Homebush - Battery Energy Storage System

Socio-Economic Impact Assessment

Ausgrid

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Contents

Appendices

Figures

Tables

Abbreviations

Term	Definition
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
BESS	Battery Energy Storage System
CSEP	Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan
DA	Development Application
DFO	Direct Factory Outlet
DPHI (previously DPE)	Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (prior to 1 January 2024 was the NSW Department of Planning and Environment)
EIA	Economic Impact Assessment
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EMF	Electromagnetic Fields
EP&A Act	*Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (NSW)*
FTE	Full time Equivalent
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GRP	Gross Regional Product
HVs	Heavy vehicles
km	Kilometres
kV	Kilovolts
LEP	Local Environmental Plan
LGA	Local Government Area
LVs	Light vehicles
m	Metres
MW	Megawatt
MWh	Megawatt hours
NEM	National Electricity Market
NSW	New South Wales
nfd	Not further defined
REZ	Renewable Energy Zone
SA2	Statistical Area 2
SEARs	Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements
SEIA	Socio-Economic Impact Assessment
SIA	Social Impact Assessment
SL	Social Locality
SSD	State Significant Development
SSDA	State Significant Development Application
STSS	Sub-transmission switching station
UG	Underground

Glossary

Term	Definition
ABS Local Government Areas (LGA)	Local Government Areas are an ABS Mesh Block approximation of gazetted local government boundaries as defined by each state and territory. Mesh Blocks are allocated to Local Government Areas primarily based on where population is located. ABS approximations of gazetted local government administrative boundaries area used for statistical purposes to inform the community profile in this report.
Amenity	Amenity often refers to the quality of life, character and elements in a community that make it a more pleasant and comfortable place to be a part of. Impacts of a proposal such as traffic, perceived air quality impacts, noise and visual impacts can affect the amenity of an area.
The Site	The location of the Site is in the central portion of Lot 1 Deposited Plan 218218 (to the southeast of Ausgrid's existing Sub-transmission Switching Station (STSS). The Site address is 10 Homebush Bay Drive, Homebush, NSW, 2140.
Primary Study Area (PSA)	The Primary Study Area (PSA) applied to this SEIA is the ABS Homebush Statistical Areas 2 (SA2) Boundary. The PSA study area is exclusively used in the economic section of the report, to provide an overview of skills in the area.
Social Locality (SL)	The Social Locality (SL) applied to this SEIA includes the Homebush SA2 (PSA) and the Wentworth Point - Sydney Olympic Park SA2. The selected Social Locality study area is exclusively used in the social report, to provide an overview of the surrounding social environment.
Secondary Study Area (SSA)	The Secondary Study Area (SSA) applied to this SEIA includes the neighbouring SA2s to the Site: Concord West – North Strathfield; Strathfield – East, and Strathfield - West. The SSA includes the PSA and the Social Locality. The SSA is exclusively used in the economic section of the report, covering impacts likely to be experienced by those beyond the proposed development Site's broader locality, mostly during the Project's operational phase.
Social impact	Social impacts are the intended and unintended social consequences, both positive and negative of a project, policy, program or other activities. Social impacts vary in nature and can be tangible or intangible, physically observable, or psychological - including concerns, fears and aspirations. Social impacts can be quantifiable, partly quantifiable, or qualitative. They can also be experienced or perceived differently by different people and groups within a community or over time.
The Project	The proposed grid-scale Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), with a capacity of up to 200MW maximum power output capacity and a duration of up to two hours via a 33kV underground connection to Ausgrid's Mason Park STSS infrastructure.

Executive summary

Project overview

Ausgrid is proposing to construct, operate, and maintain a Battery Energy Storage System with a capacity of 200 megawatts over a two-hour duration (400 MWh) at Homebush, NSW. The Project comprises a Battery Energy Storage System facility that would store electricity from the grid, release electricity during periods of high demand and provide other ancillary services. The Project will utilise available land to the south of the existing 132 kilovolt Mason Park sub-transmission switching station at 10 Homebush Bay Drive, Homebush NSW.

The Project intends to enhance storage capacity for the National Energy Market, bolster network stability and support renewable energy targets for NSW and Australia.

The Project is classified as a State Significant Development.

Purpose of this Assessment

Aurecon has prepared this Socio-Economic Impact Assessment for Ausgrid to address the Secretary's Environment Assessment Requirements issued by the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure on 20 November 2024, as per the requirements under Division 4.12(8) of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (NSW) (EP&A Act).

The SEIA evaluates potential social and economic impacts, both positive and negative, during construction and operation, proposing mitigation and enhancement measures as needed.

Methodology

The Socio-Economic Impact Assessment methodology relies on Australian Bureau of Statistics Statistical Area Boundaries (Statistical Area 2) to define study areas, including a Primary Study Area, Social Locality and a Secondary Study Area to determine the Project's direct and indirect socio-economic impacts. The study areas used in this assessment contribute to developing an understanding of the existing environment surrounding the Project.

For the Social Impact Assessment, a structured framework, informed by the NSW Department of Planning & Environment *Social Impact Assessment Guideline* (2023) and accompanying *Technical Supplement - Social impact Assessment Guideline for State Significant Projects* (2023) is used to understand and evaluate social factors (including way of life, community characteristics, accessibility, culture, health and wellbeing, surroundings, livelihoods, and decision-making systems). Each factor is evaluated for likelihood and magnitude. A Social Significance Rating is derived from this analysis, reflecting the likelihood and magnitude of impacts.

The Economic Impact Assessment evaluates the direct and indirect benefits of the Project's capital and operating costs using an input-output model that reflects the NSW economy. This framework analyses the economic profiles to understand the Project's role in promoting stability and growth. Key economic multipliers include output, employment, income, and value-added, which quantify the total economic impact based on production value, job creation, earnings, and productivity. By capturing direct and indirect effects, the assessment provides insights into the Project's contributions to local and regional economies, highlighting its overall economic significance.

Finally, the SEIA provides impact mitigation and enhancement measures.

Social context

The proposed Site is situated on the land of the Wangal People of the Eora Nation within the Strathfield Local Government Area, approximately 14 km from Sydney's CBD. The area surrounding the Site is predominantly industrial, with some medium-density residential. Key areas of community interest include DFO Homebush, Sydney Olympic Park, Sydney Markets, Mason Park Wetlands, and Bicentennial Park Wetlands. The locality benefits from several train and bus routes.

Key characteristics of the Social Locality (SL) include:

- A high percentage of residents are overseas born (65.5%) compared to Greater Sydney (38.6%). Common languages other than English include Mandarin, Korean, Cantonese, Nepali, and Tamil. There is a relatively low Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population in the SL (0.4%) compared to Greater Sydney (1.7%).
- Most people in the SL live in apartments (92.4% of households), compared to Greater Sydney where most dwellings are separate houses (55.8%). Renting is the dominant tenure, with over half of dwellings (58.9%) in the SL are rented while home ownership, both outright (8.5%) and with a mortgage (30.3%), is lower than the Greater Sydney average (27.8% and 33.3% respectively).
- There is a lower rate of people who require disability assistance in the SL (1.9%) compared to Greater Sydney (5.2%). The most common long term health conditions in the SL are asthma, mental health issues, and diabetes.
- As of the 2021 Census, the top employment sectors in the SL are Professional, Scientific and Technical Services, Health Care and Social Assistance and Retail Trade. Over a quarter (28.1%) of residents' commute by car.
- The median weekly household income is relatively consistent across the SL ($2,020) and Greater Sydney ($2,077), with mortgage and rental payments also aligning closely across these areas.

Economic Impact Assessment findings

The Economic Impact Assessment evaluates the economic impact of the Project in stimulating growth across the Eastern and Central District of the Greater Sydney Region (the Region) and NSW during the construction and operational phases[1]. The Project's capital cost occurs over two distinct phases. These phases have been developed to account for the initial capital investment and the replacement of equipment phase, which includes the megapack system replacement after 25 years over the Project's 50-year lifespan. The construction costs are as follows:

- Construction Phase (Phase 1 capital costs) - it is assumed that $85.7 million of the $201.8 million capital cost under this phase will be spent in Australia (all of which is assumed to be in NSW) over two years, with the remainder expected to be spent overseas.
- Construction Phase (Phase 2 capital costs) - it is assumed that $17.8 million of the $140 million capital cost in Phase 2 will be spent in Australia (all of which is assumed to be in NSW) over a single year, with the remainder expected to be spent overseas.

As shown in Table 1, the potential economic impact of the Project on the NSW economy will be relatively moderate. A local capital investment of $103.5 million (total construction cost) has the potential to yield total (direct and indirect) economic output of $180.5 million, income of $31.5 million, and creation of over 267 jobs over two years.

Key results from the investment stimulus leading to direct and indirect benefits from the construction phase of the Project are given below.

Table 1 Construction phase direct and indirect economic benefits, NSW

Benefit	NSW ($m)		
	Output ($m)	Employment (FTE Jobs)	Income ($m)
Direct	$103.5	100[2]	$13.2
Indirect	$77.0	169	$18.3
Total	**$180.5**	**267**	**$31.5**

The Project's operating costs are divided into two phases. Phase 1 covers operating costs for the initial capital investment costs, while Phase 2 includes costs for replacing the Project (i.e. the megapack system)

[1] The Eastern District of Greater Sydney Region captures the Wentworth Park – Sydney Olympic Park SA2 which forms part of the SSA whereas the Central District captures the Homebush; Wentworth Point – Sydney Olympic Park; Concord West – North Strathfield; Strathfield – East, and Strathfield – West SA2s.

[2] Direct FTE jobs have been provided by Ausgrid.

at the 25-year midpoint of the Project's 50-year life. All operational costs are expected to be incurred in New South Wales.

Table 2 shows the operational phase of the Project will lead to additional direct and indirect output of $385.7 million, income of $59.3 million, and creation of over 600 jobs (comprising of 50 direct jobs and 550 indirect) in NSW over the Project's operating life. The operational phase economic benefits for the Region are further discussed in the report.

Table 2 Operational phase direct and indirect economic benefits, NSW

Benefit	NSW ($m)		
	Output ($m)	Employment (FTE Jobs)	Income ($m)
Direct	$151.0	50[3]	$4.5
Indirect	$234.7	58	$5.8
Total	**$385.7**	**108**	$10.3

Social Impact Assessment findings

Potential positive social impacts

The Project is expected to have positive impacts during construction and operation, including:

- The community may benefit from reduced energy expenses, fostering economic stability and improving overall quality of life through more affordable and reliable energy access.
- The Project will likely generate 100 Full Time Equivalent (direct) positions during the construction phases, enhancing financial stability and quality of life for workers. This rise in employment opportunities has the potential to bolster economic stability, lower unemployment rates, and contribute to the overall wellbeing of the community. Furthermore, the workforce is likely to benefit local businesses, including shops, restaurants, and services, thereby increasing economic activity and supporting the livelihoods of business owners and employees.

Potential negative social impacts

The Project is expected to have some impacts during the construction and operational phase. Notably, the likelihood of social impacts occurring ranges from unlikely to possible, with the potential significance assessed as low to medium. The social impacts can be mitigated through appropriate planning, construction management and engagement. Key impacts include:

- The Project is expected to cause minimal delays to traffic conditions during construction and operation. However, combined with existing community concerns and the high reliance on cars, this may lead to increased frustration, heightened safety concerns, and a negative
- perception of the Project. These factors could affect daily routines and quality of life for local residents.
- Existing concerns regarding potential hazards such as the perception of electromagnetic fields and fire risks during operation may affect the mental wellbeing of some community members. Notably, the technical assessment found no health risks associated with electric and magnetic fields, and the risk of fire is considered very low, provided appropriate mitigation strategies are in place.
- Surrounding residents and shoppers at DFO and Flemington may experience noise during construction. While the overall impact is expected to be moderate with minimal long-term effects, it may temporarily affect wellbeing, particularly for those who have expressed concerns or are more sensitive to such disturbances. This could also lead to reduced foot traffic and shopping activity, potentially impacting local businesses' earnings during construction.
- The Project may alter the visual amenity of the area during construction and operation, particularly for residents in apartments to the southeast. While the visual change is expected to be slight with partial views, it may still impact the quality of life for some residents, although it is not anticipated to cause substantial disruption or significantly affect overall living experiences.

[3] Direct FTE jobs have been provided by Ausgrid.

- The SL is undergoing several large planned or proposed developments, which may combine with the impacts of the Project during construction (such as traffic) and result in increased pressure on infrastructure and road conditions through congestion.

Proposed mitigation measures

The following measures are proposed to manage, mitigate or enhance potential impacts created by the Project:

Community and stakeholder engagement:

- Develop a Construction Communications and Engagement Plan to inform stakeholders about construction activities and mitigation measures with clear channels for feedback and regular updates that address community concerns and areas of interest.
- Meet regularly with Council, local residents, and key stakeholders throughout the project to identify, develop appropriate mitigations and monitor impacts, cumulative effects, and enhance benefits.
- Ensure adequate notification to impacted receivers in line with the mitigations identified in EIS and subsequent approval conditions, Environmental Protection License and management plans.
- Provide translated versions of documents upon request to ensure inclusive engagement practices.

Construction Management:

Implement all mitigation measures identified in the EIS, Ministers Conditions of Approval Environmental Protection License and Project Management Plans including but not limited to:

- Construction Traffic Management Plan.
- Construction Environmental Management Plan,
- Construction Noise and Vibration Management Plan,
- Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan

In addition, the Project will ensure that all workers including contractors are aware of all required mitigation measures including designated parking areas to avoid obstructing local access.

Local Employment & Procurement:

- Prioritise local workforce employment and procurement to benefit the community and strengthen local economies.

1. Introduction

1.1. Purpose of this report

Ausgrid is proposing to construct, operate and maintain a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) with a capacity of 200 megawatts (MW) over a two-hour duration (i.e. 400 MWh) (the Project). The proposed location of the BESS is to the south of the existing Ausgrid 132 kilovolts (kV) Mason Park sub-transmission switching station (STSS) at 10 Homebush Bay Drive, Homebush, NSW, 2140 (the Site).

The Project is a State Significance Development (SSD) as defined by Clause 2.6(1) of the State *Environmental Planning Policy (Planning Systems) 2021*.

This Socio-Economic Impact Assessment (SEIA) has been prepared by Aurecon on behalf of Ausgrid to inform and support the development of the Project and to address the Secretary's Environment Assessment Requirements (SEARs) (SSD – 77443244).

The purpose of this SEIA is to assess the potential social and economic impacts (both positive and negative) during construction and operation of the Project. Where appropriate, the SEIA provides mitigation and enhancement measures in response to the identified impacts.

This SEIA draws upon desktop analysis and economic modelling to capture the economic benefits of the Project. This SEIA relies on Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Statistical Area boundaries to identify existing conditions in the identified study areas. This assessment has been prepared in accordance with relevant guidance and industry best practice.

Ausgrid has undertaken community and stakeholder engagement as part of the Project. The findings of this engagement and secondary data sources have been used to inform the assessment of the Project's social impacts.

1.2. Project background

Ausgrid is the largest distributor of electricity on Australia's east coast, providing power to 1.8 million customers. Ausgrid's network is made up of substations, powerlines, underground cables and power poles, spanning 22,275 square kilometres throughout Sydney, the Central Coast and the Hunter Valley.[4]

Future electricity grid requirements for NSW indicate the need for improved electricity storage, Ausgrid has available land in locations adjacent to existing substations which it proposes to use for the development of the BESS. As such, Ausgrid is seeking development consent to construct, operate and maintain a BESS at Homebush.

The Project would provide storage capacity to the National Energy Market (NEM), which would increase the stability of the electricity network and support NSW and Australia in meeting their respective renewable energy targets.

The Project's current design and EIS engagement strategy has been informed by stakeholder feedback. This includes concerns about noise and traffic to which the Project has responded. Ongoing engagement will ensure stakeholders remain informed and involved as the Project evolves.

1.3. Project location

The proposed location of the Site is Lot 1 Deposited Plan 218218, also known as 10 Homebush Bay Drive, Homebush, NSW, 2140 is fully owned by Ausgrid. The Project would be located to the south-east of the existing Sub-Transmission Switching Station (STSS). Situated within the Strathfield LGA, the Site is zoned

4 Ausgrid 2024, *Scoping Report Homebush – Battery Energy Storage System*, AECOM.

SP2 Infrastructure (specifically Electricity Supply) under the *Strathfield Local Environment Plan 2015* (Strathfield LEP). The Site is located 14 km north-west of the Sydney CBD.[5]

1.4. Project key features and components

The Project is comprised of a BESS facility that would store electricity from the grid, release electricity during periods of high demand and provide other ancillary services. It also includes a new cable connection that would connect the BESS to the existing Mason Park STSS.

Key features of the Project would include:

- Construction and operation of a BESS.
- Connection of the BESS to the Mason Park STSS via a 33 kV underground connection.
- Other ancillary infrastructure and services such as internal access roads, laydown areas, control and operational buildings.
- Batteries located within battery enclosures.
- Cabling and collector units.
- Temporary and permanent control office and maintenance buildings, switch rooms, access, internal roads, construction and equipment laydown areas and car parking.
- Other associated and ancillary infrastructure, including fire suppression, drainage and stormwater management, security fencing, lighting, and CCTV.
- Decommissioning of the Project at the end of the Project's operational life is estimated of up to 50 years and may be replaced and/or upgraded to extend this timeframe.[6]

1.5. Project objectives

The objectives of the Project are as follows:

- Provide firming capability to support increasing levels of renewable energy generation.
- Provide electricity to the NEM during peak periods and store excess electricity during periods of low demand.
- Where applicable, provide system services to help correct and/or stabilise the wider transmission network.

1.6. Construction activities

The area around the Site is serviced by a road network suited to heavy haulage vehicles, reflecting the surrounding industrial and commercial land uses. The primary access point to the Site would be via the Site Access Road, which is accessed from the eastbound onramp onto the M4 via Homebush Bay Drive.

Construction works would include but are not limited to upgrade of the Project access and internal roads, earth works, construction of structures, testing and commission activities and rehabilitation and landscaping of the Site.

1.6.1. Construction hours and duration

It is currently anticipated that construction of the Project would occur from late 2025 through to mid-2027. However, these dates are subject to change pending equipment lead times and availability. Construction is

5 Ausgrid 2024, *Scoping Report Homebush – Battery Energy Storage System*, AECOM.

6 Ausgrid 2024, *Scoping Report Homebush – Battery Energy Storage System*, AECOM.

expected to be carried out in stages. The construction period may also vary in duration depending on weather conditions, technical parameters, environmental issues, and the availability of contractors.

Works that would generate audible noise at any sensitive receiver would be undertaken between 7am and 6pm Monday to Friday and 8am and 1pm on Saturday (see Table 3). Some construction activities may require work on Sundays or during other out of hour's periods.

Standard construction hours and out-of-hours work (OOHW) hours are shown in Table 3.

Table 3 Construction hours[7]

Period of work	Monday to Friday	Saturday	Sunday and Public Holidays
Standard hours	7.00 am – 6.00 pm	8.00 am – 1.00 pm,	No work
OOHW	6.00 pm – 10.00 pm	7.00 am – 8.00 am	8.00 am – 6.00 pm
		1.00 pm – 10.00 pm	
	10.00 pm – 7.00 am	10.00 pm – 8.00 am	6.00 pm – 7.00 am

Source: Draft Construction Noise Guideline (NSW Environment Protection Authority, 2020)

1.7. Operation

Once constructed, the Project would operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week as an unmanned facility. The BESS would typically be managed remotely and staffed as required during both planned and unplanned maintenance periods.

Likely maintenance and operation activities include but are not limited to general landscaping, maintenance and repair, and routine inspections.

1.8. Decommissioning

The BESS is intended to have an operational life of up to 50 years and may be replaced and/or upgraded to extend this timeframe (subject to any required additional planning approvals). Following the end of its economic life, components would be removed and re-purposed where possible. The batteries would either be disposed of and recycled at a suitably approved disposal facility, or subject to confirmation, be returned to the original equipment manufacturer for refurbishment and recycling. If the Project is no longer required, the land would be rehabilitated consistent with the surrounding area, and in accordance with legislative requirements to achieve predevelopment conditions as far as is reasonably practicable.

