Scoping Report - Request for Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs)

Finley Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)

Prepared for: BESS Pacific Pty Ltd

Prepared by:

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Australia

SLR Project No.: 620.40673.00001

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Revision: 4.0

Revision Record

Revision	Date	Prepared By	Checked By	Authorised By
1.0	19 December 2023	Melissa Thomas	Ursula McInnes	CLIENT DRAFT ISSUE
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3.0	23 May 2024	Melissa Thomas	Ursula McInnes	Mandy Allonby
4.0	18 June 2024	Theo Klok	Melissa Thomas	Mandy Allonby

Basis of Report

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

This report is for the exclusive use of the Proponent. No warranties or guarantees are expressed or should be inferred by any third parties. This report may not be relied upon by other parties without written consent from SLR.

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Executive Summary

BESS Pacific Pty Ltd (BESS Pacific) seeks to establish a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facility with a connection to the existing electricity grid via a transmission line (TL) route comprising of above and below ground cables, connecting to TransGrid's FINLEY 132/66 kilovolt (kV) Transmission Substation (TS) (herein referred to as the 'Project').

The BESS is proposed on a portion Lot 3 DP740920 at Riverina Highway, Finley New South Wales (NSW) 2713 (the 'BESS Site'). A TL is proposed to the FINLEY 132/66 kV TS located on Lot B DP961693, 168 Canalla Road, Finley NSW 2713 (the 'Substation Site'), approximately 250 m to the south west of the BESS Site. The TL will be tunnelled below Broockmanns Road and the Mulwala No. 19 canal, followed by an overhead TL with associated transmission towers. The overall TL route will have a proposed connection length of 480 m.

Collectively, these properties are hereafter referred to as the 'Subject Sites'.

The BESS comprises of a total of 80 20-foot modular containers comprising of Lithium-Ion batteries with the appropriate cooling and protection system. A total of 40 inverters (one per every two batteries) will be located externally to the modular containers. Batteries and inverters are fixed to hardstand footings where they are accessible by an internal road.

Other physical features of the Project include a control room/switchgear and auxiliary transmission, car parking, landscaping, security fencing/lighting, and a single storage structure.

The Project is self-operating and only requires minor periodic visitation by an authorised person. The facility is otherwise restricted to the public.

Table ES1 outlines the particulars for the Project.

Project Overview

Table ES1: Project Summary

Project Element	Description
Proposed Development - Construction and Operation Summary	The Project would generally involve the following components: • Transport of construction personnel, associated heavy and light vehicles, and materials to and from the Subject Sites on a day-to-day basis, dependent on the construction schedule; • Site establishment works including clearing of grassed area within the BESS boundary and TL footprint, bulk earthworks, and temporary construction compound; • Road works to formalise internal BESS Site access road to accommodate heavy vehicles and two new driveway crossings, • Construction of hardstand, paved internal roads, control room and switch gear, auxiliary transformer, battery enclosures, and inverter and transformer stations; • Construction of 132 kV TL route (comprising of above and below ground cables) to facilitate connection to the existing FINLEY 132/66 kV TS and associated high voltage steel poles; • Construction of ancillary works including parking areas, water tank, storage structures, stormwater management infrastructure, and security lighting and fencing; • Vegetative screening; and • Removal of temporary construction facilities, and rehabilitation of disturbed areas following completion of construction of the Project.

Project Element	Description
Site Access	Access to the BESS Site is proposed to be via Broockmanns Road via two new driveway crossings. An internal access road will accommodate heavy vehicles associated with the construction of the BESS.
Area of Project Disturbance	Approximately 3.5 hectares (ha).
Grid Connection	A new TL (132 kV) comprising of above and below ground cables will be constructed to connect the BESS to the existing TransGrid FINLEY 132/66kV TS to the south west of the BESS site. The TL will be tunnelled below Broockmanns Road and the Mulwala No 19 canal, followed by an overhead TL with associated transmission towers. The overall TL route will have a proposed connection length of 480 m. The TL towers will be approximately 45 m in height and cater for a 45 m wide horizontal clearance buffer for safety and accessibility. Four TL towers are proposed to facilitate the route to the FINLEY 132/66 kV TS.
Construction Duration	Construction of the Project is anticipated to take approximately 8 months.
Operational Life Expectancy	The operational life of the Project will be determined by the evolving nature of the technology, however is anticipated that the lifespan will be approximately 15-25 years.
Decommissioning	The Project would be decommissioned, and the infrastructure removed, returning the BESS Site to its original use following the approximate 20-25 year life expectancy.

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

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Acronyms, Abbreviations and Definitions

ACHAR	Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report
AEMO	Australian Energy Market Operator
AES	Accommodation and Employment Strategy
AHIMS	Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System
AHIP	Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit
AOBV	Areas of Outstanding Biodiversity Value
APZ	Asset Protection Zones
AQA	Air Quality Assessment
ASL	Above Sea Level
ASS	Acid Sulfate Soils
AV	Articulated Vehicle
BAM	Biodiversity Assessment Method
BCD	Biodiversity and Conservation Division
BC Act	*Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (NSW)*
BDAR	Biodiversity Development Assessment Report
BESS	Battery Energy Storage System
BESS Pacific	BESS Pacific Pty Ltd
BESS Site	Lot 3 of DP740920 at Riverina Highway, Finley, NSW 2713
BOS	Biodiversity Offset Scheme
BSAL	Biophysical Strategic Agricultural Land
BV	Biodiversity Values
°C	Degree Celsius
CCTV	Closed Circuit television
CEEC	Critically Endangered Ecological Community
CEMP	Construction Environmental Management Plan
CIV	Capital Investment Value
CLM Act	*Crown Lands Management Act* 2016 (NSW)
COP 21	2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference 21
CSEP	Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan
Cth	Commonwealth
DA	Development Application
DCP	Berrigan Development Control Plan 2014
DCCEEW	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
DECCW	Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water, now known as DCCEEW
DOP	Department of Planning, now known as DPHI
DP	Deposited Plan
DPHI	NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
EEC	Endangered Ecological Community

EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EMF	Electromagnetic Fields
EOL	End of Life
EPA	Environmental Protection Authority
EP&A Act	*Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (NSW)
EP&A Regulation	*Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021 (NSW*
EPBC Act	*Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act* 1999 (Cth)
EPIs	Environmental Planning Instruments
EPL	Environmental Protection Licence
ESD	Ecologically Sustainable Development
FM Act	*Fisheries Management Act 1994 (NSW)*
FTE	Full Time Equivalent
GDA	Gransolar Development Australia
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
GW	Giga Watt
ha	Hectares
Heritage Act	*Heritage Act 1977 (NSW)*
ICNG	Interim Construction Noise Guideline
IPC	Independent Planning Commission
KFH	Key Fish Habitat
kg	Kilogram
km	Kilometres
kV	Kilovolt
kVA	Kilovolt-amps
LALC	Albury and District Local Aboriginal Land Council
LCVIA	Landscape Character and Visual Impact Assessment
LEP	Berrigan Local Environment Plan 2013
LGA	Local Government Areas
LSPS	Local Strategic Planning Statement
LLS Act	*Local Land Services Act 2013 (NSW)*
LUCRA	Land Use Conflict Risk Assessment
m	Metres
MIL	Murray Irrigation Limited
mm	Millimetres
MNES	Matter of National Environmental Significance
MW	Megawatts
MWh	Megawatt Hours
NDC	Nationally Determined Contributions
NEM	National Electricity Market
NPfI	NSW Noise Policy for Industry

NPW Act	*National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 (NSW)*
NPWS	National Parks and Wildlife Service
NRAR	National Resources Access Regulator
NSW	New South Wales
NVIA	Noise and Vibration Assessment
OOH	Out of Hours
OSOM	Oversize and Over Mass
PCT	Plant Community Type
PHA	Preliminary Hazards Assessment
POEO	*Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 (NSW)*
Project Area	BESS, Transmission Lines and Towers
Proponent	BESS Pacific Pty Ltd
PTZ	Pan-tilt-zoom
PV	Photo Voltaic
RAPs	Registered Aboriginal Parties
REZ	Renewable Energy Zone
SAIIs	Serious and Irreversible Impacts
SALRA	Soil and Agricultural Land Resource Assessment
SEARs	Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements
SEPP	State Environmental Planning Policy (NSW)
SFAZ	Strategic Fire Advantage Zone
SGWIA	A Surface and Groundwater Water Impact Assessment
SIA	Social Impact Assessment
SIS	Species Impact Statement
SLR	SLR Consulting Australia Pty Ltd
SSAL	State Significant Agricultural Land
SSD	State Significant Development
Subject Sites	Lot 3 of DP740920 Lot B DP961693 Broockmans Road Reserve
Substation Site	Lot B DP961693
TEC	Threatened Ecological Community
TfNSW	Transport for NSW
TIA	Traffic Impact Assessment
TL	Transmission Line
TMP	Traffic Management Plan
TS	Transmission Substation
VPA	Voluntary Planning Agreements
WM Act	*Water Management Act 2000 (NSW)*
WMP	Waste Management Plan

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Project Overview

The Project will involve the development, construction, operation, and eventual decommissioning of a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) with a capacity of 100 Megawatts (MW) 200 Megawatt Hours (MWh) connecting via above and below ground transmission lines (TL) to the existing FINLEY 132/66 kV Transmission Substation (TS) operated by TransGrid. The BESS will consist of BESS containers (or enclosures), with each container having dimensions of 6,058 x 2,438 x 2,896mm (L X W X H), with an approximate weight of 42,000. The BESS will be supported by inverters which will convert the electricity from the BESS and connect to the existing TransGrid substation via approximately 480 m of 132 kV TL.

1.2 Project Location

The BESS is proposed on a portion of Lot 3 DP740920 at Riverina Highway, Finley New South Wales (NSW) 2713 (BESS Site). A TL is proposed to the FINLEY 132/66 kV TS located on Lot B DP961693, 168 Canalla Road, Finley NSW 2713 (the 'Substation Site'), approximately 250 m to the southwest of the BESS Site. The TL will be tunnelled below Broockmanns Road and the Mulwala No 19 canal, followed by an overhead TL with associated transmission towers. The overall TL route will have a proposed connection length of 480 m.

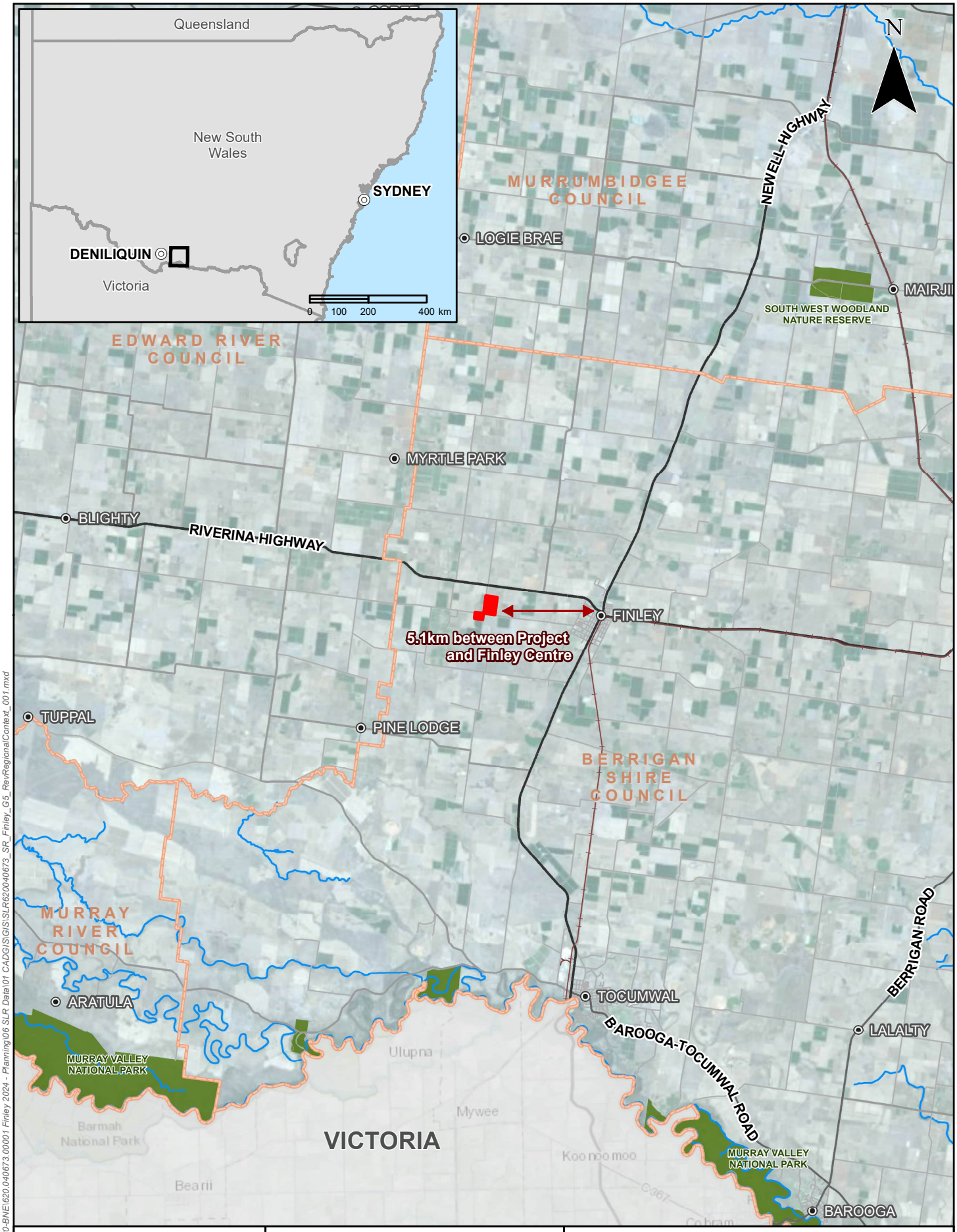
The regional context of the Subject Sites is shown in Figure 1, and the Subject Sites particulars are demonstrated in the Site Plan at Figure 2.

The BESS Site is agricultural in nature, however no farming is currently taking place and is vacant of supporting structures.

The area to which the project relates, hereafter referred to as the Subject Sites, is identified in Figure 2, and comprises:

- A portion of Lot 3 of DP740920;
- The substation land on Lot B on DP961693; and
- Broockmanns Road Reserve.

No recent approved development exists on the Subject Sites.



0 2.5 5 10 km

Scale: 1:250,000 at A4
Coordinate System: GDA2020 MGA Zone 55

Data Source: Basedata supplied by NSWSS
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Raster basemaps supplied by ESRI and other sources

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LEGEND

- Project Area
- Place Point
- Railway
- Watercourse
- NPWS Reserve
- Local Government Area
- Australian States

Roads

- Primary Road
- Arterial Road
- Sub Arterial Road
- Local Road

FINLEY BESS

FIGURE 1 - REGIONAL CONTEXT OF THE SITE

\\au.slr-local\Corporate\Projects-SLR\620-BNE\620-BNE\620.040673.00001 Finley 2024 - Planning\06 SLR Data\01 CAD\GIS\GIS\SLR620040673_SR_Finley_G5_RevRegionalContext_001.mxd

Scale at A4
1:5000

0 40 80 m

LEGEND

- Project Area
- Proposed BESS Design
- Proposed Fence
- Proposed Overhead Lines
- Proposed Overhead Tower
- Proposed Road Design
- Proposed Vegetation
- Proposed Underground Lines
- Proposed BESS Area
- Proposed Easement
- Cadastral - Lots
- Existing Vegetation
- Existing Easements
- Existing Power Poles

Transgrid Lines
- 132 kV

Essential Energy Lines
- 132kV
- 22kV
- 66kV
- LV

ISSUED FOR
- ■ INFORMATION ONLY
- □ APPROVAL
- □ QUOTATION PURCHASING
- □ CONSTRUCTION
- □ AS BUILT

DEVELOPER: GRANSOLAR GROUP

COORDINATE REFERENCE SYSTEM: GDA2020 / MGA zone 55

REV.	DESCRIPTION	DATE	BY	APPR.
1	Site Plan	08/07/2024	HV	

PROJECT: FINLEY BESS

SHEET TITLE: FIGURE 2 - SITE PLAN

REFERENCE: FIN-PD-080724-A2-1

PAPER SIZE: A4: 297 x 210mm

DRAWING Nº: FIN-PD-080724-BAS-A2

1.3 Project Objectives

Primarily, the purpose of the Project is to coincide with the integration of renewable energy consumption and to improve overall grid stability and resilience. This is achieved by storing excess power from the network during low demand periods (i.e. renewable electricity created in daylight hours such as solar energy) and distributing back at peak times alleviating added network constraints.

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

By participating in the statewide frequency control ancillary market, the Project will assist to stabilise the frequency of the grid at critical times in response to loss of load or loss of generation. The resulting improvement to the stability of grid frequency reduces the risk of system failure and blackouts. It also helps to ensure that the national grid can accommodate an increasing proportion of variable solar, wind and other renewable generations in years to come.

Once constructed, the utility-scale development will operate independently to store and dispatch excess power to the electricity grid, generating an array of economic, environmental, social and network benefits.

By addressing minimum demand challenges, the proposed development additionally provides economic, environmental, and social benefits to the immediate and wider community (refer to Table 1 below for comprehensive list of benefits).

Table 1: BESS Benefits Summary (Source: BESS Pacific)

Theme	BESS Benefits Summary
Economic	• Cost-effective storage • Local investment • Deter taxpayer grid infrastructure upgrades • Landowner revenue • Job opportunity • Long-term lowered energy costs
Environmental	• Renewable energy integration • Carbon emission reduction • Recyclable materials • Emission trading and offsets • Rehabilitation of contaminated sites opportunity • When compared with traditional power solutions: • Reduced air and water pollution • Land use efficiency • Hazardous materials and water consumption reduction
Social	• Enhanced energy access • Locally sourced goods and services through construction • Local sponsorships • Education and awareness

Theme	BESS Benefits Summary
Network	• Grid stability & resilience • Peak demand management • Energy efficiency • Long-term energy storage/backup • Increased energy reliance • Improved power quality

1.4 Proponent Details

Table 2: Proponent Details

Requirement	Detail
Proponent	BESS Pacific Pty Ltd
ABN/ACN	55 659 303 590 / 659 303 590
Postal Address	Level 4, 307 Queen Street Brisbane QLD 4000
Contact	contact@finleybess.com.au

BESS Pacific Pty Ltd (BESS Pacific) ('the Proponent') is a subsidiary of Gransolar Development Australia Pty Ltd (GDA). GDA serves as the project development division of Gransolar Group where it seeks to advance battery energy storage systems from conceptual design to ready-to-build, complete with the contractual securing of land, appropriate planning approval and grid connection offer.

1.5 Document Purpose

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

The Capital Investment Value (CIV) of the Project is estimated between $100 and $120 million. Therefore, the Project is classified as State Significant Development (SSD) in accordance with Schedule 1, Clause 20 'Electricity generating works and heat or co-generation' of the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Planning Systems) 2021* (Planning Systems SEPP). A detailed CIV report would be prepared as part of the SSD application process.

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

This Scoping Report has been prepared in accordance with the *State Significant Development Guidelines – Preparing a Scoping Report* (DPIE, 2021).

2.0 Strategic Context

2.1 Strategic Need for the Project

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

2.1.1 National Context

2.1.1.1 Paris Agreement

The Paris Agreement (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, 2016) is a legally binding international treaty on climate change, adopted by 196 nations at the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 21) 21 in Paris in December 2015 and entered into force in November 2016. The goal of the Paris Agreement is to limit global warming to below 2 degrees Celsius (°C), preferably 1.5 °C when compared to pre-industrial levels.

Under the Paris Agreement, the Australian Government is committed to reducing emissions and must submit emissions reduction commitments known as Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). The NDC 2022 update had Australia increasing the ambition of our 2030 target by committing to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 43% below 2005 levels by 2030.

2.1.1.2 Powering Australia

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

2.1.1.3 AEMO Integrated System Plan

The Australia Energy Market Operators Integrated System (AEMO, 2022) Plan a whole-of-system plan that provides an integrated roadmap for the efficient development of the National Electricity Market (NEM) over the next 20 years and beyond. The plan identifies that by 2050, the NEM is likely to require 60 Gigawatt (GW) of energy storage across the network to manage the variability of wind and solar on the journey to a 100% renewable electricity grid.

2.1.1.4 Australia's Long Term Emissions Reduction Plan

Australia's whole-of-economy Long-Term Emissions Reduction Plan (DCCEEW, 2022) seeks to achieve net zero emissions by 2050, through practical and responsible actions that will take advantage of new economic opportunities while continuing to serve traditional markets. The Plan focuses on technology that will help Australia cut emissions while creating jobs and growing our economy.

2.1.2 State Context

2.1.2.1 NSW Transmission Infrastructure Strategy

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

2.1.2.2 NSW Electricity Strategy

The NSW Electricity Strategy (Department of Planning, Industry & Environment, 2019) is the NSW Government's plan for a reliable, affordable and sustainable electricity future that supports a growing economy. The strategy encourages an estimated $8 billion of new private investment in NSW's electricity system over the next decade, including $5.6 billion in regional NSW. It will also support an estimated 1,200 jobs, mostly in regional NSW. The strategy closely aligns with the NSW Government's Net Zero Plan Stage 1: 2020–2030.

2.1.2.3 Electricity Infrastructure Road Map

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

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

2.1.2.4 NSW Climate Change Policy Framework

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

The long-term objectives of the Climate Change Policy Framework are to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050 and make NSW more resilient to a changing climate.

2.1.2.5 Net Zero Plan Stage 1: 2020-2030

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

2.1.3 Regional Context

2.1.3.1 Riverina Murray Regional Plan 2041

The Riverina Murray Regional Plan 2041 (DPE, 2023) (Regional Plan) is an update to the Riverina Murray Regional Plan 2036, which provided the NSW Government's vision for land

uses in the Riverina Murray region. That plan saw the NSW Government work with councils, stakeholders and the community to achieve priority actions.

The updated Regional Plan is a 20-year land use plan with a targeted delivery focus on the next 5 years. It was prepared under the EP&A Act and applies to the local government areas (LGAs) of Albury, Berrigan, Bland, Carrathool, Coolamon, Cootamundra Gundagai, Edward River, Federation, Greater Hume, Griffith, Hay, Junee, Leeton, Lockhart, Murray River, Murrumbidgee, Narrandera, Snowy Valleys, Temora and Wagga Wagga.

Objective 13 of the plan is to support the transition to net zero by 2050.

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

The Riverina Murray's climate, resources and strategic connections to utility infrastructure place it in a strong position to contribute to and capitalise on the net zero target and electricity infrastructure plans. In recent years, large-scale solar farms account for more than 50% of major projects.

Strategy 13.1 is to prepare for the transition to net zero emissions, strategic and statutory planning will:

- Incorporate renewable energy into urban design and place-making projects;
- Provide opportunities for future buildings and urban release areas to be renewable-ready;
- Identify opportunities for potential high energy industries, including manufacturing, materials processing;
- Identify opportunities for renewable energy vehicle refuelling networks/infrastructure; and
- Appropriately consider opportunities to minimise land use conflict for the South West REZ, renewable energy generation and associated infrastructure outside the REZ.

2.1.4 Local Context

2.1.4.1 Berrigan Shire Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS)

The Berrigan Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) (Berrigan Shire Council, 2020) sets the land use framework for Berrigan Shire Council's economic, social and environmental land use needs over the next 20 years. It addresses the planning and development issues of strategic significance to the Council through planning priorities and actions, spatial land use direction and guidance. This statement helps to give effect to the Regional Plan.

The LSPS notes Berrigan Shire LGA has substantial economic assets and opportunities for renewable energy development with vast rural landholdings, renewable energy resources such as a favourable climate for solar generation, and is located both inland and in proximity to market sources in Victoria's Murray Goulburn Valley and Melbourne. Enabling infrastructure to efficiently transport energy production from Berrigan Shire LGA to market sources will facilitate renewable energy development and strengthen connections to valuable market sources.

The LSPS acknowledges the challenge for the Berrigan Shire LGA is that further investment in the renewable energy industry is limited by the capacity of the existing energy infrastructure to transport energy off-site, which is currently at capacity, in particular to distribute energy directly to market sources in Melbourne and throughout greater Victoria. Furthermore, there is limited government support for emerging industries to provide

economically viable energy storage solutions. A further challenge for the Berrigan Shire LGA, is the protection of significant irrigation agriculture land.

2.1.4.2 Berrigan Shire Community Strategic Plan 2032

The Berrigan Shire Community Strategic Plan 2032 (Berrigan Shire Council, 2022) seeks to identify the community's priorities, aspirations and vision for the future and is centred around key strategic themes, being:

- Sustainable natural and built landscapes;
- Good government;
- Supported and engaged communities;
- Diverse and resilient business.

2.2 Site Context

2.2.1 Project Location

Land immediately surrounding the Subject Site comprises rural land lots. The BESS Site is agricultural in nature, with few trees located sporadically outside of this area.

The Certificate of Title for the lot includes an easement 30.48 m wide for a transmission line, as well as 10 m wide easement for water drainage.

The residential township of Finley is approximately 4.5 km east of the Subject Sites. The Substation Site is situated at the on the southwest corner of the Broockmanns and Canalla Road intersection (Photo 1). The Substation Site is set back from the intersection and is visually characterised by the various infrastructure components set behind chain wire fencing. There is a central service shed with transformers, transmission lines and specialist equipment set behind (Photo 2).

Photo 1: Broockmanns Rd, Finley – Facing West

Photo 2: Broockmanns Road Facing the Substation

Refer to Figure 3 which identifies sensitive receivers surrounding the BESS Site.

2.2.2 Surrounding Areas

The land uses surrounding the Subject Sites are predominately primary production lands, which are visually characterised as cropping and grazing lands. Refer to Figure 4, which demonstrates land uses surrounding the Subject Sites.

Rural dwelling houses are situated on the large primary production areas that surrounding the Subject Sites, with two located between 500-700 m from the Subject Sites. Further afar, there are dwelling houses concentrated on large lots at the eastern end of Broockmanns Road closer to the town centre of Finley.

The FINLEY 132/66KV TS is part of the larger TransGrid electricity network with NSW. It is located to the south-west of the BESS site and visual features include infrastructure components and 66 kV transmission lines that traverse the Subject Sites in a southerly direction. The township of Finley has a population has an approximate population of around 1,900 people (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016). Generally, the population is not dissimilar to the smaller neighbouring towns such as Berrigan, Tocumwal, and Jerilderie. The town features one main street which a mix of cafes and essential retail outlets.

It is likely that Finley would be the key service centre of the BESS construction work force, with other service centres including Berrigan, Tocumwal, Deniliquin, Jerilderie, Shepparton, Holbrook, and other smaller surrounding towns.

Existing facilities and services in Finley include:

- A shopping precinct including a grocery store, newsagency, and hair salon;
- Cafes and take-away restaurants;
- Post office;
- Medical clinics and pharmacy;
- Police station and fire station;
- Petrol stations;
- Hotel/ motels;
- Schools, TAFE, day care facilities;
- Five churches;
- Recreational facilities including sportsgrounds, swimming pool, and Bowling & Recreational Club;

- Parks and gardens.

Finley Solar Farm is a 385ha site that has a 175 MW capacity serviced by 500,000 solar panels. Accessed from Canalla Road, the site generally not visible from Broockmanns Road however some views are present from Canalla Road.

2.2.3 Roads and Access

The Subject Sites are located west of the town of Finley and contains road frontages to Riverina Highway, Broockmanns Road and Canalla Road. Broockmanns Road is one of the many connector roads that are located in a grid pattern running parallel to Riverina Highway.

Access to the township of Finley itself from the south (including areas such as Cobram, Tocumwal, Barooga) is primarily through the Newell Highway (NSW) and Goulburn Valley Highway (VIC). The Riverina Highway connects Finley to Deniliquin in the west, and Berrigan to the east.

The visual quality of the landscape surrounding these access corridors are defined by the relatively flat terrain. The road verges are generally vegetated with glimpses toward the surrounding landscape and constructed canals.

2.2.4 Sensitive Receptors

The sensitive receivers, which comprise existing land uses that may be impacted by the Project, within a 2 km radius of the Subject Sites, are identified on Figure 3. A total of nine sensitive receivers have been identified and will be considered in the future environmental assessments contained in the EIS.

As part of the future EIS, noise sensitive receivers as defined in the NSW Noise Policy for Industry (NPfI) will be identified and assessed. Table 3 shows the closest receptors (within 1 km) to the BESS Site.

Table 3: Closest Sensitive Receptors

Receptor ID	Address	Distance to Site Centroid, m
R1	384 Broockmanns Road, Finley	518
R2	16731 Riverina Highway, Finley	778
R3	16891 Riverina Highway, Finley	1,214
R4	198 Canalla Road, Finley	1,597
R5	589 Broockmanns Road, Finley	1,989
R6	276 Broockmanns Road, Finley	1,541
R7	56 Marantellis Road, Finley	1,627
R8	402 Canalla Road, Finley	2,203
R9	311 Broockmanns Road, Finley	2,120

In relation to potential visual impacts, determining the private receptors located in proximity to the Subject Sites has been undertaken, involving a desktop study to locate dwellings from an aerial map within a 2 km radius of the Subject Sites. This process revealed six private receptors locations.

Generally, the flat nature suggests there is visibility of the Project when viewed from these receptor locations. Often these private receptors are located centrally with established perimeter planting minimising unobstructed views. Access to these properties did not occur so it is undetermined to what extent the Project can be seen and / or if these residents are

negatively impacted by the Project. The following private receptors that are more likely to be impacted include:

- 384 Broockmanns Road, Finley; and
- 276 Broockmanns Road, Finley.

Considerations for further studies may include preparing a model of theoretical visibility of the Project to assess if views are likely to occur when viewed at these locations.

2.2.5 Soils

The Subject Sites are located within the Red-brown earths Greater Soil group. Red brown soils are duplex soils, which contain a layer of sandy loam to light clay loam overlying a clay subsoil.

The Subject Sites are classified by the NSW DPE eSPADE mapping as having moderate limitations and is rated as Land & Soil Capability Class 3. Class 3 land has agricultural limitations that must be managed to prevent soil and land degradation. However, the limitations can be overcome by a range of widely available and readily implemented land management practices. The Subject Sites are identified as State Significant Agricultural Land (SSAL) on the Draft State Significant Agricultural Land Map. Refer to Figure 5 for a map detailing the soil classes on the Subject Sites. Contaminated land is not recorded on the Subject Sites.

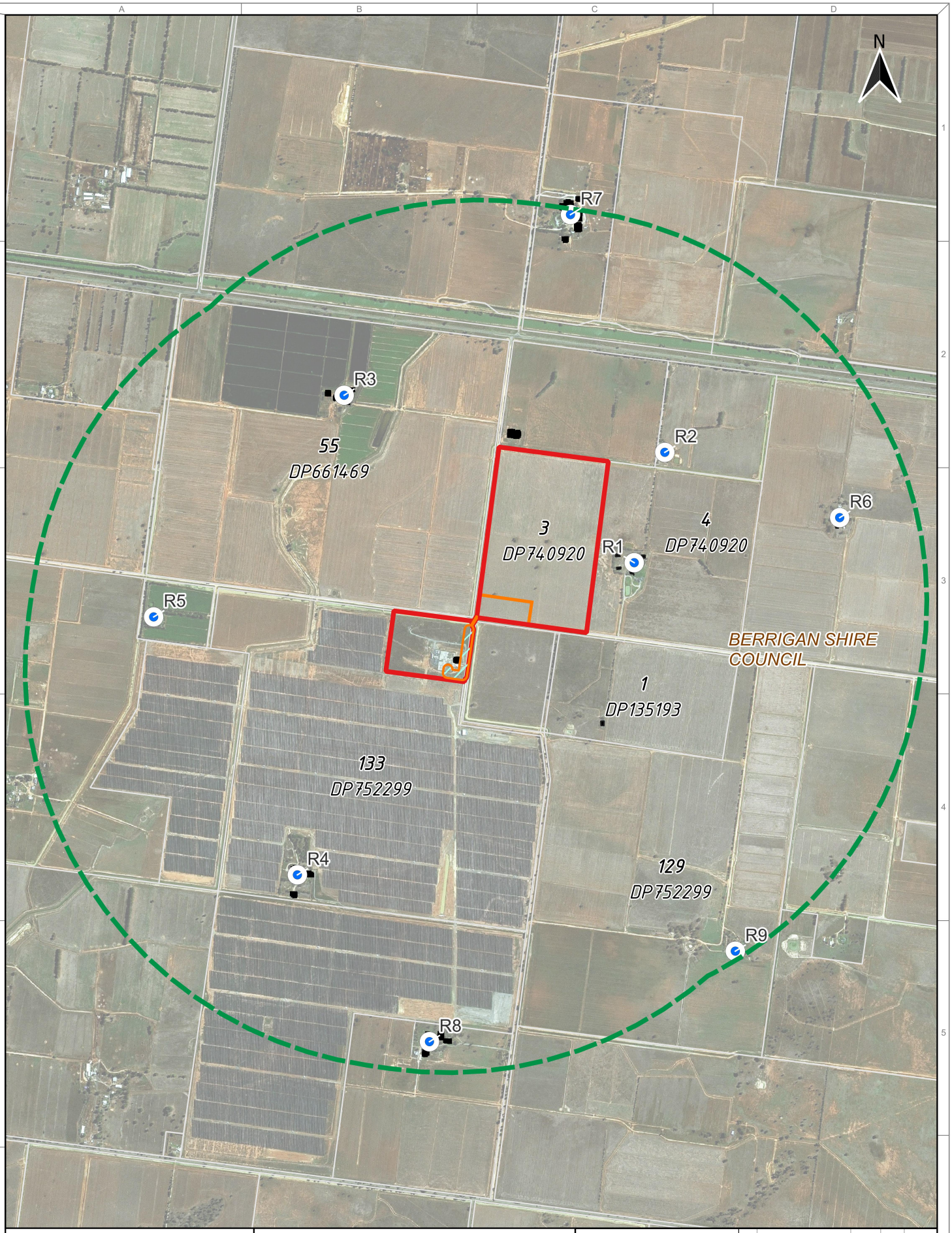
The Subject Sites are not identified as having an acid sulfate soil (ASS) risk according to the available data. Following the issue of the SEARs it will be determined if geotechnical testing will be required, this may include further confirmation on ASS.

