

3 September 2025

Gerrit Prent
Senior Development Planner
Equis Energy (Australia)
36 Esplanade Brighton
Melbourne VIC 3186

Dear Gerrit,

**Re: Calala Battery Energy Storage System Modification Letter (SSD-52786213) –
Aboriginal and Historical Heritage**

Our Ref: Matter: 41066

Biosis Pty Ltd has been commissioned by The Trustee for Equis Energy (Australia) Ngumi 4 Holding Trust (Equis) to provide a letter to support a modification (MOD) with minimal environmental impact under Section 4.55 (1A) of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. The project has been approved as a State Significant Development (SSD) (SSD-52786213), and the MOD is required to facilitate works within and around the existing Tamworth substation as well as the introduction of vehicle turning bays along the transmission line corridor (Figure 1). The study area for SSD-52786213 includes 474 Calala Lane, Calala, New South Wales (NSW) (Lot 3 and 4 DP 244399, Lot 6 DP 219993 and Lot 16 and 17 DP 629969).

The MOD works includes (Figure 2):

- Temporary construction laydown, site compound and vehicle parking within the Tamworth Substation. The additional proposed laydown area is approximately 3.07 hectares and will consist of a hardstand surface finish.
- Three vehicle turning bays along the transmission line corridor – the approximate dimensions of the turning bays are:
 - 20 metres x 25 metres (eastern bay).
 - 20 metres x 20 metres (centre turning bay).
 - 30 metres x 19 metres (western turning bay).
- Additional site access point from Burgmann's Lane utilising the existing access road to the Tamworth substation.
- Additional site access point from Burgmann's Lane to the proposed transmission line corridor.
- Amended construction vehicle access route to site, allowing for construction vehicle access via Burgmann's Lane.

Minor works also include:

- Minor increase to the retarding basin capacity on the Tamworth Substation land.
- Site boundary reduction.

- Additional grassed landscape mound north of the BESS and minor increase in the overall length of the existing grassed landscape mound located to the north-west of the BESS facility.
- Minor reconfiguration to the internal BESS facility layout, which includes:
 - Minor relocation/reorientation of the switch room and control room infrastructure.
 - Minor adjustment to the fenced area containing the operations & maintenance and facility control room, and warehouse.

Assessments prepared for the approved SSD include an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) and a Historical Archaeological impact Statement (HAIS) (Biosis 2023a), (Biosis 2023b). An addendum letter was completed in 2024 for additional areas of impact that were outside of the previous study area (Biosis 2024).

An extensive Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) search was undertaken on 5 December 2024 Client Service ID: 957307) (Figure 3). The search identified 74 Aboriginal sites within a 8 by 8 kilometre search area. No AHIMS sites are located within the study area (Figure 3). There are two restricted sites located within the AHIMS search results. Biosis confirmed with AHIMS that these sites are not located within the study area (previously confirmed via pers. comm. 4 March 2024).

There are no heritage items located within the additional areas of impact (Figure 4).

The ACHA and HAIS identified that the study area for the Calala BESS has been disturbed, and that there is low potential for Aboriginal sites and historical archaeological remains to be present within the study area (Biosis 2023a, Biosis 2023b, Biosis 2024). Refer to these reports for the background research, field investigations and results of the assessments. The construction of the Tamworth substation would have further disturbed and modified this portion of the study area. The previous disturbance from the Tamworth substation construction works was also noted in the ACHA (Biosis 2023a). The proposed works for the MOD are also contained to areas that have been previously disturbed. Based on the assessment of the ACHA and HAIS there is low potential for Aboriginal or historical archaeological remains to be present. Therefore, the recommendations of the 2023 ACHA and HAIS are applicable to this MOD letter.

This MOD letter was prepared by Bronte Baonza (Heritage Consultant) and reviewed by Anthea Vella (Team Leader – Heritage NSW).

Please contact me on 0438 191 025 if you have any enquiries.

Yours sincerely,



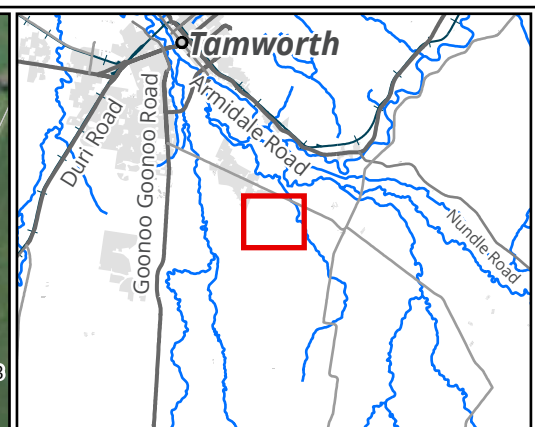
Bronte Baonza
Heritage Consultant

References

Biosis 2023a, *Calala Battery Energy Storage System, Calala (SSD-52786213). Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment.*, Report prepared for Equis Energy (Australia) Projects (NGUMI4) Pty Ltd as trustee for the Equis Energy (Australia) Ngumi 4 Asset Trust. Authors: Vella. A and Bridge. A, Biosis Pty Ltd, Newcastle, NSW. Project no. 37807.