1.9. Assessment Requirements

This SEIA has been prepared by Aurecon on behalf of Ausgrid, to support a state significant development application (DA) for the Project.

This SEIA has been prepared in line with current leading industry practice and according to the NSW Department of Planning & Environment's *Social Impact Assessment Guideline*[8] and accompanying *Technical Supplement - Social impact Assessment Guideline for State Significant Projects*[9] (hereafter referred to as the Guidelines). This report assesses the potential positive, negative, and cumulative impacts of the proposed development, during both the construction and operational phases.

This SEIA has been prepared having regard to the Project's SEARs as follows:

7 NSW Environment Protection Authority 2020, *Draft Construction Noise Guideline*, viewed 9 December 2024, <https://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/-/media/epa/corporate-site/resources/noise/20p2281-draft-construction-noise-guideline.pdf>

8 NSW Department of Planning and Environment 2023, *Social Impact Assessment Guideline*, viewed 10 January 2024, <https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/2023/GD1944%20SIA%20Guideline_NEW%20VI_14_02_23.pdf>

9 NSW Department of Planning and Environment 2023, *Technical Supplement - Social impact Assessment Guideline for State Significant Projects*, viewed 10 January 2024, < https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/2023/GD1944%20SIAG%20-%20Technical%20Supplement_NEW%20VI_14_02_23.pdf >

Table 4 Relevant SEARs details[10]

Issues and assessment requirements	Documentation
Social – including an assessment of the social impacts or benefits of the Project for the region and the State as a whole in accordance with the *Social Impact Assessment Guideline* (DPE, 2023), including consideration of any increase in demand for community infrastructure services, and consideration of construction workforce accommodation.	See section 7 Social Impact Assessment
Economic – including an assessment of the economic impacts or benefits of the Project for the region and the State as a whole and provide details of any proposed voluntary benefit sharing, having regard to the *Benefit-Sharing Guideline 2024* and *Private Agreement Guideline 2024*.	See section 6 Economic Impact Assessment

10 Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure, 2024, *Planning Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements,* SSD-77443244.

2. Methodology

2.1. Overview

The methodology employed in preparing this SEIA was designed to ensure that the socio-economic environment of communities potentially impacted by the Project were properly accounted for. This SEIA has been undertaken in line with current leading industry practice, as informed by the Guidelines. Desktop investigations were undertaken to inform the findings of this report.

This report assesses the potential positive and negative social impacts of the Project. In preparing this report it has been recognised that social impacts vary in nature and can be positive or negative, tangible or intangible, physically observable, or psychological - including fears and aspirations. Social impacts can be quantifiable, partly quantifiable, or qualitative. They can also be experienced or perceived differently by different people and groups within a community or over time.

The economic impact assessment evaluates the potential benefits of the Project's capital and operating costs on the economies of the Region and NSW using a multiplier effect. This assessment includes consideration of the direct and indirect impacts on jobs and economic activity.

2.2. Social Impact Assessment framework

2.2.1. Stages of assessment

The following has been undertaken in assessing the Project's potential social impacts:

- Baseline analysis of the existing socio-economic environment of the nominated study area:
  - Define the SL **3.1**likely to be impacted based on the surrounding social context, including key characteristics, and existing infrastructure (see Section **3.1)**. The SL was exclusively used for the social section of the report.
  - Demographic analysis, including socio-economic characteristics of current communities and population forecast (see Section **3.6**).
  - Review of local, state, and federal policy drivers (see Section **4**).
- Identify and consult impacted stakeholders (conducted by Ausgrid):
  - Secondary data/findings of stakeholder and community consultation was reviewed to identify community and stakeholder concerns, aspirations and opportunities (see Section **5**).
  - Identify public perceptions on Project-related themes through a media scan, using keywords in the Google search engine, covering the past five years (see Appendix D).
  - Identify public perceptions on Project-related themes through a social media scan, using Facebook and Instagram, covering the past five years (see Appendix E).
- Identify and assess potential impacts against the specified factors in the Guidelines:
  - Assess the significance of each identified (positive, negative, or cumulative) impact based on its duration, extent, and sensitivity of receivers (see Section **7**).
  - Assign a social significance rating for impacts, as per the social impact significance matrix shown in Table 8.
- Identify measures to manage or mitigate the Project's potential negative impacts and enhance positive benefits (see Section **8**)

2.2.2. Social Impact Assessment approach

The Guidelines set out a structured assessment framework for evaluating social impacts of a project. The approach is outlined below.

Social factors for assessment

The following suite of factors forms the core basis an SIA, defined as 'material factors'.

- **Way of life:** how people live, get around, work, play and interact with one another on a day-to-day basis
- **Community:** its composition, cohesion, character, how it functions, and sense of place
- **Accessibility:** how people access and use infrastructure, services, and facilities
- **Culture:** people's shared beliefs, customs, values and stories, and connections to Country, land, water, places, and buildings
- **Health and wellbeing:** people's physical, mental, social, and spiritual wellbeing
- **Surroundings:** access to and use of natural and built environment, including ecosystem services, public safety, and security, as well as aesthetic value and amenity
- **Livelihoods:** including impacts on employment or business, experience of personal breach or disadvantage, and the distributive equity of impacts and benefits
- **Decision-making systems:** the extent to which people are able to participate in decisions that affect their lives, procedural fairness, and the resources provided for this purpose.

Each of these categories is assessed based on tangible observable impacts and the fears and aspirations of the communities impacted.

Likelihood

The likelihood of each impact factor is assessed as follows:

Table 5 Likelihood levels of social impacts

Likelihood level	Meaning
Almost certain	Definite or almost definitely expected (e.g., has happened on similar projects)
Likely	High probability
Possible	Medium probability
Unlikely	Low probability
Very unlikely	Improbable or remote probability

Magnitude

The magnitude of each impact factor considers the following dimensions of impact:

Table 6 Dimensions of social impact magnitude

Dimension	Detail
Extent	Who specifically is expected to be affected (directly, indirectly, and cumulatively), including any vulnerable people? Which location(s) and people are affected? (e.g., near neighbours, local, regional, and future generations).
Duration	Who specifically is expected to be affected (directly, indirectly, and cumulatively), including any vulnerable people? Which location(s) and people are affected? (e.g., near neighbours, local, regional, and future generations).
Severity or scale	What is the likely scale or degree of change? (e.g., mild, moderate, severe)

Dimension	Detail
Intensity or importance	How sensitive/vulnerable (or how adaptable/resilient) are affected people to the impact, or (for positive impacts) how important is it to them? This might depend on the value they attach to the matter: ▪ whether it is rare/unique or replaceable, ▪ the extent to which it is tied to their identity; and ▪ their capacity to cope with or adapt to change.
Level of concern/interest	How concerned/interested are people? Sometimes, concerns may be disproportionate to findings from technical assessments of likelihood, duration and intensity.

Table 7 Magnitude levels for social impacts

Magnitude level	Meaning
Transformational	Substantial change in community wellbeing, livelihood, infrastructure, services, health, and/or heritage values; permanent displacement or addition of at least 20% of a community.
Major	Substantial deterioration/improvement to something people value highly, either lasting indefinitely or affecting many people in a widespread area.
Moderate	A noticeable deterioration or improvement in something people value highly, either lasting for an extended time or affecting a group.
Minor	Mild deterioration/improvement, for a reasonably short time, for a small number of people who are generally adaptable and not vulnerable.
Minimal	Little noticeable change was experienced by people in the locality.

Social Significance Rating

Consideration of the likelihood and magnitude ratings results in a Social Significance Rating for each social factor, per the matrix set out within the Guideline (Table 8).

Table 8 Social impact significance matrix

		Magnitude level				
		1	2	3	4	5
Likelihood level		**Minimal**	**Minor**	**Moderate**	**Major**	**Transformational**
A	**Almost certain**	Low	Medium	High	Very high	Very high
B	**Likely**	Low	Medium	High	High	Very high
C	**Possible**	Low	Medium	Medium	High	High
D	**Unlikely**	Low	Low	Medium	Medium	High
E	**Very unlikely**	Low	Low	Low	Medium	Medium

Source: NSW DPE, 2023, Technical Supplement - Social Impact Assessment Guideline for State Significant Projects.

2.3. Economic Impact Assessment framework

2.3.1. Overview

The economic impact assessment estimated the potential economic benefits (both direct and indirect) of the capital and operating costs of the Project. The economic benefits are derived through a multiplier effect utilising an input-output model which reflects the NSW economy.

This assessment provides a valuable perspective for understanding the final impacts on jobs and economic activity on the Region and NSW due to both direct and indirect effects. The latter, sometimes known as 'transmitted impacts,' are changes transmitted through the economy rather than resulting directly from changes in resource use.

The economic impact assessment methodology included:

- Identification of the economic study defined as the PSA and SSA, including confirmation of the associated economic profile (i.e. business structure, labour force, unemployment, and income). The PSA and SSA are used exclusively within the economic sections of the report.
- Review of the Project and its role in the economic stability, sustainability, and development of the PSA, SSA, the Region and NSW.
- Assessment of potential economic impacts of the Project using an input-output model, to assess the direct and indirect impacts on employment, income generation and economic growth.

2.3.2. Multipliers

The input-output model quantifies the total economic impact during the construction and operation phase by assessing three economic multipliers:

- The **output multiplier** for an industry, for example construction, is defined as the total value of production by all industries of the economy required to satisfy one extra dollar's worth of final demand for that industry's output. This output represents the total value of all goods and services produced due to the impact of the Project.
- The **employment multiplier** is calculated by dividing the number of employed persons in a given industry by the level of production generated by that industry.
- The **income multiplier** for a given industry is defined as the total value of income from wages, salaries and supplements required to satisfy a dollar's worth of final demand for the output of that industry. Income refers to the total amount of money earned by individuals, businesses, and entities because of the Project. This includes various sources, such as wages and salaries, profits from businesses, rent, interest, and other forms of earnings.

Economic multipliers capture:

- **Direct effects or economic benefits (initial)** to the economy from the investment. This captures the direct effect of an increase in demand for an industry's output. For example, the employment multiplier represents the change in the number of persons employed in all relevant industries in the economy after the initial and first round induced output from the Project investment.
- **Indirect effects or economic benefits** (the secondary or flow-on effect) to the economy from the investment. This captures the sales, jobs and income of the related industries that supply goods and services.
- **Total effects or economic benefits** to the economy from the investment. This captures the direct and production effects, along with consumption induced effects that flow from the expenditure of the income that is earned from the direct effects (i.e., these are the indirect effects).

2.4. Information sources

The key data sources and policy documents used to prepare this SEIA have been outlined in Appendix A.

2.5. Assumptions and limitations

This report has been developed based on the following assumptions:

- Key findings of background studies, publicly available data and technical reports are accurate.
- Outcomes from Ausgrid's community consultation and engagement conducted to date accurately reflect community views. For transparency, this SEIA report confirms the Project's community consultation program was designed and implemented by Ausgrid personnel. Aurecon staff did not attend or influence the engagement activities and relied on the data collected by the Project team for the SEIA.

- It is assumed that construction and operational phase jobs (FTEs) will be sourced from within the Region, with priority given to the economic Study Areas (Primary and/or Secondary Study Areas) in the first instance, before considering labour from the broader Region.
- While the SEIA applies an objective measure to the assessment of social and economic impacts it acknowledges the subjective nature with which these impacts might be experienced by receivers.

2.6. Author qualifications

This report has been prepared by suitably qualified and experienced authors who hold appropriate qualifications and have relevant experience to carry out the SEIA for this Project.

Team member	Experience
Dr Jamie Seaton Consultant, Aurecon Qualifications: Bachelor of Science Hons. (Human Geography) • Community Development Diploma • PhD Human Geography	Jamie has more than 15 years' experience conducting social research and community engagement programs, underpinned by skills acquired during his PhD social research. Jamie is an exemplary social impact assessment and community engagement practitioner. During his career Jamie has demonstrated his strong social research and impact assessment capabilities in private, Government and education settings across Australia. Jamie has developed and led the SIA research activities and authored SIA reports for major extractive industry, urban development, health, waste, water, renewable energy, transport, and tourism projects nation-wide.
Dr Nadira Barkatullah Director, Aurecon Qualifications PhD in Economics Masters in Economics	Dr Nadira is a specialist economist in infrastructure financing and regulated utility industries. She has more than 25 years of experience in applying economic concepts and conducting quantitative analysis while working on projects around the globe. The experience includes advising governments and major organisations on financing and economic regulation. Nadira led numerous infrastructure projects and has contributed to strategic infrastructure projects across the globe, including Australia, UK, Europe, and the Middle East. Nadira has conducted economic impact assessment for numerous energy projects, including Elenora offshore Wind Farm, Crystal Brook Energy Park, Kentbruck Green Power Hub, New England Renewable Energy Zone, Golden Plain Wind Farm, Bell Bay Ammonia Plant and TasNetworks Marinus Link.
Jordie Cooper Senior Consultant, Aurecon Qualifications Bachelor of Communications, University of Technology Sydney Bachelor of Creative Intelligence and Innovation (Hons), University of Technology Sydney	Jordie has over four years' experience in engagement, social value and social research. Her diverse background fuels her passion for uncovering hidden challenges through rigorous research and innovative problem-solving to foster positive social outcomes. Jordie applies design thinking and human-centred approaches to problem-solving. Jordie has experience in SIAs and SEIAs across a range of industries and projects including Renewable Energy Zones, energy projects, resource projects, green hydrogen, built infrastructure, and transport.
Dawit Mebrahtu Senior Consultant, Aurecon Qualifications Bachelor of Economics (International Trade and Finance) University of Queensland	Dawit is an economist with over four years of applied economics experience across private and public sectors. He draws on a diverse experience base across the full spectrum of sectors and geographical contexts. He has expertise in the review and analysis of economic data and has worked with a wide range of economic tools to provide project and policy appraisal through cost benefit analysis, economic impact assessments and feasibility studies. Dawit has undertaken economic impact assessment for LNG terminals, windfarms, and green hydrogen projects.
Prudence Inwood Consultant, Aurecon Qualifications Bachelor of Communications (Public Relations and Advertising), Charles Sturt University, 2023	Prudence is a consultant with a background in communications and engagement. With one year of industry experience, Prudence is driven by a passion for creating meaningful change and leveraging communication tools to promote positive social outcomes. Prue has experience in SIAs in the energy industry.

3. Socio-Economic Baseline

This section sets out the social context for the Project against which impacts were assessed. This is in relation to the Project's nominated study areas which are described below.

3.1. Study Area

The SEIA has relied on ABS Statistical Area Boundaries (SA2 boundaries) to define a Primary Study Area (PSA), Social Locality (SL) and a Secondary Study area (SSA) (see Table 9). These areas are shown in

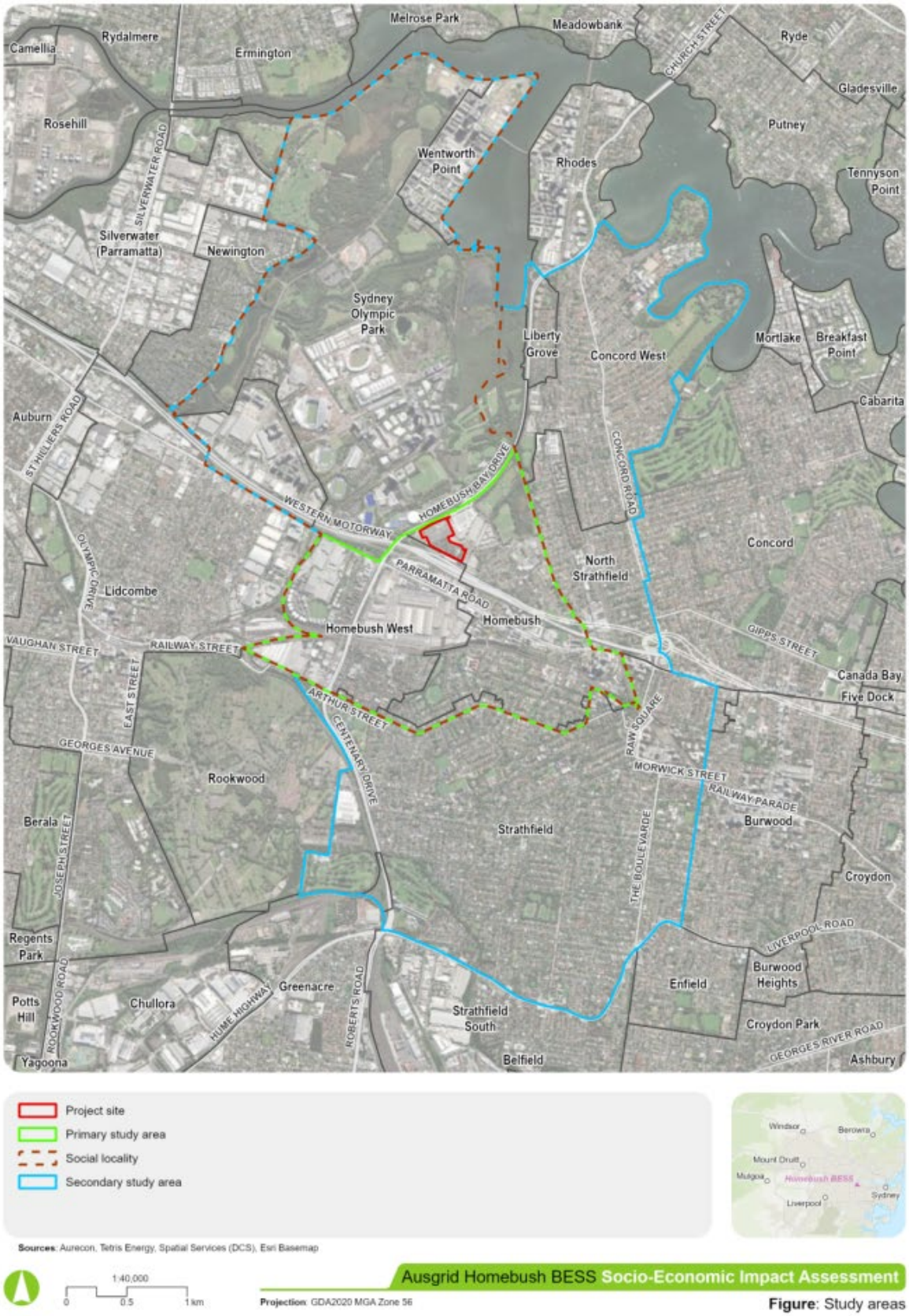

Figure 1.

Table 9 SEIA study areas

Economic study areas	Description
Primary Study Area (PSA)	■ Defined using the ABS Homebush Statistical Areas 2 (SA2) Boundary. ■ Exclusively used in the economic profile section, to provide an overview of skills in the area which may be benefit or be used for the Project.
Secondary Study Area (SSA)	■ Defined as the SA2 boundaries for Homebush, Wentworth Point – Sydney Olympic Park, Concord West – North Strathfield, Strathfield – East and Strathfield – West. ■ Exclusively used in the economic profile section, covering labour market skills and capacity to support the construction and operation of the Project
Social study area	**Description**
Social Locality (SL)	■ Defined as the SA2 boundaries for Homebush and Wentworth Point - Sydney Olympic Park. ■ The SL is exclusively used in the social section of this report to provide an overview of the surrounding social environment, including community characteristics, infrastructure and other key social features.