2.2.6 Biodiversity

There are a few trees located sporadically on the BESS Site, however none within the BESS footprint. Neighbouring lots are predominantly large rural lots, with some residential dwellings and ancillary development. There are no Biodiversity Values (BVs) mapped on the Subject Sites, under the Berrigan Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 2013.

The plant community type (PCT) ‘ID 76 Western Grey Box tall grassy woodland on alluvial loam and clay soils in the NSW Southwestern Slopes and Riverina Bioregions’ have been identified in areas surrounding the Subject Sites, that have not been cleared for agricultural purposes. The predominant plant community is visually characterised as a tall woodland including species such as *Eucalyptus macrocarpa* Western Grey Box, *Eucalyptus melliodora* Yellow Box and *Callitris glaucophylla* Cypress Pine. A dense grass / groundcover is present with species including various grass species. The shrub layer is sparse and more commonly absent however when it does occur includes Acacia species. The presence of this PCT occurs in isolated patches and is not particularly present surrounding the Subject Sites.

Generally vegetation surrounding the Subject Sites is visually characterised as highly-modified cropping grasses which are seen as vast homogeneous due to the cropping requirements for primary production. Where this does not occur is in the road verges where a mix of exotic and indigenous grasses are left to grow naturally. Canopy trees such as Eucalypts are visually present in stands or along drainage corridors seen some distance from the Subject Sites or concentrated around private dwelling houses. Sporadic stands of Poplars (and other exotic trees) occur on bordering private lots. Refer to Figure 6 below.



Scale at A4
1:25000

0 0.2 0.4 km

LEGEND

- 2 km BESS Area Buffer
- Project Area
- Proposed BESS Area
- Proposed Easement
- Cadastral - Lots
- Sensitive Receivers
- Structures/Building Footprints

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- INFORMATION ONLY
- APPROVAL
- QUOTATION PURCHASING
- CONSTRUCTION
- AS BUILT

DEVELOPER: GRANSOLAR GROUP

COORDINATE REFERENCE SYSTEM: GDA2020 / MGA zone 55

REV.	DESCRIPTION	DATE	BY	APPR.
1	Sensitive Receivers Plan	20/05/2024	HV	

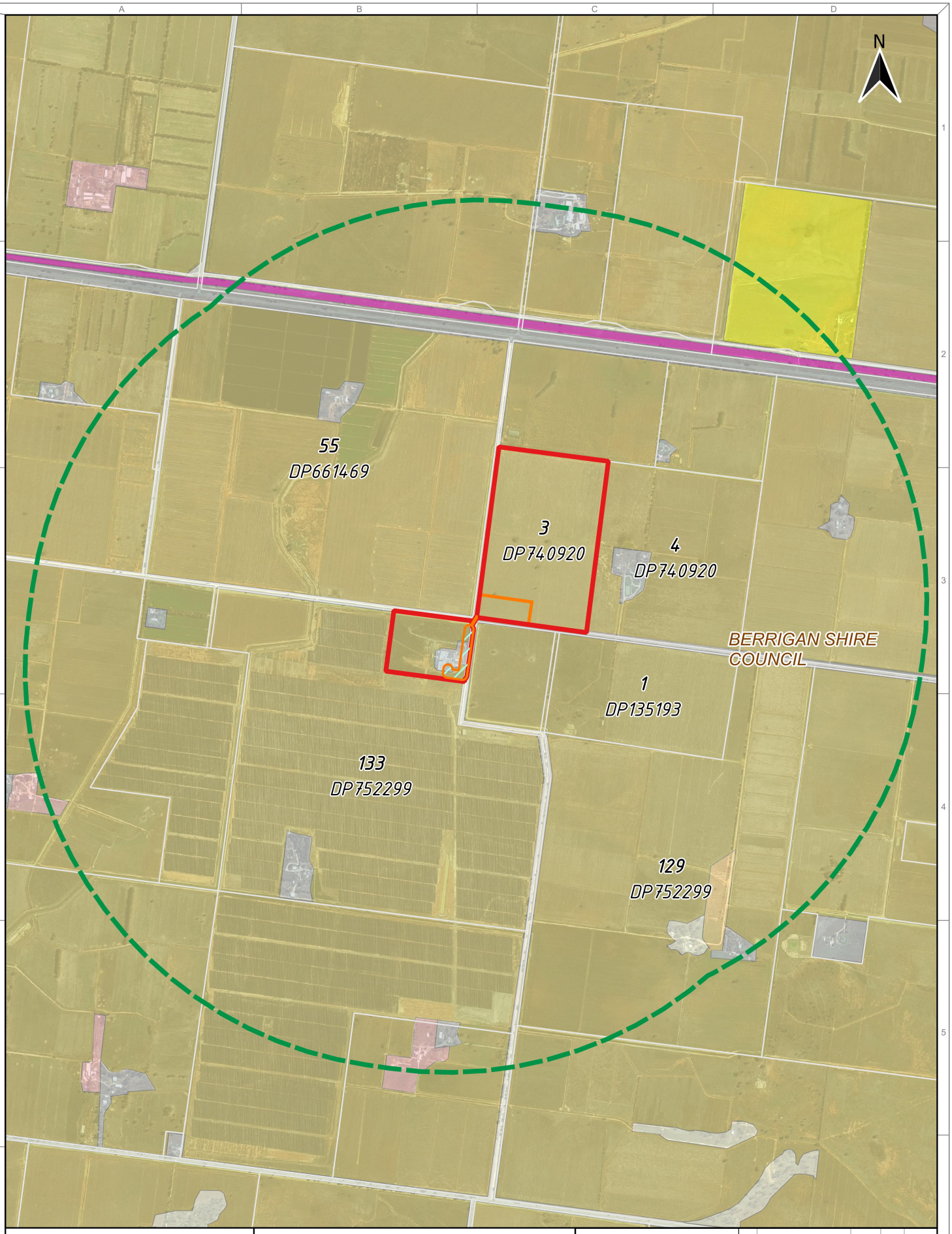
PROJECT: FINLEY BESS

SHEET TITLE: FIGURE 3 - SENSITIVE RECEIVERS PLAN

REFERENCE: FIN-PD-200524-A2-1

PAPER SIZE: A4: 297 x 210mm

DRAWING Nº: FIN-PD-200524-SEN-A2



Scale at A4
1:25000

0 0.2 0.4 km

LEGEND

- 2 km BESS Area Buffer
- Project Area
- Proposed BESS Area
- Proposed Easement
- Cadastral - Lots

Land Use 2017

- 2.1.0 Grazing native vegetation
- 3.2.0 Grazing modified pastures
- 3.3.0 Cropping
- 4.3.0 Irrigated cropping
- 4.4.0 Irrigated perennial horticulture
- 5.2.0 Intensive animal production
- 5.4.0 Residential and farm infrastructure
- 5.7.0 Transport and communication
- 6.2.0 Reservoir/dam
- 6.4.0 Channel/aqueduct
- 6.5.0 Marsh/wetland

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- [ ] CONSTRUCTION
- [ ] AS BUILT

DEVELOPER: GRANSOLAR GROUP

COORDINATE REFERENCE SYSTEM: GDA2020 / MGA zone 55

REV.	DESCRIPTION	DATE	BY	APPR.
1	Land Use Plan	20/05/2024	HV	

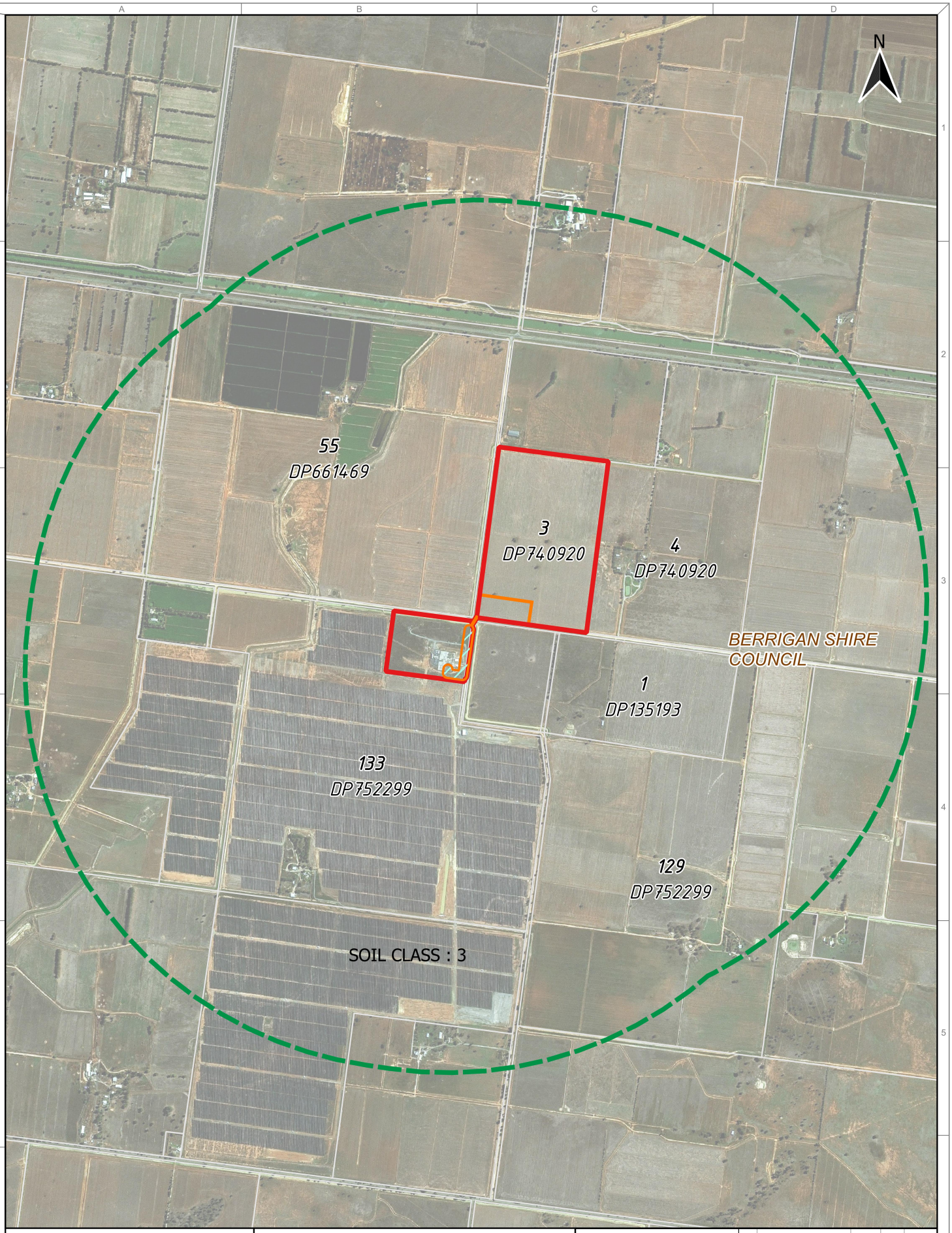
PROJECT: FINLEY BESS

SHEET TITLE: FIGURE 4 - LAND USE PLAN

REFERENCE: FIN-PD-200524-A2-1

PAPER SIZE: A4: 297 x 210mm

DRAWING Nº: FIN-PD-200524-LAN-A2



Scale at A4
1:25000

0 0.2 0.4 km

LEGEND

- 2 km BESS Area Buffer
- Project Area
- Proposed BESS Area
- Proposed Easement
- Cadastral - Lots

NSW Soil Class

- 1 - Very slight to negligible limitations
- 2 - Slight but significant limitations
- 3 - Moderate limitations
- 4 - Moderate to severe limitations
- 5 - Severe limitations
- 6 - Very severe limitations
- 7 - Extremely severe limitations
- 8 - Extreme limitations
- Not assessed (98)
- Water (99)

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- [ ] CONSTRUCTION
- [ ] AS BUILT

DEVELOPER: GRANSOLAR GROUP

COORDINATE REFERENCE SYSTEM: GDA2020 / MGA zone 55

REV.	DESCRIPTION	DATE	BY	APPR.
1	Soil Class Map	20/05/2024	HV	

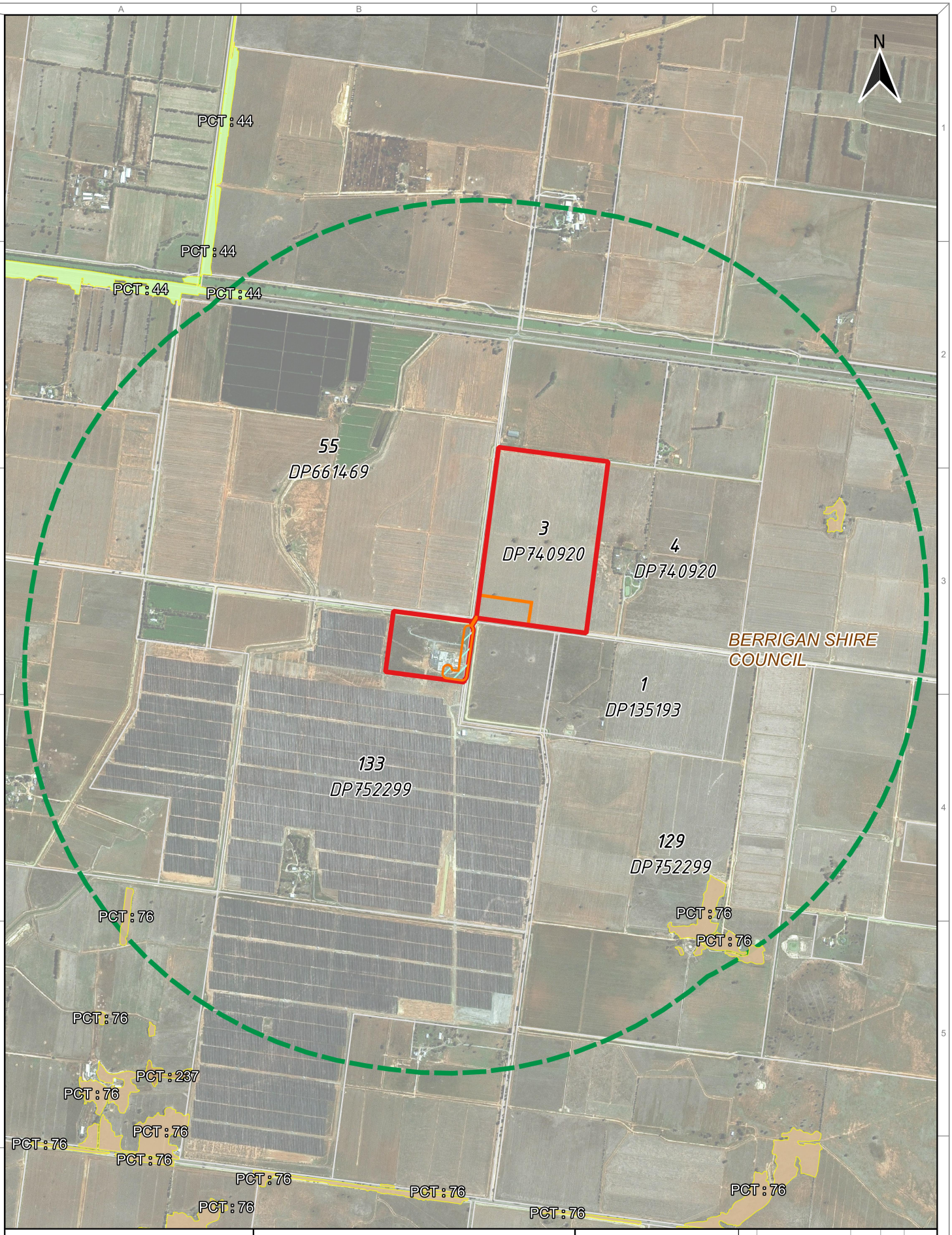
PROJECT: FINLEY BESS

SHEET TITLE: FIGURE 5 - SOIL CLASS MAP

REFERENCE: FIN-PD-200524-A2-1

PAPER SIZE: A4: 297 x 210mm

DRAWING Nº: FIN-PD-200524-SOI-A2



Scale at A4
1:25000

0 0.2 0.4 km

LEGEND

- 2 km BESS Area Buffer
- Project Area
- Proposed BESS Area
- Proposed Easement
- Cadastral - Lots

Biodiversity Values

- Biodiversity Values
- Biodiversity Values added in the last 90 days

NSW PCT

- (Forested Wetlands) River Red Gum - wallaby grass tall woodland wetland
- (Grasslands) Forb-rich Speargrass - Windmill Grass
- (Grassy Woodlands) Riverine Western Grey Box grassy woodland
- (Grassy Woodlands) Western Grey Box tall grassy woodland on alluvial loam and clay soils

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- QUOTATION PURCHASING
- CONSTRUCTION
- AS BUILT

DEVELOPER: GRANSOLAR GROUP

COORDINATE REFERENCE SYSTEM: GDA2020 / MGA zone 55

REV.	DESCRIPTION	DATE	BY	APPR.
1	Ecological Communities and Biodiversity Values	20/05/2024	HV	

PROJECT: FINLEY BESS

SHEET TITLE: FIGURE 6 - ECOLOGICAL COMMUNITIES AND BIODIVERSITY VALUES

REFERENCE: FIN-PD-200524-A2-1

PAPER SIZE: A4: 297 x 210mm

DRAWING Nº: FIN-PD-200524-ENV-A2

2.2.7 Bushfire Hazard

The Subject Sites are not located within a bushfire prone area under the NSW Rural Fire Service Bushfire Prone Land mapping. The closest land to be classed as bushfire prone are located approximately 4 km to the west. Refer to Figure 7 below.

2.2.8 Hydrology

The Subject Sites are located within a modified agricultural landscape, comprising a network of artificially constructed irrigation channels. The majority of the BESS Site is comprised of relatively flat, modified topography. Water is diverted from the Murray River to the artificially constructed river, the Mulwala Canal. The canal flows 156 km to the west through Berrigan, Finley and Deniliquin. The channels associated with the Mulwala Canal in proximity to the Subject Sites are the Ulupna, Mulwala No. 19, and No. 19B channels. The Ulupna channel is located approximately 700 m east of the Subject Sites. The Mulwala No. 19 channel traverses the southwestern portion of the Subject Sites, on an approximate east-west alignment. The Mulwala No. 19B channel is a distributary to that channel and is located approximately 350 m southwest of the Subject Sites. Refer to Figure 8 below.

2.2.9 Flood Hazard

The majority of land contained in the Subject Sites is comprised of flat low-lying topography, with an elevation of approximately 110 m AHD. Further, the BESS Site is not identified as being flood prone on a Section 10.7 Certificate issued by Council.

Further analysis of the Subject Sites and potential for flooding will be undertaken during the preparation of the EIS.

2.2.10 Aboriginal Heritage

A desktop assessment was conducted on 25 October 2023 using the NSW Government's Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) Search Tool, measuring approximately 10 km surrounding the Subject Sites, which is included at Appendix E.

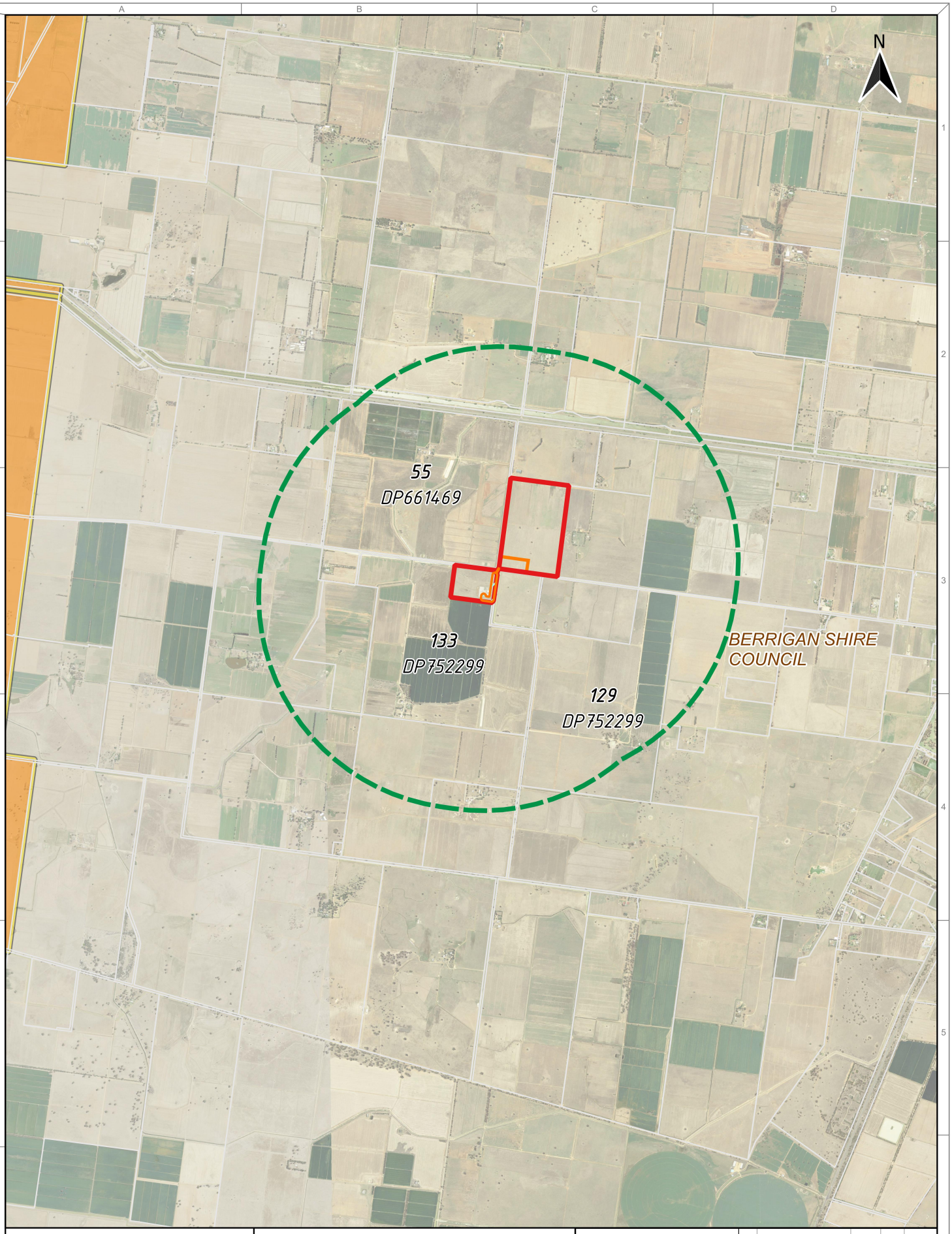
The search determined that there are six registered Aboriginal sites within the search area. There are no registered Aboriginal sites within the Subject Sites. The AHIMS database records sites using a list of twenty standard site features, of which two were found within the extensive search. The closest AHIMS site identified in the search is located approximately 7.8 km northeast of the Subject Sites.

2.2.11 Mine Subsidence

The Subject Sites are not located within a mine subsidence district.

2.2.12 Voluntary Planning Agreements (VPA)

The applicant has not entered into any agreements with other parties, including planning agreements, landowners and benefit-sharing schemes. Consultation with Council has included discussions on entering into a VPA.



Scale at A4
1:47000

0 0.4 0.8 km

LEGEND

- 2 km BESS Area Buffer
- Project Area
- Proposed BESS Area
- Proposed Easement
- Cadastral - Lots

NSW Bushfire Mapping

- Vegetation Buffer
- Vegetation Category 1
- Vegetation Category 2
- Vegetation Category 3

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- [ ] CONSTRUCTION
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DEVELOPER: GRANSOLAR GROUP

COORDINATE REFERENCE SYSTEM: GDA2020 / MGA zone 55

REV.	DESCRIPTION	DATE	BY	APPR.
1	Bushfire Hazard Mapping	20/05/2024	HV	

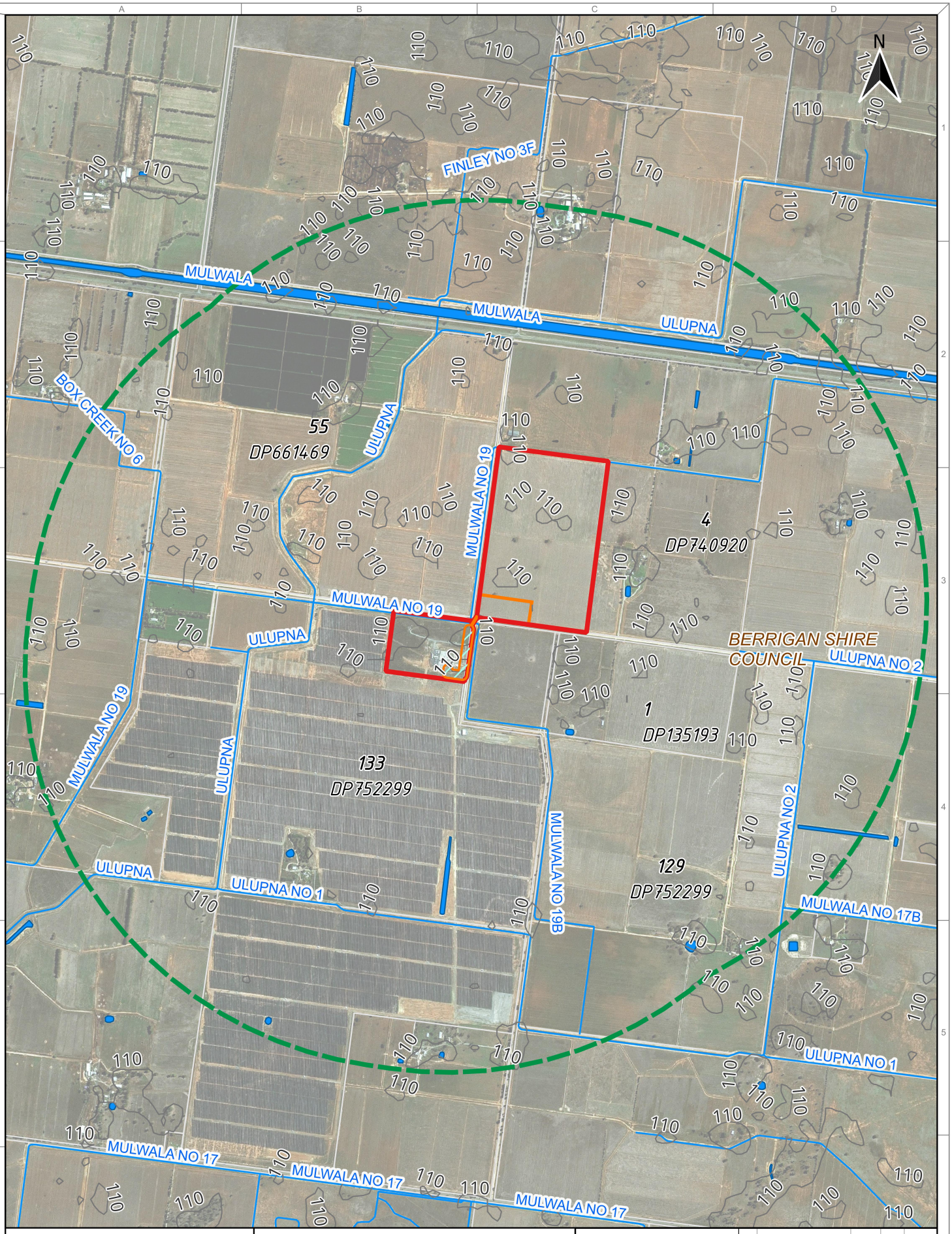
PROJECT: FINLEY BESS

SHEET TITLE: FIGURE 7 - BUSHFIRE HAZARD MAPPING

REFERENCE: FIN-PD-200524-A2-1

PAPER SIZE: A4: 297 x 210mm

DRAWING Nº: FIN-PD-200524-FIR-A2



Scale at A4
1:25000

0 0.2 0.4 km

LEGEND

- 2 km BESS Area Buffer
- Project Area
- Proposed BESS Area
- Proposed Easement
- Cadastral - Lots
- Watercourse Lines
- 10m Contours

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- [ ] APPROVAL
- [ ] QUOTATION PURCHASING
- [ ] CONSTRUCTION
- [ ] AS BUILT

REV.	DESCRIPTION	DATE	BY	APPR.
1	Flood and Watercourse Map	20/05/2024	HV	

DEVELOPER: GRANSOLAR GROUP

PROJECT: FINLEY BESS

SHEET TITLE: FIGURE 8 - FLOOD AND WATERCOURSE MAP

REFERENCE: FIN-PD-200524-A2-1

PAPER SIZE: A4: 297 x 210mm

COORDINATE REFERENCE SYSTEM: GDA2020 / MGA zone 55

DRAWING Nº: FIN-PD-200524-FLO-A2

2.3 Cumulative Impacts

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

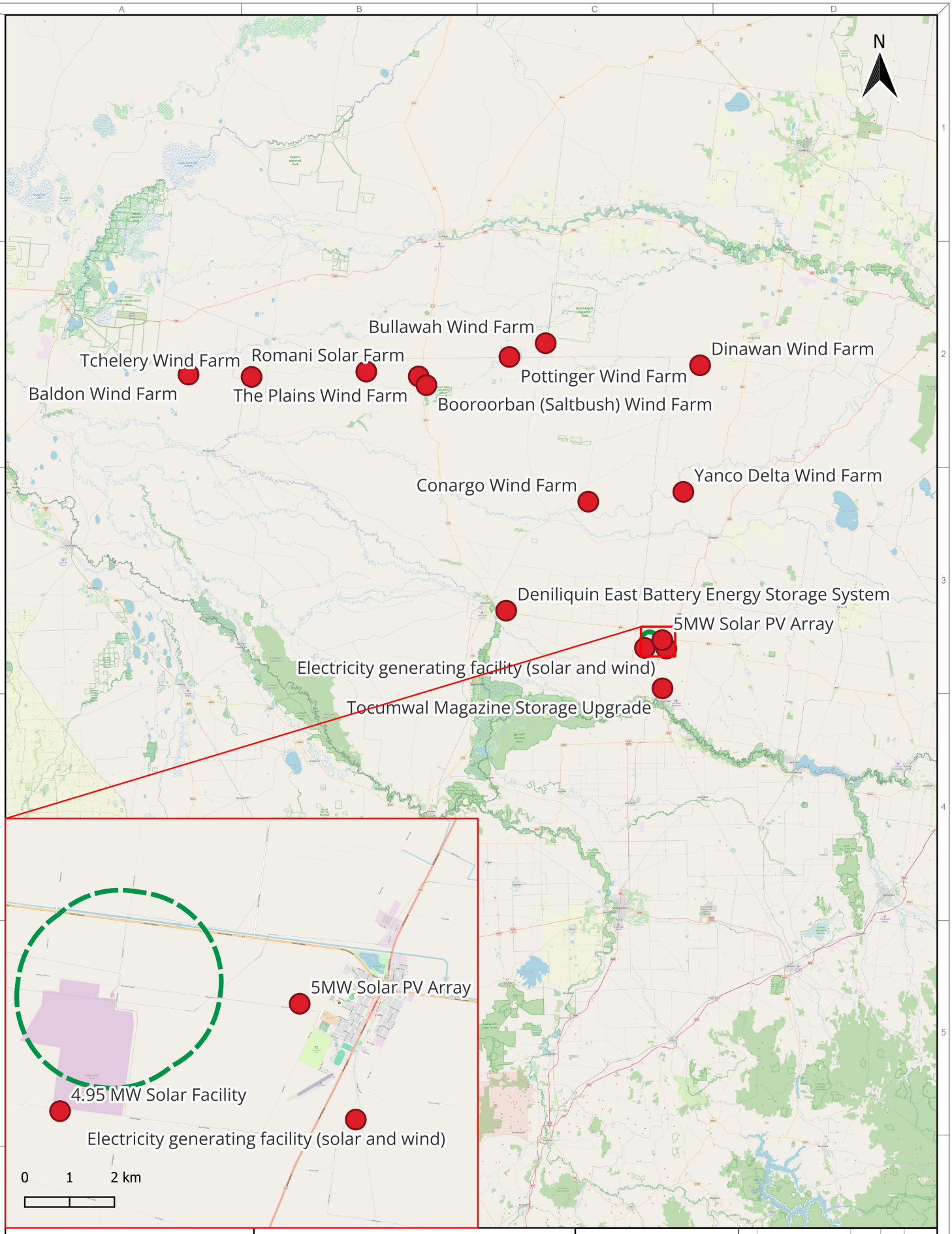
A review has been undertaken of the Major Projects website and Council's Development Application (DA) tracker that are in proximity to the Subject Sites. It has been preliminarily identified that there are a number of projects within the Berrigan Shire and surrounds that have the potential to result in cumulative impacts during the construction period, being:

- Tocumwal Magazine Storage Upgrade - SSD-64923965
- Yanco Delta Wind Farm - SSD-41743746
- Dinawan Wind Farm - SSD-50725708
- The Plains Wind Farm - SSD-50629707
- Tchelery Wind Farm - SSD-59701722
- Baldon Wind Farm - SSD-40138508
- Bullawah Wind Farm - SSD-50505215
- Deniliquin East Battery Energy Storage System - SSD-61612229
- Pottinger Wind Farm - SSD-59235464
- Romani Solar Farm - SSD-67105475
- Conargo Wind Farm - SSD-70611708
- Booroorban (Saltbush) Wind Farm - SSD-70636459
- Electricity generating facility (solar and wind) - 39 Burkes Road Finley 2713 - PPSWES-203
- 4.95 MW Solar Facility - Broughans Road, Finley - PPSWES-47
- 5MW Solar PV Array - Lot 62 Broockmanns Road Finley - PPSWES-34

Refer to Figure 9 for a map of the Subject Sites with respect to these surrounding significant projects.

