residents, immediate neighbours and businesses will be maintained

Changes to roads and traffic routes:

- Merotherie Road will be closed to through traffic. Signage will be in place to advise drivers to use Castlereagh Highway between Gulgong and Dunedoo (agreed access for residents, immediate neighbours and businesses will be maintained)
- Stop-go traffic arrangements will be in place on Golden Highway
- Speed limit will be 40km/h around the construction site
- Relocation of school bus stop on Golden Highway. Regular bus operations will continue

Work area map



Contact us

For further information or to provide feedback, please contact the Community Information Line 24/7 on **1800 298 379** or email **cwo.community@acerez-acjv.com.au**. We will continue to keep you updated on the progress of work in your area.

 24/7 Community Information Line 1800 298 379

 cwo.community@acerez-acjv.com.au

 PO Box 19 Dunedoo 2844

 www.acerez.com.au



ACERZ
the future of renewable energy