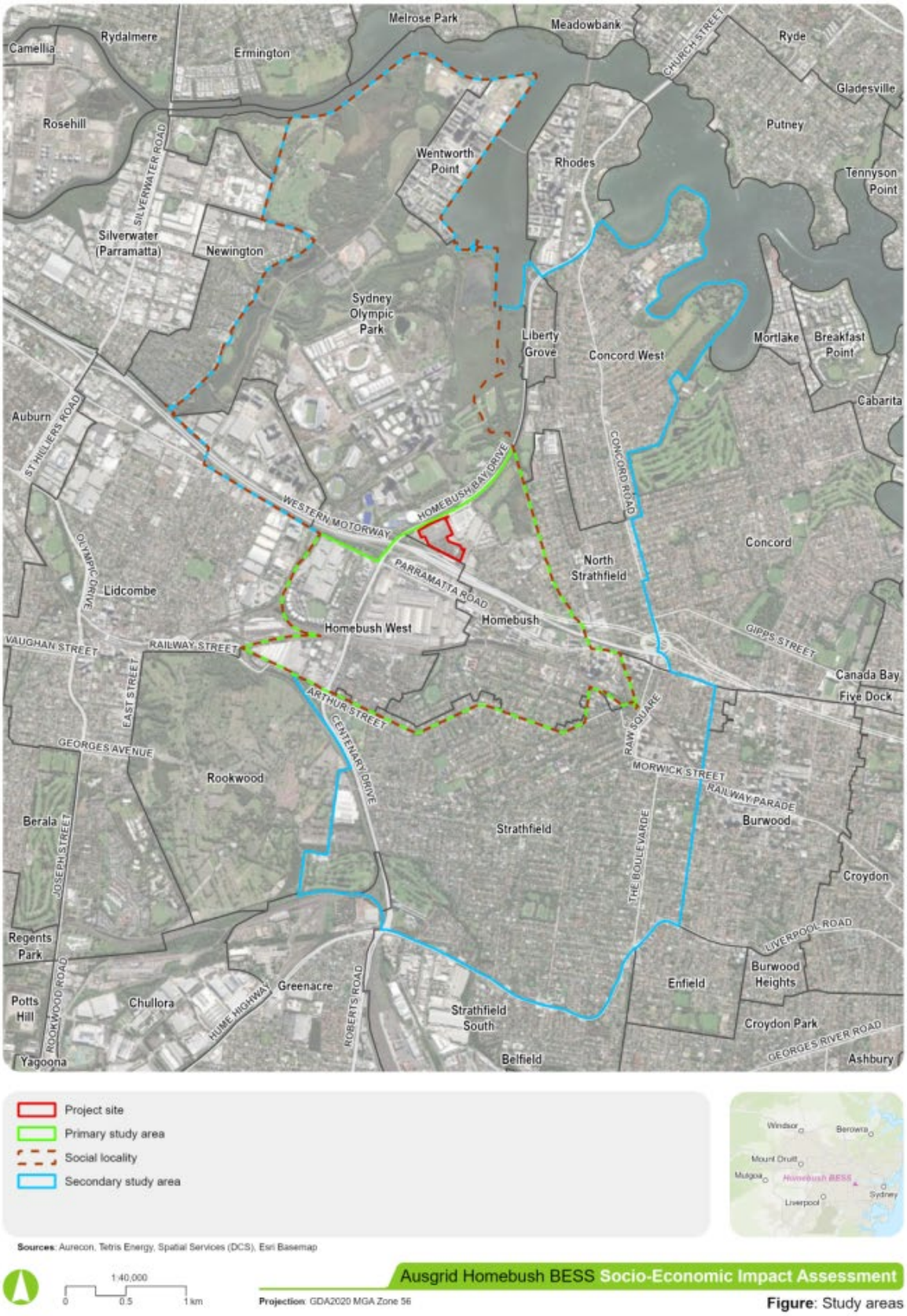

Figure 1 The Site and SEIA study areas

3.2. Social locality and surrounding development and land uses

The Site is enclosed by the Western Highway (M4) to the south, Homebush Bay Road to the north and an unnamed access road to the south via the M4 eastbound onramp. Site

Existing features of the Site include the STSS and associated overhead powerlines, John Holland/CPB Training Academy (leased on Ausgrid property), parking lots and a vacant vegetated parcel of land. In terms of vegetation, the Site contains PCT 4023 – Coastal Valleys Riparian Forest (Subject PCT) in addition to areas of planted native vegetation and exotic vegetation.

Close to the Site is the retail outlet complex DFO Homebush and Sydney Olympic Park. Major transport routes within the local area are the M4 Motorway which is adjacent to the Site and the Hume Highway (A22) approximately 4 km south of the Site at its nearest point.

The Site is located within the Strathfield LGA, close to the boundaries of the Cumberland and Parramatta LGAs. The Strathfield LGA is in the inner west of Sydney, approximately 14 km west of the Sydney CBD. Strathfield Council has adopted a target of net zero emissions by 2050, with methods to achieve this including using renewables to generate power and purchasing renewable energy.[11]

The Site is zoned SP2 Infrastructure under the Strathfield LEP. The land bordering the Site is zoned as E4 General Industrial, SP2 Classified Roads and B4 Mixed Use. This surrounding land is used for a mix of industrial and commercial uses, major arterial roads and sporting facilities. The surrounding zoning and land use in the SL identified in Table 10.

Table 10 Surrounding land zoning

Zoning	Description
E4 General Industrial zone	To the east of the Site is the bordering E4 General Industrial zone which is largely used for commercial purposes, housing DFO Homebush and the variety of retailers who operate on that premises.
SP2 Classified Roads zone	To the east of the Site is the bordering E4 General Industrial zone which is largely used for commercial purposes, housing DFO Homebush and the variety of retailers who operate on that premises.
B4 Mixed Use zone	To the north of Homebush Bay Drive the land is zoned B4 Mixed use. The land is used for the Olympic Park precinct, where facilities such as Accor Stadium, Engie Stadium and Ken Rosewell Arena lie.
Residential zones	Approximately 140 m south-east of the Site on Verley Drive is the closest residential land (zoned R3 Medium Density Residential). Approximately 220 m south of the Site on Park Road is the closest R4 high density residential land. Approximately 650 m east and 750 m south of the Site is the closest R2 low density residential land.
Recreational zones	There are no recreational or environmental lands within or adjacent to the Site. The nearest recreational zone is Wentworth Reserve, which is located approximately 210 m southeast of the Site. Publicly accessible parks within 1 km of the Site include Mason Park, Bressington Park, Bill Boyce Reserve and Bicentennial Park.
Environmental zones	The nearest environmental zone is Mason Park Wetlands, which is located approximately 640 m northeast of the Site. Mason Park Wetlands is zoned C2 – Environmental Conservation under the Strathfield LEP. There is also land zoned as C3 – Environmental Management located approximately 530 m north of the Site.

12 Sydney Olympic Park n.d., *About us*, viewed 5 November 2024, <https://www.sydneyolympicpark.nsw.gov.au/about-us>

3.3. Local Social Infrastructure context

The SEIA has reviewed social infrastructure within the SL, to understand the context of the proposed development. Key social infrastructure in the SL includes:

- The Western Sydney University has a campus located at Sydney Olympic Park.
- Primary schools include Homebush West Public School, Homebush Public School and Wentworth Point Public School.
- Secondary schools include Homebush Boys High School and Wentworth Point High School (opening in 2025 for Year 7 students).
- Daycare centres include Kinda-Mindi Early Learning Centre, Lighthouse Childcare Homebush West, Get Set Grow Early Learning Centre and Integricare Preschool Strathfield.
- Sporting facilities in the SL include Mason Park soccer fields and Tennis World, Aquatic Centre and Athletic Centre.
- A variety of local doctors and General Practitioners, and other health services, notably Primus Medical Centre, Flemington Medical Centre, Markets Medical & Dental Centre, Sydney Olympic Park GP and Vivant Medical Clinic Olympic Park.
- Community venues include Strathfield Community Centre and Wentworth Point Community Centre and Library.
- Places of worship include Hwa Tsang Monastery and Christian denomination Churches including Holy Archangel Serbian Orthodox Church, Our Lady of The Assumption Catholic Church and St Dominic's Catholic Church.

Key areas of community interest within the SL include:

- DFO Homebush: DFO Homebush is located approximately 260 m northeast of the Site. The factory outlet centre hosts more than 120 stores across two levels.
- Sydney Olympic Park: located 300 m northwest of the Site, Sydney Olympic Park is a large, multi-purpose venue hosting a range of sporting, entertainment, cultural and community events throughout the year[12]. The park is home to several major stadiums,[13] attractions such as the Sydney Showgrounds, and recreational facilities, walking and cycling paths, and cultural venues.
- Sydney Markets: located approximately 615 m south of the Site. The Sydney Markets Site covers 42 hectares, operates on a 24-hour, seven-day-a-week cycle and combines fresh produce and community markets.[14]
- Bicentennial Park: 40 hectares of scenic parklands located 650 m north of the Site at Sydney Olympic Park. This park offers playgrounds, BBQs, self-guided activities and cycling and walking tracks.[15]
- Mason Park Wetlands: located 680 m northeast of the Site and one of eight significant remnant wetlands bordering the Parramatta River.[16] The wetlands attract migratory wading birds from the northern hemisphere through spring and summer each year.[17]
- Badu Mangroves Wetlands: Nationally Significant wetlands located approximately 1.4 km north of the Site. The wetlands lie on low-lying mangrove swamp deposits and consist of estuarine/intertidal flats with mangroves, saltmarsh and artificial shallow ponds.

12 Sydney Olympic Park n.d., *About us*, viewed 5 November 2024, <https://www.sydneyolympicpark.nsw.gov.au/about-us>

13 Giants n.d., *ENGIE Stadium*, viewed 5 November 2024, <https://www.gwsgiants.com.au/matches/venues/engie-stadium>

14 Sydney Markets n.d., *Visiting the Markets*, viewed 31 October 2024, <https://www.sydneymarkets.com.au/visiting-the-markets.html>

15 Sydney Olympic Park n.d., *Bicentennial Park*, viewed 31 October 2024, <https://www.sydneyolympicpark.com.au/parks-and-playgrounds/bicentennial-park>

16 Friends of Mason Park Wetland Inc. n.d., *A Brief History*, viewed 5 November /2024, <https://www.friendsofmasonparkwetland.org/a-brief-history>

17 Strathfield Council n.d., Biodiversity, viewed 5 November 2024, <https://www.strathfield.nsw.gov.au/Environmental/Biodiversity>

- Parramatta River: approximately 2.8 km northeast of the Site (outside of the SL). The river's estuary is classed as a drowned valley and is the largest tributary of Sydney Harbour.[18] Although located outside of the SL, the Parramatta River has been included as it is a key natural resource in the area.

Figure 2 outlines key social infrastructure within the SL.

18 NSW Government n.d., *Parramatta River*, viewed 31 October 2024, <https://www2.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/water/estuaries/estuaries-of-nsw/parramatta-river>

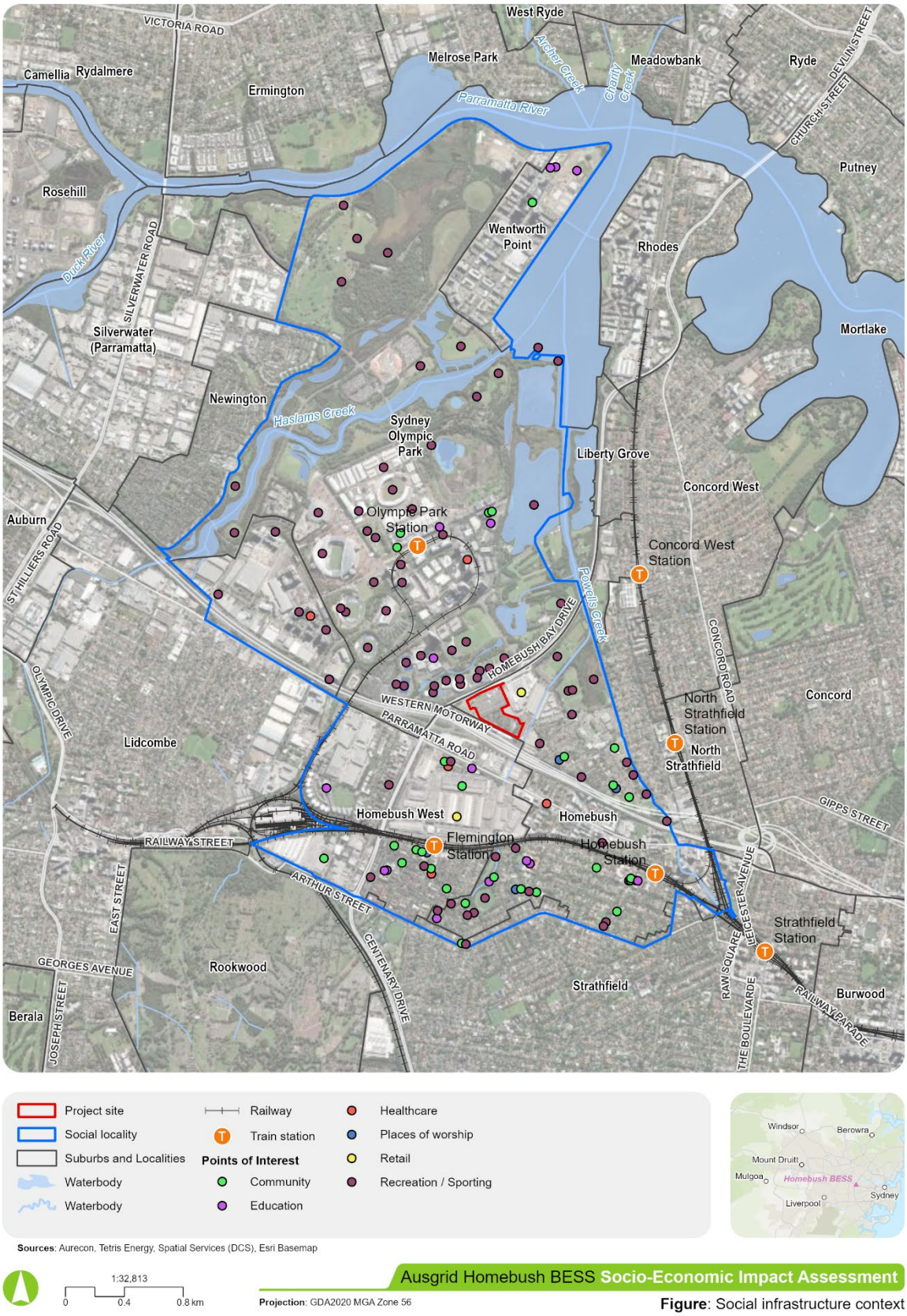

Figure 2 Key social infrastructure in the SL

3.4. Local transport and accessibility

Table 11 outlines public transportation in the vicinity of the Site.

Table 11 Public transportation connecting to the Site

Mode of transport	Description
Heavy rail	▪ Flemington Station is located 1 km south of the Site. Direct trains are available on the T2 Leppington & Inner West Line and T3 Bankstown Line. ▪ Homebush Station is located 1.5 km southeast of the Site. Direct Trains are available on the T1, T2 and T3 lines. ▪ Strathfield Station is located 2.5 km southeast of the Site. Direct trains are available on the T1, T2, T3, T7, T9, BMT and CCN Lines.
Bus	**Bus stops near the Site include:** ▪ DFO Homebush, Underwood Road (300 m northeast of the Site): routes from this stop include 526, 665S, 760S and 761S. ▪ Underwood Road near Coleman Avenue (400 m east of the Site): routes from this stop include 526, 665S, 760S and 761S. ▪ Underwood Road near Pomeroy Street (600 m southeast of the Site): routes from this stop include 526, 574S, 575S710S, 711S and 713S. ▪ The Crescent opposite Kessell Avenue (930 m southeast of the Site): routes from this stop include 408. ▪ Henley Road at Arthur Street (1.4 km south of the Site): routes from this stop include the 408.

3.5. Major projects and development

A search of the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) Major Projects Register[19] was undertaken on 29 October 2024 to identify large developments planned within the SL. The search gave an indication of the level of growth and development occurring within the SL. Impacts from the identified developments could create cumulative impacts when combined with impacts of the Project.

The search indicated that there are several projects to cater to the growing population within the area. These include:

- Sydney Metro West – stations have been confirmed with locations including Sydney Olympic Park (1 km north the Project).[20] The metro will help service the growing region. The project is expected to create about 10,000 direct and 70,000 indirect jobs during construction[21]. Sydney Metro Olympic Park has begun construction and has a target opening date of 2032. Construction impacts will likely include noise, dust, vibration and traffic impacts.
- Parramatta Light Rail Stage 2 – traverses through Wentworth Point and Sydney Olympic Park with stations several stations ranging from 1.3 km to 3.6 km from the Site respectively. Parramatta Light Rail Stage 2 will connect to the Sydney Metro West and ferry services at Sydney Olympic Park.[22] Construction on Stage 2 is set to begin in 2025 and completed by approximately 2030/2031.[23] Construction impacts will likely include noise, vibration and traffic impacts

19 NSW Government, *Projects, viewed 29/10/24,* <https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/assess-and-regulate/development-assessment/projects>

20 NSW Government, *Sydney Metro West - Rail infrastructure, stations, precincts and operations,* viewed 31/10/2024, <https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/projects/sydney-metro-west-rail-infrastructure-stations-precincts-and-operations>

21 Sydney Metro n.d., *Project overview,* viewed 29 October 2024, <https://www.sydneymetro.info/west/project-overview>

22 NSW Government n.d., Parramatta Light Rail *Stage 2*, viewed 30 October 2024, <https://www.nsw.gov.au/driving-boating-and-transport/projects/parramatta-light-rail/stage-2>

23 NSW Government n.d., *Project description – construction*, viewed 30 October 2024, <https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/projects/parramatta-light-rail-stage-2>

- Homebush intersection upgrade –includes upgrading the intersection of Homebush Bay Drive, Australia Avenue and Underwood Road, around 400 m northeast of the Site. The proposed project is expected to commence in 2025 and take about 18 months to complete.[24] If approved, the upgrades will ease congestion, increase safety, and improve travel times to Homebush and Sydney Olympic Park. Potential impacts include traffic congestion, and road damage from heavy vehicle use.
- Homebush Build-to-Rent –located 1.3 km southeast of the Site in Homebush. The construction timeline is unknown. The proposal includes three buildings with a height range of 21 to 25 storeys. The proposed development includes 481 units and 1,278 m^2 of retail/commercial floor area.[25] If approved positive impacts include supporting the local need for more rental housing choices in the area.[26] Construction impacts may include noise, dust, and vibration impacts.
- Sydney Olympic Park Sites 2A and 2B – located 1.3 km north of the Site at Sydney Olympic Park. The development was approved in February 2024; however, the construction timeline is unknown. The development includes the construction and use of three buildings, including a 5-storey pavilion, a 12-storey commercial building and a 45-storey serviced apartment. [27] The development is expected to generate a total of 900 construction jobs and 1,650 operational jobs.[28] Impacts include traffic impacts and congestion, noise and dust.
- Residential development, 1 & 2 Murray Rose Avenue – located 1.5 km north of the Site at Sydney Olympic Park. The development was granted consent in 2019 and is currently under construction; however, the predicted completion date is unknown. The proposed works include the construction of two residential apartment buildings, containing a total of 293 apartments, at 1 & 2 Murray Rose Avenue, Sydney Olympic Park. Positive impacts include the provision of 293 residential apartments and the creation of 1,380 construction jobs.[29] Impacts include construction impacts including noise, dust and vibration.
- Sydney Olympic Park (Carter Street) new primary school –located 1.7 km northwest of the Site at Lidcombe. The construction timeline is unknown. The proposed works include staged construction and operation of a new primary school to accommodate up to 1,012 students. The school will include 44 general learning spaces, 3 support learning spaces and a preschool.[30] Positive impacts include accommodating current and future growth in the Sydney Olympic Park area.[31] Potential impacts may include traffic, noise, dust, and vibration impacts.
- Mixed-use Development – located 3.4 km north of the Site at Wentworth Point. The project's development application is planned to be approved in 2025, and the Peninsula Park and shared open space construction is anticipated to finish in 2026. The proposed works include 41,500sqm of mixed-use gross floor area, 406 apartments, a new public plaza and shared zone between Burroway Road and Ridge Road and a foreshore promenade to Homebush Bay.[32] Around 15% of homes will be affordable rental housing, supporting the local need for more affordable rental options.[33] Impacts may include access, traffic and transport impacts.