Section 6.2 provides a preliminary assessment of projects identified and considers the level of assessment to be made in the future EIS.

To determine the location and nature of any planned upgrades of the surrounding network, SLR carried out a review of publicly available material. The review indicated that no major transport infrastructure upgrades are planned by the Council in the surroundings of the Subject Sites can be found publicly.



Scale at A4
1:1520000

0 10 20 km

LEGEND

- 2 km BESS Area Buffer
- Project Area
- Significant SSD/Planning Projects Nearby

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- [ ] QUOTATION PURCHASING
- [ ] CONSTRUCTION
- [ ] AS BUILT

REV.	DESCRIPTION	DATE	BY	APPR.
1	Significant Projects in the Vicinity of the Subject Sites	14/06/2024	HV	

DEVELOPER: GRANSOLAR GROUP

COORDINATE REFERENCE SYSTEM: GDA2020 / MGA zone 55

PROJECT: FINLEY BESS

SHEET TITLE: FIGURE 9 - SIGNIFICANT PROJECTS IN THE VICINITY OF THE SUBJECT SITES

REFERENCE: FIN-PD-140624-A2-1

PAPER SIZE: A4: 297 x 210mm

DRAWING Nº: FIN-PD-140624-PRO-A2

3.0 Project Description

3.1 Project Description

The Project will involve the development, construction, operation, and eventual decommissioning of a BESS with a capacity of 100 MW, 200 MWh connecting via above and below ground TL directly to the existing FINLEY 132/66 kV TS operated by TransGrid. The BESS will consist of BESS containers (or enclosures), with each container having dimensions with an approximate weight of 42,000kg. The BESS will be supported by inverters which will convert the electricity from the BESS and connect to the existing TransGrid substation via approximately 480 m of 132 kV TLs. A portion of the underground TL infrastructure will traverse below Broockmanns Road and the Mulwala No. 19 canal.

The key aspects of the project are summarised in Table ES1 and shown in Figure 2, and are described in detail below. The area of project disturbance will be approximately 3.5ha.

3.2 Project Overview

3.2.1 Construction

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

3.2.1.1 Construction Activities

It is anticipated that the construction and commissioning phase will last approximately 8 months. Over that time, the main construction activities will include:

- Transport of construction personnel, associated heavy and light vehicles, and materials to and from the Subject Sites on a day-to-day basis, dependent on construction schedule;
- Site establishment works including removal of existing grasses within the BESS fencing boundary and TL footprint, bulk earthworks, and temporary construction compound;
- Road works to formalise internal site access road to accommodate heavy vehicles, including driveway crossovers;
- Construction of hardstand, paved internal roads, control room and switch gear, auxiliary transformer, battery enclosures, and inverter and transformer stations;
- Construction of an above and below ground 132 kV TL to facilitate connection to the existing FINLEY 132/66 kV TS, which is located to the south of Broockmanns Road and southwest of the BESS Site. Under-boring is proposed to facilitate the TL below Broockmanns Road and the Mulwala No. 19 canal;
- Construction of ancillary works including parking areas, water tank, storage structures, stormwater management infrastructure and security lighting and fencing; and
- Removal of temporary construction facilities, and rehabilitation of disturbed areas following completion of construction of the Project.

3.2.1.2 Construction Materials

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

- ~80 lithium batteries, within modular containers;
- ~40 Inverter and transformer stations;
- Hardstand works materials and equipment;
- Bulk earthworks materials and equipment;
- Piling;
- Cabling;
- Building structures (including temporary structures for construction crew and management);
- Internal roads and parking areas;
- Control room and 33 kV switchgear;
- Auxiliary transformer;
- Fence, gates and lighting;
- Fire safety system;
- High voltage steel poles
- High voltage cabling; and
- 132/33 kV Main Transformer.

3.2.1.3 Construction Hours and Personnel

Construction of the Project is anticipated to take approximately 8 months.

During construction, it is anticipated that approximately 50 full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs will be required during the peak of the Project's activity. Employment numbers will fluctuate starting with about 15 workers on site for 1 to 2 months. Worker numbers then progressively increase to 50 staff at about the 65% completion stage for several months before tailing off toward completion and the start of commissioning. About 5-10 staff are required for commissioning. The commencement of construction is expected to be in 2026, however, the anticipated onsite commencement and expected program will be further detailed within the EIS.

The workforce would be sourced from the local area where possible, and the wider region where worker deficits arise. It is expected the peak period would extend for approximately 3 months. Outside of this period, approximately 10-15 workers will be required at any one time.

The following standard construction hours are proposed for the Project:

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

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

3.2.1.4 BESS Components

The following specifications are provided for the proposed BESS below in Table 4, with an example of a BESS module shown within Figure 10.

Table 4: BESS Components

Specification	Detail
Number of enclosures	Up to 80 battery enclosures Each battery rack consists of 418 battery cells. Each battery enclosure contains up to 10 racks connected in parallel
Dimensions	6 m container (6,058 mm x 2,438 mm x 2,896mm each)
Weight	35,000 kg each
Inverters	~40 Inverters (3600 Kilovolt-amps (kVA))

Figure 10: Indicative Image of BESS Modules

3.2.1.5 Grid Connection

A TL (132 kV) will be constructed to connect the BESS Site's substation, to the existing TransGrid FINLEY 132/66 kV TS on the Substation Site. This will comprise of above and below ground cables.

The TL will transect the BESS Site underground, and then be tunnelled under Broockmanns Road and the Mulwala No. 19 canal. The route will then comprise an overhead TL with associated transmission towers and connect to the FINLEY 132/66 kV TS. The TL will have a proposed connection length of 480 m.

The TL towers associated with the overhead cable will be approximately 45 m in height and cater for a 45 m wide horizontal clearance buffer for safety and accessibility. Four TL towers are proposed to facilitate the route to the FINLEY 132/66 kV TS.

3.2.1.6 Site Access

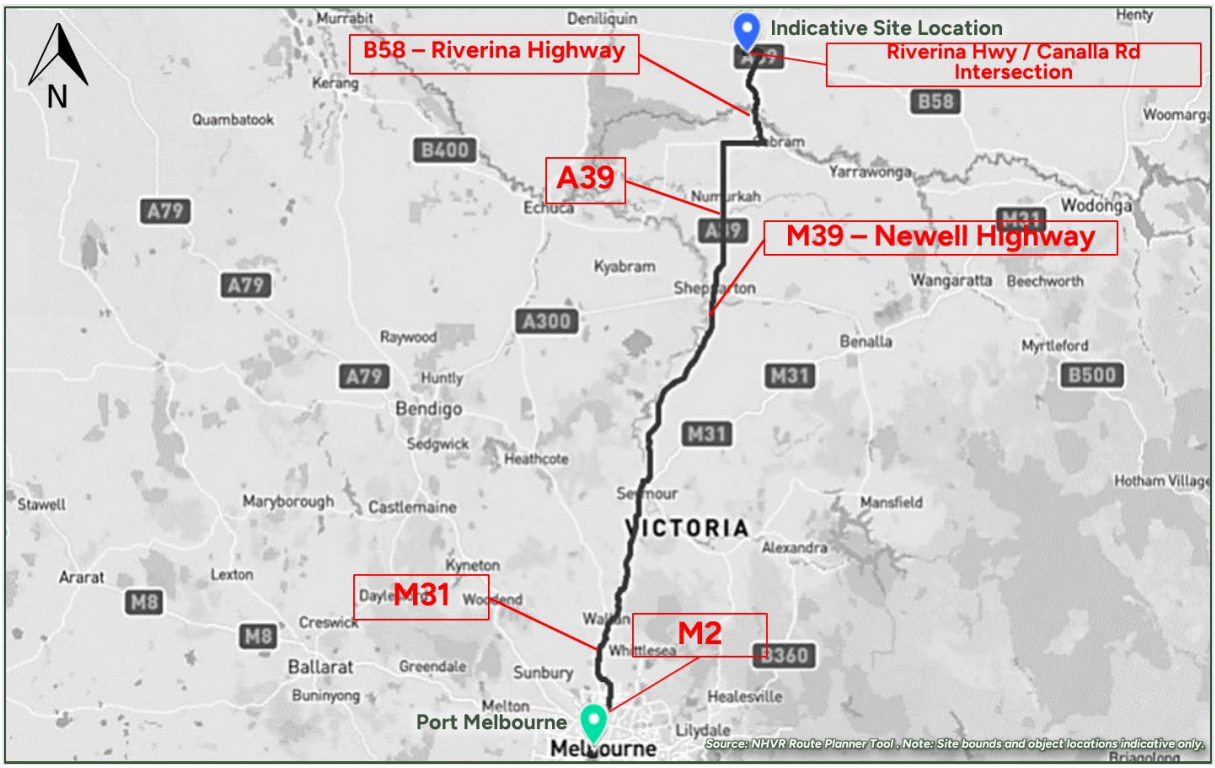
It is proposed that access to and from the BESS Site will be provided from two new driveway crossovers from Broockmanns Road.

Most of the workers who need to travel to Finley will reside in temporary local accommodation during construction. During construction, it is proposed that bus transfers will be provided by the subcontractors (where practicable) to minimise traffic volumes and transit risks during construction as per a Traffic Management Plan (TMP). The number of shuttle buses and the identified routes will be determined to minimise travel times and ensure convenient pick-up points for staff.

The heavy vehicle (HV) route to be utilised for the construction of the Project is detailed in Figure 11. The nominated delivery route has been identified for all major equipment coming to Subject Sites in consultation with the supplier and transporters, considering surface type, overhead lines, traffic volumes, and height and weight restrictions.

All deliveries will come from Melbourne, Victoria by truck and will be offloaded on site. This route will be confirmed upon engagement of the freight forwarding delivery partner. Current proposed route from Melbourne to the Subject Sites will be as follows in order to avoid any impact in the traffic.

Figure 11: Anticipated Construction Transport Route



There will be no oversize and over mass (OSOM) vehicles required during the construction period because the largest vehicle that will be utilised will be limited to the size of a standard 20 m long articulated vehicle (AV) or 19 m long B-Doubles (short).

During their inbound journey, all heavy vehicles will travel along Hume Motorway (M31), Goulburn Valley Freeway (M39, A39) and Newell Highway (A39). The final segment of the route requires transversal of a few local roads, turning left onto either Canalla Road (via Riverina Highway), McNamara Street, or Tongs Street from Newell Highway (A39).

SLR has considered several alternative routes during their inbound journey, from the state roads to local roads. This includes options via the following roads:

- Riverina Highway;
- McNamara Street; and
- Tongs Street.

Utilising McNamara Street, or Tongs Street would reduce the number of HVs needing to travel through the Finley town centre. However, the movements to the Subject Sites become more convoluted, including a right turn either onto Dales Road from Tongs Street or from Hamilton Street onto Broockmanns Road, whereas only left turns are required via Riverina Highway.

The route via Riverina Highway is recommended due to the existing deceleration lane at the Canalla Road intersection. After exiting the highway, vehicles will use the unpaved section of Canalla Road to access the Subject Sites for 1.5 km.

Although not the shortest route, the preferred route utilises the State Road network via Riverina Highway and is consistent with the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR) Route Planner Tool.

SLR reviewed the NSW Public Level Crossing finder and identified that there were no rail crossings or corridors that would be impacted along the route to/ from the Subject Sites.

3.2.1.7 Ancillary Infrastructure

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

- Earthworks, including under-boring below Broockmanns Road and the Mulwala No 19 channel;
- Stormwater Management works;
- Temporary Construction Facilities; and
- Landscaping.

Fencing and Lighting

The BESS Site would be secured by up to 2.1 m tall chainmesh security fencing and access gates which would remain during operation.

Lighting for the Project will be installed for security purposes.

CCTV (PTZ) will be installed around the site for security purposes.

Water Use

Water will be required during the construction phase for dust suppression, general construction, and maintenance activities. This water will be brought to Subject Sites in water tankers.

Construction water requirements for the Project are intended to be sourced from the Council’s bulk water supply.

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

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

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

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

3.2.1.8 Operational Hours and Personnel

The Project is proposed to self-operate 24 hours a day 7 days a week and only requires periodic maintenance by authorised staff. The operation of the facility will be monitored remotely. The facility is otherwise restricted to the public.

Emergency response and maintenance activities may be required to be undertaken out of hours. During operation, it is anticipated that approximately two FTE jobs will be required.

3.2.2 Decommissioning

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

The operational life of the Project will be determined by the evolving nature of the technology, however is anticipated that the lifespan will be approximately 20-25 years.

The standard construction hours and HVs, plant, and equipment required for the construction of the Project would also apply to the decommissioning phase.

3.2.3 Estimated Capital Investment Value

The Capital Investment Value (CIV) of the Project is estimated between $100 and $120 million. A detailed CIV report would be prepared as part of the SSD application process.

3.3 Project Alternatives Considered

3.3.1 Transmission Line Routes

Prior to the finalisation of the TL routes, options were explored to service the site via only above ground TL. However, this required TL tower on the north-east portion of the Substation Site, where existing transmission infrastructure from Essential Energy present. This option would have necessitated the TL towers to be of a considerable height to provide sufficient vertical separation distances from the existing infrastructure.

As a result, it was considered that a hybrid of above and below ground TL infrastructure was the preferred option, and includes sub-surface works below Broockmanns Road and the Mulwala No. 19 channel. This proposal alleviates infrastructure proliferation on site and ameliorates visual effects of the Project. Further, consultation with Murray Irrigation Limited (MIL) was undertaken to confirm project feasibility with the incorporation of under-boring under Mulwala No. 19 canal (a MIL asset).

3.3.2 Alternative Sites

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

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

- Appropriate zoning of land to facilitate development consent for a BESS;
- Availability of existing access to the BESS Site via an established road network;
- Proximity to the existing TransGrid substation to minimise impacts of easements; and
- Selection of a construction location that would avoid and/or minimise impacts to high quality native vegetation and protected fauna.

As demonstrated by Figure 3, sensitive receivers have been identified in proximity to the Subject Sites, all of which are residential dwellings, with no commercial or education land uses identified. Development of this type can demonstrate compatibility within a rural setting, and the future EIS studies will consider land use conflicts and compatibility.

3.3.3 Do Nothing

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

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

4.0 Statutory Context

4.1 Power to Grant Approval

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

4.1.1.1 Consent Authority

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

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

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

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

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

4.2 Permissibility

4.2.1 Berrigan Local Environmental Plan 2013

The Project is defined under the NSW land use planning definitions as 'Electricity Generating Works'. Pursuant to *Berrigan Local Environmental Plan 2013*, the Subject Sites are zoned RU1 Primary Production, as illustrated on the following LEP zoning map extract in Figure 12.

Figure 12: Land Zoning Map Extract (Source: ePlanning Spatial Viewer)

Electricity generating works are a prohibited use on land zoned RU1. As such, all works associated with the BESS are proposed in accordance with the provisions of *State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021* (Transport and Infrastructure SEPP).

4.2.2 State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021

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

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

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

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

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

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

4.3 NSW Planning Framework

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

Table 5: State Legislation

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

NSW Legislation	Requirement
	• *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* (NSW)*;* • *Roads Act 1993* (NSW)*;* • *Rural Fires Act 1997* (NSW)*;* and • *Water Management Act 2000* (NSW). Where one of these approvals or permits is required the development application must be submitted to the relevant approval body, for the purposes of obtaining the General Terms of Approval (GTA) from that approval body which may include any conditions to be imposed on any development consent issued by the consent authority. Whether any of these approvals are triggered is discussed in subsequent sections of this report. It is noted that pursuant to Section 4.41 of the EP&A Act 1979 the following authorisation are not required for SSD applications, which the proposed BESS development falls under: • A permit under section 201, 205 or 219 of the *Fisheries Management Act 1994* (NSW); • An approval under Part 4, or an excavation permit under section 139, of *the Heritage Act 1977* (NSW); • An Aboriginal heritage impact permit under section 90 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NSW); • A bush fire safety authority under section 100B of the *Rural Fires Act 1997* (NSW); and • A water use approval under section 89, a water management work approval under section 90 or an activity approval under section 91 of the *Water Management Act 2000* (NSW). Accordingly, it is not anticipated that the Project will be integrated development.
Coal Mine Subsidence Compensation Act 2017	The Subject Sites are not mapped within a coal mine subsidence area, therefore there are no requirements in accordance with this legislation.
Fisheries Management Act 1994	The FM Act aims to conserve, develop, and share the fishery resources of the State for the benefit of the present and future generations. The Subject Sites are not in the vicinity of land identified as key fish habitat (KFH).
Heritage Act 1977	The Project would not impact on any local or State heritage items, as no listed items are in close proximity to the Subject Sites. An approval under Part 4, or an excavation permit under section 139, of this Act is not required for SSD.
Mining Act 1992	The Project does not involve the extraction of mineral resources. There are no mineral exploration licences applicable to the Subject Sites.
National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 (NPW Act)	The NPW Act is responsible for the conservation of objects, places or features (including biological diversity) of cultural value within the landscape. The DPHI is primarily responsible for regulating the management of Aboriginal cultural heritage in New South Wales under the NPW Act. In accordance with Section 86(1) of the NPW Act, it is an offence to harm or desecrate a known Aboriginal object, whilst it is also an offence to harm an Aboriginal object under Section 86(2). Similarly, Section 86(4) states that a person must not harm or desecrate an Aboriginal place. An Aboriginal Heritage and Cultural Assessment Report required as part of the future SSD Application. An Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) under section 90 of this Act is not required for SSD.
Petroleum (Onshore) Act 1991	The Project does not involve the extraction of petroleum resources, therefore this legislation does not apply.
Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 (POEO)	Per Schedule 1, the Project does not involve the generation of electricity. The Project stores and releases electricity that has already been generated. As such, Clause 17 does not apply to the Project, and an Environmental Protection Licence (EPL) is not required.

NSW Legislation	Requirement
Roads Act 1993	The Project is required to be undertaken in accordance with this Act, should works occur within a public road. New driveway accesses will be proposed as part of the application. The TL connection will be constructed underground when traversing the road reserve area. Required approvals under s138 of the *Roads Act 1993* (NSW) will be identified in the future EIS. Consultation has commenced with TfNSW. Consent under section 138 of this Act cannot be refused if necessary for carrying out an SSD if development consent has been issued.
Rural Fires Act 1997	The Subject Sites are not mapped within bushfire prone land.
Water Management Act 2000 (WM Act)	The WM Act aims to provide for the sustainable and integrated management of the water sources of the State for the benefit of both present and future generations. If a 'Controlled Activity' is to occur within 40 m of the 'high bank' of 'waterfront land', a Controlled Activity approval is required. Mulwala No 19 Channel which runs along Broockmanns Road and Canalla Road is an identified watercourse, and would comprise waterfront land as defined under the Act. However, it is noted that a water use approval under section 89, a water management work approval under section 90 or an activity approval (other than an aquifer interference approval) under section 91 of this Act is not required for SSD. Consideration of impacts to Mulwala No 19 Canal will be included in the EIS, and early consultation to with Murray Irrigation Limited (MIL) has commenced. MIL is a listed irrigation corporation listed in Schedule 1 of the WM Act and have an associated Works Policy to be abided by.
Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (BC Act)	The NSW biodiversity conservation legislation establishes a framework for assessing and offsetting biodiversity impacts for applicable development in NSW. Section 7.9 of the BC Act requires that an SSD application be accompanied by a BDAR unless the Project is not likely to have any significant impact of biodiversity values. For SSD, it is a standard requirement of the SEARs to require a Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR). Alternatively in cases where there is little or no biodiversity, a BDAR waiver can be sought. Based on available evidence, the BESS site does not contain native vegetation, watercourses, prescribed impacts features (eg buildings or other structures) or other biodiversity values. Further studies and/or confirmation with Land Services will be undertaken during the preparation of the SSD Application.
Contaminated Land Management Act 1997	A search of the NSW EPA POEO Public Register was made on 8 December 2023 indicating no contaminated land sites located within the Berrigan LGA. A search was also made on this date of the NSW EPA POEO Public Register indicating 12 POEO licences in the Greater Hume LGA, with the closest in force licence (No. 5704) registered to Rice Mill Road, Finley approximately 6 km to the northeast of the Subject Sites. As no contaminated land sites or EPLs have been registered for the Subject Sites, and the use of the land as a rural purpose it is reasonable to consider the potential for contamination unlikely and the land suitable for the purpose of the Project, being electricity storage works. An appropriate unexpected finds protocols will be implemented during construction and decommissioning phases.

NSW Legislation	Requirement
Local Land Services Act 2013 (LLS Act)	The Local Land Services Act 2013 (LLS Act) regulates the clearing of native vegetation on rural land but only when the activity is permitted without Council consent. There are two broad categories of land under the LLS Act; Category 1 (Exempt) land and Category 2 (Regulated, Vulnerable or Sensitive) land. The Subject Sites exhibit historical and ongoing land use consistent with category 1-exempt land under the Section 60H of the LLS Act defines category 1-exempt land as follows: *60H Category 1-exempt land mapping* *(1) Land is to be designated as category 1-exempt land if the Environment Agency Head reasonably believes that—* *a) the land was cleared of native vegetation as at 1 January 1990, or* *b) the land was lawfully cleared of native vegetation between 1 January 1990 and the commencement of this Part.* *(2) Land is to be designated as category 1-exempt land if the Environment Agency Head reasonably believes that—* *(a) the land contains low conservation value grasslands, or* *(b) the land contains native vegetation that was identified as regrowth in a property vegetation plan referred to in section 9 (2) (b) of the Native Vegetation Act 2003, or* *(c) the land is of a kind prescribed by the regulations as category 1-exempt land.* In relation to Section 60H of the LLS Act, no aerial imagery was available for 1 January 1990. Consequently, images from December 1976 and February 1991 were assessed. Aerial imagery from December 1976 clearly shows the Subject Sites as extensively modified and void of vegetation for agricultural purposes. Further imagery from February 1991 shows ongoing agricultural practices of a similar nature. Based on available evidence, the BESS site does not contain native vegetation, watercourses, prescribed impacts features (e.g. buildings or other structures) or other biodiversity values. Additionally, it is understood that the BESS site has been under regular cropping, grazing and pasture improvement since prior to 1990. Therefore, in accordance with the LLS Act, the Project Area can be considered as Category 1- exempt land. If agreed by Local Land Services, a BDAR or flora and fauna assessment will not be required for DA lodgement.

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

Table 6: Applicable Environmental Planning Instruments

NSW Legislation	Requirement
State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021	The Transport and Infrastructure SEPP aims to facilitate the effective delivery of infrastructure across the State through increased regulatory certainty and improved efficiency and flexibility in the location of infrastructure and service facilities, whilst also providing for adequate stakeholder consultation. Section 2.36 of the Transport and Infrastructure SEPP provides additional options to achieve permissibility for electricity generating works. Permissibility is available through the Transport and Infrastructure SEPP. Consultation with the relevant electricity supply authority is required under Section 2.48 due to the Project's connection to the electrical supply network. Any requirements are to be resolved with the relevant authority.
State Environmental Planning Policy (Planning Systems) 2021	The Planning Systems SEPP identifies development to which the SSD assessment and approval process under Division 4.7 of Part 4 of the EP&A Act applies. The Project is a development for the purpose of 'electricity generating works and heat or co-generation' that has a capital investment value of more than $30 million, accordingly as per clause 20(1) of Schedule 1 of the Planning Systems SEPP the project is classified as SSD.

NSW Legislation	Requirement
State Environmental Planning Policy (Resilience and Hazards) 2021	**Hazard and Risk** Chapter 3 of the Resilience and Hazards SEPP establishes a comprehensive test by way of a preliminary screening assessment and preliminary hazard analysis (PHA) to determine the risk to people, property, and the environment. As the BESS is considered a 'potentially hazardous or potentially offensive development' under Part 3, a preliminary hazard analysis in accordance with the current circulars or guidelines published by DPHI must be prepared. Consequently, a Preliminary hazard Assessment (PHA) will be completed to support the Project EIS. **Contamination** Chapter 4 of the Hazards SEPP aims to provide a state-wide planning approach to contaminated land remediation and to promote the remediation of contaminated land to reduce the risk of harm. A search of the NSW EPA POEO Public Register was made on 08 December 2023 indicating no contaminated land sites located within the Berrigan LGA. A search was also made on this date of the NSW EPA POEO Public Register indicating 12 POEO licences in the Greater Hume LGA, with the closest in force licence (No. 5704) registered to Rice Mill Road, Finley approximately 6 km to the northeast of the Subject Sites. As no contaminated land sites or EPLs have been registered for the Subject Sites, and the use of the land as a rural purpose it is reasonable to consider the potential for contamination unlikely and the land suitable for the purpose of the Project, being electricity storage works. An appropriate unexpected finds protocols will be implemented during construction and decommissioning phases.
State Environmental Planning Policy (Biodiversity Conservation) 2021	Chapter 3 'Koala habitat protection 2020' of the Biodiversity Conservation SEPP aims to encourage the proper conservation and management of natural vegetation that provides habitat for koalas. Pursuant to Part 3.1, the provisions of this Chapter apply to the Project as it is located on land zoned as RU1 Primary Production and within a listed LGA in Schedule 1 of the State Environmental Planning Policy (Koala Habitat Protection) 2021 (now repealed). Chapter 4 does not apply, as the Subject Sites are zoned RU1 Primary Production with the Berrigan LGA listed within Schedule 2, and is not listed with an asterisk. Chapter 5 River Murray lands does not apply to the Subject Sites.
Berrigan Local Environmental Plan 2013	The Subject Sites occur within the Berrigan LGA and therefore is subject to the LEP. The Subject Sites are located on land zoned 'RU1 – Primary Production' under the LEP. The Project is considered to meet the definition of 'electricity generating works' which is prohibited under the LEP 2013. Section 2.36 of the Transport and Infrastructure SEPP provides additional options to achieve permissibility for electricity generating works and has been discussed at Section 4.2. Permissibility is available through the Transport and Infrastructure SEPP.
Berrigan Development Control Plan (DCP) 2014	As the project is classed as SSD, it is not subject to the provisions of the DCP 2014, in accordance with Clause 2.10 of the Planning Systems SEPP.

4.4 Commonwealth Legislation

4.4.1 Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

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

The nine Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) to which the EPBC Act applies are:

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

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

Table 7: Summary of MNES

MNES	Comment
World Heritage Properties	There are no World heritage properties listed within proximity of the Subject Sites.
National Heritage Places	There are no National heritage places listed within proximity of the Subject Sites.
Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar)	The Subject Sites are within proximity to five Ramsar Wetlands. There are five Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar) identified as part of the EPBC Act Protected Matters Report. Of these, four are located at least 200 km away. One is within 20-30 km of the Subject Sites (NSW Central Murray State Forests site). It is noted that the Mulwala No. 19 Channel is located in proximity to the Subject Sites, and is connected to the nearby Mulwala Canal, however, given the distance to the Ramsar site it is unlikely that significant consideration will need to take place.
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park	The Subject Sites are not located either within or adjacent to the Great Barrier Reef marine park.
Commonwealth Marine Area	The Subject Sites are not located either within or adjacent to the Commonwealth marine area.
Listed Threatened Ecological Communities	Five EPBC Act listed TECs are known to occur in the vicinity of the Subject Sites.
Listed Threatened Species Listed Migratory Species	A total of 42 threatened or migratory species listed under the EPBC Act have habitats which may occur within the locality, none of which have been historically recorded within the Subject Sites. It is noted there are a number of threatened species identified in the EPBC Act Protected Matters Report. However, there is a lack of vegetation on the Subject Sites and limited vegetation would be required to be cleared as part of a development.

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

4.4.2 Native Title Act 1993

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

4.5 Pre-Conditions to Exercising the Power to Grant Approval

4.5.1 Project Approvals

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

Table 8: Project Approvals

Legislation	Permit / Approval	Authority
EP&A Act	Development Approval	DPHI
Roads Act	Section 138 Approval	Council / TfNSW
WM Act	Works Policy	MIL

4.5.2 Mandatory Matters for Consideration

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

Table 9: Mandatory Matters for Consideration

Mandatory Consideration
Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 • Section 1.3 Objects of Act • Section 1.7 Application of Part 7 of Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 and Part 7A of Fisheries Management Act 1994 (cf previous s 5AA) • Section 4.15 Evaluation The provisions of— (i) any environmental planning instrument (ii) any draft environmental planning instrument) (iii) any development control plan (iiia) any planning agreement or draft planning agreement (iv) the regulations (b) the likely impacts of that development, including environmental impacts on both the natural and built environments, and social and economic impacts in the locality, (c) the suitability of the site for the development,

Mandatory Consideration
(d) any submissions made in accordance with this Act or the regulations, (e) the public interest.
Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021 • Clause 28 Development applications relating to Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 • Clause 59 Additional requirements for State significant development—the Act, s 4.39 • Clause 190 Form of environmental impact statement • Clause 191 Compliance with environmental assessment requirements • Clause 192 Content of environmental impact statement • Clause 193 Principles of ecologically sustainable development
Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 • Section 7.9 Biodiversity assessment for State significant development or infrastructure
Water Management Act 2000 • Chapter 4 Part 2 Irrigation corporations • Schedule 1 Irrigation corporations
National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 • Part 6 Aboriginal objects and Aboriginal places
State Environmental Planning Policy (Resilience and Hazards) 2021 • Clause 3.11 Preparation of preliminary hazard analysis • Clause 3.12 Matters for consideration by consent authorities • Clause 4.6 Contamination and remediation to be considered in determining development application
State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021 • Section 2.48 Determination of development applications—other development
State Environmental Planning Policy (Biodiversity and Conservation) 2021 • Part 3.2 Development control of koala habitats
Berrigan Local Environmental Plan 2013 • Clause 5.21 Flood planning • Clause 6.1 Earthworks • Clause 6.10 Essential services

5.0 Engagement

The Proponent (BESS Pacific) understands that interest in the Project may not just be from directly associated landowners and neighbours but will extend to the broader community. The Proponent proposes to engage groups and individuals outside the directly affected Subject Sites as appropriate.

The Proponent has commitment to their proposals, activities, and plants being conducted in a way that demonstrates and contributes enduring benefits to the local communities where BESS Pacific propose activities and operate assets. The following outlines the Proponent's commitments to the Finley Community and the broader Riverina region during the planning, construction, operational and decommissioning stages of the Project.

BESS Pacific will:

- Be proactive:

  Engage with communities early and often, so that BESS Pacific understand and respond to their interests and concerns.

- Be flexible and inclusive:

  Offer a range of engagement opportunities that are tailored to the variety of needs and preferences of the communities in which BESS Pacific operate.

- Be transparent:

  Act honestly and ethically in all our dealings with the communities in which BESS Pacific operate.

- Support our employees and contractors to engage well:

  Provide tools, peer support and training to enable our staff to deliver on BESS Pacific's commitments.

- Continuously improve our engagement:

  Evaluate the effectiveness of our engagement and modify it as needed to ensure that BESS Pacific's activities address community needs and expectations.

On 24 October 2023, the Proponent and SLR met with representatives of the DPHI to introduce this project and obtain preliminary feedback. The advice provided by the DPHI has helped to inform this scoping report and the preliminary assessment requirements, including consultation and engagement.

The Proponent has engaged SLR to prepare a Social Impact Assessment (SIA). This is currently underway and will inform the preparation of the application and assist with engagement activities. A copy of the Phase 1 SIA is included in Appendix C.

5.1 Key Stakeholder and Government Consultation

Consultation to date has been limited to targeted discussions with Council, State Government and regulatory authorities.. Additionally, consultation with a landowner located to the west of the BESS project site informed changes to the detailed design process, particularly the under-boring of a section of the TL network. Consultation was attempted with a second landowner, however, was not successful.

To date, no broad community engagement has been undertaken relating specifically to the Project. Both the Phase 1 SIA and Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan (CSEP) prepared to support project investigations and approvals drew on a review of recent and/or comparable projects in the region to provide insight into community sentiment and

awareness of renewables. Consultation reports and community feedback towards the Finley Solar Farm (located directly south of the Substation Site), as captured via the EIS, were reviewed.

Similarly, a review of demographic data, Council policy and strategy was undertaken to identify possible community characteristics, potential vulnerabilities and prominent or emerging issues being faced by communities with the project's social locality.

No engagement has been undertaken to date with the Biodiversity Conservation and Science Group.

All meetings are recorded by minutes and feedback is shared across the project team with relevant technical specialists. Feedback will be entered into a database for review and consideration during the preparation of the EIS phase. Consultation with regulatory bodies which have been undertaken to date are detailed below.

5.1.1 Council

Preliminary engagement has commenced with Berrigan Shire Council (Council), with details of the Project provided via email on 8 December 2023. The intent of preliminary engagement was to introduce BESS Pacific and the Project.

On 28 February 2024 a meeting was held with representatives from BESS Pacific, SLR and Berrigan Shire Council, introducing the Project while simultaneously inviting comment from Council. The following matters were requested to be considered in application reporting:

- Biodiversity Impact Assessment that includes impacts on waterways, stormwater management and the like;
- Off-site amenity impacts and mitigation measures, including glare, acoustic impacts, and associated screening measures;
- Site operations and specifications;
- Provision of a Construction Management Plan denoting all works required, including footings, structure heights and the like;
- Traffic Impact Assessment to consider impacts on Council assets;
- Remediation works and timing to determine the land use upon cessation of the Project; and
- Community benefits as a result of the proposed development.

The following additional miscellaneous matters were also recorded:

- Council would exhibit the application for 14 days;
- Development contributions are not applicable to the Project; and
- An internal referral to Council's traffic engineering unit is requested in future.