Biosis 2023b, *Calala Battery Energy Storage System, Calala (SSD – 52786213): Historical Archaeological Impact Statement*, Report prepared for Equis Energy (Australia) Projects (NGUMI4) Pty Ltd as trustee for the Equis Energy (Australia) Ngumi 4 Asset Trust. Authors: Bridge. A, Vella. A and Bezzina. D, Biosis Pty Ltd, Newcastle, NSW. Project no. 38103.

Biosis 2024, *ACHA and HAIS Addendum Letter for the Calala Battery Energy Storage.*



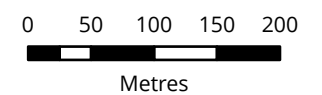
Legend

 Study area

Lot

 Area not assessed

Figure 1 Study area detail



Metres

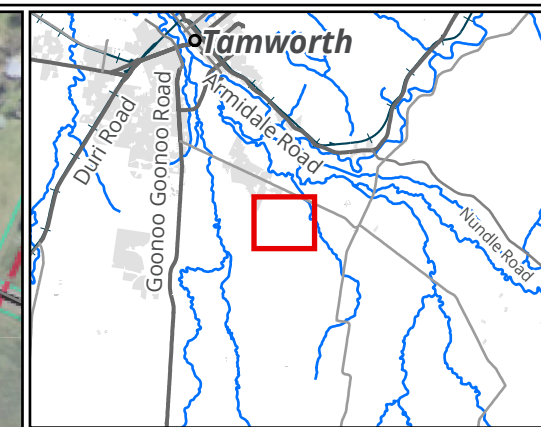
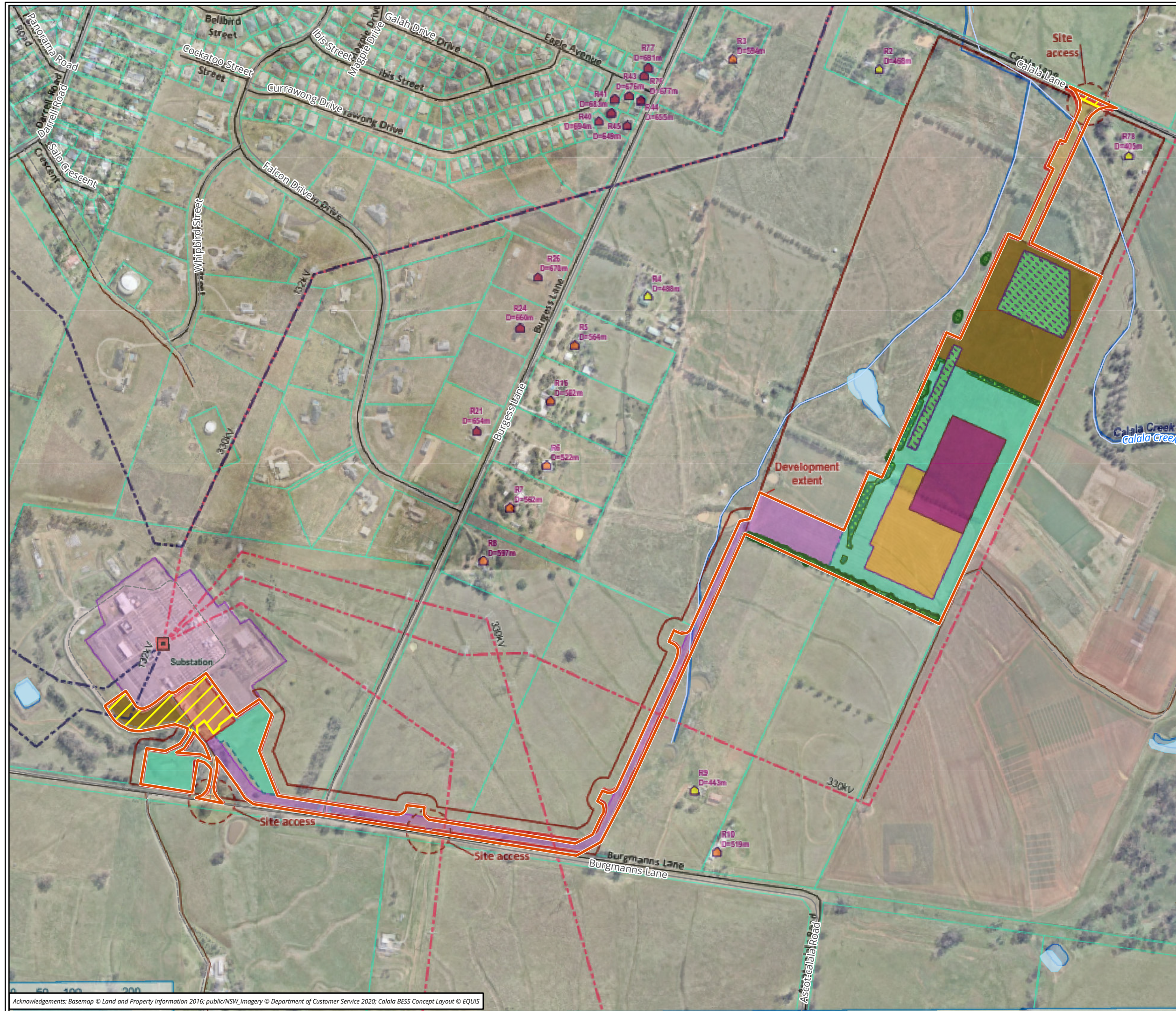
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Coordinate System:
GDA2020 MGA Zone 56



APEM Group

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Appendix 1 AHIMS search results