24 NSW Government, n.d., *Homebush Bay Drive and Australia Avenue, Homebush intersection upgrade,* viewed 31 October 2024, <https://caportal.com.au/tfnsw/homebush-bay-drive>

25 NSW Government, n.d., *Homebush Build-to-Rent,* viewed 31 October 2024, <https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/projects/homebush-build-rent>

26 NSW Government n.d., *Build-to-rent housing*, viewed 31 October 2024, <https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/policy-and-legislation/housing/housing-sepp/build-to-rent-housing>

27 NSW Government n.d., *Sydney Olympic Park Sites 2A and 2B - Serviced apartment tower and commercial*, viewed 30 October 2024, <https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/projects/sydney-olympic-park-sites-2a-and-2b-serviced-apartment-tower-and-commercial>

28 NSW Government 2024, *Notice of Decision*, viewed 31 October 2024, <https://majorprojects.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/prweb/PRRestService/mp/01/getContent?AttachRef=SSD-21356591%2120240213T041211.386%20GMT>

29 NSW Government n.d., *SSD 9403 1 & 2 Murray Rose Avenue Notice of Decision*, viewed 30 October 2024, <https://majorprojects.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/prweb/PRRestService/mp/01/getContent?AttachRef=SSD-9403%2120190814T051533.202%20GMT>

30 NSW Government n.d., *Sydney Olympic Park (Carter St) new primary school*, viewed 31 October 2024, <https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/projects/sydney-olympic-park-carter-st-new-primary-school>

31 NSW Government, n.d., *New primary school near Sydney Olympic Park (Carter St Precinct) and new public preschool*, viewed 30 October 2024, <https://www.schoolinfrastructure.nsw.gov.au/projects/new-schools/new-primary-school-near-sydney-olympic-park-carter-st-precinct.html>

32 NSW Government n.d., *9 Burroway Road Mixed Use Development*, viewed 31 October 2024, <https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/projects/9-burroway-road-mixed-use-development>

33 Landcom n.d., *Wentworth Point mixed-use development*, viewed 30 October 2024, <https://www.joinin.landcom.nsw.gov.au/wentworthpoint>

3.6. Current population profile

The SEIA has examined the current characteristics of the community based on ABS 2021 Census data. This analysis aims to build a baseline profile of the people, communities and livelihoods that could be affected by the Project. A detailed demographic profile is provided in Appendix C. Key findings are identified below:

- The SL population is 41,234 and has a median age of 32, which is lower than the Greater Sydney median age of 37. This indicates a younger population, with 25.9% of the SL aged between 25-34 years of age compared to 15.5% in Greater Sydney.
- There is a relatively low Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population in the SL (0.4%) compared to Greater Sydney (1.7%).
- The overseas-born population is larger in the SL (65.5%) compared to Greater Sydney (38.6%). This indicates higher cultural diversity than the Greater Sydney region. In the SL, the top five languages spoken besides English are Mandarin, Korean, Cantonese, Nepali, and Tamil.
- A small population of the SL (1.9%) require assistance due to a disability, which is lower than Greater Sydney (5.2%).
- In the SL, 12.5% of the population has a long-term health condition, with the most common conditions including asthma, mental health conditions, diabetes, arthritis and heart disease. This is significantly lower than Greater Sydney, with 23.6% of the population experiencing a long-term health condition.
- The dominant housing type is apartments, flats or units, accounting for 92.4% of households in the SL. This figure is significantly higher compared to Greater Sydney (30.7%). The largest share of households in the SL is rented houses (58.9%), which is significantly higher compared to Greater Sydney (35.9%). There is a lower proportion of outright home ownership in the SL (8.5%) compared to Greater Sydney (27.8%). Additionally, there is a slightly lower proportion of households that are owned with a mortgage in the SL (30.3%) compared to Greater Sydney (33.3%).
- The median weekly household income is relatively consistent across the SL ($2,020) and Greater Sydney ($2,077). The median mortgage repayment is also relatively consistent across the SL ($2,214) and Greater Sydney ($2,427).
- The median weekly rental payment is relatively consistent across the SL ($480) and Greater Sydney ($470).
- The top three industries of employment in the SL are Professional, Scientific and Technical Services, Health Care and Social Assistance and Retail Trade.
- The dominant method of travel to work is by car, with 28.1% of employed workers in the SL travelling by car (either as a driver or passenger).

The Strathfield LGA has an area of 14.1 square kilometres and according to the 2021 ABS census the population was estimated to be 45,594 people. The Strathfield LGA is enclosed by Burwood LGA to the east, Parramatta to the northwest and Cumberland LGA to the west.

3.6.1. Traditional Owners

The Wangal people of the Eora Nation are the traditional custodians of the land on which the Strathfield LGA is located.[34] The Wangal people's lands and waterways extended in the north from Darling Harbour to the Balmain Peninsula to Parramatta. The Parramatta River marked the northern boundary of the Wangal clan. The Wangal people are believed to have occupied the area for over 20,000 years.[35] The Local Aboriginal Land Council relevant to the Project is the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council.[36]

34 Strathfield Council n.d., History and heritage, viewed 8 November 2024, <https://www.strathfield.nsw.gov.au/Council/About-Strathfield/History-and-Heritage>

35 City of Canada Bay Council n.d., *The Wangal People*, viewed 8 November 2024, <https://www.canadabay.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/A4_FactSheet_Wangal.pdf>

36 Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council n.d., *Our Land,* viewed 8 November 2024, <https://metrolalc.org.au/about-us/our-land/>

3.7. Future population projections

For this analysis, population projections from the NSW Population Projections[37] have been sourced and rebased on the latest ABS estimated resident population figure from 2021-2024 illustrates the historical and projected population from 2021-2041. Key findings include:

- The overall population growth from 2021 to 2041 is projected to be higher in the SL (2.7%) compared to Greater Sydney (0.8%)
- The SL is projected to experience a decline in the rate of annual growth between 2016 and 2041.

Table 12 Population projections

Population	2021	2026	2031	2036	2041
SL	41,738	50,236	59,751	65,229	67,837
Greater Sydney	5,231,147	5,169,245	5,489,148	5,814,649	6,142,275
Annual Growth Rate	**2016-21**	**2021-26**	**2026-31**	**2031-36**	**2036-41**
SL	9.86%	3.8%	3.5%	1.8%	0.8%
Greater Sydney	1.7%	-0.2%	1.2%	1.2%	1.1%

Source: NSW Department of Planning and Environment 2024, Population Projections
Note: The 2021 projections include the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on population change across NSW.

3.8. Economic profile

This section presents data on the economic profile of the PSA and SSA to inform an assessment of the business structure, labour market skills and capacity and income to support the construction and operation of the Project.

3.8.1. Business Structure

The purpose of analysing the current business structure of the PSA is to assess the pool of local businesses available to support the construction of the Project and the assess the potential for local businesses to support and benefit from the Project.

ABS Business Count data for 2023 indicates that the PSA has several businesses in different industries that could potentially provide services to the Project, during both the construction and operational phases.

Most businesses in the PSA are sole traders (63% of total businesses), particularly in industries like Transport, Postal, and Warehousing (448), Rental, Hiring, and Real Estate Services (303), and Construction (232). These three industries account for the largest number of non-employing businesses. Most businesses across all industries have fewer than 20 employees. For instance, in Wholesale Trade and Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services, small businesses (1-4 or 5-19 employees) are common, totalling 138 and 140, respectively.

Only a few industries report having 20-199 employees, including Wholesale Trade (18), Manufacturing (9), and Accommodation and Food Services (5). Very few have 200+ employees, and these are mostly Accommodation and Food Services, Financial and Insurance Services, and Health Care and Social Assistance (3 each).

Table 13 details the number of employing and non-employing businesses in the PSA as of June 2023, with businesses that can potentially support the construction and operation of the Project.

37 NSW Department of Planning and Environment 2023, *Population projections*, viewed 30 October 2024, <https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/research-and-demography/population-projections>

Table 13 Business structure, PSA, June 2023

Industry	Non employing	1-4 Employees	5-19 Employees	20-199 Employees	200+ Employees	Total
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	12	3	0	3	0	15
Mining	0	0	0	0	0	0
Manufacturing	29	32	10	9	0	80
Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services	0	0	0	0	0	3
Construction	232	145	20	3	0	400
Wholesale Trade	93	79	59	18	0	250
Retail Trade	94	94	23	4	0	216
Accommodation and Food Services	38	58	31	5	3	133
Transport, Postal and Warehousing	448	39	3	0	0	492
Information Media and Telecommunications	7	5	0	0	0	15
Financial and Insurance Services	79	23	4	0	3	108
Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services	303	30	7	3	0	342
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	152	115	25	5	0	297
Administrative and Support Services	109	37	12	5	0	163
Public Administration and Safety	3	3	3	0	0	8
Education and Training	22	14	3	4	0	43
Health Care and Social Assistance	89	44	10	4	0	148
Arts and Recreation Services	11	3	0	0	0	14
Other Services	39	36	3	0	0	79
Currently Unknown	3	0	0	0	0	3
Total	**1,763**	**760**	**213**	**63**	**6**	**2,809**

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Counts of Australian Businesses, including Entries and Exits, June 2023
Note: The data presented in the table are directly summarised from the ABS. As such, the rows may not add up to the total column due to rounding and other privacy measures implemented by the ABS.

Consistent with the PSA, most businesses in the SSA are non-employing (over 60% of all businesses). Many businesses that can support the construction and operation of the Project employ between 1-19 staff, with high numbers in Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (596), Construction (600), and Retail Trade (327).

A small number of businesses have 20-199 employees, found mostly in sectors like Wholesale Trade (28), Health Care and Social Assistance (23), and Accommodation and Food Services (21). These mid-sized businesses are relatively few compared to non-employing and small businesses.

Only 18 businesses have 200+ employees, scattered across a few sectors such as Wholesale Trade, Financial and Insurance Services, and Accommodation and Food Services, suggesting a highly fragmented business landscape with few large entities.

Table 14 details the number of employing and non-employing businesses in the SSA as of June 2023, with businesses that can potentially support the construction and operation of the Project.

Table 14 Business structure, SSA, June 2023

Industry	Non employing	1-4 Employees	5-19 Employees	20-199 Employees	200+ Employees	Total
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	31	6	0	3	0	37
Mining	0	0	0	0	0	0
Manufacturing	99	120	22	13	0	258
Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services	0	6	3	0	0	14
Construction	845	548	52	9	0	1,455
Wholesale Trade	289	201	76	28	3	596
Retail Trade	337	263	64	11	0	677
Accommodation and Food Services	134	246	117	21	3	522
Transport, Postal and Warehousing	987	117	13	3	0	1,122
Information Media and Telecommunications	40	28	0	0	0	75
Financial and Insurance Services	413	143	10	0	3	570
Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services	1,400	191	30	13	0	1,631
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	735	516	80	18	0	1,352
Administrative and Support Services	405	205	35	18	3	665
Public Administration and Safety	12	16	3	3	0	32
Education and Training	102	47	20	13	3	181
Health Care and Social Assistance	585	278	92	23	0	982
Arts and Recreation Services	53	21	3	3	3	82
Other Services	144	147	17	0	0	311
Currently Unknown	3	0	0	0	0	9
Total	**6,614**	**3,099**	**637**	**179**	**18**	**10,571**

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Counts of Australian Businesses, including Entries and Exits, June 2023

Overall, there is a small presence of suitable businesses in the PSA and SSA that could potentially support and service the construction and operation of the Project, highlighting a potential need to rely on businesses outside the Study Area.

3.8.2. Labour Force

Occupation Structure

A breakdown of employed persons by occupation structure of the Study Area provides further insights into the available mix of skilled workforce in the Study Area that could potentially assist with the construction and operation of the Project, if available. This analysis informs the establishment of the baseline for the primary receptors of the employment benefits resulting from the Projects impact assessment.

As of the 2021 Census, the PSA and SSA had 10,732 and 41,642 workers, respectively. Professionals make up the largest group in both PSA (33.3%) and SSA (35.2%) followed by Managers and Clerical/Administrative Workers which have a notable presence, especially in SSA. The PSA has a higher proportion of individuals employed as labourers (10.0%) compared to the SSA (8.0%). Additionally, the PSA has a higher proportion of Machinery Operators and Drivers (5.8%) compared to SSA (3.9%). Technicians and Trade workers represents a similar share in both the PSA and SSA, making up about 9.9% in PSA and 9.1% in SSA. These occupations are generally associated with skills required for the construction and operation of BESS projects such as the one proposed.

The analysis indicates that the economic Study Area's occupational base may not be fully suitable to support the construction and operational phases of the Project, highlighting the potential need to look beyond the immediate economic Study Area for a more suitable workforce.

Table 15 provides a summary of the occupation structure in the PSA and SSA, the table also includes a detailed breakdown of technician and trade workers, labourers and machinery operators and drivers, in the PSA and SSA.

Table 15 ANZSIC one-digit and two-digit occupation structure for selected occupations, PSA and SSA, 2021

Occupation	PSA		SSA	
	Persons	% of Total	Persons	% of Total
Professionals	3,577	33.3%	14,639	35.2%
Managers	1,090	10.2%	5,704	13.7%
Community and Personal Service Workers	1,094	10.2%	3,676	8.8%
Clerical and Administrative Workers	1,314	12.2%	5,523	13.3%
Sales Workers	897	8.4%	3,357	8.1%
Technicians and Trades Workers				
Technicians and Trades Workers, nfd	*41*	*0.4%*	*110*	*0.3%*
Engineering, ICT and Science Technicians	*253*	*2.4%*	*888*	*2.1%*
Automotive and Engineering Trades Workers	*81*	*0.8%*	*312*	*0.7%*
Construction Trades Workers	*136*	*1.3%*	*574*	*1.4%*
Electrotechnology and Telecommunications Trades Workers	*114*	*1.1%*	*393*	*0.9%*
Food Trades Workers	*334*	*3.1%*	*1,083*	*2.6%*
Skilled Animal and Horticultural Workers	*36*	*0.3%*	*134*	*0.3%*
Other Technicians and Trades Workers	*63*	*0.6%*	*289*	*0.7%*
Total Technicians and Trades Workers	*1,058*	*9.9%*	*3,783*	*9.1%*
Labourers				
Labourers, nfd	*13*	*0.1%*	*32*	*0.1%*
Cleaners and Laundry Workers	*381*	*3.6%*	*1,328*	*3.2%*

Construction and Mining Labourers	*72*	*0.7%*	*281*	*0.7%*
Factory Process Workers	*282*	*2.6%*	*638*	*1.5%*
Farm, Forestry and Garden Workers	*20*	*0.2%*	*38*	*0.1%*
Food Preparation Assistants	*159*	*1.5%*	*544*	*1.3%*
Other Labourers	*149*	*1.4%*	*489*	*1.2%*
Total Labourers	*1,076*	*10.0%*	*3,350*	*8.0%*
Machinery Operators and Drivers				
Machinery Operators and Drivers, nfd	*4*	*0.0%*	*7*	*0.0%*
Machine and Stationary Plant Operators	*54*	*0.5%*	*152*	*0.4%*
Mobile Plant Operators	*59*	*0.5%*	*175*	*0.4%*
Road and Rail Drivers	*295*	*2.7%*	*750*	*1.8%*
Store persons	*214*	*2.0%*	*526*	*1.3%*
Total Machinery Operators and Drivers	*626*	*5.8%*	*1,610*	*3.9%*
Total	**10,732**	**100.0%**	**41,642**	**100.0%**

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2021 Census – Employment, Income and Education
Note: NFD= not further defined

Unemployment rate

Although there is a strong existing worker base for the construction of the Project, there is limited availability of unutilised labour in the PSA.

Based on the latest unemployment data published by Jobs and Skills Australia quarterly Small Area Labour Markets (SALM)[38,39], the PSA has an unemployment rate of 3.5%. This is slightly below the state average but higher than the SSA average.

The SSA areas collectively have an average unemployment rate of 2.1%, significantly lower than the NSW state average of 3.9%. The PSA has an unemployment rate of 3.5% slightly below the state average but higher than the SSA average.

Overall, the lower-than-average unemployment and labour force participation rate in the study areas indicate limited capacity to support the construction and operation of the Project (refer to).

Table 16 Unemployment and labour force, PSA, SSA and NSW, June 2024

Study Area	Area (SA2)	Unemployment Rate (%)	Total Unemployed Persons	Labour Force	Labour Participation Rate
PSA	Homebush	3.5%	484	13,957	96.5%
SSA	Homebush	3.5%	484	13,957	96.5%
	Wentworth Point – Sydney Olympic Park	1.4%	231	17,099	98.6%
	Concord West – North Strathfield	2.6%	197	7,599	97.4%
	Strathfield - East	2.1%	224	10,891	97.9%
	Strathfield - West	2.4%	126	5,170	97.6%
	SSA Average	2.1%	195	10,190	98.1%

[38] Small Area Labour Markets | Jobs and Skills Australia

[39] Small Area Labour Markets (SALM) presents estimates based on the Structure Preserving Estimation (SPREE) methodology. The purpose of SPREE is to produce small area unemployment, unemployment rate and labour force estimates that reflect the regional disparities of the Centrelink data, while being consistent with ABS Labour Force Survey estimates. Given the level of disaggregation involved, the small area figures produced by SPREE are smoothed (i.e., averaged) over four quarters, to dampen the variability inherent in the small area estimates. More detail at https://www.jobsandskills.gov.au/data/small-area-labour-markets/methodology

Study Area	Area (SA2)	Unemployment Rate (%)	Total Unemployed Persons	Labour Force	Labour Participation Rate
State	NSW	3.9%	178,249	4,625,605	96.1%

Source: Jobs and Skills Australia, Small Area Labour Markets (SALM), June Quarter 2024

3.8.3. Income

As of 2021, the income distribution in the PSA shows a concentration of workers in mid-to-high income brackets. The largest income group in PSA earns $1,000-$1,249 weekly, comprising 15.8% of workers, which is higher than the NSW average of 13.2%. PSA has fewer workers in lower income brackets (e.g. $1-$149 at 1.1%) compared to NSW (2.2%), indicating relatively few low-income earners. Approximately 5.4% of PSA workers earn $3,500 or more per week, slightly below the NSW average of 6.3%.

Overall, PSA shows a strong presence in middle-to-upper income levels, with fewer workers in the lowest brackets than the state average.

Figure 3 provides a comparison of the weekly personal income in the PSA against NSW.

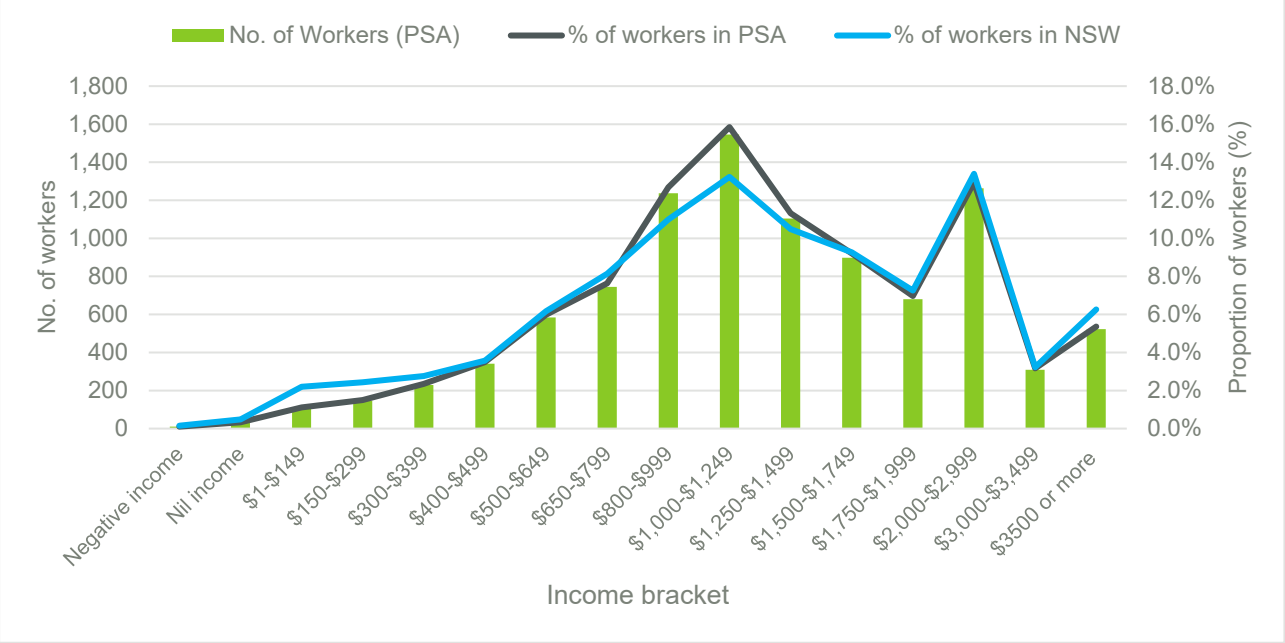

Figure 3 Weekly Personal Income, PSA and NSW, 2021

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2021 Census – Employment, Income and Education

As of the 2021 Census, the income distribution in the SSA area shows that a significant proportion of workers earn weekly incomes around the mid-range and higher income bracket. Approximately 14.6% of SSA workers earn between $1,000-$1,249 and another 14.6% between $2,000-$2,999 weekly. These are slightly higher than the respective NSW averages (13.2% and 13.4%). Fewer workers in SSA are in the lowest income brackets (e.g., $1-$149 at 1.3%, $150-$299 at 1.7%), compared to NSW averages (2.2% and 2.4% respectively). Incomes of $3,500 or more per week account for 5.5% of SSA, slightly below the NSW average of 6.3%.