The abovementioned items have been considered and will be incorporated in subsequent stages where appropriate. Ongoing liaison with Council will continue throughout the duration of the Project.

5.1.2 Transport for NSW

Preliminary engagement has been completed with Transport for NSW (TfNSW) with details of the Project provided via email on 8 December 2023. A response was received on 18th of January 2024.

Comments are summarised to comprise of the following matters for future consideration:

- Traffic volumes inclusive of background and project related traffic;
- Traffic characteristics including; ratio of heavy to light vehicles, peak times, hours of transportation and the like;
- Capacity analysis;
- Heavy vehicle and OSOM routes (NVHR approved) including a logistics route analysis, locations where civil works are required, pinch points and the like;
- Cumulative impacts, including projects nearby with overlapping construction periods;
- Consideration of accommodation and transport needs/facilities;
- Road safety assessment of haulage routes;
- Project schedule including detail on shifts to be worked, targeted construction timeframes;
- Origins, destinations and routes for commuter vehicles, heavy vehicles and OSOM vehicles;
- Any road upgrades required, with strategic drawings;
- Internal road layouts;
- Impact on rail corridors and level crossings;
- SEPP 33 / dangerous goods controls; and
- Draft TMP managing impacts of project related traffic.

These matters requested for consideration from TfNSW will be adequately reported through a Traffic Impact Assessment (TIA) to accompany the future EIS.

5.1.3 TransGrid

The BESS will connect to the existing TransGrid substation via both above and below ground transmission lines. It is not yet confirmed whether the Proponent or TransGrid will complete the works associated with the grid connection for the Project.

On-going consultation between the Proponent and TransGrid has been occurring since December 2022. The following engagement has been undertaken to date:

- December 2022 - Initial preliminary correspondence with TransGrid;
  - 7.12.22 - Connection Enquiry - sent via email;
  - 12.12.22 - TransGrid request to clarify some enquiry items;
  - 14.12.22 – BESS Pacific clarification items confirmed via email.
- January 2023 - TransGrid Connection Enquiry Response;
  - Overall positive response;
  - Few constraints identified within response to conduct necessary augmentations to substation to meet proposed generation capacity;
  - System strength requirements for satisfactory operation outlined.
- February 2023 - TransGrid recap meeting;
- April 2024 - Email to TransGrid proposing alternative connection route (including underground component).

5.1.4 Murray Irrigation Limited

Engagement commenced on 11 April 2024 with MIL to introduce the Project, specifically the intention to trench under the Mulwala No. 19 canal to facilitate the proposed TL route.

MIL advised that their primary interest for proposed under-boring works would be the Project adhering to the requirements of the MIL Works Policy. It is considered that the proposed underground TL can likely achieve compliance with the MIL Works Policy therein satisfying the requirements of MIL.

5.2 Community and Stakeholder Engagement

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

5.2.1 Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan (CSEP)

The CSEP has commenced, developed in accordance with the Undertaking Engagement Guidelines for State Significant Projects (DPIE, 2021) and will be routinely updated throughout the Project duration. It identifies community members and stakeholders to be engaged with through the Social Impact Assessment (SIA) (detailed in Section 6.1.9). A copy of the CSEP (as of 16th May 2024) has been attached, refer Appendix D.

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

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

- Build upon established relationships and ensure any lessons learned are captured and incorporated;
- Identify engagement channels to address all consultation and engagement needs;
- Design an inclusive, tailored, flexible and adaptable plan to identify the most effective approaches to engagement with stakeholders and the community;
- Identify and mitigate engagement issues and risks that arise as the Project evolves and progresses;
- Identify engagement tools that appropriately capture stakeholder feedback on the Project, including all stakeholder concerns;
- Enable consistent project messaging to manage stakeholder and community expectations and avoid lack of confidence in engagement;
- Support the delivery of the Project to be recognised as environmentally, economically, culturally and socially acceptable to the community and key stakeholders (i.e. earn social licence to operate); and
- Provide regulators with confidence that all positive and negative impacts are well understood and can be managed throughout all phases of the Project.

The choice of engagement tools and techniques depends on the desired outcome of the Project's engagement. If the goal is to gather information from the community such as identifying issues, opportunities, and local knowledge, the engagement methods will differ from those used to involve the community in discussions to shape or influence project outcomes. The engagement methods will be customised to meet the needs of the community and stakeholders, addressing any barriers that may prevent effective engagement. A list of engagement tools and activities and their application is provided in Table 10.

Table 10: Engagement Tools and Activities

Tool	Description	Stakeholder Group	Timing
Face-to-face meetings	BESS Pacific will hold face-to-face meetings with stakeholders, as agreed, to proactively discuss project progress, potential procurement opportunities and any associated changes.	All stakeholders	Pre-construction Construction
Community information sessions	Community information sessions provide an opportunity for local communities to meet with the Project team and raise any concerns or questions.	All stakeholders	Construction
Letters/emails	Provide stakeholders with updates on the Project including project timing, potential impacts and benefits and opportunities to provide feedback, as required.	All stakeholders	Pre-construction Construction
Online job platforms	Advertise employment opportunities, as required.	Local community Local business Local landholders Traditional Owners	Pre-construction
Project factsheet	Distribute factsheet to stakeholders with information on project details and relevant contact details	All stakeholders	Pre-construction
Project website and social media	Webpage for the public to keep up to date with BESS Pacific's activities and the progress of the Project. The website will include: • Details on BESS Pacific and its assets • Project status and key documents • Recent media releases and news articles • Ability to register for project updates • Contact details for further information.	All stakeholders	Construction Operation
Local newspaper	Provide the wider community with an update on the Project including progress, initiatives, and job opportunities.	All stakeholders	All stages

Tool	Description	Stakeholder Group	Timing
Local media	Utilise local media outlets to: • Announce start of construction for the Project • Promote events or key project successes • Communicate project updates.	All stakeholders	Pre-construction Operation

6.0 Proposed Assessment of Impact

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

6.1 Key Matters Requiring Assessment in the EIS

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

Table 11: Key Assessment Issues

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

6.1.1 Noise and Vibration

6.1.1.1 Preliminary Assessment

The BESS Site is in a rural setting with a substation in close proximity. Nearby sensitive receivers will need to be considered, refer back to Figure 3 and Table 3. Table 3 particularises the closest receptors (within 1 km) to the BESS Site.

The TransGrid substation, the surrounding road network, and agricultural plant and equipment are the likely sources of existing background noise levels.

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

- Vehicle movements during the construction and operational phases.

- Plant and heavy machinery during the construction phase.
- Noise emitting from the BESS facility once operational.

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

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

6.1.1.2 Proposed Level and Approach of Assessment

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

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

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

6.1.2 Biodiversity

6.1.2.1 Preliminary Assessment

There are a few trees located sporadically on the Subject Sites, however none within the proposed BESS Site, which has been previously cleared for agricultural purposes. The plant community type (PCT) 'ID 76 Western Grey Box tall grassy woodland on alluvial loam and clay soils in the NSW Southwestern Slopes and Riverina Bioregions' have been identified in areas within the Subject Sites that have not been cleared for agricultural purposes.

Generally, vegetation surrounding the Subject Sites is visually characterised as highly modified cropping grasses which are seen as vast homogeneous due to the cropping requirements for primary production. Where this does not occur is in the road verges where a mix of exotic and indigenous grasses are left to grow naturally. Canopy trees such as Eucalypts are visually present in stands or along drainage corridors seen some distance from the Subject Sites or concentrated around private dwelling houses. Sporadically stands of Poplars (and other exotic trees) occur bordering private lots.

In relation to Section 60H of the LLS Act, no aerial imagery was available for 1 January 1990. Consequently, images from December 1976 and February 1991 were assessed. Aerial imagery from December 1976 clearly shows the Subject Sites as extensively modified and void of vegetation for agricultural purposes. Further imagery from February 1991 shows ongoing agricultural practices of a similar nature. Based on the above data sources, there is sufficient evidence to support that the BESS Site has been under regular cropping, grazing

and pasture improvement since prior to 1990. Therefore, in accordance with the LLS Act, the BESS Site can be considered as Category 1-exempt land.

6.1.2.2 Proposed Level and Approach of Assessment

Given the existing largely cleared nature of the BESS Site, impacts to vegetation communities can be kept to a minimum.

Based on available evidence, the BESS site does not contain native vegetation, watercourses, prescribed impacts features (e.g. buildings or other structures) or other biodiversity values. Additionally, it is understood that the BESS site has been under regular cropping, grazing and pasture improvement since prior to 1990. Therefore, in accordance with the LLS Act, the Project Area can be considered as Category 1- exempt land. Consultation with Local Land Services will occur in this regard.

Based on the existing site context, a Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR) Waiver will be prepared and submitted prior to the lodgement of the SSD application. Early consultation will take place with the Biodiversity Conservation and Science Group within NSW DCCEEW regarding the proposed approach to apply for a BDAR Waiver. Should this approach be accepted, theBDAR waiver will be prepared in accordance with the guidance document *How to Apply for A Biodiversity Development Assessment Report Waiver for a Major Project Application* (DPIE, 2019), if following a field survey, it is determined that negligible impacts to biodiversity would occur as a result of the Project.

If, following a field survey, it is determined that more than negligible impacts to biodiversity will occur as a result of the Project, a BDAR will be prepared under Part 4 of the EP&A Act in accordance with the Biodiversity Assessment Method (BAM).

6.1.3 Aboriginal Heritage

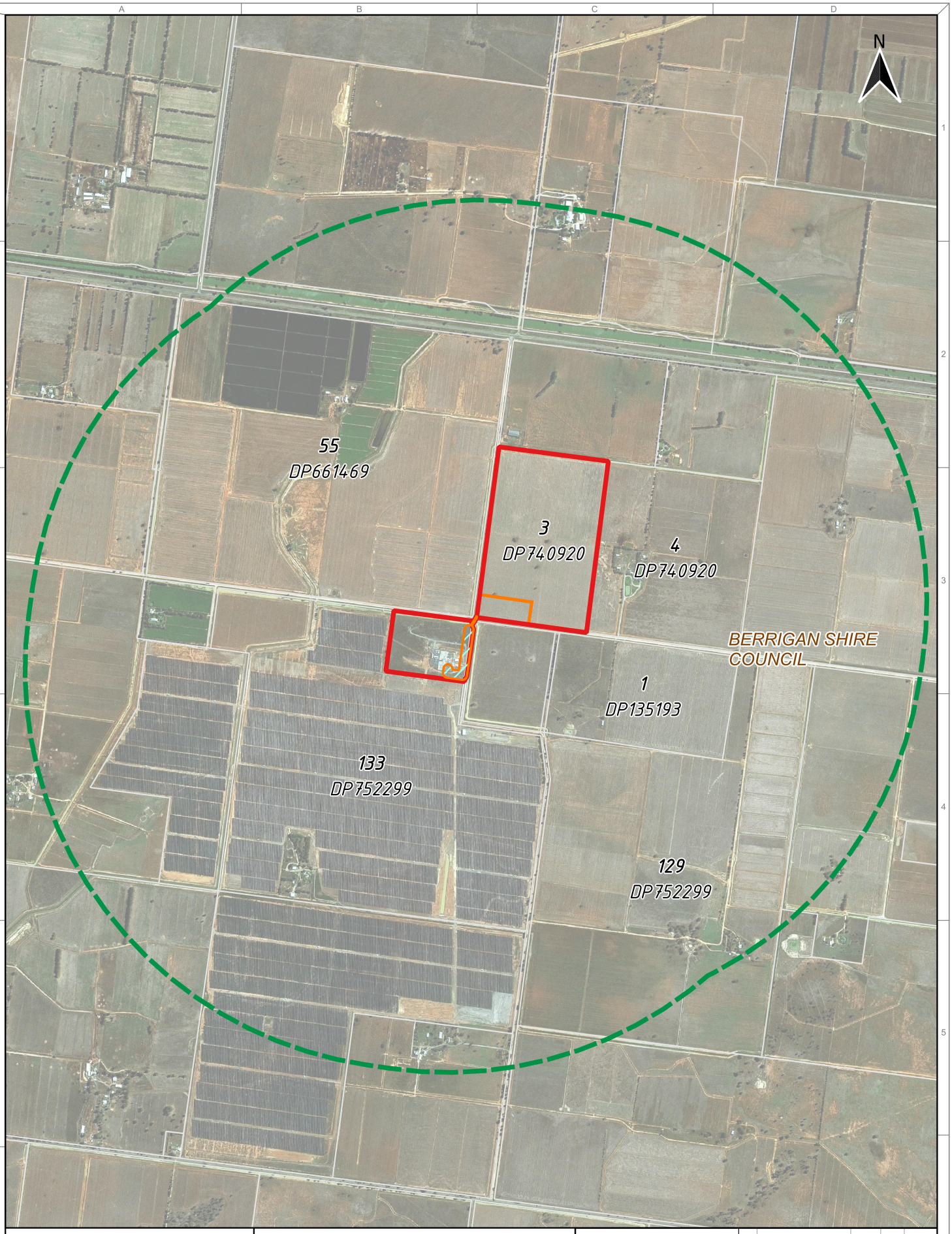
6.1.3.1 Preliminary Assessment

A desktop assessment was conducted on 25 October 2023 using the NSW Government's AHIMS Search Tool, measuring approximately 10 km surrounding the Subject Sites, which is included at Appendix E.

The search determined that there are six registered Aboriginal sites within the search area. There are no registered Aboriginal sites within the Subject Sites. The AHIMS database records sites using a list of twenty standard site features, of which two were found within the extensive search (OEH, 2012) summarised in Table 12. The closest AHIMS site identified in the search is located approximately 7.8 km northeast of the Subject Sites. Figure 13 confirms that no registered sites are within a 2km radius of the Subject Sites. A search of the National Native Title Register did not identify native title applications or determinations.

Table 12: Frequency of Site Features in AHIMS Search Results

Site Types	Frequency
Scarred Tree	4
Artefact	2
Total	6



Scale at A4
1:25000

0 0.2 0.4 km

LEGEND

- 2 km BESS Area Buffer
- Project Area
- Proposed BESS Area
- Proposed Easement
- Cadastral - Lots

Heritage (No records in map frame)

- Aboriginal Place of Heritage Significance
- Conservation Area - Aboriginal
- Conservation Area - Archaeological
- Conservation Area - General
- Conservation Area - Landscape
- Item - Aboriginal
- Item - Archaeological
- Item - General
- Item - Landscape

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DEVELOPER: GRANSOLAR GROUP

COORDINATE REFERENCE SYSTEM: GDA2020 / MGA zone 55

REV.	DESCRIPTION	DATE	BY	APPR.
1	Registered Aboriginal Sites in Proximity to the Subject Sites	20/05/2024	HV	

PROJECT: FINLEY BESS

SHEET TITLE: FIGURE 13 - REGISTERED ABORIGINAL SITES IN PROXIMITY TO THE SUBJECT SITES

REFERENCE: FIN-PD-200524-A2-1

PAPER SIZE: A4: 297 x 210mm

DRAWING Nº FIN-PD-200524-HER-A2

6.1.3.2 Proposed Level and Approach of Assessment

To ensure the Project has full knowledge of Aboriginal cultural values at the project location and is able to mitigate any harm to these values, a detailed level of assessment is required of this specific matter and a comprehensive assessment undertaken. An Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) will be prepared in consultation with the Albury and District Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC) and Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs).

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

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

The ACHAR will have the following scope of works:

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

6.1.4 Traffic and Access

6.1.4.1 Preliminary Assessment

Access to and from the BESS Site will be provided via two access crossovers onto Broockmanns Road. The location and design will be confirmed as the BESS design is finalised, and it will be able to accommodate heavy vehicles required during construction, operation, and decommissioning. A preliminary assessment has been undertaken by SLR, and the following is noted:

- The proposed HV route utilises the State Road network where possible, except for Canalla Road and Broockmanns Road;
- It is anticipated that no rail corridors or crossings will be impacted;
- No planned major transport infrastructure upgrades by TfNSW and Council were identified within the vicinity of the proposed project;

- The Project will generate approximately 5,288 return trips during the construction period over 209 business days (eight months);
- The average daily traffic generation will be in the order of 24 return trips a day, where the peak construction period is anticipated to generate around 55 return trips a day (50 light vehicle trips, five heavy vehicle trips);
- Any significant traffic impacts associated with the Project are expected to occur only during the construction phase. Any temporary parking and set-down areas required during construction will be reinstated and landscaped once the BESS is operational; and
- The proposed BESS will be managed remotely once operational, requiring minimal site attendance from maintenance staff. The proposal is unlikely to have any lasting impacts on traffic at this location. However, a Traffic Impact Assessment (TIA) will be undertaken, and any mitigation methods and strategies identified in the associated report will be adopted into the proposal.

A detailed TIA will be undertaken to accompany a future EIS, including detail on whether mitigation measures (including the need for potential road upgrades) are required in any format as part of the proposed development.

6.1.4.2 Proposed Level and Approach of Assessment

A TIA will be undertaken and the associated report provided with the SSD Application. It is expected that the key elements of the TIA of activities associated with the Project will include:

- Existing road conditions review and future road network planning consideration;
- Assessed traffic demands (construction, operation and decommissioning phases);
- Intersection and access assessments;
- Road safety assessment and road use management planning; and
- Identification of any mitigation measures.

As part of the consultation process, the potential for a Voluntary Planning Agreements (VPA) for road upgrades will be pursued with the Council.

6.1.5 Visual Amenity

6.1.5.1 Preliminary Assessment

The EIS will consider the visual impact of the Project within the surrounding landscape, this includes nearby residents and public vistas that may be impacted, in particular motorists along roadways. This will include temporary impacts during construction and long-term impacts once operational.

Preliminary assessment has been commenced by SLR for the Project, to determine the viewlines of significance relevant to the Project. Three key public receptor viewpoints were identified where the Subject Sites could be seen from public locations. These are mainly focused on the view corridors present at Riverina Highway and Broockmanns Road. Canalla Road does have visibility not dissimilar to Broockmanns Road however considering the road is unsealed and there are no private receptors adjacent, its understood that this is not an area of high potential impact. Despite the surrounding environment being open, the flat terrain and the large distances between private receptors and main roads the Subject Sites are not considered to be highly visible. Typically, views to the Subject Sites are only obtained from Canalla and Broockmanns Road which is considered to be limited and

localised, and impacts are likely minimised as a result of underground TL infrastructure at Broockmanns Road and Mulwala No. 19 canal.

Photos from each viewpoint location are provided in Figure 14 to Figure 16 which were prepared to indicate where the proposed BESS facility is likely to be seen. Further assessment will provide a before and after montage, to further illustrate the impacts of the proposal including the above ground portion of the TL and associated vegetation removal.

In relation to potential visual impacts, determining the private receptors located in proximity to the Subject Sites involved a desktop study to locate dwellings from an aerial map within a 2 km radius of the Subject Sites. This process revealed six private receptor locations. Generally, the flat nature suggests there is visibility of the Project when viewed from these receptor locations. Often these private receptors are located centrally with established perimeter planting minimising unobstructed views. Access to these properties did not occur so it is undetermined to what extent the Project can be seen and / or if these residents are negatively impacted by the Project. The following private receptors that are more likely to be impacted include:

- 384 Broockmanns Road, Finley; and
- 276 Broockmanns Road, Finley.

Considerations for further studies may include preparing a model of theoretical visibility of the Project to assess if views are likely to occur when viewed at these locations. Considerations will include a cumulative impact assessment of the nearby approved solar farms.

Existing screening on the site has been assessed and is demonstrated within Figure 17. It demonstrates the sites and surrounds being sparsely populated with high and medium vegetation, with none in the existing BESS footprint. Notwithstanding, the Project proposes vegetation around the BESS area as a visual buffer and will be further detailed in an EIS phase.

6.1.5.2 Proposed Level and Approach of Assessment

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

A Landscape Character and Visual Impact Assessment (LCVIA) will be undertaken, and the associated report provided with the SSD Application. The LCVIA will consider the effect of the Project on the physical and visual landscape which may give rise to changes in its character and the resultant effects on visual amenity. The potential visual impact will be assessed using a methodology that involves on-site assessments, Geographical Information Systems (GIS) modelling, and preparation of photomontages and an impact assessment to illustrate the predicted visual effect of the Project on the visual environment. The LCVIA will also give regard to the Large-Scale Solar Energy Guideline (DPE, 2022).

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

- Review of the Project (scale, bulk, height, technical specifications and landscape);
- Analysis of the Subject Sites (visual exposure, visual qualities and landscape values);
- Identifications of potential impacts on key receptors including the rating of magnitude for each receptor group;
- Rating of the impact significance for each receptor group;

Viewpoint 1 90°

Viewpoint 1 (VP1)	Description
Viewpoint location	Broockmanns Rd, Finley NSW 2713
Viewpoint coordinates	-35.638817, 145.521990
Date of capture	7th December 2023
Time of capture	10.49am
Direction of view	297° (North-West)
Distance from development	108m
Receptor sensitivity	Negligible
Scenic quality	Very low
Magnitude of change	Low
Impact significance	**Minor-Negligible**

Viewpoint Location Map NTS

Figure 14: Visual Impact Viewpoint 1 – Broockmanns Road, Finley

Viewpoint 2 90°

Viewpoint 2 (VP2)	Description
Viewpoint location	Marantellis Rd, Finley NSW 2713
Viewpoint coordinates	-35.624682, 145.517023
Date of capture	7th December 2023
Time of capture	11:34am
Direction of view	192° (South-West)
Distance from development	1358m
Receptor sensitivity	Low
Scenic quality	Low
Magnitude of change	Negligible
Impact significance	**Minor-Negligible**

Viewpoint Location Map NTS

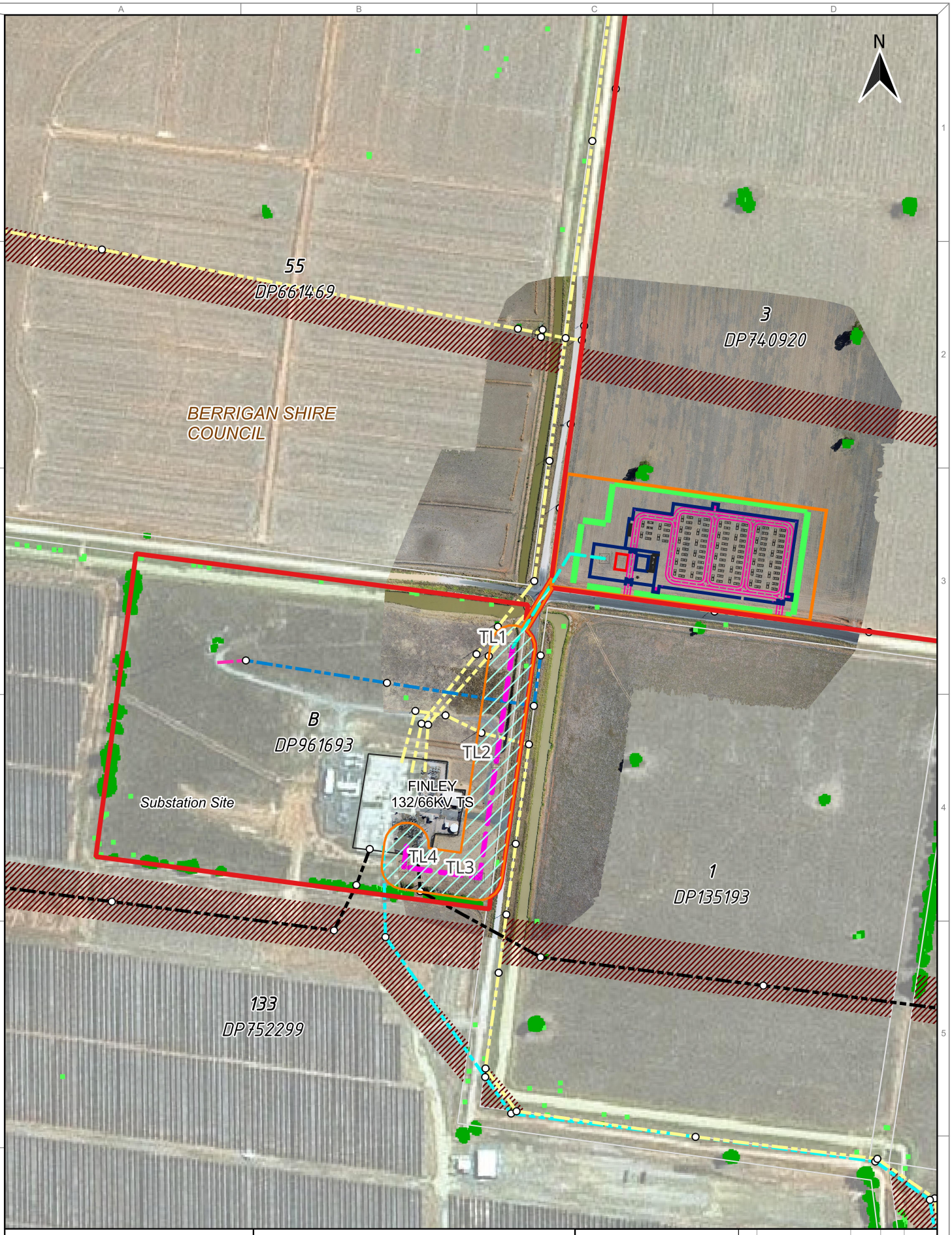
Figure 15: Visual Impact Viewpoint 2 – Marantellis Road, Finley

Viewpoint 3 90°

Viewpoint 3 (VP3)	Description
Viewpoint location	Broockmanns Rd, Finley NSW 2713
Viewpoint coordinates	-35.643003, 145.555632
Date of capture	7th December 2023
Time of capture	12.08pm
Direction of view	300° (North-West)
Distance from development	3547m
Receptor sensitivity	Low
Scenic quality	Low
Magnitude of change	Negligible
Impact significance	**Minor-Negligible**

Viewpoint Location Map NTS

Figure 16: Visual Impact Viewpoint 3 – Broockmanns Road, Finley



Scale at A4
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0 40 80 m

LEGEND

- Project Area
- Proposed BESS Design
- Proposed Fence
- Proposed Overhead Lines
- Proposed Overhead Tower
- Proposed Road Design
- Proposed Vegetation
- Proposed BESS Area
- Proposed Easement
- Cadastral - Lots
- Existing Easements
- Existing Power Poles

Transgrid Lines
- 132 kV

Essential Energy Lines
- 132kV
- 22kV
- 66kV
- LV

2017 Lidar Data
- Medium Vegetation
- High Vegetation

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COORDINATE REFERENCE SYSTEM: GDA2020 / MGA zone 55

REV.	DESCRIPTION	DATE	BY	APPR.
1	Existing Screening Map	20/05/2024	HV	

PROJECT: FINLEY BESS

SHEET TITLE: FIGURE 17 - EXISTING SCREENING MAP

REFERENCE: FIN-PD-200524-A2-1

PAPER SIZE: A4: 297 x 210mm

DRAWING Nº: FIN-PD-200524-ESS-A2

- The impact significance is evaluated as a product of the sensitivity of the receptor, and the magnitude of the change that occurs when viewed from the receptor point location; and
- Potential mitigation measures to meet the necessary planning requirements and any community expectations.

6.1.6 Water Impacts

6.1.6.1 Preliminary Assessment

The majority of the Subject Sites is comprised of flat low-lying topography. There is potential for surface water quality impacts during construction and decommissioning of the Project due to ground disturbance and minor earthworks, which could impact Mulwala No. 19 Channel if appropriate mitigation measures are not established.

The Project will result in an increase in impervious area over the Subject Sites. Runoff from the impervious areas may contain suspended solids, nitrogen and phosphorous. The SSD Application will be required to identify risks associated with increases in runoff volume and peak flows, altered timing of flows, increases in pollutant runoff and reduced infiltration and identify potential mitigation options, if required.

6.1.6.2 Proposed Level and Approach of Assessment

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

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

6.1.7 Land Quality and Agricultural Impact

6.1.7.1 Preliminary Assessment

The Subject sites are classified by the NSW eSPADE mapping as having moderate limitations and is rated as Land & Soil Capability Class 3.

Contaminated land is not recorded on the Subject Sites.

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

- Land zonings surrounding the Subject Sites include:
- RU1 Primary Production; and
- SP2 Infrastructure – Classified Road.

6.1.7.2 Proposed Level and Approach of Assessment

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

- A soil survey to determine the soil characteristics and consider the potential for erosion to occur; and:
- ASC (Isbell, 2002) soil types across the Subject Sites;
- LSC class/es according to the Land and Soil Capability Scheme Second Approximation (OEH, 2012);
- Determine BSAL status according to the Interim Protocol for Site Verification and Mapping of Biophysical Strategic Agricultural Land (OEH, 2013); and
- Determine erosive potential for soil types within Subject Sites.
- A Land Use Conflict Risk Assessment (LUCRA) will be prepared as part of the Project EIS, with the following scope of works:
    - Accurately identify and address potential land use conflict issues and risk of occurrence before a new land use proceeds or a dispute arises;
    - Objectively assess the effect of a proposed land use on neighbouring land uses to identify any land use conflicts;
    - Increase the understanding of potential land use conflict to inform and complement development control and buffer requirements; and
    - Highlight or recommend strategies to help minimise the potential for land use conflicts to occur and contribute to the negotiation, proposal, implementation and evaluation of separation strategies.

This LUCRA will be prepared in accordance with the Land Use Conflict Risk Assessment Guide (DPIE, 2011).

6.1.8 Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas

6.1.8.1 Preliminary Assessment

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

An Air Quality Assessment (AQA) is not considered to be required as part of the EIS as potential impacts will be temporary in nature and will not extend beyond the construction phase of the project.

The Project will contribute Australia’s emissions reduction effort, facilitating the growth of the Australian renewable energy network and will contribute to Australia’s goals to achieve net zero by 2050. Accordingly, the Project is anticipated to have positive impacts in relation to greenhouse gas emissions.

6.1.8.2 Proposed Level and Approach of Assessment

As the Project is not anticipated to generate significant air quality impacts, the inclusion of standard dust suppression and vehicle exhaust mitigation measures for construction and

decommissioning as part of a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) will mitigate any expected increases in dust and vehicle exhaust.

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

6.1.9 Social and Economic

6.1.9.1 Preliminary Assessment

The Subject Sites are located on land to the west of the township of Finley, within the Berrigan LGA. Impacts to nearby residents will be a critical assessment matter, to determine impacts to the surrounding area.

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

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

- Determine the preliminary local and regional social locality;
- Identify key communities and potentially affected stakeholders;
- Identify potential social impacts requiring further investigation through the Phase 2 SIA; and
- Identify potential adverse impacts and benefits associated with the Project.

A SIA Scoping Worksheet has been prepared (attached in Appendix C). The Project is located approximately 4.5 km west of the Finley township. The social locality is comprised of two areas: Finley Suburb and Locality (SAL) and Berrigan Shire LGA. These social localities will be further refined through consultation and detailed investigation as part of the Phase 2 SIA.

Figure 18 illustrates these social localities.

6.1.9.2 Proposed Level and Approach of Assessment

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

Based on the outcome of SIA scoping, a moderate level assessment will be prepared to investigate social impacts as a result of the Project in the Phase 2 SIA. The next phase of investigation will comprise the SIA report components the EIS which will be appended to the EIS.

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

- Predict and analyse the extent and nature of likely social impacts against baseline conditions using accepted social science methods;
- Evaluate, draw attention to and prioritise the social impacts that are important to people;
- Develop appropriate and justified responses (e.g. avoidance, mitigation and enhancement measures) to social impacts, and identify and explain residual social impacts; and

- Propose arrangements to monitor and manage residual social impacts, including unanticipated impacts, over the life of the project (including post-closure phases for extractive industry projects).

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

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

- Landowners;
- Government agencies;
- Local business and community groups and representatives; and
- Emergency services and relevant service providers. Secondary research methods will include:
- Outcomes and feedback collected through broad public consultation conducted to inform the Project;
- Targeted consultation findings conducted by technical specialists through other detailed investigations such as Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment, Acoustic Assessment and Traffic Assessment;
- Secondary data sources such as census and demographic data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics; and
- Regional and local strategic plans, as well as SIA reports and community engagement reports prepared for other recent, comparable, or nearby projects in the region.

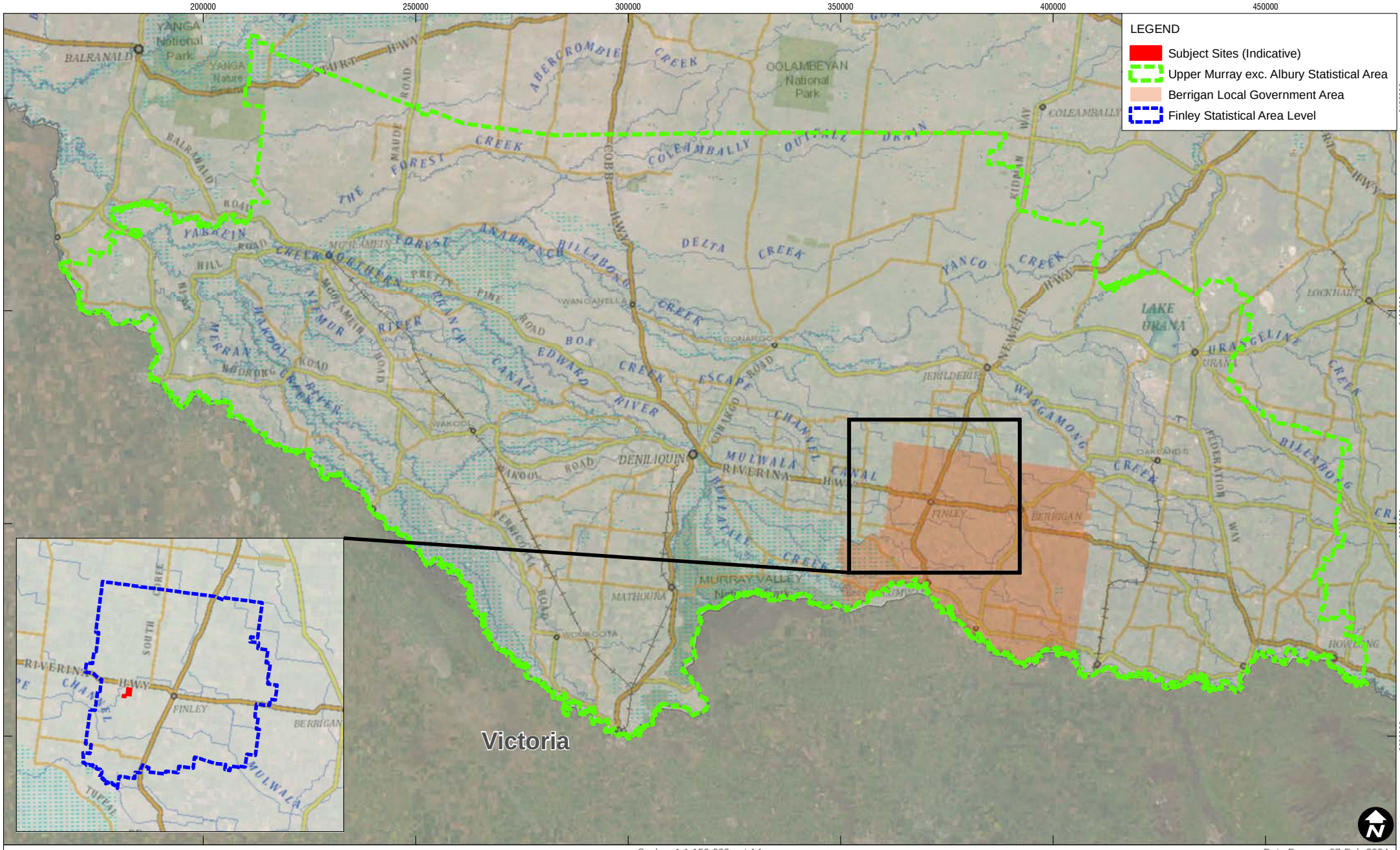
As part of the SIA, regard will be given to workers availability and worker accommodation for the construction stage, in addition to the likely economic benefits of the proposal from construction jobs, benefits to local businesses from the workforce and investment in battery infrastructure. Further, a CSEP has commenced and outlines past and planned community initiatives and is located within Appendix D. It will be utilised as supporting documentation for the future EIS, guiding the social due diligence to be undertaken with regard to the Project.

6.1.10 Waste Management

6.1.10.1 Preliminary Assessment

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

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



Scale: 1:1,150,000 at A4
Coordinate System: GDA2020 MGA Zone 55

Date Drawn: 07-Feb-2024
Project Number: 620.040673.00000

Map shows concept plans only and will be further refined following a site survey by a registered surveyor.

Data Source: Basedata supplied by NSWSS, September 2023
Basedata overlay © Department of Customer Service 2020
Aerial imagery supplied by ESRI and other sources
Australian Bureau of Statistics

SOCIAL LOCALITY

BESS FINLEY
Riverina Highway, Finley NSW 2713 (Lot 3 DP 740920)

FIGURE 18

\\au.slr.local\Corporate\Projects-SLR\620-BNE\620-BNE\620.040673.00001 Finley 2024 - Planning\06 SLR Data\01 CADGIS\GIS\SLR620040673_SIA_Finley_G1_SocialLocality_002.mxd

6.1.10.2 Proposed Level and Approach of Assessment

The following management measures to limit impacts resulting from the Project will be included within the EIS pending comment from DPHI and relevant agencies:

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

6.1.11 Hazard and Risk

6.1.11.1 Preliminary Assessment

Potential hazardous scenarios and risks associated with the project include the presence and use of lithium batteries, fires and exposure to electromagnetic fields (EMF). The Subject Sites are not identified as bushfire prone land.

Lithium batteries are identified as Class 9 under the Australian Dangerous Goods Code (National Transport Commission 2020). The Hazardous and Offensive Development Application Guidelines – Applying SEPP 33 (Department of Planning 2011) gives effect to Chapter 3 of State Environmental Planning Policy (Resilience and Hazards) 2021. It is clarified that Class 9 goods do not exceed the screening thresholds as they “pose little threat to people or property” (Department of Planning, 2011).

Nevertheless, a Preliminary Hazard Analysis (PHA) will be provided as part of the EIS.

6.1.11.2 Proposed Level and Approach of Assessment

The EIS will include:

- A preliminary risk screening completed in accordance with State Environmental Planning Policy (Resilience and Hazards) 2021 and Applying SEPP 33 (DoP, 2011);
- A Preliminary Hazard Analysis (PHA) will be prepared in accordance with the Hazardous Industry Planning Advisory Paper No. 6, ‘Hazard Analysis’ and Multi-Level Risk Assessment (DoP, 2011);
- Consideration all recent standards and codes and verify separation distances to on-site and off-site receptors to prevent fire propagation and compliance with Hazardous Industry Advisory Paper No. 4, ‘Risk Criteria for Land Use Safety Planning (DoP, 2011); and
- Consideration of potential hazards and risks including but not limited to bushfires, land contamination, spontaneous ignition, EMF’s or the proposed grid connection infrastructure against the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection Guidelines for limiting exposure to Time-varying Electric, Magnetic and EMF’s.

6.1.12 Historic Heritage

6.1.12.1 Preliminary Assessment

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

- Berrigan LEP 2013;
- State Heritage Register;
- Commonwealth Heritage List; and
- EPBC Protected Matters Search Tool.

No heritage items have been identified through these desktop assessments.

6.1.12.2 Proposed Level and Approach of Assessment

A standard assessment for historic heritage will be completed within the EIS to identify the nearest historic heritage items, as well as details of appropriate mitigation measures in the event of an unexpected find during construction. Consideration of heritage will be made as part of the LCVIA to be prepared for the Project.

6.2 Cumulative Impact Consideration

A search was undertaken for any proposed or approved SSD and regionally significant applications within the Berrigan LGA and surrounds. Consideration was given to their individual potential to result in a cumulative impact.

As depicted in Table 13, particular regard will be required to be given to workers availability and worker accommodation for the construction stage due to the potential construction overlaps identified. An Accommodation and Employment Strategy (AES) will be prepared and submitted with the EIS. To manage cumulative impacts associated with multiple projects in the region and to encourage the employment of locally sourced workers, BESS Pacific would need to monitor employment and accommodation as setup in this plan. Cumulative impacts may occur if the construction periods of nearby major projects overlap with the construction period of this Project.

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

This in turn may restrict the availability of accommodation for other users during peak tourist periods such as school holidays and the region’s annual events. What needs to be taken into consideration is that it is unlikely that the peak construction period of the Project would overlap with other renewable energy projects, but in the unlikely event that the Project construction period overlaps with another BESS or BESS in the region, there is sufficient accommodation within the wider region to accommodate those workers, also prior to this.

The Project team will consult with the developers and or other companies of other projects whose construction timeline may overlap with Finley BESS to minimise workforce and accommodation disruptions.

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

For example, other employment generating developments include:

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

A key component of the AES will be a local employment and procurement strategy, to use procurement processes and purchasing power to generate positive social outcomes, in addition to the delivery of efficient goods, services and works. Local employment and procurement strategies build on initiatives already undertaken by the renewable energy sector in enhancing sustainable and strategic procurement practice, enabling procurement to effectively contribute to building stronger communities; and is a key mechanism by which to generate wider social benefits.

In addition, consideration will be given to the assessment of physical cumulative impacts of the project and the surrounds. These include:

- Noise/Vibration: Standard assessment will determine potential acoustic impacts through consideration of the Subject Sites and its context to surrounding projects.
- Biodiversity: Standard assessment will determine ecological impacts on the Subject Sites and consider cumulative impacts identified by surrounding projects.
- Aboriginal and Historic Heritage: Standard assessment to determine cumulative impacts between those on the Subject Sites and surrounding projects. This will include liaison with the relevant Local Aboriginal Land Council.
- Traffic/Access: Standard assessment to determine potential cumulative impacts arising from the interaction of projects on road networks..
- Visual Amenity: Standard assessment will identify the cumulative visual impact in the vicinity of the Subject Sites. Impacts would be considered negligible where separation distances are further than range of view.
- Land Quality / Agricultural Impacts: Standard assessment to assess the interrelationship of the Project with agricultural activity in the region, accounting for the approved/constructed projects within the surrounds.

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

- Local investment and job opportunity
- Carbon emission reduction
- Grid stability & resilience
- Peak demand management
- Increased energy reliance

6.3 Ability to Avoid Minimise or Offset Impacts

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

Table 13 Significant Projects in the Berrigan LGA and Surrounds

Project Name	Project Status	Potential Overlap	Project Summary	Cumulative Impacts and Level of Assessment	Approx. Distance to Project
Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure					
Tocumwal Magazine Storage Upgrade SSD-64923965	EIS preparation stage	Potential construction overlap	Construction and operation of four new 250 tonne high explosive magazines and a new detonator magazine storage buildings.	Noise/Vibration (No potential overlap) – No direct cumulative impacts due to separation distances. Biodiversity (Standard Assessment) - To determine any common impacts. Aboriginal and Historic Heritage (Standard Assessment) – To determine cumulative impacts of projects. Traffic/Access (Standard Assessment) – To determine potential cumulative impacts arising from the interaction of projects on road networks. Visual Amenity (No potential overlap) – No direct cumulative impacts due to separation distances. Land Quality / Agricultural Impacts (Standard Assessment) – Land use conflict risk assessment will consider effects on regional agricultural activity. Social/Economic (Detailed Assessment) – To determine potential cumulative impacts arising from the interaction of these projects on local facilities, goods and services, including staff accommodation.	16km
Edward River Council (adjacent to Berrigan LGA)					
Yanco Delta Wind Farm SSD-41743746	Approved	Potential construction overlap Operations Overlap	Wind farm comprising of: • Up to 208 wind turbine generators (WTGs) to a m tip height of 270 metres. • Generating capacity of approximately 1500 MW. • BESS, approximately 800 MW/800 MWh.	Noise/Vibration (No potential overlap) – No direct cumulative impacts due to separation distances. Biodiversity (Standard Assessment) - To determine any common impacts. Aboriginal and Historic Heritage (Standard Assessment) – To determine cumulative impacts of projects. Traffic/Access (Standard Assessment) – To determine potential cumulative impacts arising from the interaction of projects on road networks.	42km

Project Name	Project Status	Potential Overlap	Project Summary	Cumulative Impacts and Level of Assessment	Approx. Distance to Project
				Visual Amenity (No potential overlap) – No direct cumulative impacts due to separation distances. Land Quality / Agricultural Impacts (Standard Assessment) – Land use conflict risk assessment will consider effects on regional agricultural activity. Social/Economic (Detailed Assessment) – To determine potential cumulative impacts arising from the interaction of these projects on local facilities, goods and services, including staff accommodation.	
Dinawan Wind Farm SSD-50725708	EIS preparation stage	Potential construction overlap Operations Overlap	250 WTGs, with capacity of up to approximately 1.5 GW. BESS will a capacity of up to approximately 300 MW.	Noise/Vibration (No potential overlap) – No direct cumulative impacts due to separation distances. Biodiversity (Standard Assessment) - To determine any common impacts. Aboriginal and Historic Heritage (Standard Assessment) – To determine cumulative impacts of projects. Traffic/Access (Standard Assessment) – To determine potential cumulative impacts arising from the interaction of projects on road networks. However, due to separation distances, overlap between this development and the Project are likely to be limited. Visual Amenity (No potential overlap) – No direct cumulative impacts due to separation distances. Land Quality / Agricultural Impacts (Standard Assessment) – Land use conflict risk assessment will consider effects on regional agricultural activity. Social/Economic (Detailed Assessment) – To determine potential cumulative impacts arising from the interaction of these projects on local facilities, goods and services, including staff accommodation.	69km

Project Name	Project Status	Potential Overlap	Project Summary	Cumulative Impacts and Level of Assessment	Approx. Distance to Project
The Plains Wind Farm SSD-50629707	Response to Submissions	Construction overlap not anticipated Operations Overlap	Up to 226 wind turbines, up to 280 m high.	Noise/Vibration (No potential overlap) – No direct cumulative impacts due to separation distances. Biodiversity (Standard Assessment) - To determine any common impacts. Aboriginal and Historic Heritage (Standard Assessment) – To determine cumulative impacts of projects. Traffic/Access (Standard Assessment) – To determine potential cumulative impacts arising from the interaction of projects on road networks. However, due to separation distances, overlap between this development and the Project are likely to be limited. Visual Amenity (No potential overlap) – No direct cumulative impacts due to separation distances. Land Quality / Agricultural Impacts (Standard Assessment) – Land use conflict risk assessment will consider effects on regional agricultural activity. Social/Economic (Detailed Assessment) – Assessment on the pressure of local facilities, goods and services, including staff accommodation. However, due to separation distances, crossover between this development and the Project are likely to be limited.	112km
Tchelery Wind Farm SSD-59701722	EIS preparation stage	Potential construction overlap Operations Overlap	120 wind turbines providing a total capacity of up to approximately 800 MW.	Noise/Vibration (No potential overlap) – No direct cumulative impacts due to separation distances. Biodiversity (Standard Assessment) - To determine any common impacts. Aboriginal and Historic Heritage (Standard Assessment) – To determine cumulative impacts of projects. Traffic/Access (Standard Assessment) – To determine potential cumulative impacts arising from the interaction of projects on road networks. However, due to separation distances, overlap between this development and the Project are likely to be limited.	153km

Project Name	Project Status	Potential Overlap	Project Summary	Cumulative Impacts and Level of Assessment	Approx. Distance to Project
				Visual Amenity (No potential overlap) – No direct cumulative impacts due to separation distances. Land Quality / Agricultural Impacts (Standard Assessment) – Land use conflict risk assessment will consider effects on regional agricultural activity. Social/Economic (Detailed Assessment) – Assessment on the pressure of local facilities, goods and services, including staff accommodation. However, due to separation distances, crossover between this development and the Project are likely to be limited.	
Baldon Wind Farm SSD-40138508	EIS preparation stage	Construction overlap not anticipated Operations Overlap	162 wind turbines, ranging from 4 to 6.5 MW in output with blade tip heights up to 300 m.	Noise/Vibration (No potential overlap) – No direct cumulative impacts due to separation distances. Biodiversity (Standard Assessment) - To determine any common impacts. Aboriginal and Historic Heritage (Standard Assessment) – To determine cumulative impacts of projects. Traffic/Access (Standard Assessment) – To determine potential cumulative impacts arising from the interaction of projects on road networks. However, due to separation distances, overlap between this development and the Project are likely to be limited. Visual Amenity (No potential overlap) – No direct cumulative impacts due to separation distances. Land Quality / Agricultural Impacts (Standard Assessment) – Land use conflict risk assessment will consider effects on regional agricultural activity. Social/Economic (Detailed Assessment) – Assessment on the pressure of local facilities, goods and services, including staff accommodation. However, due to separation distances, crossover between this development and the Project are likely to be limited.	152km
Bullawah Wind Farm	EIS preparation stage	Construction overlap not anticipated	Approximately 170 wind turbines, with a maximum blade-tip height of 300 m above ground level, and an	Noise/Vibration (No potential overlap) – No direct cumulative impacts due to separation distances.	80km

Project Name	Project Status	Potential Overlap	Project Summary	Cumulative Impacts and Level of Assessment	Approx. Distance to Project
SSD-50505215		Operations Overlap	installed capacity of up to 1,000 MW (i.e. 1 gigawatt (GW)), and BESS facilities.	Biodiversity (Standard Assessment) - To determine any common impacts. Aboriginal and Historic Heritage (Standard Assessment) – To determine cumulative impacts of projects. Traffic/Access (Standard Assessment) – To determine potential cumulative impacts arising from the interaction of projects on road networks. However, due to separation distances, overlap between this development and the Project are likely to be limited. Visual Amenity (No potential overlap) – No direct cumulative impacts due to separation distances. Land Quality / Agricultural Impacts (Standard Assessment) – Land use conflict risk assessment will consider effects on regional agricultural activity. Social/Economic (Detailed Assessment) – To determine potential cumulative impacts arising from the interaction of these projects on local facilities, goods and services, including staff accommodation.	
Deniliquin East Battery Energy Storage System SSD-61612229	EIS preparation stage	Construction overlap not anticipated Operations Overlap	Installation of containerised lithium-ion batteries with a capacity of up to 100 MW and 200 MWh.	Noise/Vibration (No potential overlap) – No direct cumulative impacts due to separation distances. Biodiversity (Standard Assessment) - To determine any common impacts. Aboriginal and Historic Heritage (Standard Assessment) – To determine cumulative impacts of projects. Traffic/Access (Standard Assessment) – To determine potential cumulative impacts arising from the interaction of projects on road networks. Visual Amenity (No potential overlap) – No direct cumulative impacts due to separation distances. Land Quality / Agricultural Impacts (Standard Assessment) – Land use conflict risk assessment will consider effects on regional agricultural activity.	45km

Project Name	Project Status	Potential Overlap	Project Summary	Cumulative Impacts and Level of Assessment	Approx. Distance to Project
				Social/Economic (Detailed Assessment) – To determine potential cumulative impacts arising from the interaction of these projects on local facilities, goods and services, including staff accommodation.	
Pottinger Wind Farm SSD-59235464	Exhibition	No information on timing or phasing and staging Construction overlap anticipated Operations Overlap	Up to 108 wind turbine generators which each have a tip height of up to 280 m.	Noise/Vibration (No potential overlap) – No direct cumulative impacts due to separation distances. Biodiversity (Standard Assessment) - To determine any common impacts. Aboriginal and Historic Heritage (Standard Assessment) – To determine cumulative impacts of projects. Traffic/Access (Standard Assessment) – To determine potential cumulative impacts arising from the interaction of projects on road networks. However, due to separation distances, overlap between this development and the Project are likely to be limited. Visual Amenity (No potential overlap) – No direct cumulative impacts due to separation distances. Land Quality / Agricultural Impacts (Standard Assessment) – Land use conflict risk assessment will consider effects on regional agricultural activity. Social/Economic (Detailed Assessment) – Assessment on the pressure of local facilities, goods and services, including staff accommodation. However, due to separation distances, overlap between this development and the Project are likely to be limited.	103km
Romani Solar Farm SSD-67105475	EIS preparation stage	Construction overlap not anticipated Operations Overlap	Construction, operation and decommissioning of a solar photovoltaic energy generating facility (250 MW) with an associated 150 MW BESS.	Noise/Vibration (No potential overlap) – No direct cumulative impacts due to separation distances. Biodiversity (Standard Assessment) - To determine any common impacts. Aboriginal and Historic Heritage (Standard Assessment) – To determine cumulative impacts of projects.	117km

Project Name	Project Status	Potential Overlap	Project Summary	Cumulative Impacts and Level of Assessment	Approx. Distance to Project
				Traffic/Access (Standard Assessment) – To determine potential cumulative impacts arising from the interaction of projects on road networks. However, due to separation distances, overlap between this development and the Project are likely to be limited. Visual Amenity (No potential overlap) – No direct cumulative impacts due to separation distances. Land Quality / Agricultural Impacts (Standard Assessment) – Land use conflict risk assessment will consider effects on regional agricultural activity. Social/Economic (Detailed Assessment) – To determine potential cumulative impacts arising from the interaction of these projects on local facilities, goods and services, including staff accommodation.	
Conargo Wind Farm SSD-70611708	EIS preparation stage	Construction overlap not anticipated Operations Overlap	Construction and operation of a 300 MW wind farm, including 53 WTGs up to 270 m in height and a 150MW/1200MWh BESS.	Noise/Vibration (No potential overlap) – No direct cumulative impacts due to separation distances. Biodiversity (Standard Assessment) - To determine any common impacts. Aboriginal and Historic Heritage (Standard Assessment) – To determine cumulative impacts of projects. Traffic/Access (Standard Assessment) – To determine potential cumulative impacts arising from the interaction of projects on road networks. Visual Amenity (No potential overlap) – No direct cumulative impacts due to separation distances. Land Quality / Agricultural Impacts (Standard Assessment) – Land use conflict risk assessment will consider effects on regional agricultural activity. Social/Economic (Detailed Assessment) – To determine potential cumulative impacts arising from the interaction of these projects on local facilities, goods and services, including staff accommodation.	45km

Project Name	Project Status	Potential Overlap	Project Summary	Cumulative Impacts and Level of Assessment	Approx. Distance to Project
Booroorban (Saltbush) Wind Farm SSD-70636459	EIS preparation stage	Construction overlap not anticipated Operations Overlap	Construction and operation of a 400 MW wind farm, including 70 wind turbines up to 280m in height, and a 600 MW / 1200 MWh BESS.	Noise/Vibration (No potential overlap) – No direct cumulative impacts due to separation distances. Biodiversity (Standard Assessment) - To determine any common impacts. Aboriginal and Historic Heritage (Standard Assessment) – To determine cumulative impacts of projects. Traffic/Access (Standard Assessment) – To determine potential cumulative impacts arising from the interaction of projects on road networks. However, due to separation distances, overlap between this development and the Project are likely to be limited. Visual Amenity (No potential overlap) – No direct cumulative impacts due to separation distances. Land Quality / Agricultural Impacts (Standard Assessment) – Land use conflict risk assessment will consider effects on regional agricultural activity. Social/Economic (Detailed Assessment) – To determine potential cumulative impacts arising from the interaction of these projects on local facilities, goods and services, including staff accommodation.	104km
Regional Planning Panel					
Electricity generating facility (solar and wind) 39 Burkes Road Finley 2713 PPSWES-203	Approved	No information on timing or phasing and staging Construction overlap not anticipated Operations Overlap	Construction of a 4.99 MW (AC) Solar Farm including four batteries and an inverter and associated infrastructure.	Noise/Vibration (Standard Assessment) - To determine any common impacts. Biodiversity (Standard Assessment) - To determine any common impacts. Aboriginal and Historic Heritage (Standard Assessment) – To determine cumulative impacts of projects. Traffic/Access (Standard Assessment) – To determine potential cumulative impacts arising from the interaction of projects on road networks. Visual Amenity (Standard Assessment) - To determine any common impacts.	6km

Project Name	Project Status	Potential Overlap	Project Summary	Cumulative Impacts and Level of Assessment	Approx. Distance to Project
				Land Quality / Agricultural Impacts (Standard Assessment) – Land use conflict risk assessment will consider effects on regional agricultural activity. Social/Economic (Detailed Assessment) – To determine potential cumulative impacts arising from the interaction of these projects on local facilities, goods and services, including staff accommodation.	
4.95 MW Solar Facility Broughans Road, Finley PPSWES-47	Approved	No information on timing or phasing and staging Construction overlap not anticipated Operations Overlap	Installation of 16,500 solar photovoltaic panels to be mounted in arrays on single axis trackers.	Noise/Vibration (Standard Assessment) - To determine any common impacts. Biodiversity (Standard Assessment) - To determine any common impacts. Aboriginal and Historic Heritage (Standard Assessment) – To determine cumulative impacts of projects. Traffic/Access (Standard Assessment) – To determine potential cumulative impacts arising from the interaction of projects on road networks. Visual Amenity (Standard Assessment) - To determine any common impacts. Land Quality / Agricultural Impacts (Standard Assessment) – Land use conflict risk assessment will consider effects on regional agricultural activity. Social/Economic (Detailed Assessment) – To determine potential cumulative impacts arising from the interaction of these projects on local facilities, goods and services, including staff accommodation.	22km

Project Name	Project Status	Potential Overlap	Project Summary	Cumulative Impacts and Level of Assessment	Approx. Distance to Project
5MW Solar PV Array Lot 62 Broockmanns Road Finley PPSWES-34	Approved	No information on timing or phasing and staging Construction overlap not anticipated Operations Overlap	Establishment of a grid-connected solar photovoltaic (PV) plant including associated electrical generation, supplying no greater than 5 MW.	Noise/Vibration (Standard Assessment) - To determine any common impacts. Biodiversity (Standard Assessment) - To determine any common impacts. Aboriginal and Historic Heritage (Standard Assessment) – To determine cumulative impacts of projects. Traffic/Access (Standard Assessment) – To determine potential cumulative impacts arising from the interaction of projects on road networks. Visual Amenity (Standard Assessment) - To determine any common impacts. Land Quality / Agricultural Impacts (Standard Assessment) – Land use conflict risk assessment will consider effects on regional agricultural activity. Social/Economic (Detailed Assessment) – To determine potential cumulative impacts arising from the interaction of these projects on local facilities, goods and services, including staff accommodation.	3km

7.0 Conclusion

BESS Pacific is seeking approval for the construction, operation, and eventual decommissioning of a BESS with a capacity of 100 MW 200 MWh and associated ancillary infrastructure connecting an approximately 480 m of above and below ground TLs, connecting directly to the existing FINLEY 132/66 kV TS operated by TransGrid on the Substation Site.

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

The intent of the Project is to develop the renewable energy power supply within NSW and increase the energy capacity and resilience of the State and further efforts to reach net-zero emissions by 2050.

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

The key considerations identified by this Scoping Report for the Project include:

Table 14: Key Considerations Identified by Scoping Report

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

The Project EIS is proposed to address the following:

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

Importantly, the scoping report demonstrates the critical importance of this project to supports the move to renewable energy sources and to ensure the availability of power at different times of the day. The BESS is supported by both national and state renewable energy policy objectives.

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

8.0 References

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Appendix A Scoping Summary Table

Scoping Report - Request for Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs)

Finley Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)

Prepared for: BESS Pacific Pty Ltd

SLR Project No.: 620.40673.00001

18 June 2024

Level of Assessment	Matter	CIA	Engagement	Relevant Government Plans, Policies, and Guideline	Scoping Report Reference
Detailed	Noise and Vibration	Yes	Specific	Noise Policy for Industry (Environment Protection Authority (EPA), 2017) Interim Construction Noise Guideline (Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (DECCW), 2019) Assessing Vibration – A Technical Guideline (Department of Environment and Conservation, 2006)	Section 6.1.1
Detailed	Biodiversity	Yes	General	How to Apply for A Biodiversity Development Assessment Report Waiver for a Major Project Application (Department Planning and Environment (DPE), 2019) Biodiversity Assessment Method (NSW Government, 2020) Commonwealth EPBC 1.1 Significant Impact Guidelines – Matters of National Environmental Significance (Commonwealth of Australia, 2013)	Section 6.1.2
Detailed	Aboriginal Heritage	Yes	Specific	Aboriginal Consultation Requirements for Proponents (DECCW, 2010) Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigations of Aboriginal Objects in NSW (DECCW, 2010) Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW (NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH), 2011)	Section 6.1.3
Detailed	Traffic and Access	Yes	General	Guide to Traffic Management Part 3: Traffic Studies and Analysis Methods (Austroads, 2020) Guide to traffic management Part 12: Integrated Transport Assessments for Developments (Austroads, 2020) Guide to Traffic Generating Developments Version 2.2 (Roads and Transport Authority, 2002).	Section 6.1.4
Detailed	Visual Amenity	Yes	Specific	Technical Supplement - Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Large-Scale Solar Energy Guideline (DPE, 2022) Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment – 3rd Edition (Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment, 2013)	Section 6.1.5
Standard	Water Quality	No	General	Managing Urban Stormwater: Soils and Construction (Landcom, 2004) Guidelines for controlled activities on waterfront land (Natural Resource Access Regulator, 2018) Floodplain Risk Management Guidelines (Department of Environment and Climate Change, 2016)	Section 6.1.6

Level of Assessment	Matter	CIA	Engagement	Relevant Government Plans, Policies, and Guideline	Scoping Report Reference
				NSW Government's Floodplain Development Manual (Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources, 2005) NSW State groundwater dependent ecosystem policy (Department of Land, Water and Climate, 2002).	
Standard	Land use compatibility	Yes	General	LEP land zoning Land Use Conflict Risk Assessment Guide (Department of Primary Industries, 2011) Cumulative Impact Assessment Guidelines for State Significant Projects (DPE 2021).	Section 4.2 Section 6.1.7
Standard	Land Quality and Agricultural Impact	Yes	General	Acid Sulphate Soils Assessment Guidelines (Department of Planning, 2008) The Land and Soil Capability Scheme (OEH, 2012) Agricultural Land Use Mapping Resources in NSW The Land and Soil Capability Scheme (OEH, 2012). Interim Protocol for Site Verification and Mapping of Biophysical Strategic Agricultural Land (OEH, 2013)	Section 6.1.7
Standard	Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas	No	General	Not applicable.	Section 6.1.8
Standard	Social and Economic	Yes	General	Social Impact Assessment Guidelines for State Significant Projects (Department of Planning Industry and Environment, (DPIE, 2021) Undertaking Engagement Guideline for State Significant Projects (DPIE, 2021)	Section 6.1.9
Standard	Waste Management	No	General	NSW Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2014-2021 (EPA, 2014) Waste Classification Guidelines Part 1: Classifying Waste (EPA, 2014) NSW Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2014-2021 (EPA, 2014)	Section 6.1.10
Standard	Hazard and Risk	No	General	Hazardous Industry Planning Advisory Paper No. 4 – Risk Criteria for Land Use Safety Planning, NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure, (HIPAP 4) Hazardous Industry Planning Advisory Paper No. 6 – Hazard Analysis, NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure, (HIPAP 6). Hazardous and Offensive Development Application Guidelines – Applying SEPP 33 (Department of Planning (DOP), 2011)	Section 6.1.11

Level of Assessment	Matter	CIA	Engagement	Relevant Government Plans, Policies, and Guideline	Scoping Report Reference
				Hazardous Industry Planning Advisory Paper No 2: Fire Safety Study Guidelines (DOP, 2011) International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection Guidelines for limiting exposure to Time-varying Electric, Magnetic and EMF's. NSW Large-scale solar energy guideline for State Significant Development (DPE, 2018). Planning for Bushfire Protection (NSW Rural Fire Service, 2019)	
Standard	Historic Heritage	No	Specific	Assessing Significance for Historical Archaeological Sites and "Relics" (NSW Heritage Branch, DOP, 2009)	Section 6.1.12

Appendix B Project Plans

Scoping Report - Request for Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs)

Finley Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)

Prepared for: BESS Pacific Pty Ltd

SLR Project No.: 620.40673.00001

18 June 2024

COORDINATES POINTS :-

PROPERTY BOUNDARY COORDINATE POINTS		
POSITION	EASTING	NORTHING
01	365490.3747	6055322.7148
02	365755.1645	6055285.2732
03	365738.0000	6055172.0000
04	365476.2595	6055209.1050

NOTES:-

1. ACCESS ROADS SHALL BE 6 MTR WIDE AND ALL WEATHER FORMED GRAVEL CONSTRUCTION TO CFS STANDARDS.
2. ALL ROAD HAVE GRADIENTS LESS THAN 1 IN 10.
3. NON-COMBUSTIBLE (METAL) TANKS OF 25000 LITERS CAPACITY (WATER LEVELS TO BE MAINTAINED) WITH BOTH CFS AND MFS LARGE AND SMALL BORE SUCTION OUTLETS AS PER AS2419.1.