Overall, SSA has a larger proportion of workers in the middle-to-upper income ranges than NSW.

Figure 4 provides a comparison of the weekly personal income in the SSA against NSW.

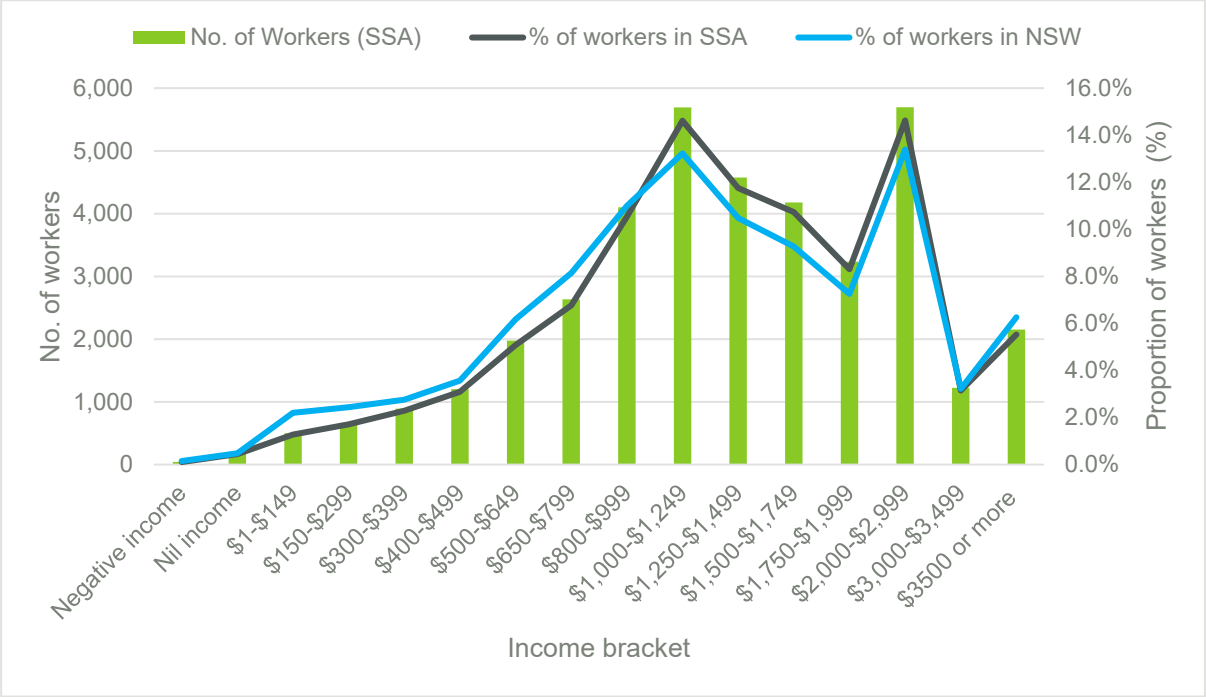

Figure 4 Weekly Personal Income, SSA and NSW, 2021

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2021 Census – Employment, Income and Education

3.8.4. Economy Profile Summary

The key findings from the economic profile analysis can be summarised as follows:

- As of June 2024, the PSA had an average unemployment rate of 3.5%, significantly higher than the SSA (2.1%) but lower than that for NSW (3.9%).
- As of the 2021 Census, Professionals are the largest occupational group in both the PSA (33.3%) and SSA (35.2%), followed by Managers and Clerical/Administrative Workers, which have a stronger presence in the SSA compared to the PSA. The PSA has a higher proportion of Labourers (10.0%) and Machinery Operators/Drivers (5.8%), while Technicians and Trades Workers represent a similar share in both regions (around 9-10%).
- The 2023 ABS Business Count data highlight a highly fragmented business landscape in both the PSA and SSA, with most businesses being sole traders or small enterprises (1-19 employees), particularly in Transport, Real Estate, Construction, and Professional Services. Mid-sized businesses (20-199 employees) are limited and concentrated in sectors like Wholesale Trade, Health Care, and Accommodation & Food Services, while only a handful of large businesses (200+ employees) operate across a few industries. Overall, there is a small presence of businesses in the PSA and SSA that could potentially support and service the construction and operation of the Project, highlighting a potential need to rely on businesses outside the Study Area.
- As of 2021, both the PSA and SSA have a strong concentration of workers in mid-to-high income brackets, with the largest groups earning $1,000-$1,249 weekly (15.8% in PSA, 14.6% in SSA), both above the NSW average of 13.2%. SSA also has a notable share earning $2,000-$2,999 (14.6%, above the NSW average of 13.4%). Both areas have fewer low-income earners compared to NSW, while high-income earners ($3,500+ per week) make up 5.4% in PSA and 5.5% in SSA, slightly below the state average of 6.3%.

4. Strategic policy drivers

This section summarises key strategic drivers identified through a review of key Federal, State and Local Government strategies and plans. The full strategic policy driver analysis is available in Appendix B.
The policy review revealed several key insights relevant to the Project, particularly in the context of the transition to cleaner energy sources and the need for greater energy stability and affordability. Key insights include:

- **Energy security and reliability**: Policies emphasise the importance of maintaining a reliable and secure energy grid, particularly as renewable energy sources become more prominent. With this shift, policies identify the need for investment in infrastructure that can maintain the grid's stability. This includes the development of energy storage systems, such as batteries and pumped hydro, and firming capacity that can respond to fluctuations in supply and demand. Policies additionally identify the need to strengthen the grid's resilience during peak periods and extreme events, ensuring that sufficient capacity is available to avoid outages.
- **Support for clean energy transition**: There is a strong focus on reducing carbon emissions and transitioning away from fossil fuels. Central to this shift is the large-scale deployment of renewable energy technologies and the reduction of fossil fuel reliance. Long-term decarbonisation targets are driving efforts to build out transmission infrastructure, develop renewable energy zones, and integrate distributed energy resources into the broader grid. Plans also identify the growing importance of battery and hydro storage to provide firming capacity and support the reliability of renewable generation.
- **Cost reduction and affordability**: Reducing electricity costs is highlighted across the policies, particularly through the deployment of energy storage systems and distributed energy resources. Policies stress the importance improving network efficiency and affordability, particularly in reducing energy prices during peak demand periods. Plans also look at cost effective solutions, such as renewable energy generation and storage technologies, which contribute to reducing energy prices and enabling a more competitive market.
- **Infrastructure improvement**: Plans focus on enhancing connectivity and infrastructure to meet future needs. Plans identify the importance of integrating energy planning with land use and population growth, ensuring that systems remain responsive to the evolving needs of communities.

5. Community and stakeholder engagement

This section provides an overview of community and stakeholder perspectives which are relevant to the Project.

5.1. Engagement to date

Engagement for the Project began in late August 2024 and will continue through construction. Community and stakeholder groups consulted with included (but are not limited to) immediate neighbours, adjacent landowners, sensitive receivers and businesses, surrounding community, First Nations Groups, elected officials and government agencies.

Key promotional activities included newsletters, direct outreach, email correspondence and online events.

5.2. Engagement activities

5.2.1. Overview

Key activities undertaken throughout the engagement period (August to December 2024) included:

- **Briefings and meetings (formal and informal):** 8 meetings held
- **Community pop-ups:** 3 community pop-ups help, 21 community members spoken to
- **Door knocks and letterbox drops:** 94 homes door knocked, 14,260+ newsletters
- **Email:** 21 stakeholders engaged via email
- **Online surveys:** 11 completions
- **Phone calls:** 2 phone calls
- **Dedicated project webpage:** 897 total page views, 475 unique visitors, 309 document downloads

5.2.2. Engagement timeline

In late August 2024, letters of introduction were sent to key stakeholders. Other engagement methods undertaken during this time included briefings with local council and Member of Parliament, and phone calls and emails to arrange briefings with immediate neighbours.

In late September, the first community newsletter was distributed to about 2,200 nearby businesses and local residents, with nearest residential properties door knocked. A dedicated webpage, project email and phone number were established.

An online webinar was planned for 17 October 2024; however, the webinar was cancelled due to only one individual registering. The registrant was offered a phone call to discuss the Project.

A second community newsletter was distributed to a wider delivery area in mid-November, reaching about 12,200 residential and business properties.

In November 2024, Ausgrid hosted three pop-up information sessions across Homebush to provide opportunities for direct engagement with the Project team. These sessions were attended by 21 community members.

Further community and stakeholder consultation is planned as part the EIS stage of the Project. Ausgrid has developed a Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan (CSEP) for delivery during preparation of the EIS. The outcomes of consultation will be included in the EIS and relevant technical assessments. Ausgrid will continue to identify and manage themes of interest or concern to the community.

5.3. Community and stakeholder matters of interest

Table 17 outlines key community and stakeholder's concerns, perceived benefits and project opportunities uncovered during engagement in 2024.

Table 17 Community and stakeholder matters of interest

Category	Stakeholder feedback
Concerns	■ Some community members, especially residents close to the Site, were concerned about noise pollution. There were also some concerns of the cumulative impact of the BESS on the existing noisy environment. ■ Some community members, especially residents close to the Site, expressed concern regarding the visual impact of the Project. ■ Some community members raised questions regarding electromagnetic fields (EMF). ■ Some community concerns regarding toxic gases, fire and fire management. ■ Some community concerns regarding access and parking. ■ Some community members expressed frustration with existing traffic issues related to the Direct Factory Outlet (DFO). They raised concerns about the cumulative impacts that construction traffic may have on the current traffic conditions and safety.
Perceived benefits	■ Some community members perceive that the Project could increase energy reliability and provide economic benefits, such as job creation. ■ Some community perceptions that the Project may have environmental advantages.
Opportunities	■ The community has expressed interest in adding solar panels to the BESS. ■ Suggestions were made regarding increasing vegetation and tree coverage to mitigate noise. ■ There is interest in incorporating art or a mural, created by a local artist, on a barrier along the M4.

6. Economic Impact Assessment

6.1. Input – Output modelling

An input-output model was used to assess the potential economic benefits (both direct and indirect) of the capital and operating cost of the Project on the Region and NSW economy through a multiplier effect.

The modelling was based on REMPLAN Economy input-output model, which provides a summary or 'snapshot' of the transactions occurring within an economy over a selected period. An input-output model is based on the fundamental notion that industries are inter-dependent. It provides a systematic way to analyse how changes in one industry can impact other industries and the overall economy. Input-output multipliers ('economic multipliers'), derived from input-output tables, capture the extent of inter-dependence between industries.

The investment from the construction of the Project will directly stimulate a range of industries, including the trades that physically construct the Project as well as the suppliers who supply the construction materials. Investments also have downstream (indirect) impacts on the supply chain, such as the manufacturers that make and sell the construction materials to the suppliers.

6.2. Multipliers

To undertake this analysis, the REMPLAN input-output model for New South Wales was derived. This utilises the Australian National Accounts and State's Accounts data for the financial year 2023-24[40].
The input-output model considers three economic multipliers:

- **The output multiplier** for an industry (e.g., construction), which is defined as the total value of production by all industries in the economy required to satisfy one dollar's worth of demand for that industry's output. It represents the total value of all goods and services produced as a result of the Project's impact.
- **The income multiplier** for an industry is defined as the total value of income from wages, salaries and supplies required to satisfy a dollar's worth of final demand for the output of that industry.[41]
- **The employment multiplier** is calculated by dividing the number of employed persons in a given industry by the level of production generated by that industry.

Economic multipliers capture:

- **Direct effects or economic benefits** (initial) to the economy from the investment. This captures the direct effect of an increase in demand for an industry's output. For example, the employment multiplier represents the change in the number of persons employed in all relevant industries in the economy after the initial investment from the Project investment.
- **Indirect effects or economic benefits** (the secondary or flow on effects) to the economy from the investment. This captures the sales, jobs and income of the related industries that supply goods and services to that industry.

Total effects or economic benefits to the economy from the investment. This captures the direct effects, along with consumption/supply chain induced effects that flow from the expenditure of the income that is earned from the direct effects.

[40] Source: ABS, Australian National Accounts: States Accounts, 2023-24

[41] Income refers to the total amount of money earned by individuals, businesses, and entities as a result of the Project. This includes various sources, such as wages and salaries, profits from businesses, rent, interest, and other forms of earnings.

6.3. Assumptions

6.3.1. Gross Regional and Gross State Product

For the purposes of the economic impact assessment, the Region has been defined as the Eastern and Central Districts of the Great Sydney Region which captures the economic Study Areas of PSA and SSA as defined by Economy.ID[42]. The economic impact of the Project has been assessed for NSW and for the Region. This has been calculated based on the Region's Gross Regional Product (GRP) as a proportion of NSW Gross State Product (GSP).

As of 2022-23, the Eastern and Central District GRP is estimated at $286.3 billion[43]. This represents approximately 39.0% of NSW's GSP of $773.6 billion[44]. This percentage has been used to estimate the specific economic contribution of the Project to the Region in the input-output modelling.

6.3.2. ABS Data

The industry classifications adopted to categorise the capital and operating costs are based on the ABS Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC) codes. The ABS data used in the NSW and national input-output model is summarised in Table 18.

Table 18 ABS series data

ABS Series ID	ABS Series Name	Table	Version
5209.0.55.001	*Australian National Accounts: Input-Output Tables – 2021-22*	*Table 5. Industry by industry flow table (direct allocation of imports)* *Table 20. Employment by industry*	27 March 2024
5220.0	*Australian National Accounts: State Accounts – 2022-23*	*Table 2. Expenditure, income and industry components of gross state product, New South Wales, chain volume measures and current prices*	21 November 2023
6291.0.55.001	*Labour Force, Australia, Detailed – June 2024*	*Table 5. Employed persons by State, Territory and Industry division of main job (ANZSIC)*	25 July 2024

6.3.3. Costs

The impact assessment considered both the capital and operating lifecycle costs of the Project. Impacts from these have been split across the relevant industries that contribute to the construction and operation phases of the Project. These industry classifications have been summarised in and Table 20 for lifecycle capital costs and Table 21 and Table 22 for lifecycle operating costs.

Construction Phase (capital costs)

The Project's capital cost components, as shown in Table 19 and Table 20, occurs over two distinct phases. These phases have been structured to account for the initial capital investment (referred to as Phase 1

[42] The Eastern District of Greater Sydney Region captures the Wentworth Park – Sydney Olympic Park SA2 which forms part of the SSA whereas the Central District captures the Homebush; Wentworth Point – Sydney Olympic Park; Concord West – North Strathfield; Strathfield – East, and Strathfield – West SA2s. Accessed from Economic profile | Greater Sydney | economy.id

[43] Gross Regional Product | Greater Sydney | economy.id

[44] REMPLAN, accessed November 2024.

capital costs) and the replacement phase, which includes the megapack system replacement after 25 years over the 50-year Project lifespan (referred to as Phase 2 capital costs).[45]

Construction Phase (Phase 1 capital costs)

The Phase 1 capital costs will be incurred over a 2-year construction and commissioning period. This includes costs for:

- Purchase of materials
- Purchase of equipment (including the BESS unit)
- Transportation costs
- Installation costs, including cost of labour

The split of Australia and overseas for each cost component under Phase 1 is shown in Table 19[46]. The cost components from Australia are assumed to be invested and resourced locally, utilising a local labour workforce and industry from the PSA, SSA and the broader Region (outlined in Section 3.8). Based on the cost split, it is assumed that $85.7 million of the $201.8 million capital cost will be spent in Australia, with the remainder spent overseas.

The Phase 1 capital costs spent in Australia are expected to flow directly to local businesses in the PSA and SSA in the first instance, as well as to the broader Region, such as through local construction services. There will also be indirect impacts on other businesses that support these construction services.

The Phase 1 capital costs will require input from various industries (as per ABS ANZSIC codes), as shown below.

Table 19 Phase 1 Capital Costs

Cost Components	Industry Classification (ANZSIC codes as per ABS)	Detailed Industry Classification (ANZSIC codes as per ABS)	Cost (m, real, FY$2025)	Proportion of Cost (Australia vs Overseas)	
				Australia (%)	Overseas (%)
Network Connections	2605	Electricity Transmission, Distribution, On Selling and Electricity Market Operation	$1.2	100%	0%
Civil Works & Buildings	3101	Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction	$10.9	100%	0%
Collector Station	2405	Specialised and other Machinery and Equipment Manufacturing	$5.0	100%	0%
Collector and Auxiliary Cable Networks	2405	Specialised and other Machinery and Equipment Manufacturing	$4.4	100%	0%
Balance of Plant and Installation	2405	Specialised and other Machinery and Equipment Manufacturing	$20.0	30%	70%
SCADA System	2405	Specialised and other Machinery and Equipment Manufacturing	$2.2	100%	0%
Hold Point Testing	2405	Specialised and other Machinery and Equipment Manufacturing	$1.1	100%	0%
BESS Units Supply	2405	Specialised and other Machinery and Equipment Manufacturing	$134.9	30%	70%

[45] Megapack is a large-scale, integrated lithium-ion battery storage solution designed for grid-scale applications.
46 This spilt has been assumed by Aurecon and validated with Ausgrid.

Cost Components	Industry Classification (ANZSIC codes as per ABS)	Detailed Industry Classification (ANZSIC codes as per ABS)	Cost (m, real, FY$2025)	Proportion of Cost (Australia vs Overseas)	
				Australia (%)	Overseas (%)
Step-up Transformers & RMUs	2405	Specialised and other Machinery and Equipment Manufacturing	$15.3	50%	50%
Engineering, Owners Costs and Other	6901	Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	$6.7	100%	0%
Total Capital Costs (Phase 1)			**$201.8**	**$85.7**	**$116.1**

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding

Construction Phase (Phase 2 capital costs)

The Phase 2 capital costs are expected to be incurred in year 25 and represent the replacement of the megapack system to support the Project's 50-year operating life. Table 20 shows the split of Australian and overseas contributions to these costs.

Of the $140 million Phase 2 cost, $17.8 million is expected to be spent in Australia, utilising local workforce and industry, while the remaining amount will be spent overseas. As with Phase 1, this capital cost will directly benefit local businesses, including construction services and technicians, and indirectly support related industries.

Consistent with the previous section, Phase 2 capital costs will require input from various industries, as classified under ABS ANZSIC codes, as detailed below.

Table 20 Phase 2 capital costs

Cost Components	Industry Classification (ANZSIC codes as per ABS)	Detailed Industry Classification (ANZSIC codes as per ABS)	Cost (m, real, FY$2025)	Proportion of Cost (Australia vs Overseas)	
				Australia (%)	Overseas (%)
Megapack system replacement	2405	Specialised and other Machinery and Equipment Manufacturing	$135.8	10%	90%
Labour and Installation	3101	Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction	$2.1	100%	0%
Labour and Installation	6901	Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	$2.1	100%	0%
Total Capital Costs (Phase 2)			**$140.0**	**$17.8**	**$122.2**

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding

Operational Phase (Operating Costs)

The Project's operating costs, detailed in Table 21 and Table 22, are divided into two phases. Phase 1 covers operating costs for the initial capital investment costs, while Phase 2 includes costs for replacing the megapack system at the 25-year midpoint of the Project's 50-year life, including Balance of Plant (BoP) operating costs. [47]

Operational Phase (Phase 1 operating costs)

The Phase 1 operating cost components shown in Table 21 will be spent over a 25-year operating period. This includes costs for:

- Utilities, such as power and water supply costs.