AMDT	AMENDMENT DETAILS	DESIGN	CHK'D	DRAWN	CHK'D	APP'D	DATE
A2	REVISED AS PER COMMENTS	RD	SSD	PD	RD		05/06/2023
A1	FIRST ISSUE FOR REVIEW	RD	SSD	PD	RD		04/06/2023

REFERENCE DRAWINGS:

FNL-IENG-GRS-PS-PLN-001-01 100 MW SUBSTATION - GENERAL ARRANGEMENT LAYOUT
FNL-IENG-GRS-PS-PLN-003 100 MW SUBSTATION - GENERAL ARRANGEMENT ELEVATION

CLIENT: GRS

EPC: E22

DESIGN: I Engineering

DESIGNED	RD
CHECKED	SSD
DRAWN	PD
CHECKED	RD
APPROVED	

I ENGINEERING

100MW FINLEY BESS
GENERAL ARRANGEMENT
SITE PLAN

A1	SCALE @ A1 NTS	EPC CONTRACTOR GRS	IENG DRAWING No. FNL-IENG-GRS-PS-PLN-002	SHEET 01	AMDT A2

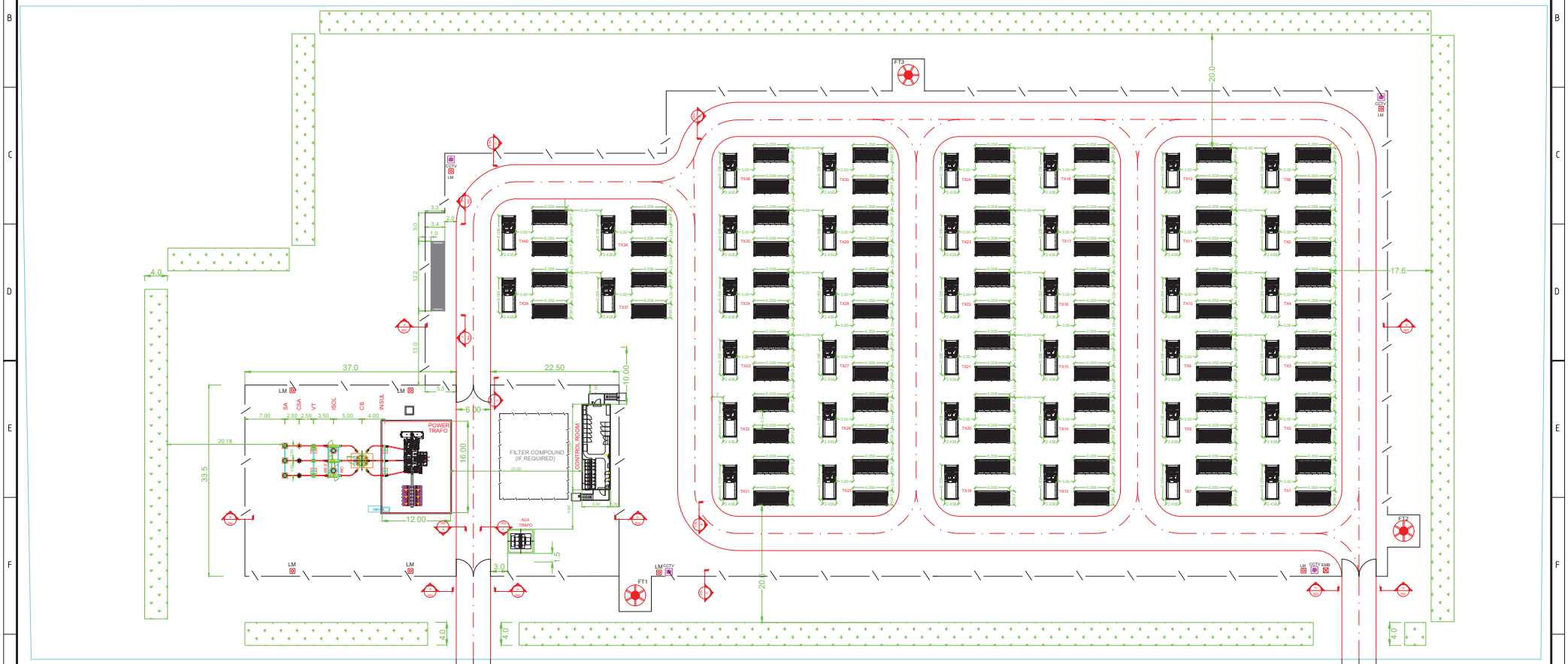
CONFIRM SCALE 100mm ON A1 ORIGINAL

LEGENDS:-

- ACCESS ROAD
- 132kV CABLE ROUTE (RWB)
- LIGHTNING MAST
- CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION
- FIRE TANK
- LANDSCAPING SCREEN
- LEASED BOUNDRY
- EMERGENCY MANIFEST BOX
- FENCE

NOTES:-

1. MINIMUM FRONT SIDE CLEARANCES OF BATTERY RACK IS 1500MM AS PER MANUFACTURERS RECOMMENDATION.
2. MINIMUM REAR CLEARANCES OF BATTERY RACK IS 100MM AS PER MANUFACTURERS RECOMMENDATION. 100MM MARGIN IS TAKEN ABOVE MANUFACTURERS RECOMMENDATION FOR SMOOTH INSTALLATION.
3. 33kV SWITCHGEAR PANEL, BATTERY CONTROL PANEL (BCP) DIMENSIONS TO BE CONFIRM BY OEM.
4. ACCESS ROADS SHALL BE 6 MTR WIDE AND ALL WEATHER FORMED GRAVEL CONSTRUCTION TO CFS STANDARDS.
5. ALL ROAD HAVE GRADIENTS LESS THAN 1 IN 10.
6. NON-COMBUSTIBLE (METAL) TANKS OF 25000 LITERS CAPACITY (WATER LEVELS TO BE MAINTAINED) WITH BOTH CFS AND MFS LARGE AND SMALL BORE SUCTION OUTLETS AS PER AS2419.1.



AMDT	AMENDMENT DETAILS	DESIGN	CHK'D	DRAWN	CHK'D	APP'D	DATE
A2	REVISED AS PER COMMENTS	RD	SSD	PD	RD		05/06/2023
A1	FIRST ISSUE FOR REVIEW	RD	SSD	PD	RD		04/06/2023

REFERENCE DRAWINGS:

FNL-IENG-GRS-PS-SLD-001-01 PRIMARY SINGLE LINE DIAGRAM

CLIENT: GRS

EPC: E22

DESIGN: I Engineering

DESIGNED	RD
CHECKED	SSD
DRAWN	PD
CHECKED	RD
APPROVED	

I ENGINEERING

100MW FINLEY BESS
GENERAL ARRANGEMENT
LAYOUT

A1	SCALE @ A1 3:1	EPC CONTRACTOR GRS	IENG DRAWING No. FNL-IENG-GRS-PS-PLN-001	SHEET 01 / AMDT A2

CONFIRM SCALE — 100mm ON A1 ORIGINAL

Appendix C Phase 1 Social Impact Assessment

Scoping Report - Request for Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs)

Finley Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)

Prepared for: BESS Pacific Pty Ltd

SLR Project No.: 620.40673.00001

18 June 2024

Phase 1 Social Impact Assessment Report for Scoping Report

Finley BESS

BESS Pacific Pty Ltd

Level 4, 307 Queen Street
Brisbane City QLD 4000

Prepared by:

SLR Consulting Australia

Level 11, 176 Wellington Parade, East Melbourne
VIC 3002, Australia

SLR Project No.: 620.040673.00001

18 June 2024

Revision: 2.0

Revision Record

Revision	Date	Prepared By	Checked By	Authorised By
1.0	14 December 2023	Astrid Ruban	Esther Diffey	
2.0	18 June 2024	Astrid Ruban	Esther Diffey	Ursula McInnes

Basis of Report

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

This report is for the exclusive use of the Proponent. No warranties or guarantees are expressed or should be inferred by any third parties. This report may not be relied upon by other parties without written consent from SLR.

SLR disclaims any responsibility to the Proponent and others in respect of any matters outside the agreed scope of the work.

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Appendices

Acronyms and Abbreviations

SA3	Upper Murray exc. Albury Statistical Area Level 3
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
BESS	Battery Energy Storage System
DPHI	Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (formerly Department of Planning and Environment).
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
FIFO	Fly-in-fly-out
GDA	Gransolar Development Australia
IRSAD	The Index of Relative Socio-economic Advantage and Disadvantage
LGA	Local Government Areas
MWh	Megawatt Hours
MW	Megawatts
MIL	Murray Irrigation Limited
PPA	Power Purchase Agreements
SIA	Social Impact Assessment
SEIFA	Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas
SAL	Suburbs and Localities

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Project Overview

BESS Pacific Pty Ltd (BESS Pacific) engaged SLR Consulting Australia to prepare this Social Impact Assessment (SIA) Scoping Report for a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), at Finley in New South Wales. Further details are summarised in Table 1.

Table 1: Project Summary

Project Element	Description
Proposed Development - Construction and Operation Summary	The Project would generally involve the following components: • Transport of construction personnel, associated heavy and light vehicles, and materials to and from the Subject Sites on a day-to-day basis, dependent on the construction schedule; • Site establishment works including clearing of grassed area within the BESS boundary and TL footprint, bulk earthworks, and temporary construction compound; • Road works to formalise internal BESS Site access road to accommodate heavy vehicles and two new driveway crossings, • Construction of hardstand, paved internal roads, control room and switch gear, auxiliary transformer, battery enclosures, and inverter and transformer stations; • Construction of 132 kV TL route (comprising of above and below ground cables) to facilitate connection to the existing FINLEY 132/66 kV TS and associated high voltage steel poles; • Construction of ancillary works including parking areas, water tank, storage structures, stormwater management infrastructure, and security lighting and fencing; • Vegetative screening; and • Removal of temporary construction facilities, and rehabilitation of disturbed areas following completion of construction of the Project.
Site Access	Access to the BESS Site is proposed to be via Broockmanns Road via two new driveway crossings. An internal access road will accommodate heavy vehicles associated with the construction of the BESS.
Grid Connection	A new TL (132 kV) comprising of above and below ground cables will be constructed to connect the BESS to the existing TransGrid FINLEY 132/66kV TS to the south west of the BESS site. The TL will be tunnelled below Broockmanns Road and the Mulwala No 19 canal, followed by an overhead TL with associated transmission towers. The overall TL route will have a proposed connection length of 480 m. The TL towers will be approximately 45m in height and cater for a 45m wide horizontal clearance buffer for safety and accessibility. Four TL towers are proposed to facilitate the route to the FINLEY 132/66 kV TS.
Construction Duration	Construction of the Project is anticipated to take approximately 8 months.
Operational Life Expectancy	The operational life of the Project will be determined by the evolving nature of the technology, however is anticipated that the lifespan will be approximately 15-25 years.
Decommissioning	The Project would be decommissioned, and the infrastructure removed, returning the BESS Site to its original use following the approximate 15-25 year life expectancy.

1.1.1 Project Benefits

Table 2 summarises the anticipated economic, environmental, social and network benefits of the Finley BESS.

Table 2: Summary of Project Benefits

Category	BESS Benefits Summary
Economic	• Cost-effective storage • Local investment • Deter taxpayer grid infrastructure upgrades • Landowner revenue • Job opportunity • Long-term lowered energy costs
Environmental	• Renewable energy integration • Carbon emission reduction • Recyclable materials • Emission trading and offsets • Rehabilitation of contaminated sites opportunity <u>When compared with traditional power solutions:</u> • Reduced air and water pollution • Land use efficiency • Hazardous materials and water consumption reduction
Social	• Enhanced energy access • Locally sourced goods and services through construction • Potential for Power Purchase Agreements (PPA) with local farmers • Local sponsorships • Education and awareness
Network	• Grid stability & resilience • Peak demand management • Energy efficiency • Long-term energy storage/backup • Increased energy reliance • Improved power quality

1.2 About this Document

The Phase 1 SIA Scoping Report (this document) is the first phase of undertaking an SIA report for NSW State Significant Project under the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) Social Impact Assessment Guideline for State Significant Projects (The SIA Guideline) (2023). The SIA Scoping Report focusses the SIA on the likely social issues before considering suitable refinement and other early responses. It also ensures the scale of assessment undertaken is proportionate to the magnitude of the expected impacts in the Phase 2 SIA.

The key objectives of the SIA Scoping Report are to provide a high-level understanding of the project's social environment to:

- Determine the preliminary local and regional social locality.
- Identify key communities and potentially affected stakeholders.
- Identify potential social impacts requiring further investigation through the Phase 2 SIA.
- Identify potential adverse impacts and benefits associated with the project.

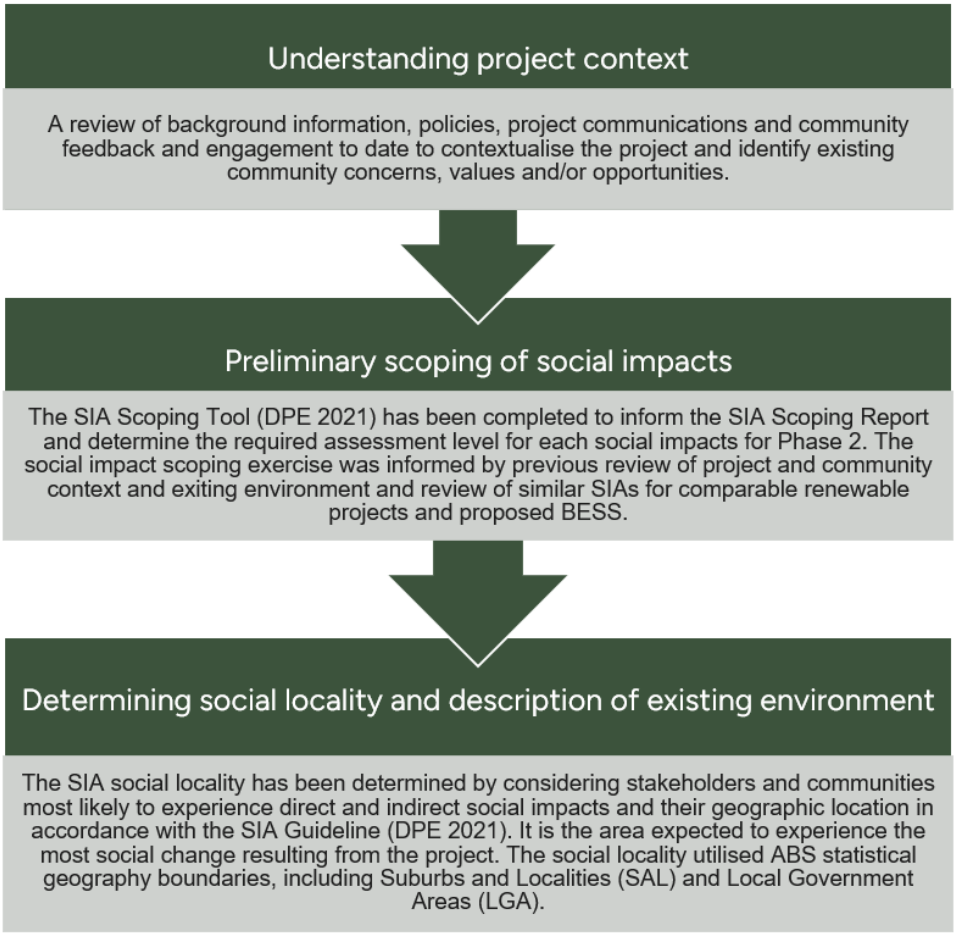
2.0 Methodology

The methodology adopted to this Phase 1 SIA reflects the DPHI 2023 SIA Guideline and applies the following principles:

- Life-cycle focus: understanding likely impacts (including cumulative impacts) at all project stages, from pre-construction to post-closure/operation commencement.
- Material: focussing on those impacts that matter the most for people and/or pose the greatest risk/opportunity to those expected to be affected.
- Proportionate: ensuring that the scope of the SIA corresponds to the scope and scale of the likely social impacts.
- Integrated: using and referencing information and findings of other technical assessments.

Figure 1 below outlines the key steps in the methodology to prepare this Phase 1 SIA Scoping Report.

Figure 1: Summary of Phase 1 SIA Methodology



3.0 Stakeholder Consultation

3.1 Nearby Projects

In 2017 Community and stakeholder consultation was undertaken to inform the Finley Solar Farm EIS, which lies directly southwest of the Subject Sites.

Consultation reporting incorporated into the EIS documentation reported that “Generally, feedback from the community has been very positive” (RPS, 2017). Issues raised through consultation with community in relation to the Finley Solar Project included (ESCO Pacific 2017) visual impact and landscape planting, number of jobs created, removal of agricultural land, potential ecological impacts and construction impacts. It is anticipated that the proposed BESS will raise similar questions.

A Community and Stakeholder Consultation Plan has been drafted as part of the scoping documentation for the Finley BESS and will be regularly updated overtime. No consultation has been undertaken to date with communities for this Project.

3.2 Records of Consultation to Date

Consultation to date has been limited to targeted discussions with Council, State Government and regulatory authorities. Additionally, consultation with a landowner located to the west of the BESS project site informed changes to the detailed design process, particularly the under-boring of a section of the TL network. Consultation was attempted with a second landowner, however, was not successful.

To date, no broad community engagement has been undertaken relating specifically to the Project. Both the Phase 1 SIA and Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan (CSEP) prepared to support project investigations and approvals drew on a review of recent and/or comparable projects in the region to provide insight into community sentiment and awareness of renewables. Consultation reports and community feedback towards the Finley Solar Farm (located directly south of the Substation Site), as captured via the EIS, were reviewed.

Similarly, a review of demographic data, Council policy and strategy was undertaken to identify possible community characteristics, potential vulnerabilities and prominent or emerging issues being faced by communities with the project’s social locality.

3.2.1 Council

Preliminary engagement has commenced with Berrigan Shire Council (Council), with details of the Project provided via email on 8 December 2023. The intent of preliminary engagement was to introduce BESS Pacific and the Project.

On 28 February 2024 a meeting was held with representatives from BESS Pacific, SLR and Berrigan Shire Council, introducing the Project while simultaneously inviting comment from Council. The following matters were requested to be considered in application reporting:

- Biodiversity Impact Assessment that includes impacts on waterways, stormwater management and the like;
- Off-site amenity impacts and mitigation measures, including glare, acoustic impacts, and associated screening measures;
- Site operations and specifications;
- Provision of a Construction Management Plan denoting all works required, including footings, structure heights and the like;

- Traffic Impact Assessment to consider impacts on Council assets;
- Remediation works and timing to determine the land use upon cessation of the Project; and
- Community benefits as a result of the proposed development.

The following additional miscellaneous matters were also recorded:

- Council would exhibit the application for 14 days;
- Development contributions are not applicable to the Project; and
- An internal referral to Council's traffic engineering unit is requested in future.

3.2.2 Transport for NSW

Preliminary engagement has been completed with Transport for NSW (TfNSW) with details of the Project provided via email on 8 December 2023. A response was received on 18th of January 2024.

Comments are summarised to comprise of the following matters for future consideration:

- Traffic volumes inclusive of background and project related traffic;
- Traffic characteristics including; ratio of heavy to light vehicles, peak times, hours of transportation and the like;
- Capacity analysis;
- Heavy vehicle and OSOM routes (NVHR approved) including a logistics route analysis, locations where civil works are required, pinch points and the like;
- Cumulative impacts, including projects nearby with overlapping construction periods;
- Consideration of accommodation and transport needs/facilities;
- Road safety assessment of haulage routes;
- Project schedule including detail on shifts to be worked, targeted construction timeframes;
- Origins, destinations and routes for commuter vehicles, heavy vehicles and OSOM vehicles;
- Any road upgrades required, with strategic drawings;
- Internal road layouts;
- Impact on rail corridors and level crossings;
- SEPP 33 / dangerous goods controls; and
- Draft TMP managing impacts of project related traffic.

3.2.3 TransGrid

The BESS will connect to the existing TransGrid substation via both above and below ground transmission lines. It is not yet confirmed whether the Proponent or TransGrid will complete the works associated with the grid connection for the Project. On-going consultation between the Proponent and TransGrid has been occurring since December 2022. The following engagement has been undertaken to date:

- December 2022 - Initial preliminary correspondence with TransGrid.

- January 2023 - TransGrid Connection Enquiry Response.
- February 2023 - TransGrid recap meeting.
- April 2024 - Email to TransGrid proposing alternative connection route (including underground component).

3.2.4 Murray Irrigation Limited

Engagement commenced on 11 April 2024 with MIL to introduce the Project, specifically the intention to trench under the Mulwala No. 19 canal to facilitate the proposed TL route. MIL advised that their primary interest for proposed under-boring works would be the Project adhering to the requirements of the MIL Works Policy.

4.0 Social Locality

The project site is located approximately 6.5 kilometres west of the Finley township.

The social locality is comprised of two areas: Finley Suburb and Locality (SAL) and Berrigan Shire Local Government Area (LGA). These social localities will be further refined through consultation and detailed investigation as part of the Phase 2 SIA.

Figure 2 is inserted on the following page.

4.1 Local

The SIA local social locality is comprised of the Finley Suburb and Locality (SAL) as defined by the ABS. This SAL has been selected for consideration of potential impacts to landholders, residents, and businesses within or surrounding the Project area. This local social locality includes the township of Finley, the project site, surrounding residential and rural areas and the intersection of the Newell and Riverina Highways. It is the area which may experience primary or secondary socio-economic impacts arising from the Project.

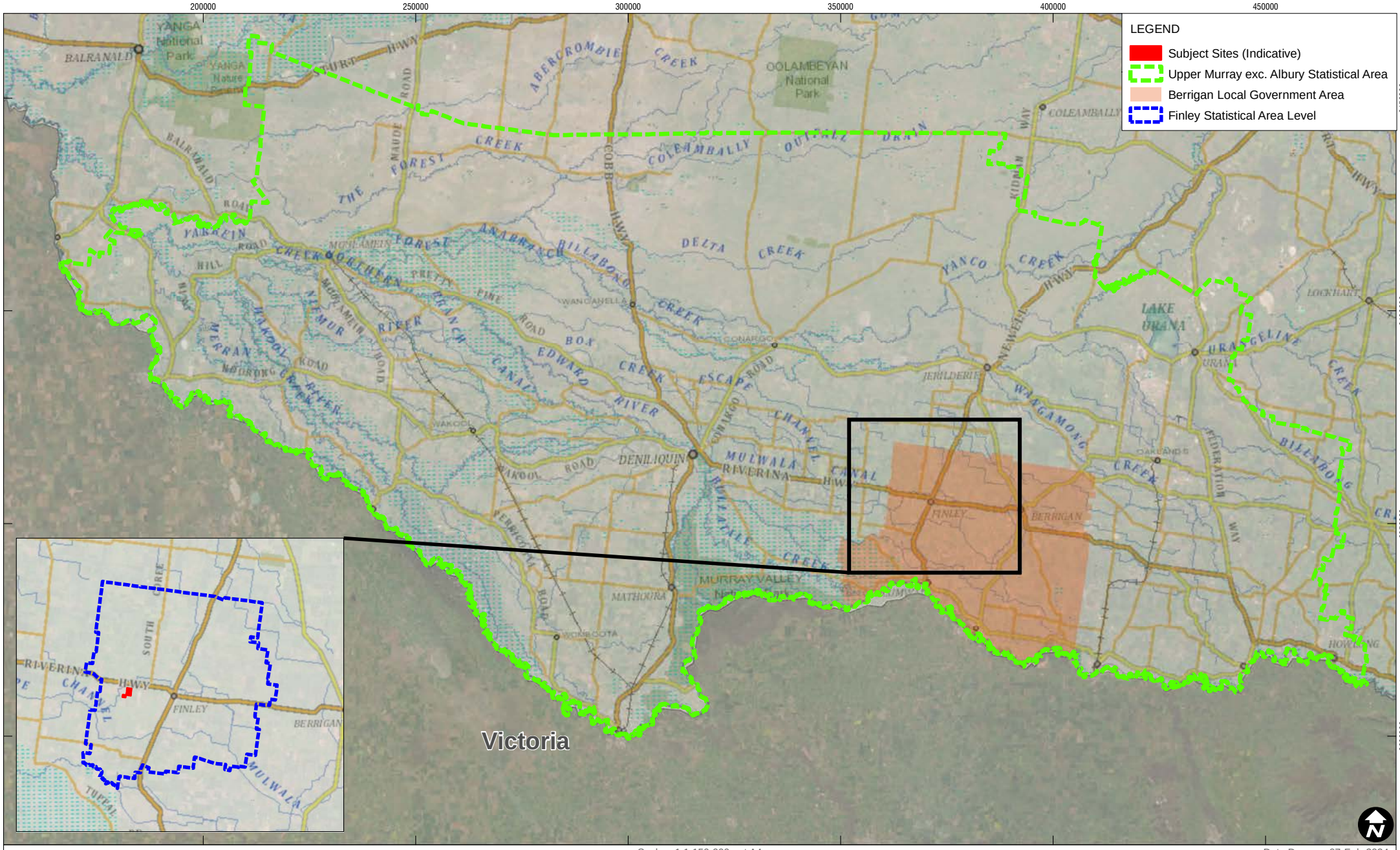
While the Finley township is consolidated, the surrounding residential population is small and dispersed which can limit the availability or accuracy of some data sources.

4.2 LGA

The Berrigan LGA area encompasses the Finley township and the townships of Berrigan, Tocumwal and Barooga. This area has been identified as the catchment mostly likely to experience regional secondary effects arising from the Project.

4.3 Regional

The regional locality is the Upper Murray exc. Albury SA3 as defined by the ABS. This area has been identified as a catchment that is likely to experience regional secondary effects arising from the Project. The SA3 encompasses the Finley township and covers most of Berrigan LGA, as well as Federation Council, Edward River Council, Murray River, Murrumbidgee Council and Urana Shire.



Scale: 1:1,150,000 at A4
Coordinate System: GDA2020 MGA Zone 55

Date Drawn: 07-Feb-2024
Project Number: 620.040673.00000

Map shows concept plans only and will be further refined following a site survey by a registered surveyor.

Data Source: Basedata supplied by NSWSS, September 2023
Basedata overlay © Department of Customer Service 2020
Aerial imagery supplied by ESRI and other sources
Australian Bureau of Statistics

SOCIAL LOCALITY

BESS FINLEY
Riverina Highway, Finley NSW 2713 (Lot 3 DP 740920)

FIGURE 2

\\au.slr.local\Corporate\Projects-SLR\620-BNE\620-BNE\620.040673.00001 Finley 2024 - Planning\06 SLR Data\01 CADGIS\GIS\SLR620040673_SIA_Finley_G1_SocialLocality_002.mxd

5.0 Existing Environment

This section outlines a selection of key demographic indicators of the local and regional social localities as defined in Section 4.0.

Table 3 provides an overview of demographic data for Finley SAL and Berrigan Shire LGA against NSW for comparison. Further analysis of this data can be found in Section 5.1 and Section 5.2.

Table 3: Demographic Summary of Social Localities

	Finley SAL		Berrigan Shire LGA		Upper Murray Exc. Albury SA3		NSW	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Total population	2,455		8,665		43,453		8,072,163	
Median resident age	51		52		50		39	
Total families	606		2,278		11,571		2,135,964	
Total private dwellings	1,186		4,236		21,543		3,357,785	
Unoccupied private dwellings	101	9.6	524	13.5	2,912	14.6	299,524	9.4
Median weekly household income	$1,066.00		$1,128.00		$1,208		1,829.00	
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Population (%)	120	4.9	263	3.0	1,490	3.4	278,043	3.4
Unemployed persons	37	3.5	111	3.1	628	3.3	189,852	4.9
Car to work (driver or passenger)	680	66.6	2,402	69.6	12,997	69.7	1,704,756	46.3
Worked from home	116	11.4	389	11.3	2,135	11.5	1,141,467	31.0

5.1 Finley SAL

Finley SAL encompasses the Finley township and immediate surrounds. The area is comprised of a central commercial strip, residential subdivisions and agricultural land. The Project site is located in the west of the area, immediately adjacent to the established Finley Solar Farm and substation.

The Finley Landscape Concept Report (Liesel Man Landscape Architects, 2015) notes that Finley is a productive agricultural area “known for its high-quality rice, as well as winter crops and pastures for livestock production and dairy”.

Located on the lands of the Wiradjuri People, the first Europeans arrived in Finley in the 1840s where the town evolved from a cattle station at the junction of two stock routes.

Finley SAL is now home to 2,455 people including a relatively high proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residents (4.9%).

The Finley township and surrounds includes the Finley Golf Club, TAFE NSW Riverina Institute (Finley Campus), Finley Hospital, and three schools. The town also boasts a number of arts, cultural and recreational attractions including historical sites, museums, public art displays and Finley Lake. Visitor accommodation is serviced by two motels and a caravan park near Finley Lake in the north of the township.

The Finley Solar Farm and substation have been operating to the west of the township since 2019.

Consistent with the broader region, Finley has an aging population with a median resident age of 51. Finley residents also have a lower median weekly household income ($1,066) despite low unemployment (3.5%) and a higher workforce participation rate (50.4%) than the broader Berrigan LGA (48.7%).

Dairy Cattle Farming is the largest sector of employment for Finley residents (7.8%), followed by Aged Care Residential Services (6.3%) and Secondary Education (3.9%).

5.2 Berrigan Shire LGA

The project is located within Berrigan Sire LGA which lies on the Murray River in the Southern Riverina Region of New South Wales. It is a predominantly rural Shire with a population of 8,665 people. Residential settlements are concentrated around the Shire's townships of Barooga, Berrigan, Finley and Tocumwal with surrounding rural, agricultural areas supporting sheep and cattle grazing, and crop growing.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residents represent 3.0% of the population which is slightly below the NSW average (3.4%). The region is acknowledged as the traditional land of the Wiradjuri People.

The area is serviced by the Newell Highway and the Riverina Highway. Small airports are located in Finley and Tocumwal.

At 52 years, the LGA has a significantly higher median age than NSW (39 years). Aging populations are typical of rural areas across the country. This trend, as well as the need to re-prioritise expenditure to meet changing community needs, is recognised as a challenge in the Berrigan Shire 2032 Our Community Strategic Plan. It is also reflected in employment across the Shire where the Aged Care Residential Services sector is the largest employer (4.8%), followed by Supermarket and Grocery Retail (3.4%) and Cheese and Other Dairy Farming (3.3%).

The median weekly household income in Berrigan is $1,128 which is lower than the state average. This would be a contributing factor to the relative socio-economic disadvantage across the area as discussed in Section 5.3.

The labour force participation rate in Berrigan LGA at the time of the 2021 Census was 48.7% which is lower than the Regional NSW average of 56.4% and had declined since the previous Census period (49.2% in 2016). This could be another indicator of a population reaching retirement age. Despite this, unemployment in Berrigan LGA (3.1%) remains lower than the state average (4.9%).

The Berrigan Shire Local Strategic Planning Statement (2020) notes recent and significant changes to the economy of established townships across the LGA, as a result of government policy and shifting market forces:

> *"In recent years agriculture industry restructure and the implementation of the Murray Darling Basin Plan contributed to the Berrigan Shire LGA developmentally mature towns of Berrigan and Finley experiencing sluggish growth and the development of two-part or two-speed economy. In an economy characterised by continued and steady growth, development in our Murray River towns is offsetting structural adjustment in the rural-sector-dependent towns of Finley and Berrigan."*

In response, the Berrigan Shire Local Strategic Planning Statement and the Riverina Murray Regional Plan 2041 recognise the opportunity for new industry, new economy and growing employment through the renewable energy sector. This is being led by the Finley Solar Farm.

However, Council recognises challenges to the local growth of renewable energy sector in the limited capacity of the existing energy infrastructure to transport energy off-site, as well

as the need to balance the protection of significant irrigated agricultural land (Berrigan Shire Local Strategic Planning Statement, 2020).

5.3 Upper Murray exc. Albury SA3

The Project is located within the Upper Murray exc. Albury SA3 which broadly covers the Berrigan Shire, as well as the following additional Councils:

- Edward River Council
- Murray River Council
- Federation Council
- Greater Hume Council

The area has a population of approximately 43,500 people and predominately comprises of rural and agricultural land. The larger townships include Finley, Tocumwal, Berrigan, Corowa, Deniliquin, Moama and Jerilderie. Smaller villages include Oaklands, Urana, Moulamein, Howlong and Mathoura. There is no distinct regional centre located in this SA3, with Moama and Corowa being the largest townships, largely attributed to their proximity to the Murray River.

The Murray Valley National Park and Koondrook State Forest are located in the south of the area. The area is serviced by the Riverina Highway, Newell Highway, Cobb Highway and Kidman Way. Regional airstrips exist in Finley, Deniliquin and Tocumwal, but none operate commercial flights.

Agriculture including Beef Cattle, Grain-Sheep/Beef Cattle Farming is a major employer within the SA3. Alongside Berrigan Shire itself, it is displayed that a high proportion of employed residents who work from home (11.3% across Berrigan Shire and 11.5% across Upper Murray exc. Albury SA3) compared to the state average. This would suggest a significant number of residents are farmers. Hospitals, Local Government Administration and Aged Care industries are the top three employers reflecting the community service role of this SA3 and its surrounds.

The rate of unemployment across the area is below the state average.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residents represent 3.4% of the area's population which generally aligns with the NSW average. The region is acknowledged as the traditional land of the Wiradjuri People.

5.4 Socio-Economic Advantage and Disadvantage

This section investigates the relative rate of socio-economic advantage and disadvantage of the Finley region and surrounds using the Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) index. The following describes these tools and how the project localities rank.

Index of Relative Socio-economic Advantage and Disadvantage

The Index of Relative Socio-economic Advantage and Disadvantage (IRSAD) summarises information about the economic and social conditions of people and households within an area. This index includes both relative advantage and disadvantage measures.

A low score indicates relatively greater disadvantage and a lack of advantage in general. For example, an area could have a low score if there are: many households with low incomes, or many people in unskilled occupations, and a few households with high incomes, or few people in skilled occupations.

A high score indicates a relative lack of disadvantage and greater advantage in general. For example, an area may have a high score if there are: many households with high incomes, or many people in skilled occupations, and few households with low incomes, or few people in unskilled occupations.

Quintiles

Quintiles divide a distribution into five equal groups. The lowest scoring 20 per cent of areas are given a quintile number of one, the second-lowest 20 per cent are given a quintile number of two and so on, up to the highest 20 per cent of areas which are given a quintile number of 5.

The quintiles are area-based. This means that each quintile contains an equal number of areas. They may not contain an equal number of people or dwellings.

Figure 3: Relative Socio-economic Advantage and Disadvantage (IRSAD) 2021

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics Census of Population and Housing: Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) 2021 Interactive map (May 2023)

Figure 3 shows the IRSAD quintiles for Finley SAL and surrounding areas in 2021. It shows that Finley is on the first quintile, indicting the highest level of disadvantage.

At a regional level, the socio-economic position of Finley reflects that of the rural areas in the west of NSW, with the more dispersed, agricultural areas rank in the second and first quintiles. This is also consistent with an aging population and lower median household incomes.

6.0 Summary of Social Impacts

This section summarises the SIA Scoping Worksheet (attached as Attachment A).

Table 4 provides a summary of the impacts investigated per the SIA Guideline (DPHI 2021) and the level of assessment required. These scoped impacts will be investigated in detail through Phase 2 SIA in accordance with the SIA Guidelines (DPHI 2021). This investigation will draw in the findings of technical investigations and consultation to refine the magnitude and significance of these potential impacts.