[47] Per advice from Ausgrid via email on the 14th of November 2024.

- Maintenance of the BESS facility (this includes servicing of equipment and operating and maintenance costs).
- Optimisation services of equipment.
- Other maintenance (including transformer replacement, security, road maintenance).
- Grid connection.
- Labour force, including supervisors, operators, engineers, skilled labourers and administrative costs.
- Labour and training for apprentices.

The split between Australia and overseas for each operating cost component is shown in Table 21. It has been assumed that most of the operational costs will be spent in Australia, specifically in NSW.

The Phase 1 operational costs will require input from various industries (as per ABS ANZSIC codes), as shown below.

Table 21 Phase 1 operating costs

Cost Components	Industry Classification (ANZSIC codes as per ABS)	Detailed Industry Classification (ANZSIC codes as per ABS)	Cost (m, real, FY$2025)	Proportion of Cost (Australia vs Overseas)	
				Australia (%)	Overseas (%)
Power	2605	Electricity Transmission, Distribution, On Selling and Electricity Market Operation	$0.2	100.0%	0%
Water Services	2801	Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage Services	$0.0	100.0%	0%
Maintenance	9402	Other Repair and Maintenance	$2.5	50.0%	50%
Other maintenance (transformer replacement, security, road maintenance)	9402	Other Repair and Maintenance	$0.2	100.0%	0%
Optimisation services of equipment	6901	Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	$0.8	100.0%	0%
Labour	6901	Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	$0.1	100.0%	0%
Grid connection	2601	Electricity Generation	$0.2	100.0%	0%
Total Operating Costs (Phase 1)			**$3.9**	**$2.7**	**$1.2**

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding

Operational Phase (Phase 2 operating costs)

The Phase 2 operating cost components, shown in , will incur over a 25-year period (i.e., between Year 25 and Year 50 of the 50-year operating life), following the replacement of the megapack systems. These costs will be additional to the Phase 1 operating costs and will cover additional:

- Balance of plant maintenance (civil)
- Balance of plant maintenance (electronic).

The split between Australia and overseas for each operating cost component under Phase 2 is shown in . It has been assumed that almost 70% of Phase 2 operational costs will be spent in Australia, specifically in NSW.

Thie Phase 2 operating costs will require input from various industries (as per ABS ANZSIC codes), as shown below.

Table 22 Phase 2 operating costs

Cost Components	Industry Classification (ANZSIC codes as per ABS)	Detailed Industry Classification (ANZSIC codes as per ABS)	Cost (m, real, FY$2025)	Proportion of Cost (Australia vs Overseas)	
				Australia (%)	Overseas (%)
Power	2605	Electricity Transmission, Distribution, On Selling and Electricity Market Operation	$0.2	100.0%	0.0%
Water	2801	Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage Services	$0.0	100.0%	0.0%
Maintenance	9402	Other Repair and Maintenance	$2.5	50.0%	50.0%
Other maintenance (transformer replacement, security, road maintenance)	9402	Other Repair and Maintenance	$0.2	100.0%	0.0%
Optimisation services of equipment	6901	Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	$0.8	100.0%	0.0%
Labour	6901	Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	$0.1	100.0%	0.0%
Grid connection	2601	Electricity Generation	$0.2	100.0%	0.0%
Balance of Plant (BoP) - Civil	3101	Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction	$0.4	70.0%	30.0%
Balance of Plant (BoP) - Electronic	9402	Other Repair and Maintenance	$0.6	70.0%	30.0%
Total Operating Costs (Phase 2)			**$4.9**	**$3.4**	**$1.6**

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding

6.4. Results

This section provides a summary of the economic benefits for the Project during the construction and operational phases.

6.4.1. Construction Phase Benefits

The construction and commissioning phase spans a period of 2 years for Construction Phase 1 and a single year for Construction Phase 2.[48] It is noted that some additional capital costs may be incurred in future years in the form of sustaining capital, which will also lead to additional economic benefits for the region.

The tables below summarise the total economic benefits during the construction phase for the output, income and employment growth multipliers. Economic impacts have been shown for the Region and NSW.

Output

Over the construction phase, the Project is expected to generate a total direct and indirect output of $66.5 million for the Region's economy, with a modest share expected to flow to the PSA and SSA. At the state level, the contribution is projected to reach $180.5 million to the NSW economy. The impact on the current NSW GSP ($777.3 billion) is anticipated to be minimal, contributing less than 0.01%.

[48] Source: Ausgrid, November 2024

Table 23 Total Output impact (construction phase) [49]

Output Impact	Region ($m)	NSW ($m)
Direct	$38.1	$103.5
Indirect	$28.3	$77.0
Total	**$66.5**	**$180.5**

Employment

For the Region, the Project will stimulate the creation of 100 direct full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs over the construction phase. Given the limited occupational base and constrained labour market capacity in the PSA and SSA, only a small proportion of these roles are expected to be captured locally. At the state level, the associated capital investment is projected to generate a total of 267 FTEs (direct and indirect) over the construction period, providing a broader uplift to employment across the NSW economy."

Table 24 Total Employment impact (construction phase)

Employment (FTEs)	Region	NSW
Direct	37	100[50]
Indirect	62	167
Total	**98**	**267**

Income

Over the construction phase, the Project is projected to deliver a cumulative direct and indirect income uplift of $11.6 million within the Region. A limited share of this is expected to benefit FTEs originating from the PSA and SSA, supporting modest increases in local expenditure. At the state level, the Project is anticipated to generate $31.5 million in income, reinforcing broader economic activity across the NSW economy.

Table 25 Total Income impact (construction phase) [51]

Income impact	Region ($m)	NSW ($m)
Direct	$4.9	$13.2
Indirect	$6.7	$18.3
Total	**$11.6**	**$31.5**

6.4.2. Operational Phase Benefits

Using the methodology employed in the construction phase, operational economic benefits were derived by multiplying the relevant industry multipliers by the proportion of expenditure allocated to them as outlined in Section 6.3.3 for the two operational phases.

The tables below summarise the total economic benefits during the operational phase, for output, income growth and employment benefits. The operational phase spans a 50-year period. All operating costs allocated to Australia are anticipated to be invested locally in NSW, therefore there are no operational phase benefits estimated outside the state of NSW.

Output

During the operational phases, the Project will lead to a total (direct and indirect) output growth of $385.7 million for the NSW economy and total output growth of over $142.0 million for the Region. A small

[49] Costs presented in November 30, 2024, real dollars.
[50] Direct FTE jobs have been provided by Ausgrid.
[51] Costs presented in November 30, 2024, real dollars.

proportion of the output contribution captured for the Region is expected to flow to the PSA and SSA, leading to the economic stimulation of those areas.

Table 26 Total Output impact (operational phase

Output Impact	Region ($m)	NSW ($m)
Direct	$55.6	$151.0
Indirect	$86.4	$234.7
Total	**$142.0**	**$385.7**

Employment

During the operational phase, the Project is expected to support the creation of approximately 1 FTE jobs per annum across NSW, including 0.4 FTE per annum within the Region. Over the 50-year operating horizon, this equates to around 108 cumulative FTEs (direct and indirect) at the state level and approximately 40 FTEs within the Region. A portion of the Region's employment benefits is anticipated to extend to the PSA and SSA, contributing to ongoing economic activity in those areas.

Table 27 Total Employment impact (operational phase)

Employment Impact (FTEs)	Region	NSW
Direct	18	50[52]
Indirect	24	**65**
Total	**42**	**115**

Note: Total represents value over 50-year operating life.

Income

The operational phase of the Project is expected to generate cumulative income uplift of $11.1 million at the state level and $4.1 million within the Region. A share of the Region's income benefits is anticipated to flow to the PSA and SSA, supporting ongoing local economic activity.

Table 28 Total Income impact (operational phase)

Income Impact	Region ($m)	NSW ($m)
Direct	$1.64	$4.5
Indirect	$2.5	**$6.7**
Total	**$4.1**	**$11.1**

Note: Total represents value over 50-year operating life.

6.5. Decommissioning Phase

At the end of the Project's design life or agreed timetable the batteries will either be disposed of and recycled at an approved disposal facility or, subject to confirmation, returned to the original equipment manufacturer for refurbishment and recycling.

Given the uncertainty around the decommissioning method, this Economic Impact Assessment has not considered the impacts associated with the decommissioning phase.

[52] Direct FTE jobs have been provided by Ausgrid.

7. Social Impact Assessment

This section summarises the social impacts identified during the assessment, evaluated through the social factors and dimensions described in the Guidelines (refer to section 2.2.2) to give an overall Social Significance Rating for each identified impact. Impacts are assessed for both the construction and operational phases of the Project, with positive and negative impacts assessed separately.

Decommissioning impacts are not outlined in this Social Impact Assessment as they are expected to occur in approximately 50 years, making it difficult to predict social context, community needs, regulatory frameworks, and technological advancements at that time.

7.1. Potential positive impacts

Table 29 describes the Project's predicted potential positive impacts during construction and operation.

Table 29 Potential positive impacts during construction and operation of the Project

Social Factor	Impact / Comment	Timing	Likelihood	Magnitude	Social significance
Way of life	The Project could enhance network reliability and security, ensuring a more stable power supply. It is expected to support the faster and more cost-effective delivery of energy storage in the distribution network. This improvement could help lower overall energy costs, placing downward pressure on wholesale electricity prices. The community may benefit from reduced energy expenses, fostering economic stability and improving overall quality of life through more affordable and reliable energy access.	Construction and Operation	Likely	Minimal	Low
Livelihoods	The economic assessment revealed the Project will likely create 100 FTE roles during construction and 5 part time roles equivalent to 1 FTE during operation. This may provide direct income, improving financial stability and quality of life for workers. Employing a local workforce is recommended, which can help reduce unemployment rates in the area. This increase in employment opportunities could boost economic stability, reduce unemployment, and contribute to the overall wellbeing of the community.	Construction and operation	Likely	Minor	Medium
	Construction activities will likely increase the number of workers in the area and could boost local businesses. Local shops, restaurants, and services may see an increase in customers, resulting in higher sales. This increased economic activity could support the livelihoods of local business owners and workers, contributing to the overall economic stability and vitality of the community during the construction period.	Construction	Possible	Minor	Medium

Social Factor	Impact / Comment	Timing	Likelihood	Magnitude	Social significance
Decision-making systems	Ausgrid's engagement and consultation program provides direct channels for community and stakeholders to interact with the Project and provide feedback. By actively listening to the community, the Project can align with local needs and priorities. This alignment will help Ausgrid identify, and address community concerns and helps give the community a sense of ownership over the infrastructure being delivered within their community.	Construction	Possible	Minor	Medium

7.2. Potential negative impacts

Table 30 describes the Project's predicted potential negative impacts during construction and operation.

Table 30 Potential negative impacts during construction and operation of the Project

Social Factor	Impact / Comment	Timing	Likelihood	Magnitude	Social significance
Way of life	The community has existing concerns regarding current traffic conditions around the DFO and the potential cumulative impact of construction traffic on conditions and safety. Feedback[53] from a community pop up indicated concerns around traffic impacts, noting there is already significant congestion around DFO, Mason Park and the broader Homebush area. Additionally, members of the Sydney Olympic Park residents & community Facebook group have expressed concern over the traffic surrounding the DFO, stating "Have been living here for 2 years. All good except 1. Traffic jams every DFO sale season and big events nearby…". Another member replied "DFO - not just sales events...try every single weekend" (Appendix E). The media scan (Appendix D) also found that traffic congestion is temporarily created through events at Sydney Olympic Park. Due to the existing traffic conditions, the Project could create cumulative impacts on traffic and transport during construction. The Project's Traffic Impact Assessment[54] found that the road network can accommodate peak construction traffic with minimal delays. However, the estimated increase of 20 heavy vehicles per day during peak periods, combined with existing community concerns, and a high reliance on cars to work could lead to frustration, stress, heightened safety concerns, and a negative perception of the Project, affecting daily routines and quality of life.	Construction	Possible	Minor	Medium

54 Ausgrid 2025, Traffic Impact Assessment. Amber Traffic and Transportation Direction

Social Factor	Impact / Comment	Timing	Likelihood	Magnitude	Social significance
Community	Some members of the community within the SL may be more sensitive to the impacts of the Project if impacts are not communicated in their language throughout construction. There is a high percentage of overseas-born people in the SL (65.5%) compared to Greater Sydney (38.6%), which indicates a higher level of cultural diversity.	Construction	Unlikely	Minor	Low
Accessibility	The increase in construction workers travelling to the Site may lead to higher demand for public transport. This, coupled with the cumulative impact of other nearby projects, could strain local transport services, making commuting less convenient for both workers and residents. Increased congestion on public transport could affect the accessibility and daily routines of people who rely on these services, leading to frustration and inconvenience.	Construction	Unlikely	Minor	Low
Culture	The Project's Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment[55] found the potential impact of the Project on Aboriginal cultural heritage to be minimal. No recorded Sites were identified within the study area. While there is a low chance of unrecorded subsurface deposits, the Site's prior disturbance reduces this likelihood. Ground disturbance during the development may affect any undiscovered material, however it is unlikely. During engagement, both the Deerubbin LALC and Metropolitan LALC were contacted to be engaged in consultation, however at the time that this document[56] was written a response had not been received.	Construction	Unlikely	Minor	Low
Health and wellbeing	Engagement to date [57] identified that there are existing concerns amongst the community about the potential impact of the Project on EMF and its possible health effects. Notably, the Project's Hazard Analysis concluded that there is no risk of adverse health effects from EMF exposure. However, the perception of such risks may still lead to anxiety among certain community members, which could impact their overall sense of wellbeing.	Operation	Possible	Minor	Medium

55 Ausgrid 2025, Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report. Apex Archaeology.

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Social Factor	Impact / Comment	Timing	Likelihood	Magnitude	Social significance
	Engagement to date[58] identified some community members were concerned about the risk of lithium-ion battery fires, toxic gases and interest in management strategies. Notably, the Project's Preliminary Hazard Analysis[59] concluded that fires are of an extremely low likelihood and rarity and should not impact the health of residents or surrounding people. Additionally, the Project's Water Impact Assessment[60] found that during any system failures, including fire, water would not be applied to the units and contaminated water would not be generated. The perceived risk of fires and toxic gases may affect the mental wellbeing of the community.	Operation	Possible	Minor	Medium
	The Project's Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment[61] found that the construction activities may create noise and vibration and impact residents to the south-east. The predicted construction noise levels identified in the NVIA were found to exceed project-specific noise criteria during all construction scenarios, particularly during the earlier stages of construction. While the noise levels may cause temporary disturbances, particularly during the early stages of construction, the overall impact on residents is expected to be moderate, with minimal long-term effects on their way of life or wellbeing. Nevertheless, some community members, particularly residents, have voiced significant concerns regarding noise pollution, as reflected in the responses to an online survey conducted by the project[62]. This could lead to heightened negative perceptions and a decrease in wellbeing for local residents.	Construction	Possible	Minor	Medium
Surroundings	According to the Project's Visual Impact Assessment[63], the potential visual impact on passing motorists and cyclists is expected to be very low. This impact is expected to be temporary and primarily felt during transit, varying with the specific route taken. Due to the transient nature of this impact, it is unlikely to cause any enduring changes to motorists and cyclists experience.	Construction and Operation	Possible	Minimal	Low
	According to the Project's Visual Impact Assessment[64], the visual impact on residents with partial views of the Project in apartments situated to the southeast (72 m) from the Site, is expected to be minimal. While the visual change is slight, it may still affect some residents' quality of living. Any loss in aesthetic enjoyment could have a mild impact on emotional wellbeing but is not expected to result in substantial disruption or overall living experience.	Construction and Operation	Likely	Minor	Medium

59 Ausgrid 2024, Hazard Analysis. Planager

60 Ausgrid 2024, Water Impact Assessment. GHD.

61 Ausgrid 2025, Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment. Assured Environmental

63 Ausgrid 2025, Visual Impact Assessment. Aurecon

64 Ausgrid 2025, Visual Impact Assessment. Aurecon

Social Factor	Impact / Comment	Timing	Likelihood	Magnitude	Social significance
	According to the Project's Visual Impact Assessment[65], the potential visual impact on the DFO carpark 70 m northeast of the Project, is categorised as low. This impact is deemed to have low significance given the existing visual character of the area and carpark. Consequently, the Project is not expected to substantially change the overall visual experience for those utilising the carpark.	Construction and Operation	Possible	Minimal	Low
Livelihoods	The Project's Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment[66] found that the construction activities may affect users of the DFO (north) and Sydney Markets (south). This could result in a reduction in foot traffic and shopping experience, causing a decline in customer visits. This could affect the number of shoppers and business earnings during construction. Noise sensitive receptors identified in the NVIA included the Homebush DFO. In general, the NVIA identified exceedances of the Highly Noise Affected criteria during Construction Scenario 0 and exceedances of the Noise Affected criteria during all other construction scenarios. Predicted noise levels were based on a worst-case scenario, assuming minimum distances and no ground absorption. However, as construction activities will occur at varying distances from sensitive receptors, actual noise levels are expected to be lower than predicted in the NVIA. Additionally, the noise and vibration associated with the Project could impact workers' experiences, reducing their comfort and productivity on-Site. Site	Construction	Possible	Minor	Medium
Cumulative impacts	The area has several large planned or proposed developments which may combine with the impacts of this Project creating social pressures for local residents and road conditions through congestion or heavy vehicle usage. Members of the Strathfield locals Facebook Group have expressed concern over the number demolition/construction Sites in the area and associated impacts, commenting "Heavy industry is part of many Strathfield streets. Often there are several demolition/construction sites in one street." Another member commented "the noise, dust, pollution & damage to footpaths & driveways etc are awful" (Appendix E). Therefore, people may be more sensitive to cumulative impacts, and this may create social pressures on local residents and road congestion.	Construction	Possible	Minor	Medium

65 Ausgrid 2025, Visual Impact Assessment. Aurecon

66 Ausgrid 2025, Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment. Assured Environmental

7.3. Worst case scenario

The worst-case scenario for constructing and operating a BESS at the Site could include missed positive impacts and worsened negative ones. The Project may fail to enhance network reliability, reduce energy costs, or create local jobs as expected. Construction traffic could worsen road congestion, safety concerns, and disruptions to local access. Noise and vibration might affect nearby businesses like the DFO and Sydney Markets, reducing foot traffic and impacting livelihoods. Overcrowded public transport could inconvenience residents and workers, while cultural barriers could frustrate the community and hinder engagement. Concerns about fire safety and perceived health risks from electromagnetic fields (EMF) could cause unnecessary anxiety. Cumulative impacts from other developments may further strain local infrastructure. Notably, it's unlikely all these negative impacts will occur simultaneously, given the mitigation strategies and low probabilities for each risk.

7.4. No Project scenario

The 'do nothing' approach would involve not constructing and operating a BESS at the Site, which would have broader social and economic implications. NSW electricity grid requires firming and storage capability to be able to store energy and meet electricity demand. Without the Project, the projected future increase in demand for energy storage may not be adequately addressed. In addition, the absence of the Project would mean missing out on potential social benefits such as improved access to reliable and affordable energy, local job creation during both construction and operation, and increased economic activity in the surrounding area. Given the existing network capacity and adjacent land holdings, any comparable alternate network solution will likely come at higher cost and higher community and environmental impact than that proposed. The 'do nothing' option would not meet the objectives of the Project or the demands on the NEM and is therefore not considered a feasible option.

8. Mitigation and enhancement measures

Community and stakeholder concerns and priorities have been factored into the early development phase of the Project influencing factors such as the Project design which considers likely access and egress points, operational noise impacts, vegetation retention, biodiversity protection, and ongoing community education on fire management and safety.

Table 31 provides the additional recommended management measures to be implemented during the construction and operation of the Project.

The management of other environmental impacts (such as noise and vibration, traffic and other amenity-related impacts) as identified other technical reports would contribute to the management of social impacts, due to their interrelated nature.