Table 4: Summary of SIA Scooping Worksheet

Primary Impact category	Potential impacts on community	Nature	Phase	Level of assessment
Health and wellbeing	Amenity impacts during construction activities including, but not limited to, noise, vibration, dust and odour	Negative	Construction	Detailed
Culture	Loss of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal cultural heritage values due to construction activities and site preparation works (pending heritage assessment	Negative	Construction	Detailed
Surroundings	Loss of environmental/ biodiversity values due to construction and site preparation works (pending biodiversity assessment)	Negative	Construction	Detailed
Surroundings	Perceived changes to local community character resulting from reduction of agricultural land and associated activities in the local area	Negative	Construction	Minor
Way of life	Delays and disruption to local traffic networks resulting from construction activity including, increased truck movements and heavy and oversized vehicles	Negative	Construction	Detailed
Livelihoods	Saturation of temporary accommodation providers in the local area during constriction resulting in limited accommodation options for seasonal workers, students, and visitors	Negative	Construction	Standard
Livelihoods	Local employment, procurement and training opportunities during construction	Positive	Construction	Standard
Livelihoods	Economic opportunities for local businesses during construction, including temporary accommodation providers, hospitality and food retail, and general retail outlets as a result of increased workforce	Positive	Construction	Standard
Surroundings	Permanent changes to community character and surrounding landscape	Negative	Construction	Detailed
Surroundings	Permanent impacts on visual amenity including visual bulk and potential light pollution	Negative	Operation	Detailed
Health and wellbeing	Impacts on local amenity due to operational noise impacts resulting from the project	Negative	Operation	Detailed
Way of life	Improved infrastructure to facilitate access to renewable energy sources in NSW and enhance reliability of energy supply	Positive	Operation	Minor

6.1 Level of Assessment

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

The next phase of investigation will comprise the SIA report components the EIS which may be appended to the EIS as a standalone study.

In accordance with the SIA Guidelines (DPHI 2021), the Phase 2 SIA will:

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

6.2 Phase 2 SIA Approach

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

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

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

Secondary research methods will include:

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

6.3 SIA Assessor

The SIA will be undertaken by Astrid Ruban. Astrid holds a Bachelor of Urban Planning and Development, University of Melbourne (2006) and is an experienced engagement and social sustainability consultant, with a background in urban planning. With nearly 20 years'

experience working with private sector clients and all levels of government, she has led the design and delivery of social assessments and engagement programs for infrastructure projects across multiple industry sectors.

7.0 References

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Appendix A Scoping Worksheet

Phase 1 Social Impact Assessment Report for Scoping Report

Finley BESS

BESS Pacific Pty Ltd

SLR Project No.: 620.040673.00001

18 June 2024

Which project activity / activities could produce social impacts?	what social impact categories could be affected by the project activities	What impacts are likely, and what concerns/aspirations have people expressed about the impact? Summarise how each relevant stakeholder group might experience the impact. NB. Where there are multiple stakeholder groups affected differently by an impact, or more than one impact from the activity, please add an additional row.	Is the impact expected to be positive or negative	Has this impact previously been investigated (on this or other project/s)?	If "yes - this project," briefly describe the previous investigation. If "yes - other project," identify the other project and investigation	Will this impact combine with others from this project (think about when and where), and/or with impacts from other projects (cumulative)?	If yes, identify which other impacts and/or projects	Will the project activity (without mitigation or enhancement) cause a material social impact in terms of its: You can also consider the various magnitudes of these characteristics					Level of assessment for each social impact	What methods and data sources will be used to investigate this impact?		
								Extent i.e. number of people potentially affected?	Duration of expected impacts? (i.e. construction vs operational phase)	Intensity of expected impacts i.e. scale or degree of change?	Sensitivity or vulnerability of people potentially affected?	Level of concern/interest of people potentially affected?		Secondary data	Primary Data - Consultation	Primary Data - Research
Construction	health and wellbeing	Amenity impacts during construction activities including, but not limited to, noise, vibration, dust and odour	Negative	Yes - this project	Finley BESS Acoustic Scoping Report	Yes	Potential to combine with impacts from cumulative renewables developments accruing across the broader region	No	No	Yes	Unknown	Unknown	Detailed assessment of the impact	Required	Broad consultation	Targeted research
Construction	culture	Loss of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal cultural heritage values due to construction activities and site preparation works (pending heritage assessment	Negative	Yes - this project	Finley BESS preliminary Aboriginal Heritage Assessment	Yes	Potential to combine with impacts from cumulative renewables developments accruing across the broader region	Yes	Yes	Unknown	Yes	Yes	Detailed assessment of the impact	Required	Broad consultation	Targeted research
Construction	surroundings	Loss if environmental/biodiversity values due to construction and site preparation works (pending biodiversity assessment)	Negative	Yes - this project	Finley BESS preliminary Biodiverse Assessment	Yes	Potential to combine with impacts from cumulative renewables developments accruing across the broader region	Yes	Yes	No	Unknown	Unknown	Detailed assessment of the impact	Required	Broad consultation	Targeted research
Construction	surroundings	Perceived changes to local community character resulting from reduction of agricultural land and associated activities in the local area	Negative	Yes - other project	Finley Solar Farm EIS	Yes	Potential to combine with impacts from cumulative renewables developments accruing across the broader region	No	Yes	No	No	No	Minor assessment of the impact	Required	Limited - if required (e.g. local council)	Not required
Construction	way of life	Delays and disruption to local traffic networks resulting from construction activity including, increased truck movements and heavy and oversized vehicles	Negative	Yes - this project	Finley BESS Preliminary Traffic Impact Assessment	Yes	Potential to combine with impacts from cumulative renewables developments accruing	Yes	No	Yes	Unknown	Yes	Detailed assessment of the impact	Required	Broad consultation	Targeted research

Which project activity / activities could produce social impacts?	what social impact categories could be affected by the project activities	What impacts are likely, and what concerns/aspirations have people expressed about the impact? Summarise how each relevant stakeholder group might experience the impact. NB. Where there are multiple stakeholder groups affected differently by an impact, or more than one impact from the activity, please add an additional row.	Is the impact expected to be positive or negative	Has this impact previously been investigated (on this or other project/s)?	If "yes - this project," briefly describe the previous investigation. If "yes - other project," identify the other project and investigation	Will this impact combine with others from this project (think about when and where), and/or with impacts from other projects (cumulative)?	If yes, identify which other impacts and/or projects	Will the project activity (without mitigation or enhancement) cause a material social impact in terms of its: You can also consider the various magnitudes of these characteristics					Level of assessment for each social impact	What methods and data sources will be used to investigate this impact?		
								Extent i.e. number of people potentially affected?	Duration of expected impacts? (i.e. construction vs operational phase)	Intensity of expected impacts i.e. scale or degree of change?	Sensitivity or vulnerability of people potentially affected?	Level of concern/interest of people potentially affected?		Secondary data	Primary Data - Consultation	Primary Data - Research
							across the broader region									
Construction	livelihoods	Saturation of temporary accommodation providers in the local area during constriction resulting in limited accommodation options for seasonal workers, students, and visitors	Negative	Yes - other project	Finley Solar Farm EIS	Yes	Potential to combine with impacts from cumulative renewables developments accruing across the broader region	Yes	No	Unknown	No	No	Standard assessment of the impact	Required	Targeted consultation	Potentially targeted research
Construction	livelihoods	Local employment, procurement and training opportunities during construction	Positive	Yes - other project	Finley Solar Farm EIS	Yes	Potential to combine with impacts from cumulative renewables developments accruing across the broader region	No	No	Unknown	No	Yes	Standard assessment of the impact	Required	Targeted consultation	Potentially targeted research
Construction	livelihoods	Economic opportunities for local businesses during construction, including temporary accommodation providers, hospitality and food retail, and general retail outlets as a result of increased workforce	Positive	Yes - other project	Finley Solar Farm EIS	Yes	Potential to combine with impacts from cumulative renewables developments accruing across the broader region	No	No	Unknown	No	Yes	Standard assessment of the impact	Required	Targeted consultation	Potentially targeted research
Operation	surroundings	Permanent changes to community character and surrounding landscape	Negative	Yes - other project	Finley Solar Farm EIS	Yes	Potential to combine with impacts from cumulative renewables developments accruing across the broader region	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Detailed assessment of the impact	Required	Broad consultation	Targeted research
Operation	surroundings	permanent impacts on visual amenity including visual bulk and potential light pollution	Negative	Yes - this project	Finley BESS Visual Impact Scoping Report	Yes	Potential to combine with impacts from cumulative	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Detailed assessment of the impact	Required	Broad consultation	Targeted research

Which project activity / activities could produce social impacts?	what social impact categories could be affected by the project activities	What impacts are likely, and what concerns/aspirations have people expressed about the impact? Summarise how each relevant stakeholder group might experience the impact. NB. Where there are multiple stakeholder groups affected differently by an impact, or more than one impact from the activity, please add an additional row.	Is the impact expected to be positive or negative	Has this impact previously been investigated (on this or other project/s)?	If "yes - this project," briefly describe the previous investigation. If "yes - other project," identify the other project and investigation	Will this impact combine with others from this project (think about when and where), and/or with impacts from other projects (cumulative)?	If yes, identify which other impacts and/or projects	Will the project activity (without mitigation or enhancement) cause a material social impact in terms of its: You can also consider the various magnitudes of these characteristics					Level of assessment for each social impact	What methods and data sources will be used to investigate this impact?		
								Extent i.e. number of people potentially affected?	Duration of expected impacts? (i.e. construction vs operational phase)	Intensity of expected impacts i.e. scale or degree of change?	Sensitivity or vulnerability of people potentially affected?	Level of concern/interest of people potentially affected?		Secondary data	Primary Data - Consultation	Primary Data - Research
							renewables developments accruing across the broader region									
Operation	health and wellbeing	Impacts in local amenity due to operational noise impacts resulting from the project	Negative	Yes - this project	Finley BESS Acoustic Scoping Report	Yes	Potential to combine with impacts from cumulative renewables developments accruing across the broader region	No	Yes	Unknown	No	Yes	Detailed assessment of the impact	Required	Broad consultation	Targeted research
Operation	way of life	Improved infrastructure to facilitate access to renewable energy sources in NSW and enhance reliability of energy supply	Positive	Yes - other project	Finley Solar Farm EIS	Yes	Potential to combine with impacts from cumulative renewables developments accruing across the broader region	No	No	No	No	Yes	Minor assessment of the impact	Required	Limited - if required (e.g. local council)	Not required
Construction	community	Changes to community cohesion and character associated with population influx into a relatively small and stable population centre.	Negative	Yes - this project	Finley Solar Farm EIS	Yes	Potential to combine with impacts from cumulative renewables developments accruing across the broader region	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Unknown	Detailed assessment of the impact	Required	Broad consultation	Targeted research

Appendix B Detailed Demographic Data

Phase 1 Social Impact Assessment Report for Scoping Report

Finley BESS

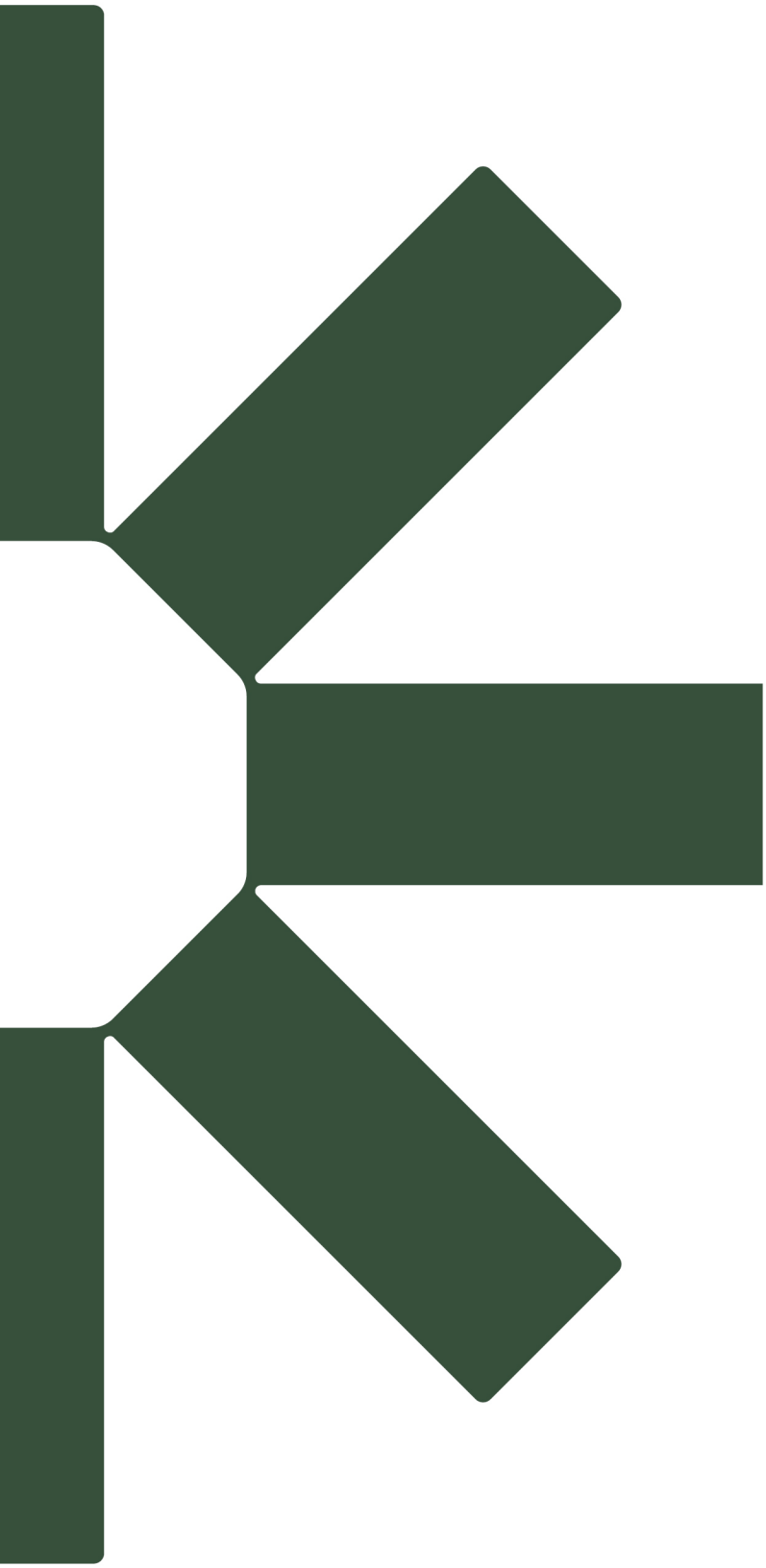
BESS Pacific Pty Ltd

SLR Project No.: 620.040673.00001

18 June 2024

Name	Finley		Berrigan		Upper Murray		NSW	
ASGS Classification	SAL		LGA		SA3_		STE	
Code	SAL11523		LGA10650		10903		1	
Stats	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Total population	2455		8665		43453		8072163	
Sex								
Male	1206	49.12%	4261	49.17%	21550	49.59%	3984166	49.36%
Female	1250	50.92%	4402	50.80%	21897	50.39%	4087995	50.64%
Age Structure (service age groups)								
Babies and pre-schoolers (0 to 4)	101	4.11%	371	4.28%	2113	4.86%	468046	5.80%
Primary schoolers (5 to 11)	192	7.82%	656	7.57%	3409	7.85%	702695	8.71%
Secondary schoolers (12 to 17)	191	7.78%	634	7.32%	3050	7.02%	578476	7.17%
Tertiary education/independence (18 to 24)	129	5.25%	417	4.81%	2461	5.66%	674871	8.36%
Young workforce (25 to 34)	202	8.23%	728	8.40%	3965	9.12%	1142023	14.15%
Parents and homebuilders (35 to 49)	376	15.32%	1284	14.82%	6522	15.01%	1620090	20.07%
Older workers & pre-retirees (50 to 59)	302	12.30%	1002	11.56%	5620	12.93%	990187	12.27%
Empty nesters and retirees (60 to 69)	414	16.86%	1539	17.76%	7129	16.41%	888120	11.00%
Seniors (70 to 84)	431	17.56%	1709	19.72%	7658	17.62%	823757	10.20%
Frail aged (85 and over)	105	4.28%	335	3.87%	1513	3.48%	183900	2.28%
Median age	51		52		50		39	
Housing								
Total dwellings	949		3373		17052		2900468	
Housing Tenure and landlord								
Owned outright	427	44.99%	1569	46.52%	7726	45.31%	914537	31.53%
Owned with a mortgage	278	29.29%	945	28.02%	4857	28.48%	942804	32.51%
Rented	207	21.81%	658	19.51%	3492	20.48%	944585	32.57%
Other tenure type	29	3.06%	95	2.82%	569	3.34%	55931	1.93%
Tenure type not stated	16	1.69%	107	3.17%	408	2.39%	42613	1.47%
Social housing (Landlord type = State or Territory housing authority and Community housing provider)	15	1.58%	42	1.25%	271	1.59%	120787	4.16%
Dwelling structure								
Separate house	865	91.15%	3041	90.16%	15229	89.31%	1902734	65.60%
Semi-detached, row or terrace house, townhouse, etc	69	7.27%	239	7.09%	1462	8.57%	340582	11.74%
Flat or apartment	8	0.84%	34	1.01%	114	0.67%	630030	21.72%
Other dwelling	4	0.42%	24	0.71%	149	0.87%	19374	0.67%
Occupied private dwellings	949	90.12%	3373	86.62%	17052	85.41%	2900468	90.64%
Unoccupied private dwellings	101	9.59%	524	13.46%	2912	14.59%	299524	9.36%
Family/household composition:								

Name	Finley		Berrigan		Upper Murray		NSW	
Total number of families	606		2278		11571		2135964	
Couples with children	194	32.01%	722	31.69%	3940	34.05%	954588	44.69%
Couples without children	310	51.16%	1232	54.08%	6052	52.30%	809586	37.90%
One parent family	94	15.51%	292	12.82%	1452	12.55%	337729	15.81%
Lone person households	325	34.25%	1065	31.57%	5267	30.89%	723716	24.95%
Group households	22	2.32%	70	2.08%	379	2.22%	111646	3.85%
Average household size	2.20		2.20		2.30		2.60	
Employment								
Unemployed	37	3.52%	111	3.11%	628	3.26%	189852	4.90%
Median weekly household income	1066		1128		1208		1829	
Median weekly individual income	636		618		655		813	
Top 3 industries of employment								
1	Agriculture Forestry and Fishing 236	23.14%	Agriculture Forestry and Fishing 594	17.20%	Agriculture Forestry and Fishing 3060	16.43%	Health Care and Socia _Assistance 529176	14.36%
2	Health Care and Socia _Assistance 156	15.29%	Health Care and Socia _Assistance 443	12.83%	Health Care and Social Assistance 2418	12.99%	Retail Trade 331486	9.00%
3	Education and Training 104	10.20%	Manufacturing 298	8.63%	Manufacturing 1628	8.74%	Professional Scientific and Technical Services 326595	8.86%
Top 3 occupations								
1	Managers 199	19.51%	Managers 655	18.96%	Managers 3618	19.43%	Professionals 952131	25.84%
2	Community & personal service workers 147	14.41%	Labourers 516	14.94%	Labourers 2590	13.91%	Managers 536820	14.57%
3	Labourers 141	13.82%	Technicians & trades workers 468	13.55%	Technicians & trades workers 2553	13.71%	Clerical & administrative workers 480612	13.05%



Making Sustainability Happen

Appendix D Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan

Scoping Report - Request for Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs)

Finley Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)

Prepared for: BESS Pacific Pty Ltd

SLR Project No.: 620.40673.00001

18 June 2024

Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan

Finley Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)

BESS Pacific Pty Ltd

307 Queen Street
Brisbane City, Queensland 4000

Prepared by:

SLR Consulting Australia

Level 11, 176 Wellington Parade, East Melbourne
VIC 3002, Australia

SLR Project No.: 620.040673.00001

16 May 2024

Revision: 1.0

Revision Record

Revision	Date	Prepared By	Checked By	Authorised By
0.1	13 December 2023	Stephanie Skordas	Astrid Ruban	
1.0	16 May 2024	Stephanie Skordas	Astrid Ruban	Ursula McInnes

Basis of Report

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

This report is for the exclusive use of the Client. No warranties or guarantees are expressed or should be inferred by any third parties. This report may not be relied upon by other parties without written consent from SLR.

SLR disclaims any responsibility to the Client and others in respect of any matters outside the agreed scope of the work.

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Appendices

Acronyms and Abbreviations

BESS	Battery energy storage system
CSEP	Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan
BESS Pacific	BESS Pacific Pty Ltd
IAP2	International Association for Public Participation
kV	Kilovolt
The Project	The Finley BESS Project
TL	Transmission Line
TS	Transmission Substation

1.0 Project Background and Overview

BESS Pacific Pty Ltd (BESS Pacific) engaged SLR Consulting Australia to prepare this Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan (CSEP) to support the establishment of a a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facility with a connection to the existing electricity grid via a transmission line (TL) route comprising of above and below ground cables, connecting to TransGrid's FINLEY 132/66 kilovolt (kV) Transmission Substation (TS) (herein referred to as the 'Project').

The BESS is proposed on a portion of Lot 3 DP740920 at Riverina Highway, Finley New South Wales (NSW) 2713 (BESS Site). A TL is proposed to the FINLEY 132/66 kV TS located on Lot B DP961693, 168 Canalla Road, Finley NSW 2713 (the 'Substation Site'), approximately 250 m to the south west of the BESS Site. The TL will be tunnelled below Broockmanns Road and the Mulwala No 19 canal, followed by an overhead TL with associated transmission towers. The overall TL route will have a proposed connection length of 480 m.

Collectively, these properties are hereafter referred to as the 'Subject Sites.'

The BESS comprises of a total of 80 20-foot modular containers comprising of Lithium-Ion batteries with the appropriate cooling and protection system. A total of 40 inverters (one per every two batteries) will be located externally to the modular containers. Batteries and inverters are fixed to hardstand footings where they are accessible by an internal road.

Other physical features of the Project include a control room/switchgear and auxiliary transmission, car parking, landscaping, security fencing/lighting, and a single storage structure.

The Project is self-operating and only requires minor periodic visitation by an authorised person. The facility is otherwise restricted to the public.

Further details are summarised in Table 1.

Table 1: Project Summary

Project Element	Description
Proposed Development - Construction and Operation Summary	The Project would generally involve the following components: • Transport of construction personnel, associated heavy and light vehicles, and materials to and from the Subject Sites on a day-to-day basis, dependent on the construction schedule; • Site establishment works including clearing of grassed area within the BESS boundary and TL footprint, bulk earthworks, and temporary construction compound; • Road works to formalise internal BESS Site access road to accommodate heavy vehicles and two new driveway crossings, • Construction of hardstand, paved internal roads, control room and switch gear, auxiliary transformer, battery enclosures, and inverter and transformer stations; • Construction of 132 kV TL route (comprising of above and below ground cables) to facilitate connection to the existing FINLEY 132/66 kV TS and associated high voltage steel poles; • Construction of ancillary works including parking areas, water tank, storage structures, stormwater management infrastructure, and security lighting and fencing; • Vegetative screening; and • Removal of temporary construction facilities, and rehabilitation of disturbed areas following completion of construction of the Project.
Site Access	Access to the BESS Site is proposed to be via Broockmanns Road via two new driveway crossings.

Project Element	Description
	An internal access road will accommodate heavy vehicles associated with the construction of the BESS.
Grid Connection	A new TL (132 kV) comprising of above and below ground cables will be constructed to connect the BESS to the existing TransGrid FINLEY 132/66kV TS to the south west of the BESS site. The TL will be tunnelled below Broockmanns Road and the Mulwala No 19 canal, followed by an overhead TL with associated transmission towers. The overall TL route will have a proposed connection length of 480 m. The TL towers will be approximately 45 m in height and cater for a 45 m wide horizontal clearance buffer for safety and accessibility. Four TL towers are proposed to facilitate the route to the FINLEY 132/66 kV TS.
Construction Duration	Construction of the Project is anticipated to take approximately 8 months.
Operational Life Expectancy	The operational life of the Project will be determined by the evolving nature of the technology, however is anticipated that the lifespan will be approximately 15-25 years.
Decommissioning	The Project would be decommissioned, and the infrastructure removed, returning the BESS Site to its original use following the approximate 20-25 year life expectancy.

1.1 Purpose of this Document

This Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan (CSEP) seeks to outline the communication and engagement needs and activities for genuine and transparent engagement required for the successful delivery of this project.

This plan is a 'live' document and will be updated by SLR throughout the lifetime of the Project. It identifies stakeholders and outlines the appropriate associated engagement procedures and processes required for the successful delivery of this project. The CSEP will outline tailored actions including controls, mitigations, key messages, communication methods, and engagement frequency, at a minimum.

1.2 Project Benefits

It is expected that the proposed development is capable of providing economic, environmental, and social benefits to the immediate and wider community. Table 2 outlines potential benefits in summary form.

Table 2: BESS Benefits Summary (Source: BESS Pacific)

Theme	Benefits Summary
Economic	• Cost-effective storage • Local investment • Deter taxpayer grid infrastructure upgrades • Landowner revenue • Job opportunity • Long-term lowered energy costs
Environmental	• Renewable energy integration • Carbon emission reduction • Recyclable materials • Emission trading and offsets • Rehabilitation of contaminated sites opportunity <u>When compared with traditional power solutions:</u> • Reduced air and water pollution

Theme	Benefits Summary
	• Land use efficiency • Hazardous materials and water consumption reduction
Social	• Enhanced energy access • Locally sourced goods and services through construction • Local sponsorships • Education and awareness
Network	• Grid stability & resilience • Peak demand management • Energy efficiency • Long-term energy storage/backup • Increased energy reliance • Improved power quality

2.0 Engagement Approach and Principles

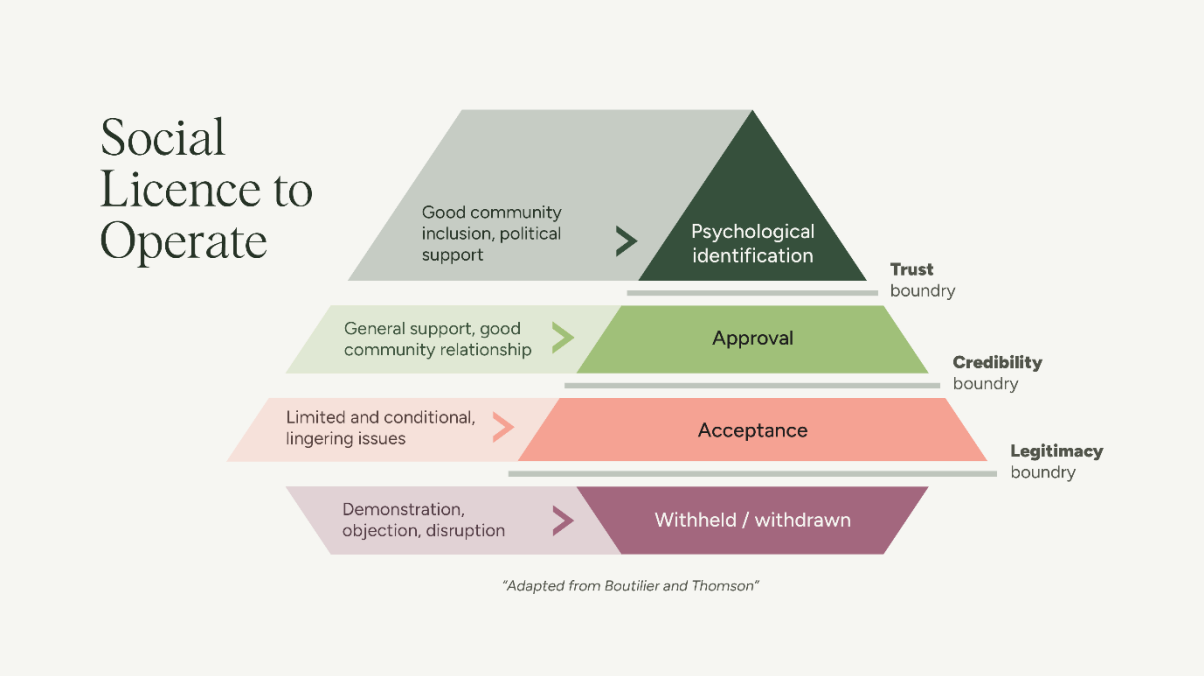
2.1 Approach

This CSEP has been prepared to include national and international best practice principles and guidelines, including the following:

- International Association for Public Participation (IAP2)
- AA1000SES: International standard for stakeholder engagement
- Undertaking Engagement Guidelines for State Significant Projects (NSW Government)

In addition, ensuring that a Social Licence to Operate (outlined in Figure 1 below) is attained and retained throughout the Project's lifecycle is key to ongoing project success.

Figure 1: Social Licence to Operate, adapted from Boutilier and Thomson



BESS Pacific will have regard to the community and stakeholders, who may be directly impacted by the Project, and will seek to identify the level of, and ways of, mitigating any impacts, and implement agreed mitigation strategies.

2.2 Key Objectives

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

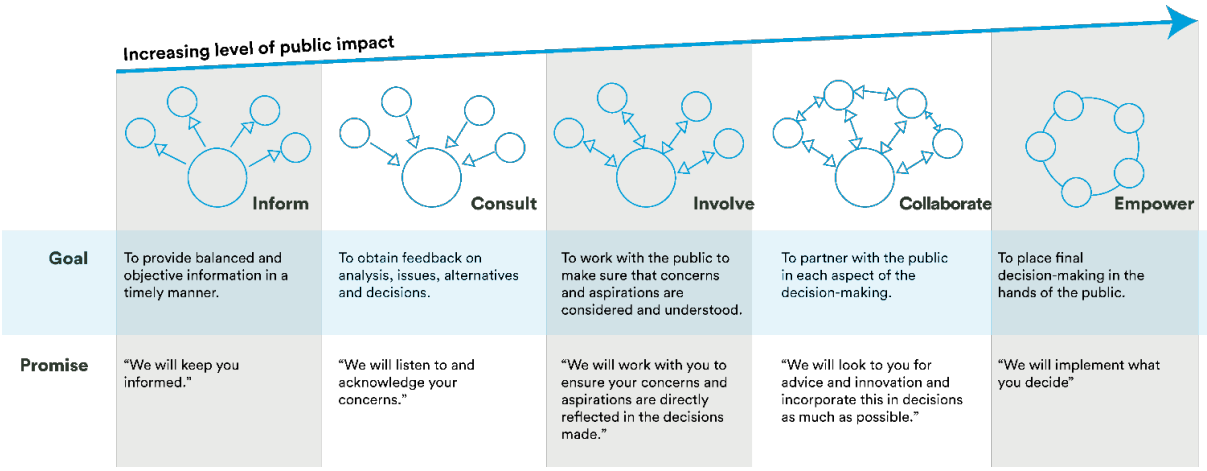
- build upon established relationships and ensure any lessons learned are captured and incorporated;
- identify engagement channels to address all consultation and engagement needs;
- design an inclusive, tailored, flexible and adaptable plan to identify the most effective approaches to engagement with stakeholders and the community;

- identify and mitigate engagement issues and risks that arise as the Project evolves and progresses;
- identify engagement tools that appropriately capture stakeholder feedback on the Project, including all stakeholder concerns;
- enable consistent project messaging to manage stakeholder and community expectations and avoid lack of confidence in engagement;
- support the delivery of the Project to be recognised as environmentally, economically, culturally and socially acceptable to the community and key stakeholders (i.e. earn social licence to operate); and
- provide regulators with confidence that all positive and negative impacts are well understood and can be managed throughout all phases of the Project.

2.3 IAP2 Core Values

The proposed engagement methodology will follow the principles and values outlined in the International Association of Public Participation's (IAP2) Quality Assurance Standard. These high-level frameworks and standards outline best-practice expectations of principle, process and value, and provide a consistent model for design and delivery of engagement. The proposed level of engagement will be to *inform*, *consult, involve* and *empower* as per the IAP2 Spectrum in Figure 2.

Figure 2: IAP2 Spectrum



2.4 SLR Social Performance Roles and Responsibilities

The Social Performance team includes a dedicated Engagement Lead and a Senior Engagement Consultant to support the Project's delivery. Additional resources will include a Technical Director - Social Performance who has been made available to provide project governance and quality assurance for the Project. A graphic design specialist has also been included in the team to service project needs. The responsibilities for each SLR role and resource are captured in Table 3.

Table 3: SLR Team Roles and Responsibilities

Role	Responsibility	Resource
Governance and Quality Assurance Lead	Oversee and review project communications and engagement activities. Maintain quality assurance on the project and ensure deliverables are being achieved.	Esther Diffey 0423 686 002 ediffey@slrconsulting.com
Engagement Lead	Lead and review project communications and engagement activities	Astrid Ruban 0403 332 041 aruban@slrconsulting.com
Senior Engagement Consultant	Implement and support project communications and engagement activities	Stephanie Skordas 0434 279 633 sskordas@slrconsulting.com
Graphic Design Consultant	Support team in the creation of visual comms for the client	Dawn Wilson dwilson@slrconsulting.com

2.5 Stakeholder Key Messaging

2.5.1 Key Messages – Overall Project General

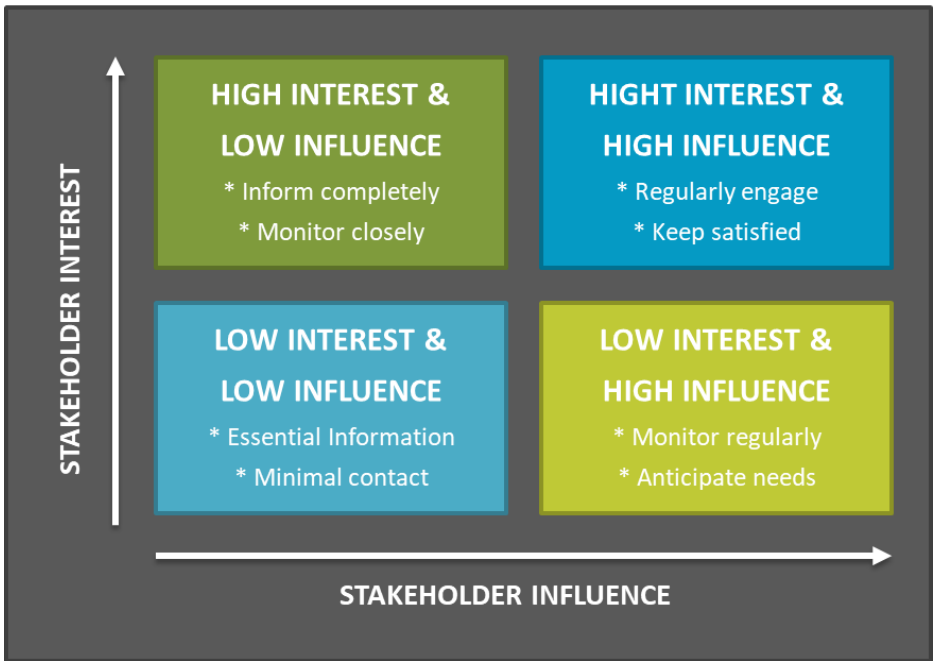
- The Finley Battery Energy Storage System is a State Significant investment proposed to be developed at:
  - A portion of Lot 3 of DP740920;
  - The substation land on Lot B on DP961693; and
  - Broockmans Road Reserve
- The proposed 100MW/200MWh utility scale battery will connect to existing Finley substation via a TL network. The TL will be tunnelled below Broockmanns Road and the Mulwala No 19 canal, followed by an overhead TL with associated transmission towers.
- The Finley BESS supports the Commonwealth Government's commitment to net zero by 2050 and the NSW Government's Net Zero Plan Stage 1: 2020 – 2030
- BESS developments such as this Project use innovative technology to store excess electricity for later release
- BESS plays a crucial role for the integration of renewable energy sources to the grid for enhanced network stability, economic generation and increased environmental sustainability
- The Project will capitalise on the procurement of local goods and services assisting to grow local businesses
- The Project will allow the continued sustainable growth of Finley supporting the transition to a renewable energy future
- The Project expects to create approximately 50 full-time equivalent jobs during construction.

3.0 Stakeholder Identification and Analysis

Stakeholders refer to any person or group of persons who have or feel they have an interest in or can affect/be affected by an issue or decision. The Project covers diverse stakeholders with varying levels of interest, influence, power, or impact relative to any issue. The level of influence/interest of a stakeholder group should be a consideration in shaping their level of participation in the engagement process, timing of engagement and the methodology for the engagement.

The interest/influence matrix shown in Figure 3 is a strategic tool used in stakeholder management to categorise stakeholders based on their level of interest in a project or organisation and their level of influence or power to affect the project's outcomes. The matrix supports the prioritisation of engagement efforts and the development appropriate strategies for managing and communicating with stakeholders.

Figure 3: Interest/Influence Matrix for Stakeholder Prioritisation



3.1 Stakeholder Analysis

Table 4 provides a summary of the stakeholder groups, and the level of engagement required to guide effective engagement for the Project.

A detailed stakeholder analysis is provided in Attachment A. The stakeholder list will be reviewed and updated throughout each of the phases of the Project, as new activities are undertaken, and new stakeholders are identified.

Table 4: Engagement Levels Based on Stakeholder Groups

Interest Group	Inform	Consult	Involve	Collaborate	Empower	Comments
Primary						
Local Community		x				Actively involved in discussions. Maintain engagement over the Project period. Keep closely engaged to identify and manage any existing or emerging issues. Review existing approach and ensure there is a process in place to maintain Project transparency and engagement.
Neighbours/Sensitive Receptors		x				Actively involved in discussions. Maintain engagement over the Project period. Keep closely engaged to identify and manage any existing or emerging issues. Review existing approach and ensure there is a process in place to maintain Project transparency and engagement.
BESS Pacific					x	Employee stakeholders are also members of the community. It is important to create project advocates. Employees need to be familiar with key messages being provided to the community.
NSW Government and Statutory Authorities			x			Actively involve in issues relating to the development of the Project.
Secondary						
Industry Bodies		x				Provide access to information via the website or local newspaper. Conduct consultation to consider any concerns/feedback related to the Project.
Non-government organisations and special interest groups	x					Provide access to information via the website or local newspaper. Conduct consultation to consider any concerns/feedback related to the Project.
Media	x					Monitor and provide regular briefings to local journalist on project progress. Prepare holding statements. Commit to building a relationship early to foster local support and build appreciation for Project's positive role in the community.
General public	x					Provide access to information via the website or local newspaper. Conduct consultation to consider any concerns/feedback related to the Project.
Contractors/suppliers			x			Provide accurate information for the delivery of the Project.

4.0 Potential Risks and Mitigations

Outlined below in Table 5 are key project risks, and mitigations to these risks. This risk analysis will be subject to ongoing review and revision as engagement progresses.

Table 5: Main Risks and Mitigations

Risk	Mitigation
Miscommunication: Messages that are unclear, inaccurate, or misunderstood can lead to confusion, misinterpretation, and misinformation.	• Use plain and clear language in messages. • Provide context to help stakeholders understand the message. • Encourage feedback and clarification if something is unclear.
Lack of Transparency: Failure to be open and honest in communication can erode trust and credibility.	• Be open and honest in all communication. • Share both positive and negative information when appropriate. • Establish clear communication channels for addressing concerns.
Inconsistent Messaging: Mixed or conflicting messages from different sources within an organisation can create confusion and mistrust.	• Develop and adhere to a unified communication strategy. • Provide training to staff on messaging and communication guidelines. • Maintain a central repository for approved messaging and updates.
Overcommunication or Information Overload: Bombarding stakeholders with excessive information can overwhelm and lead to disengagement.	• Tailor messaging to different target audiences i.e. industry members, landowners, Traditional Owners etc. • Create a communication schedule to avoid excessive messages. • Use different channels for different types of information.
Communication Gaps: Not reaching all relevant stakeholders or leaving certain groups out of the communication loop can lead to feelings of exclusion and dissatisfaction.	• Identify all relevant stakeholders and create communication plans for each group. • Use multiple channels and mediums to reach different stakeholder groups. • Periodically review and update stakeholder lists.
Social Media Backlash: Negative comments, viral criticism, or social media controversies can quickly damage a brand's reputation if not managed effectively.	• Monitor social media platforms for mentions and comments. • Respond to negative comments professionally and constructively. • Have a crisis communication management plan in place.
Stakeholder Disengagement: If stakeholders feel that their concerns and feedback are not valued or addressed, they may disengage, which can affect the success of projects and initiatives.	• Actively seek and incorporate feedback from stakeholders. • Address concerns and issues promptly. • Demonstrate the impact of stakeholder feedback on decision-making.
Cultural Insensitivity: Not considering cultural differences in communication and engagement strategies can lead to offence, misunderstandings, and alienation.	• Conduct cultural sensitivity training for staff. • Co-design communication strategies with communities to uphold cultural awareness (if applicable). • Seek input from affected communities to ensure respectful communication.
Lack of Employee Engagement: Disengaged employees can impact internal communication, collaboration, and overall organisational performance.	• Encourage open communication channels between management and employees. • Recognise and reward employee contributions and feedback.

5.0 Stakeholder Engagement Overview

5.1 Communication and Engagement Tools and Activities

The choice of engagement tools and techniques depends on the desired outcome of the Project's engagement. If the goal is to gather information from the community such as identifying issues, opportunities, and local knowledge, the engagement methods will differ from those used to involve the community in discussions to shape or influence project outcomes. The engagement methods will be customised to meet the needs of the community and stakeholders, addressing any barriers that may prevent effective engagement. A list of engagement tools and activities and their application is provided in Table 6.

Table 6: Engagement Tools and Activities

Tool	Description	Stakeholder Group	Timing
Face-to-face meetings	BESS Pacific will hold face-to-face meetings with stakeholders, as agreed, to proactively discuss project progress, potential procurement opportunities and any associated changes.	All stakeholders	Pre-construction Construction
Community information sessions	Community information sessions provide an opportunity for local communities to meet with the Project team and raise any concerns or questions.	All stakeholders	Construction
Letters/emails	Provide stakeholders with updates on the Project including project timing, potential impacts and benefits and opportunities to provide feedback, as required.	All stakeholders	Pre-construction Construction
Online job platforms	Advertise employment opportunities, as required.	Local community Local business Local landholders Traditional Owners	Pre-construction
Project factsheet	Distribute factsheet to stakeholders with information on project details and relevant contact details	All stakeholders	Pre-construction
Project website and social media	Webpage for the public to keep up to date with BESS Pacific's activities and the progress of the Project. The website will include: • Details on BESS Pacific and its assets • Project status and key documents • Recent media releases and news articles • Ability to register for project updates • Contact details for further information.	All stakeholders	Construction Operation
Local newspaper	Provide the wider community with an update on the Project including progress, initiatives, and job opportunities.	All stakeholders	All stages

Tool	Description	Stakeholder Group	Timing
Local media	Utilise local media outlets to: • Announce start of construction for the Project • Promote events or key project successes • Communicate project updates.	All stakeholders	Pre-construction Operation

5.2 Media Enquiries

Any consultants working on the Project must not provide any information/comment regarding the Project to any media or political representatives. If contacted by the media or political representatives concerning the Project, the person's name and contact details will be obtained and refer the enquiry immediately to BESS Pacific.

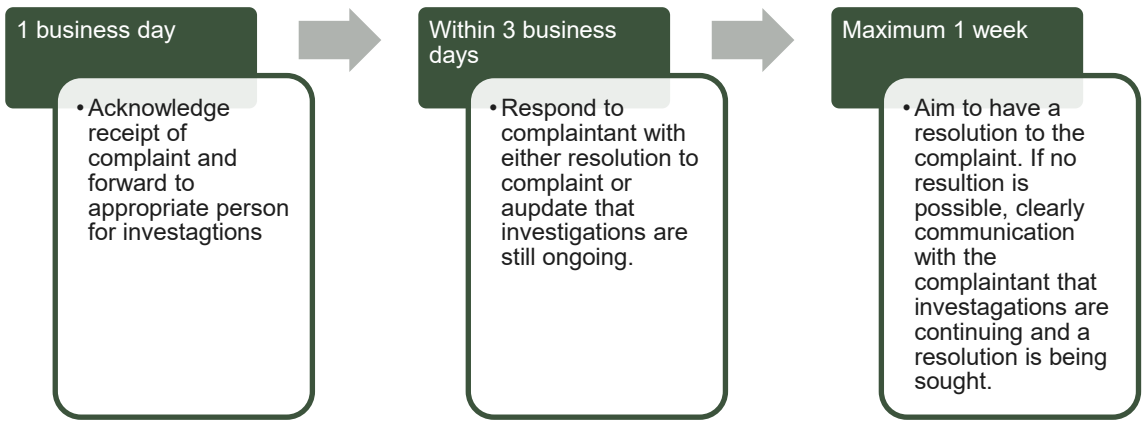
5.3 Feedback, Complaints and Grievances

An effective complaints and incidents procedure ensures that stakeholders can raise issues of concern, be confident these issues will be taken seriously and responded to and provides a mechanism for prompt identification of emerging issues and guides reporting on community issues.

BESS Pacific will continue to maintain public contact details (email: contact@finleybess.com.au) to enable stakeholders and community members to provide feedback or register a complaint or grievance. The contact details will continue to be visible on all public communication materials. Feedback via telephone, email, in writing or through face-to-face verbal communication is welcomed by BESS Pacific.

Per the timeline Figure 4, any feedback, complaints or grievances regarding the Project will be of a confidential nature and reported to BESS Pacific's media advisor within 24 hours. All feedback, complaints or grievances will be recorded in the community consultation log and addressed in a timely and respectful manner.

Figure 4: Complaints Timeline



Upon receipt of a complaint or grievance, BESS Pacific will provide confirmation to the complainant that their concerns have been noted and that investigation will commence.

Once follow up actions are complete and the complaint has been resolved, the complainant will be notified again. If a complaint cannot be resolved immediately or in a timely manner, the complainant will be advised of the actions proposed and an estimated timeframe to address their concerns.

Where deemed necessary, procedures will be amended.

6.0 Monitoring and Evaluation

The management objectives for this CSEP are outlined in Table 7.

Table 7: CSEP Management Objectives

Objective	Target	Indicator
Manage expectations by ensuring that the community fully understands the nature of the Project, the likely impacts and benefits that may be derived from the Project operations.	• Provide detailed information. • Respond to potential issues to minimise impacts.	• Number of calls logged. • Number of meetings held. • Number of enquiries managed positively. • Number of enquiries. • Anecdotal feedback from stakeholders.
Promote community confidence by ensuring open and transparent discussion of the Project development processes, technical studies, impacts and risk management processes (if applicable).	• Register, document and respond to all community correspondence. • To develop community understanding of key aspects and for BESS Pacific to further understand communities' values.	• Direct anecdotal feedback from community. • Limited rumour and speculation about the Project's site. "Myth Busting." • Limited conflict and community outrage. • Limited negative media coverage.
Ensure sustainable project decision making by incorporating local community knowledge, views and concerns.	• Track level of satisfaction. • To track key issues over time to ascertain if engagement strategy is effective.	• Limited complaints. • Limited involvement or intervention by politicians, councillors or non-regulatory.
Enable BESS Pacific to recognise and address community concerns early.	• Discern key themes and issues to develop key messaging.	• Number of rumours proactively identified and addressed. • Direct anecdotal feedback from community. • Limited negative commentary about the Project site either face-to-face or on social/traditional media. • Limited conflict and community outrage.
Meet regulatory requirements and expectations.	• Build relationships through face-to-face discussions and by identifying common goals/working to realise opportunities.	• No or limited delays to processes due to community or stakeholder objections. • Limited complaints. • Limited conflict and community outrage. • No, or limited, adverse media coverage. • Number or extent of local or non-local interest groups expressing concern publicly.

6.1 Reporting, Monitoring and Evaluation

BESS Pacific, with the support of SLR, will develop a Community Consultation Log to record external stakeholder interactions for the Project (pre-construction, construction and operation). It is important that this register is updated by all team members following engagement activities so these can be adequately monitored, and any stakeholder concerns or opportunities followed up.

From a risk management perspective, this is also important for BESS Pacific when queries or issues arise as there is a formal record of engagement that has been undertaken, and record of how these issues have been appropriately closed out.

BESS Pacific will monitor the following to inform periodic evaluation of the engagement program:

- the number of engagement activities undertaken
- attendance numbers at meetings, workshops and webinars
- level of stakeholder understanding of the Project, including potential impacts, benefits and management measures
- community support for the Project
- community feedback provided via the website or engagement activities
- community grievances/complaints.

This CSEP will be revised, including the stakeholder analysis, prior to the commencement of each project stage to incorporate lessons learned, stakeholder feedback and evolving issues, opportunities and risks that may have arisen.

Any review should consider the following:

- feedback from the key stakeholders and the community, BESS Pacific employees and contractors
- changes in regulation and guidelines that may impact engagement expectations.

7.0 References

International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) 2015 *Quality Assurance Standard for Community and Stakeholder Engagement*, viewed 25 September 2023, Available: International Association for Public Participation Australasia, IAP2_Quality+Assurance+Standard.pdf (iap2content.s3-ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com)

IAP2 2014, *Public Participation Spectrum*, viewed 25 September 2023, Available: International Association for Public Participation Australasia, IAP2_Public_Participation_Spectrum.pdf

Finley BESS Phase 1 SIA, viewed 16 May 2024

Attachment A Finley Stakeholder Mapping

Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan

Finley Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)

BESS Pacific Pty Ltd

SLR Project No.: 620.040673.00001

16 May 2024

Stakeholder Mapping – Finley BESS

Stakeholder	Area of interest	Communication tool
Traditional Owners **Wiradjuri Nation**	• Environmental management • Aboriginal cultural heritage impacts • Procurement • Renewables education and awareness	• Face-to-face meetings • Letters/emails/phone calls • Online job platforms • Project website and social media • Project factsheet
Aboriginal Organisations • **Cummeragunja Local Aboriginal Land Council** • **NSW Indigenous Chamber of Commerce**	• Aboriginal cultural heritage impacts • Social impacts • Community partnership opportunities • Employment opportunities • Impacts/benefits to Aboriginal owned businesses • Renewables education and awareness	• Face-to-face meetings • Letters/emails/phone calls • Online job platforms • Project website and social media • Project factsheet
Local Politicians • **Ms Sussan Ley MP – Federal Member for Farrer, Minister for the Environment** • **Mrs Helen Dalton MP – Member for Murray**	• Social impacts • Environmental management • Reputational risk to government	• Face-to-face meetings • Letters/emails/phone calls
Federal Government Departments • **Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry** • **Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts**	• Agricultural land impacts • Impacts to fish habitats • Impacts to Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal cultural heritage • Reputational risk to government	• Face-to-face meetings • Letters/emails/phone calls

State Government Departments
• **Department of Primary Industries**
  ○ **Biodiversity Conservation NSW**
  ○ **Water NSW**
• **Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure**
	• Regulatory compliance
	• Environmental and social impacts
	• Agricultural land impacts
	• Impacts to fish habitats
	• Traffic and transport impacts
		• Face-to-face meetings
		• Letters/emails/phone calls

○ **Heritage NSW** ○ **Crown Lands NSW** ○ **Development Assessment NSW** • **Transport for NSW (TfNSW)** • **Service NSW**	• Impacts to Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal cultural heritage • Reputational risk to government	
Environmental Regulators **Environmental Protection Authority NSW**	• Noise • Waste management • Impacts on local environment • Well-being and safety of local wildlife • Impacts on/disturbance to areas of cultural heritage • Access to local parks, heritage, and recreation facilities	• Face-to-face meetings • Letters/emails/phone calls
Local Government Agencies • **Berrigan Shire Council**	• Traffic and transport impacts • Social and environmental impacts • Emergency management plans • Regulatory compliance • Voluntary planning agreement • Community partnership opportunities • Renewables education and awareness	• Face-to-face meetings • Letters/emails/phone calls • Project website and social media • Project factsheet
Emergency Services • **Fire and Rescue NSW Finley Fire Station** • **Finley Police Station** • **Murray River Police District** • **Finley Ambulance Station**	• Bushfire risk • Impacts to traffic • Disruptions during emergencies/priority access	• Letters/emails/phone calls
Power Network Operators	• Network connection requirements • Service outages	• Letters/emails/phone calls
Industry • **Business NSW** • **Finley Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture**	• Impacts to existing infrastructure • Traffic and transport impacts	• Letters/emails/phone calls

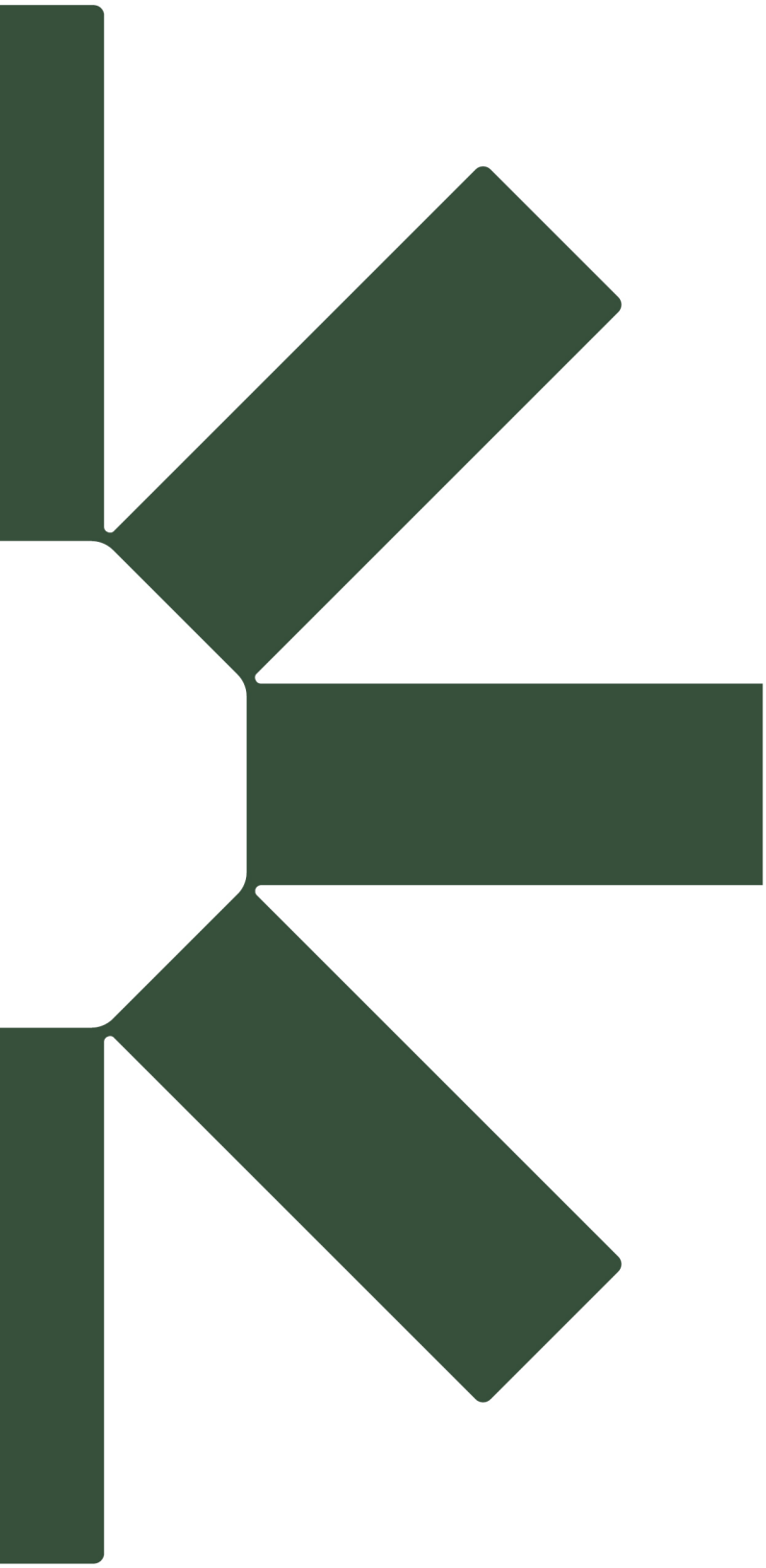
• **Finley Solar Farm**		
Legal Bodies • **Taylor and Whitty Solicitors** • **Finley Court House**	• Traffic and transport impacts	• Letters/emails/phone calls • Project website and social media • Project factsheet
Local Media • **Border Mail** • **Central Murray Informer** • **Deniliquin Pastoral Times** • **Southern Riverina News** • **ABC Riverina** • **Edge FM 102.5**	• Environmental impacts and management • Social impacts • Aboriginal cultural heritage impacts • Community partnership opportunities • Employment opportunities • Renewables education and awareness	• Letters/emails/phone calls • Project website and social media • Project factsheet
Local businesses • **Finley Lakeside Caravan Park** • **Finley Motel by the lake** • **Finley Palm Motor Inn** • **Finley Country Club Hotel Motel** • **Century Motor Inn Finley** • **Flippa's Auto Electrics & Refinishing** • **Eagle I Machinery Pty** • **Finely Shell – Vantage Fuels** • **Milcast** • **Finley Menshed** • **K&A Foods** • **Landmark Harcourts** • **Nutrien Ag Solutions** • **Finley Flowers Wren Floralista** • **Hong Loch Chinese Restaurant**	• Employment and business opportunities • Traffic and transport impacts • Renewables education and awareness	• Face-to-face meetings • Community information sessions • Letters/emails/phone calls • Online job platforms • Project website and social media • Project factsheet • Local newspaper

• **Finley Bakery & Patisserie** • **Albion Hotel Motel Finley** • **Finley IGA** • **Craig Matheson Wood Turning** • **Finley Car Wash** • **Elders Finley** • **AG Warehouse Finley** • **Boral Concrete** • **The Ranch** • **Hall Shearing** • **Healthier Home Healthier You** • **Kalangadoo Cottage Nursery** • **Agtrade Machinery** • **Finley Showgrounds** • **Berriquin Funerals** • **Three Rivers Earthmoving** • **Ampol Finley** • **BP Finley** • **Finley and District Model Railroaders** • **Essential Hair** • **Riverina Garage** • **JDS Industries** • **Finley Secondhand Shop** • **Nathan Everingham & Co** • **Mogg Osborne Pty Ltd** • **Boomerang Motors** • **Australian Unity**		

• **Protem Real Estate** • **Southern Riverina Livestock & Property** • **Burton Wilson Yamaha** • **Burston Repairs & Services** • **KM & WM Kelly & Sons**		
Environmental Groups • **Berrigan Conservation Group & Tidy Town**	• Impacts on local environment • Wellbeing and safety of local wildlife • Impacts on/disturbance to areas of cultural heritage • Environmental management (impacts to air quality and water, noise) • Visual amenity • Renewables education and awareness	• Community information sessions • Letters/emails/phone calls • Project website and social media • Project factsheet
Community Facilities • **Finley Library** • **Finley Showground & Sporting Complex**	• Community concerns • Social impacts • Community initiatives • Traffic and transport disruptions • Renewables education and awareness	• Community information sessions • Letters/emails/phone calls • Project website and social media • Project factsheet
Community Groups • **Lions Club** • **Finley RSL** • **Intereach Finley** • **Yallambee Finley**	• Community concerns • Resolution of community complaints • Community initiatives • Social impacts • Traffic and transport disruptions • Renewables education and awareness	• Community information sessions • Letters/emails/phone calls • Project website and social media • Project factsheet
Landowners/adjoining landowners	• Land acquisition • Visual amenity • Noise, dust, works • Traffic and transport disruptions • Renewables education and awareness	• Face-to-face meetings • Community information sessions • Letters/emails/phone calls • Project website and social media • Project factsheet
Local Sporting Clubs • **Finley Cricket Club**	• Community initiatives • Noise, dust, works	• Letters/emails/phone calls • Project website and social media

• **Finley Swimming Pool** • **Finley Bowling Club** • **Finley Golf Club** • **Finley Community Gym**	• Traffic and transport disruptions • Renewables education and awareness	• Project factsheet
Financial Institutions • **NAB Finley**	• Traffic and transport disruptions	• Letters/emails/phone calls • Project website and social media • Project factsheet
Educational Institutions • **Finley Early Learning Centre** • **Finley Preschool Kindergarten & OOSH** • **Finley Public School** • **St. Joseph's Finley** • **Finley High School** • **School of Arts** • **TAFE NSW – Finley**	• Traffic and transport disruptions • Renewables education and awareness	• Letters/emails/phone calls • Project website and social media • Project factsheet
Health Facilities • **Hambly Sharon GP** • **Australian Clinical Labs** • **Finley Pilates & Clinical Myotherapy** • **Pathway to Health** • **Finley Pharmacy** • **Finley Hospital** • **Finley Medical Centre** • **Lakeside Medical Centre** • **Local Dental Clinic Finley** • **Smart Brain Health Centre** • **Finley Chiropractic Centre**	• Traffic and transport disruptions • Disruptions during emergencies/priority access	• Letters/emails/phone calls • Project website and social media • Project factsheet

• **Bloom Hearing Specialists**		
Aged Care Facilities • **Finley Regional Care** • **Home and Community Support Services**	• Traffic and transport disruptions	• Letters/emails/phone calls • Project website and social media • Project factsheet
Local Tourism • **Finley Visitor Information Centre** • **Finley War Memorial** • **Finley War Memorial Hall** • **Finley Historical Museum & Log Cabin**	• Visual amenity • Noise, dust, works • Traffic and transport disruptions • Renewables education and awareness	• Letters/emails/phone calls • Project website and social media • Project factsheet
Religious Institutions • **St Marys Catholic Church** • **Holy Trinity Anglican Church** • **Finley Uniting Church** • **Presbyterian Church** • **The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints**	• Traffic and transport disruptions	• Letters/emails/phone calls • Project website and social media • Project factsheet



Making Sustainability Happen

Appendix E AHIMS Search

Scoping Report - Request for Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs)

Finley Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)

Prepared for: BESS Pacific Pty Ltd

SLR Project No.: 620.40673.00001

18 June 2024

AHIMS Web Services (AWS)

Extensive search - Site list report

Your Ref/PO Number : 230992 Finley (6)

Client Service ID : 832607

SiteID	SiteName	Datum	Zone	Easting	Northing	Context	Site Status **	SiteFeatures	SiteTypes	Reports
54-6-0035	North Tuppal Tocumwal;	AGD	55	353796	6045766	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -	Open Camp Site	
	Contact	**Recorders**	ASRSYS					**Permits**		
54-6-0001	North Tuppal Tocumwal;	AGD	55	353796	6045766	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -	Open Camp Site	884
	Contact	**Recorders**	ASRSYS					**Permits**		
55-4-0181	Site 1 Newell Highway;	AGD	55	372500	6059450	Open site	Valid	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) : -	Scarred Tree	
	Contact	**Recorders**	Giles Hamm Archaeology					**Permits**		
54-6-0046	Tuppal Creek 1;	AGD	55	362300	6045500	Open site	Valid	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) : -	Scarred Tree	
	Contact	**Recorders**	Ms.Vanessa Edmonds					**Permits**		
54-6-0036	Pine lea 1	AGD	55	362700	6045700	Open site	Valid	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) : -	Scarred Tree	3656
	Contact	**Recorders**	Ms.Vanessa Edmonds					**Permits**		
55-4-0195	Lagunyah 1	AGD	55	370300	6045100	Open site	Valid	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) : -	Scarred Tree	3656
	Contact	**Recorders**	Ms.Vanessa Edmonds					**Permits**		

**** Site Status**

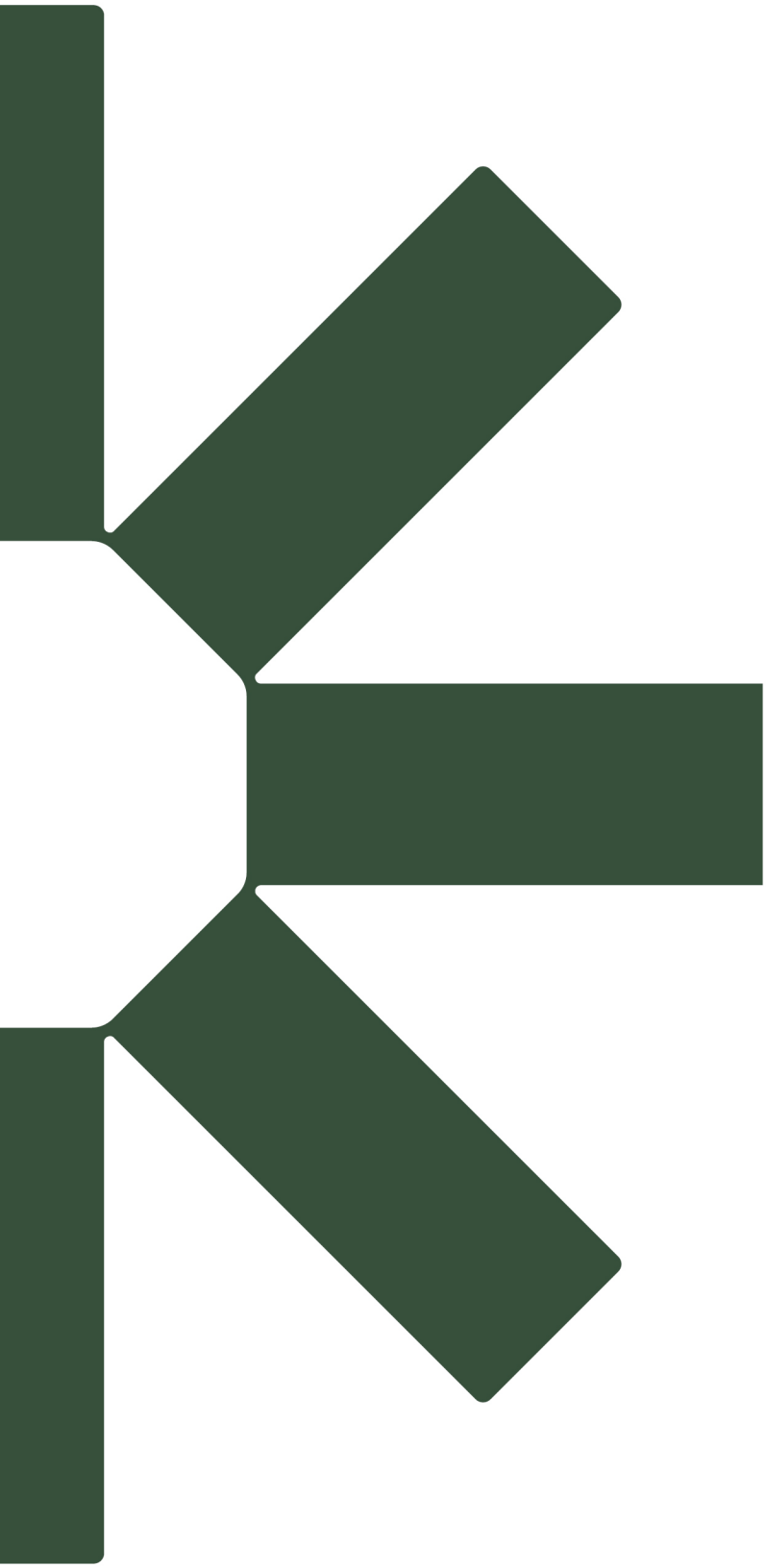
Valid - The site has been recorded and accepted onto the system as valid

Destroyed - The site has been completely impacted or harmed usually as consequence of permit activity but sometimes also after natural events. There is nothing left of the site on the ground but proponents should proceed with caution.

Partially Destroyed - The site has been only partially impacted or harmed usually as consequence of permit activity but sometimes also after natural events. There might be parts or sections of the original site still present on the ground

Not a site - The site has been originally entered and accepted onto AHIMS as a valid site but after further investigations it was decided it is NOT an aboriginal site. Impact of this type of site does not require permit but Heritage NSW should be notified

Report generated by AHIMS Web Service on 25/10/2023 for Kieran Murray for the following area at Datum :GDA, Zone : 55, Eastings : 353760.0 - 374380.0, Northings : 6043540.0 - 6060250.0 with a Buffer of 0 meters.. Number of Aboriginal sites and Aboriginal objects found is 6



Making Sustainability Happen