Table 31 Mitigation and enhancement measures

Mitigation and enhancement measure	Potential Impact	Timing
Collaborate with Council, local residents, and other key stakeholders to coordinate works to minimise impacts, manage cumulative impacts and enhance potential benefits.	Community and construction impact and benefits.	Construction
Develop and implement a construction phase Communications and Engagement Plan to inform stakeholders and community members about the timing and likely impacts of the construction activities.	Community impacts including noise, visual amenity, traffic.	Construction
Undertake myth busting activities to reduce key stakeholder and community concerns, as well as develop clear information on mitigation strategies.	Noise, visual amenity, hazards, traffic and EMF	Construction
Ensure communication channels and materials are regularly updated to minimise misinformation and avoid misconceptions. Regularly monitor for stakeholder inquiries.	Community impacts including noise, visual amenity, traffic, EMF	Construction
Notify residents and local businesses in advance of any impactful work, enabling them to plan accordingly. If work must be conducted outside standard construction hours, ensure residents receive sufficient notice to minimise disruption.	Community impacts including noise and vibration.	Construction
▪ Develop a Construction Traffic Management Plan that outlines a comprehensive set of measures to manage the impact on road network capacity, congestion and safety.	Traffic and accessibility impacts.	Construction
Develop a Construction Management Plan.	Construction impacts including noise.	Construction
Implement the Project's Visual Impact Assessment mitigation measures to minimise impacts visual impacts.	Visual impacts.	Construction
▪ Provide translated versions of documents upon request to ensure inclusive engagement practices.	Community and stakeholder impacts.	Construction and operation
Seek to employ local workforce and local procurement to benefit the local community.	Livelihood benefits	Construction and operation

9. Conclusion

This SEIA has been prepared by Aurecon on behalf of Ausgrid to inform and support the development of the Project and address the SEARs. It assesses the potential social and economic impacts of the Project's construction and operation stages and identifies management measures to address the identified negative socio-economic impacts.

The Project will support the NSW Government's ambition to reduce CO_2 emissions and transition to clean, renewable energy sources. The NSW Government has set a decarbonisation goal of reducing emissions by 70% by 2035 compared to 2005 levels.[67] The Project is expected to provide stability to the electricity network by uplifting capability to support increasing levels of renewable energy generation and provide electricity to the NEM during peak periods.

During construction and operation, the Project is expected to generate benefits for communities and businesses in the SL by creating local employment and direct expenditure. These benefits will contribute to workforce development and economic growth, strengthening the long-term resilience of these communities.

The SIA considered both the potential and perceived social impacts on community and stakeholders within the SL. The SIA found that most impacts were deemed to have a low to medium social significance.

The Project's construction and operational activities, along with its workforce needs, are expected to be met by engaging local suppliers and service providers in the first instance, before looking beyond the Study Area. This is anticipated to drive increased business revenue, enhance livelihoods for owners and employees, and create opportunities for growth and development.

[67] NSW Government 2024, New South Wales Climate and Energy Action Plan.

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NSW Government 2024, Notice of Decision, viewed 31 October 2024, https://majorprojects.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/prweb/PRRestService/mp/01/getContent?AttachRef=SSD-21356591%2120240213T041211.386%20GMT

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Strathfield Council 2023, Strathfield 2035 Community Strategic Plan, viewed 21 October 2024, https://www.strathfield.nsw.gov.au/files/assets/public/v/1/strathfield-2035-community-strategic-plan-amended-july-2023-2.pdf

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Sydney Olympic Park n.d., About us, viewed 5 November 2024, https://www.sydneyolympicpark.nsw.gov.au/about-us

Sydney Olympic Park n.d., Bicentennial Park, viewed 31 October 2024, https://www.sydneyolympicpark.com.au/parks-and-playgrounds/bicentennial-park

Appendix B: Strategic policy drivers

This appendix outlines key strategic policy drivers at a federal, state and local level which are relevant to the Project.

Policy	Details	Relevance
Federal		
Australian Energy Market Commission's (AEMC) National Electricity Rules[68]	The National Electricity Rules govern the operation of the national electricity market and are enforced by law. The Rules are made by the AEMC. The Rules exist so market participants understand their responsibilities and rights and ensure that consumers do not pay more than necessary for electricity. As of September 2023, the rules associated with Market Price Cap, Cumulative Price Threshold and Administered Price Cap have changed. The increase in price aims to maintain the network's reliability and allow for more scope for investors to deliver emerging technologies for the transition to net zero[69].	The Rules govern the economic regulation of the services provided by monopoly transmission and distribution networks and are thus more broadly relevant to the Project and Ausgrid. Specifically, it regulates the revenue transmission network service providers may earn, sets out the procedure and approach to approval of transmission determination, and the consultation procedure.
Australian Energy Regulator (AER) Strategic Plan 2020-2025[70]	The AER regulates Australia's wholesale electricity and gas markets, which form part of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC). This Strategic Plan sets out priorities to achieve four key objectives over the next five years, which are: ▪ Protect vulnerable consumers while enabling consumers to participate in energy markets. ▪ Effectively regulate competitive markets primarily through monitoring, reporting, enforcement, and compliance. ▪ Deliver efficient regulation of monopoly infrastructure while incentivising networks to become platforms for energy services. ▪ Use our expertise to inform the debate about Australia's energy future and support the energy transition.	The Project aligns with Objective Three: 'deliver efficient regulation of monopoly infrastructure while incentivising networks to become platforms for energy services. The Project will increase the stability of the electricity network by providing storage capacity to the NEM. The Project will also contribute to several key outcomes that the AER aims to achieve, including an affordable, secure, and reliable energy supply. Ultimately, the Project will improve the lives of people who work and live in NSW.

68 Australian Energy Market Commission n.d., *National Electricity Rules*, viewed 21 October 2024, <https://www.aemc.gov.au/regulation/energy-rules/national-electricity-rules>

69 Australian Energy Market Commission 2023, *Proposed rule change to maintain reliability during the energy transition*, viewed 21 October 2024, <https://www.aemc.gov.au/news-centre/media-releases/proposed-rule-change-maintain-reliability-during-energy-transition>

70 Australian Energy Regulator & Commonwealth Government 2020, *Strategic Plan*, viewed 21 October 2024, <https://www.aer.gov.au/system/files/AER-Strategic-Plan_2020-2025.pdf>

Policy	Details	Relevance
Australia's Long Term Emissions Reduction Plan[71]	Australia's whole-of-economy Long-Term Emissions Reduction Plan is focused on technology and sets out how Australia will achieve net zero emissions by 2050 (DCCEEW, 2022a). One of the key principles of the plan is keeping energy prices down with affordable and reliable power. The plan outlines how government will: ■ Drive down the cost of low emissions technologies (including battery storage) ■ Deploy these technologies at scale ■ Help regional industries and communities seize economic opportunities in new and traditional markets ■ Work with other countries on the technologies needed to decarbonise the world's economy.	The Project would help reduce the electricity prices during peak demand periods for consumers in Sydney's greater region. The Project would help reduce the reliance on non-renewable in the Sydney energy grid and limiting overall carbon emissions generated by the electricity industry.
Integrated System Plan[72]	The Integrated System Plan (ISP) is a whole-of-system plan that provides a coordinated generation and transmission investment plan to transition the NEM over the next 30 years. The Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) updates the ISP every two years, and the most recent ISP for the NEM was published in June 2024. Under the 'Step Change' scenario, identified in the 2024 ISP as the most likely scenario, the NEM will need to cater for significant investment in generation capacity, storage, firming generation and transmission augmentation as coal generation withdraws through to 2050.	The 2024 ISP predicts under the Step Change scenario that about 90% of the current 21 gigawatt (GW) of coal capacity would retire by 2034-35, with the remainder retiring before 2040. The ISP suggests that 49 GW / 646 GWh of new battery and hydro storage (distributed and utility scale), would be required to be able to respond to a dispatch signal and help firm the renewable energy sources entering the market.

71 Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water 2022, *Australia's Long-Term Emissions Reduction Plan,* viewed 21 October 2024, <https://www.dcceew.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/australias-long-term-emissions-reduction-plan.pdf>

72 Australian Energy Market Operator 2024, *Integrated System Plan,* viewed 21 October 2024, <https://aemo.com.au/-/media/files/major-publications/isp/2024/2024-integrated-system-plan-isp.pdf?la=en>

Policy	Details	Relevance
State		
NSW Electricity Strategy[73]	The NSW Electricity Strategy is the NSW Government's plan for a reliable, affordable, and sustainable electricity future. The strategy outlines three approaches for the NSW government to meet these objectives: ■ Support the market to deliver reliable electricity at the lowest price, while protecting the environment ■ Set an Energy Security Target to ensure that the State has sufficient generation capacity to cope with unexpected generator outages during periods of peak demand, such as during heat waves, and ■ Ensure the State has sufficient powers to deal with an electricity emergency if one arises.	The strategy outlines the cheapest and most efficient way to develop a modern and complex energy system to replace coal-fired generators is to build a mix of low-cost renewables, gas-fired generators and other storage options, such as batteries and pumped hydro. The Project supports the strategies objectives, being a grid-scale energy storage system, it would help NSW Government plan for a reliable, affordable, and sustainable electricity future.
NSW Government's Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap[74]	The NSW Electricity Strategy (DPIE, 2019) is to be implemented through the NSW Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap (DPIE, 2020). It envisions a modern electricity system in NSW built on the following five pillars: ■ "Driving investment in regional NSW: supporting our regions as the State's economic and energy powerhouse. ■ Delivering energy storage infrastructure: supporting stable, long-term energy storage in NSW. ■ Delivering Renewable Energy Zones: co-ordinating regional transmission and renewable generation in the right places for local communities. ■ Keeping the grid secure and reliable: backing the system with gas, batteries or other reliable sources as needed. ■ Harnessing opportunities for industry: emp powering new and revitalised industries with cheap, reliable and low emissions electricity".	The Electricity Infrastructure Investment Act 2020 was passed in late 2020. The Project is wholly in keeping with the vision of the NSW Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap in that it represents a private regional investment, delivers energy storage, is appropriately zoned and uses existing transmission infrastructure, provides security to the NEM and provides cost effective and reliable electricity with negligible additional emissions. Ausgrid has a plan to achieve decarbonisation of its assets by 2045. These targets are a first for an energy distribution organisation in Australia and demonstrate its commitment to the environment (Ausgrid, 2024). The Project is a key component of Ausgrid's plans to enable the transition to decarbonisation and net-zero emissions while responding to the requirements of the market in relation to reliable and affordable electricity.

73 Department of Planning, Industry & Environment 2019, *NSW Electricity Strategy,* viewed 21 October 2024, <https://www.energy.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/2022-08/2019_11_NSW_ElectricityStrategyDetailed.pdf>

74 NSW Government 2020, *NSW Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap*, viewed 21 October 2024, <https://www.energy.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/2022-08/NSW%20Electricity%20Infrastructure%20Roadmap%20-%20Detailed%20Report.pdf>

Policy	Details	Relevance
State Infrastructure Strategy 2022-2042[75]	The NSW State Infrastructure Strategy (SIS) 2022-2042 (Infrastructure NSW, 2022) builds on the NSW Government's major long-term infrastructure plans as initially outlined within NSW State Infrastructure Strategy 2012. The strategy sets out the government's priorities for the next 20 years, and highlights that ongoing investment is required to keep pace with population growth, ensure competitiveness of NSW industry and meet Governments social and economic goals. Some of the relevant objectives and strategic directions of the SIS include: ▪ Embed reliability and resilience ▪ Achieve an orderly and efficient transition to Net Zero ▪ Protect our natural endowments ▪ Integrate infrastructure, land use and service planning.	The Project being a grid scale energy storage system would help the NSW Government meet these objectives and strategic directions.
Energy Networks Australia and CSIRO's Electricity Network Transformation Roadmap[76]	The Roadmap was developed to provide detailed milestones and actions to achieve efficient and timely energy industry transformation over ten years from 2017-2027. The Roadmap was guided by the 'Balanced Scorecard of Customer Outcomes', which aims to: ▪ Provide clean energy transmission. ▪ Lower bills for valued services. ▪ Deliver fairness and incentives. ▪ It is safe, reliable and secure. The document also states that by 2050, customers will generate 40 per cent of all electricity onsite.	The Project is directly relevant and contributes to the goals of the Roadmap. The Project aligns with the 'customer-centric' focus of the roadmap by helping reduce the electricity prices during peak demand periods for consumers in Sydney's greater region. The Project will also enable renewable energy into the grid, which supports the Roadmap's aim of providing clean energy transmission.
Ausgrid's 2024-29 Revised Proposal to the Energy Market Regulator[77]	Ausgrid's Revised Proposal is an updated version of their Initial Proposal to AER with further justification for proposed investments. The proposal highlights the organisation's intent to deliver a network that: ▪ Enables and accelerates the energy transition. ▪ Facilitates electrification. ▪ Connects new renewables and CER. ▪ Enables greater accessibility in the transition at the lowest cost for our customers.	The proposal directly aligns with the Project as it aims to assist NSW transition away from coal-fired energy and introduce more renewable energy to the NSW electricity grid.

75 Infrastructure NSW 2022, *State Infrastructure Strategy 2022-2042*, viewed 21 October 2024, <https://www.infrastructure.nsw.gov.au/media/onmb3hy5/state-infrastructure-strategy-2022-2042-full-report.pdf>

76 Energy Networks Australia and CSIRO 2017, Electricity Network Transformation Roadmap, viewed 21 October 2024, <https://www.energynetworks.com.au/resources/reports/electricity-network-transformation-roadmap-final-report/>

77 Ausgrid 2023, *Ausgrid's 2024-29 Regulatory Proposal*, viewed 21 October 2024, <https://www.aer.gov.au/system/files/Ausgrid%20-%202024-29%20Regulatory%20Proposal%20-%2031%20Jan%202023%20-%20Public_0.pdf>

Policy	Details	Relevance
Local		
Greater Sydney Regional Plan – A Metropolis of Three Cities[78]	The Greater Sydney Regional Plan – A Metropolis of Three Cities (GSRP) is document that aims to improve the connectedness of residents to the necessities they need to live a healthy and happy life by transforming Greater Sydney into three cities: ▪ The Western Parkland City ▪ The Central River City ▪ The Eastern Harbour City.	The document envisions a boost in Greater Sydney's liveability, productivity and sustainability while the region continues to grow. One of the key pillars of this document is Sustainability, with objective 33 stating the need for "A low-carbon city (that) contributes to net zero emissions by 2050 and mitigates climate change". The way that Greater Sydney's urban structure and bult form develops over time can support NSW's transition towards net zero emissions. The Project aims to assist NSW transition away from coal-fired energy and introduce more renewable energy to the NSW electricity grid which will help address Objective 33 of the GSRP to mitigate the impacts of climate change and achieve net zero by 2050.
Eastern City District Plan[79]	This Eastern City District Plan is a 20-year plan to manage growth in the context of economic, social and environmental matters to achieve the 40-year vision for Greater Sydney. The Eastern City District Plan provides ten strategic directions: ▪ A city supported by infrastructure ▪ A collaborative city ▪ A city for people ▪ Housing the city ▪ A city of great places ▪ A well-connected city ▪ Jobs and skills for the city ▪ A city in its landscape ▪ An efficient city ▪ A resilient city.	The Project directly supports direction nine 'an efficient city' specifically planning priority E19 'reducing carbon emissions and managing energy, water and waste efficiently'. The Project will improve the reliability and efficiency of energy within the area and would help reduce the reliance on non-renewable in the Sydney energy grid and limiting overall carbon emissions generated by the electricity industry.
Strathfield 2040 – Local Strategic Planning Statement (Strathfield LSPS)[80]	The Strathfield 2040 – Local Strategic Planning Statement (Strathfield LSPS) is a document that addresses the land use needs of the LGS for the next 20 years (2020-2040). The Strathfield LSPS identifies the priorities of local land use and considers future local employment opportunities, housing, transport and environmental management options. The planning priorities that the Strathfield LSPS focuses on are: ▪ Infrastructure and Collaboration ▪ Liveability ▪ Productivity ▪ Sustainability.	The focus areas that are relevant to the Project are: Infrastructure and Collaboration, Liveability and Sustainability. The Project directly supports Action A103: Promote the use of renewable energy storage in DCP 2022 and subsequently Priority P16: A healthy built environment delivers sustainable and resource efficient outcomes and by providing energy storage including renewable energy.

78 NSW Government 2018, *Greater Sydney Region Plan, A Metropolis of Three Cities*, viewed 21 October 2024, <https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/2024-04/greater-sydney-region-plan.pdf>

79 NSW Government 2018, *Our Greater Sydney 2056 eastern City District Plan*, viewed 21 October 2024, <https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/2024-04/eastern-city-district-plan.pdf>

80 Strathfield Council 2020, *Strathfield 2040*, viewed 21 October 2024, < https://www.strathfield.nsw.gov.au/files/assets/public/v/1/develop/strathfield-2040/strathfield-2040-lsps-implementation-plan-v7.pdf>

Policy	Details	Relevance
Strathfield 2035 Community Strategic Plan[81]	The Community Strategic Plan 'Strathfield 2035' provides long term direction for the Strathfield Local Government Area (LGA) and is Council's overarching plan in the Integrated Planning and Reporting (IPR) framework. Strathfield 2035 is based on five broad inter-related themes or priority areas that are derived from an extensive community engagement process, which identified priorities for the community's future including: ■ Connectivity ■ Community wellbeing ■ Celebrating culture and place ■ Liveable neighbourhoods ■ Responsible leadership.	The Project directly supports the 'liveable neighbourhoods' theme, specifically goal 4.3 'Healthy, thriving, sustainable and resilient environments' which aims to implement sustainable practices and efficiencies in resource use to support a healthy built environment. The Project will provide more reliable and sustainable electricity through periods of high demand, helping to facilitate lower-cost electricity. The Project will also enable renewable energy into the grid, which supports CSP's key challenge of emissions reduction and helping create a net zero Strathfield by 2050.
Strathfield Biodiversity Conservation and Strategy Action Plan 2020-2030[82]	The Strathfield Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan 2020-2030 (SBCS Action Plan) was developed by Strathfield Council to meet legislative requirements in the protection and preservation of biodiversity in the Strathfield LGA. This document outlines the approach that the Strathfield council will take to managing biodiversity until year 2030.	The SBCS prioritises the maintenance of biodiversity for the betterment of the natural environment, but also the community wellbeing. The SBCS Action Plan outlines that all bodies that are implementing development projects achieve a "…no overall negative impact on biodiversity (also referred to a No Net Loss). The impacts of vegetation removal would be assessed and reported in an EIS for the Project.

81 Strathfield Council 2023, *Strathfield 2035 Community Strategic Plan,* viewed 21 October 2024, <https://www.strathfield.nsw.gov.au/files/assets/public/v/1/strathfield-2035-community-strategic-plan-amended-july-2023-2.pdf>

82 Strathfield Council 2019, Strathfield Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan 2020-2030, viewed 21 October 2024 <https://www.strathfield.nsw.gov.au/files/assets/public/v/1/council/plans-and-strategies/strathfield-biodiversity-conservation-strategy-and-action-plan-high-res.-300dpi.pdf>

Appendix C. Resident demographic profile

Location	PRIMARY STUDY AREA		SOCIAL LOCALITY		SECONDARY STUDY AREA		GREATER SYDNEY (1GSYD)	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Population, growth and projections								
Resident population (2021)	20,822	-	41,234	-	79,749	-	5,231,147	-
Past resident population (2016)	16,211	-	34,948	-	84,808[83]	-	4,823,991	-
Average annual growth (2016-2021)	922	5.7%	1,257	3.6%	-1,011	-1.2%	81,431	1.7%
Projected resident population (2041)	34,726	-	67,837	-	121,178	-	6,142,275	-
Projected average annual growth (2021-2041)	-	3.3%	-	3.2%	-	2.6%	-	0.9%
Age and projections								
Median age	31	-	32	-	34	-	37	-
0-4 years	1,357	6.5%	2,994	7.3%	4,494	5.6%	312,364	6.0%
5-14 years	1,816	8.7%	2,988	7.3%	6,575	8.2%	650,843	12.4%
15-19 years	651	3.1%	987	2.4%	2,933	3.7%	294,764	5.6%
20-24 years	2,094	10.1%	3,430	8.3%	8,258	10.4%	343,064	6.6%
25-34 years	6,831	32.8%	14,793	35.9%	22,673	28.4%	811,314	15.5%
35-44 years	3,719	17.9%	8,098	19.6%	12,904	16.2%	777,748	14.9%
45-54 years	1,624	7.8%	3,160	7.7%	7,489	9.4%	667,167	12.8%
55-64 years	1,412	6.8%	2,591	6.3%	6,670	8.4%	579,166	11.1%
65-74 years	820	3.9%	1,484	3.6%	4,384	5.6%	439,467	8.4%
75-84 years	365	1.8%	541	1.3%	2,318	2.9%	249,517	4.8%
85+ years	133	0.6%	164	0.4%	1,060	1.3%	105,729	2.0%
Cultural diversity								
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population	85	0.4%	182	0.4%	384	0.4%	90,939	1.7%

83 Note: Higher in 2016 due to Rhodes being counted in Concord West – North Strathfield SA2 in 2016

Location	PRIMARY STUDY AREA		SOCIAL LOCALITY		SECONDARY STUDY AREA		GREATER SYDNEY (1GSYD)	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Overseas born	14,042	67.4%	26,986	65.5%	48,008	53.5%	2,021,079	38.6%
Speaks language other than English	12,522	60.1%	23,616	57.2%	41,382	46.1%	1,438,287	27.5%
Top five languages other than English	Mandarin, Nepali, Cantonese, Korean, Tamil		Mandarin, Korean, Cantonese, Nepali, Tamil		Mandarin, Korean, Nepali, Cantonese, Arabic		Mandarin, Arabic, Cantonese, Vietnamese, Hindi	
Need for assistance								
People with a need for assistance	508	2.4%	788	1.9%	2,564	3.2%	270,665	5.2%
Health								
People with long-term health conditions (all ages)	2,588	12.4%	5,140	12.5%	12,186	15.3%	1,232,535	23.6%
Top five long-term health conditions	Asthma, Mental health conditions (including depression or anxiety), Diabetes (excluding gestational diabetes), Arthritis, Heart disease (including heart attack or angina)		Asthma, Mental health conditions (including depression or anxiety), Diabetes (excluding gestational diabetes), Arthritis, Heart disease (including heart attack or angina)		Asthma, Mental health conditions (including depression or anxiety), Diabetes (excluding gestational diabetes), Arthritis, Heart disease (including heart attack or angina)		Asthma, Arthritis, Mental health conditions (including depression or anxiety), Diabetes (excluding gestational diabetes), heart disease (including heart attack or angina)	
Families and households								
Total households / occupied private dwellings	7,644	-	16,966	-	29,897	-	1,828,859	-
Group households	831	10.9%	1,405	8.3%	2,658	8.9%	76,558	4.2%
Lone person households	1,641	21.5%	4,530	26.7%	7,082	23.7%	424,713	23.2%
Couple family with no children	2,170	28.4%	5,453	32.1%	8,989	30.1%	480,444	34.8%
Couple family with children	2,320	30.4%	4,243	25%	8,762	29.3%	667,760	48.4%
One-parent family	597	7.8%	1,190	7%	2,291	7.7%	208,478	15.1%
Housing								
Separate house	773	10.1%	773	4.5%	6,782	22.7%	1,020,631	55.8%
Semi-detached, row or terrace house, townhouse etc	272	3.6%	379	2.2%	1,275	4.3%	234,000	12.8%
Apartment, flat or unit	6,522	85.3%	15,669	92.4%	21,555	72.1%	561,988	30.7%
Owned outright	797	10.4%	1,437	8.5%	5,237	17.5%	507,635	27.8%

Location	PRIMARY STUDY AREA		SOCIAL LOCALITY		SECONDARY STUDY AREA		GREATER SYDNEY (1GSYD)	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Owned with a mortgage	2,213	28%	5,149	30.3%	8,489	28.4%	608,735	33.3%
Rented	4,418	57.8%	10,006	58.9%	15,378	51.4%	657,317	35.9%
Median mortgage repayment ($/monthly)	$2,127	-	$2,214	-	$2,545	-	$2,427	-
Median rent ($/weekly)	$450	-	$480	-	$494	-	$470	-
People mobility								
Lived at a different address five years before the 2021 Census	12,643	60.7%	27,764	67.3%	44,492	55%	2,016,262	38.5%
Education and employment								
University qualification	10,444	59.2%	21,990	62.5%	40,121	66.1%	1,836,097	43.0%
Trade qualification	1,288	7.3%	2,680	7.6%	5,564	8.1%	629,524	14.8%
Top three industries of employment	Health Care and Social Assistance, Professional, Scientific and Technical Services, Retail Trade		Professional, Scientific and Technical Services, Health Care and Social Assistance and Retail Trade		Health Care and Social Assistance, Professional, Scientific and Technical Services, Retail Trade		Health Care and Social Assistance, Professional, Scientific and Technical Services, Retail Trade	
Median weekly household income	$2,037	-	$2,020	-	$2,257	-	$2,077	-
Vehicles								
Average motor vehicles per dwelling	1.2	-	1.8	-	1.4	-	1.6	-
Travel to work								
Travelled to work by car	3,457	31%	6,851	28.1%	12,853	30.2%	896,231	36.9%
Travelled to work on public transport	68	0.6%	1,586	6.5%	3905	9.2%	91,841	3.8%
Cycled to work	34	0.3%	63	0.3%	111	0.3%	8,990	0.4%
Walked to work	239	2.2%	480	2%	892	2.1%	56,206	2.3%

Appendix D. Media scan

The following section provides a high-level summary of recent media relating to Homebush and surrounding areas within the last five years. This media scan was undertaken on the 18 March 2025.

Search engine: Google
Timeframe: within the last five years
Keywords searched: “renewable energy Homebush” “traffic Homebush” “infrastructure Homebush” “DFO Homebush” “Sydney Olympic Park” “Ausgrid Homebush” “Ausgrid” “noise Homebush” “Homebush employment” “renewable energy Sydney”

Key findings and insights:
Rapid Growth and Development:

- Homebush is undergoing significant transformation, with projects aimed at increasing housing, job opportunities, and urban infrastructure. This includes the Master Plan 2050, which will add thousands of homes and jobs to the area while enhancing public spaces and green infrastructure. Additionally, the area is part of the Transport Oriented Development program, with 18,000 new homes planned to address housing shortages.

Traffic and Congestion Issues:

- Traffic congestion is a major concern, especially around the Homebush Bay Drive roundabout and the DFO Roundabout. Both intersections see significant delays, particularly during peak times and major events at Sydney Olympic Park. The area’s infrastructure is being upgraded with initiatives such as signalized intersections, which aim to ease congestion and improve traffic flow.
- Sydney Olympic Park in Homebush is a key hub for major events, contributing to the area’s traffic congestion. Events such as concerts, sports games, and large-scale exhibitions often overwhelm local infrastructure, leading to calls for better transport planning and crowd management.

Urban Sustainability and Green Initiatives:

- There is a focus on sustainability, with the development of sustainable urban spaces and the expansion of the Sydney Metro and Parramatta Light Rail contributing to improved connectivity and environmentally friendly transportation options. Additionally, the area is involved in energy storage projects, such as the construction of large battery storage systems (BESS) in Homebush, to support renewable energy integration and grid stability.

Cultural and Environmental Considerations:

- The area is home to significant cultural and environmental sites. For example, Stockroute Park and the Discobolus sculpture hold cultural importance for the Greek Australian community. There's concern over the potential impact of redevelopment plans, highlighting the tension between development and preservation of historical and cultural landmarks.
- The green and golden bell frog sanctuary in Homebush is another notable environmental feature, with conservationists concerned about new developments potentially disrupting this unique habitat.

Infrastructure Strain and Public Services:

- Homebush faces some strain on infrastructure and public services, particularly in transport and energy. Train delays and power outages have disrupted daily life and major events, indicating that ongoing infrastructure upgrades are needed to support the area’s growth.

- The area also faces challenges with energy grid reliability, though efforts to integrate more renewable energy and improve energy storage infrastructure are being made to support the growing population and urban development.

Publication, date and link	Headline	Key points
Mirage News Mar 2025	**$50 Million Boost to Homebush Bay Drive**	▪ The Albanese Government has committed an additional $50 million to upgrade the congestion-prone roundabout at Homebush Bay Drive, bringing the total Commonwealth contribution to $100 million, alongside a $50 million contribution from the NSW Government. This project aims to ease congestion, particularly during peak periods and major events at Sydney Olympic Park. ▪ The upgrade will include a signalized intersection and community consultation to finalize designs. This follows previous safety measures such as roundabout operating signs, new traffic loop detectors, and advance warning signs. The intersection has seen significant delays and 41 crashes between 2019-2023. ▪ With Homebush's population nearly doubling over the past decade and ongoing growth around Sydney Olympic Park, the upgraded intersection will address increasing traffic volumes and provide a long-term solution to ease congestion and improve safety for residents and visitors.
News.com.au Mar 2025	**Sydney's notorious DFO roundabout to get $150m upgrade after congestion woes**	▪ The DFO Roundabout at Homebush Bay Dr, Australian Ave, and Underwood Rd will be upgraded to a signalised intersection to ease traffic congestion, with 5,000 motorists using it per hour during peak times. ▪ A combined $100 million from federal and state governments will fund the upgrade, with design options to be released for community consultation soon. ▪ Labelled "Australia's worst roundabout," it has caused significant delays. Recent safety upgrades have been made, and locals are encouraged to provide input on the final design.
We Build Value Jan 2025	**A Stroll Through Future Sydney: Unveiling the Master Plan 2050**	▪ The Master Plan 2050 aims to transform the 640-hectare Sydney Olympic Park in Homebush Bay into a sustainable urban hub with 13,000 new homes, including affordable housing, and 32,000 new jobs. The plan also includes new schools, sports infrastructure, 10 parks for children, and 7 public spaces to encourage social interaction. ▪ The plan emphasizes the integration of sustainable mobility, with a focus on subway systems and urban spaces designed for sustainability. Key projects include the Sydney Metro–Western Sydney Airport, which connects to the new airport and links to other metro projects, enriching the urban transformation. ▪ Master Plan 2050 replaces the previous 2030 plan and leverages the expansion of Sydney's metro network, including the Sydney Metro and Parramatta Light Rail, to drive the city's future growth and regeneration. This ambitious plan builds on the city's evolving infrastructure, aiming for a greener, more connected Sydney.

Publication, date and link	Headline	Key points
News.com.au Jan 2025	**Protected industrial action to be put on hold from 6.30pm on Thursday**	▪ The Fair Work Commission intervened to suspend industrial action disrupting Sydney's train services, with a full hearing scheduled for next week. ▪ Over 1,000 train services were cancelled due to strikes by the Electrical Trades Union (ETU) and the Rail, Tram, and Bus Union (RTBU), affecting areas like Bondi Junction and Homebush, where critical maintenance work was left incomplete. ▪ The NSW government has offered a 15% pay rise and 1% super increase, but unions are pushing for a 32% increase over four years, with ongoing disruptions expected despite the suspension.
Canberra Times Dec 2024	**Out-of-control Tesla crashes into cars, plunges off carpark roof**	▪ A Tesla Model S crashed into two cars and plunged off the roof of a Sydney carpark at DFO Homebush. The car hit a Toyota LandCruiser Prado and another vehicle before breaking through a metal barrier and landing in the loading dock below. ▪ The Tesla suffered significant damage, including a ripped-off left-front wheel and a partially caved-in roof. Despite the severity of the crash, both occupants of the vehicle were not seriously injured and were treated in hospital for minor injuries. ▪ New South Wales Police towed the Tesla for an "electronics check" to investigate the cause. There were unverified reports suggesting the car's 'Autopilot' system was engaged during the crash.
Sky News Dec 2024	**Thousands of homes without power after wet and wild night across NSW, as emergency crews rush to carry out repairs**	▪ A wet and windy night in New South Wales left 4,500 homes without power, with repairs underway by emergency crews. Power was restored to 1,800 homes by Wednesday morning. ▪ Affected areas included the NSW Central Coast (East Gosford, Gosford) and Sydney suburbs (Eastwood, Homebush West, Strathfield, and Sydney Olympic Park), with downed power lines causing some outages. ▪ Ausgrid warned residents to stay clear of fallen power lines and provided a timeline for repairs, expecting most homes to have power restored by 9-10 am. The storm was part of a heatwave, with more storms and temperature fluctuations expected.
Government News Nov 2024	**Sydney suburbs rezoned to tackle housing shortfall**	▪ The NSW Government's Transport Oriented Development program will see 18,000 new homes built in Homebush as part of a larger plan to rezone key suburbs for additional housing near transport hubs. ▪ The project includes the creation of new public spaces, parks, and recreational facilities, along with a focus on affordable housing (3% minimum). Public infrastructure will also be upgraded, including roads and transport links. ▪ Development applications can be submitted quickly under streamlined pathways for proposals above $60 million, with the aim to fast-track housing construction. The final masterplans follow community consultations and are set to be implemented soon.

Publication, date and link	Headline	Key points
Renew Economy Nov 2024	**Ausgrid pitches its first big batteries for Newcastle and Sydney**	▪ Ausgrid is planning two 200 MW, two-hour battery energy storage systems (BESS) in Homebush (Sydney) and Newcastle, each providing storage, firming capacity, and frequency control services for the grid. The Projects will be built on Ausgrid-owned land and connected to nearby substations. ▪ The Projects will use Tesla's lithium iron-phosphate megapacks, with construction expected to start in mid to late 2025. Ausgrid intends for the systems to be ultimately built and operated by another company. ▪ The Steel River BESS in Newcastle is part of a growing cluster of energy storage projects in the region, including AGL's proposed 500 MW BESS and Origin's large battery at the Eraring coal site. Ausgrid's proposal for Newcastle is significantly larger than Edify's 28 MW, two-hour battery.
Inside the Games Nov 2024	**Greek legacy of Sydney Olympic Park on the brink of demolition**	▪ The Greek Australian community is concerned about the proposed demolition of Stockroute Park and the Discobolus sculpture in Sydney Olympic Park, which are part of the 2050 Masterplan. ▪ Stockroute Park, funded by Greek Australians, commemorates Greece's Olympic contributions and features century-old olive trees and a sculpture by Robert Owen. ▪ The proposed redevelopment of 650 hectares, which includes 13,000 new homes and various amenities, threatens the park's historical and cultural significance, prompting the community to urge participation in public consultation.
TimeOut Nov 2024	**A brand-new metro station is coming to an overhauled Sydney Olympic Park**	▪ Sydney Olympic Park's housing capacity is set to increase by 479% over the next 25 years, with recent progress including the breakthrough of two Metro tunnel boring machines (TBMs), Beatrice and Daphne, who have excavated over 2 million tonnes of material to carve out 11-kilometre tunnels for a new Metro line. ▪ The new Sydney Olympic Park precinct will feature three residential buildings ranging from 21 to 45 storeys, initially adding 300 new homes, with plans to increase to 490 homes. It will also include commercial and retail spaces, making the area a thriving community hub. ▪ The new Metro station at Sydney Olympic Park will enhance access to major venues, with 15-minute trips from the city and a five-minute ride to Parramatta. The development is expected to double rail capacity between Parramatta and the Sydney CBD, supporting the government's goals for better-connected, well-located housing.
Architecture AU Oct 2024	**Housing at Sydney Olympic Park given government approval**	▪ The New South Wales Department of Planning has approved a new housing project at Sydney Olympic Park, which will feature over 300 homes and nearly 35,000 square meters of commercial and retail space across three high-rise buildings. ▪ Sydney Metro plans to revise the project to include an additional 190 dwellings, bringing the total to 490 homes, in alignment with the government's goal to boost housing supply. ▪ Construction is expected to start in 2027, after a review. Additional integrated station developments are being considered at Westmead, Burwood North, The Bays, Parramatta, and Pyrmont, with plans for a new developer at Hunter Street in Sydney CBD.

Publication, date and link	Headline	Key points
Macquarie Sep 2024	**How changes to Australia's renewables financing landscape are re-energising the energy transition**	▪ The Australian Government aims for 82% renewable energy in the electricity grid by 2030. However, the capital intensity and risks associated with large-scale projects have slowed progress. ▪ Portfolio financing is helping developers secure capital for renewable projects by offering greater flexibility and reducing risks. This approach involves borrowing against a portfolio of assets rather than a single project, facilitating the development of large-scale renewable energy infrastructure. ▪ The process of obtaining project approval is significantly more expensive in New South Wales (home to Sydney) compared to Queensland, with costs estimated to be 25 times higher.
Energy Storage News Aug 2024	**Ausgrid launches energy storage-as-a-service offering as community BESS goes online in NSW, Australia**	▪ Ausgrid, in partnership with Origin Energy and EnergyAustralia, has launched an energy storage-as-a-service (ESaaS) offering alongside its ninth community battery energy storage system (BESS) in Bondi, Sydney. The service aims to provide eligible customers access to stored energy, potentially saving them over AU$200 annually. ▪ The new ESaaS plan is designed to improve grid reliability, enhance supply security, and facilitate greater renewable energy integration. The Bondi community battery, a 160kW/412kWh system, also connects to an electric vehicle (EV) charger using renewable energy. ▪ Australia is expanding its community battery network, with plans for 370 community BESS assets across the country. The Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) has allocated AU$143 million for this initiative, which is expected to unlock AU$359 million in renewable energy infrastructure investment.
ESD News July 2024	**Ausgrid union workers to strike this week over pay**	▪ Around 1,600 Electrical Trades Union (ETU) members at Ausgrid have voted to strike, affecting up to 2 million customers in Sydney and parts of regional New South Wales, starting August 1, due to disputes over wage increases. ▪ The strike will not affect emergency work, but it could lead to delays and inconveniences for households and businesses unless Ausgrid offers a wage increase that keeps up with the rising cost of living. ▪ Ausgrid has made a wage offer with a 7% increase in the first year and smaller increases in the following years, but the ETU argues this doesn't address the cost of living and has led to the industrial action.
Fire and Rescue NSW May 2024	**Solar panel fire at Sydney Olympic Park Aquatic Centre - Homebush**	▪ Over 2,500 people were safely evacuated from Sydney Olympic Park Aquatic Centre in Homebush after a solar panel fire broke out, with six appliances and 24 firefighters responding to the incident. ▪ The fire, which was located in the solar panels on the roof, was reported at 12:15 pm. Firefighters contained the blaze within 45 minutes using a ladder platform. ▪ Despite a swimming carnival taking place at the time, all individuals were safely evacuated with no injuries. Investigations are ongoing to determine the cause of the fire.
Infrastructure Magazine March 2024	**Speed limit to rise by 10km/h on WestConnex**	▪ The speed limit on WestConnex will increase from 80km/h to 90km/h, specifically on the mainline tunnels between Homebush and Beverly Hills, effective 20 April. ▪ The change is underpinned by a comprehensive safety and systems review by Transport for NSW post the opening of Rozelle Interchange, the final piece of WestConnex. ▪ This adjustment aims to improve traffic efficiency, allowing motorists to travel faster through the Homebush area, reducing travel time for people heading to or from Sydney's western suburbs.

Publication, date and link	Headline	Key points
The Guardian March 2024	**Reported plan to move Sydney's Rosehill racecourse to endangered bell frog habitat surprises conservationists**	▪ Racing insiders have proposed moving the Rosehill racecourse to Homebush, specifically to the historic brick pit area within Sydney Olympic Park, which is home to a sanctuary for endangered green and golden bell frogs. ▪ Conservationists have raised concerns about the plan, given that Homebush's brick pit is an important habitat for one of the largest remaining populations of the endangered green and golden bell frogs. The frogs thrive in this former industrial site, which was converted into a protected wildlife sanctuary in 1988. ▪ Experts highlight that the frogs' unique habitat at Homebush is crucial for their survival, with the high metal content in the water helping to protect them from chytridiomycosis, a deadly fungal disease. There are concerns that the proposed racecourse may disrupt this delicate balance, though the sanctuary itself would remain untouched.
7 News Jan 2024	**More than 16,000 in Sydney without power in mass outage across inner west**	▪ A power outage affected 16,620 customers in Sydney's inner west, including Leichhardt, Balmain, and Drummoyne, starting at 5:50 am on Wednesday. ▪ The outage was mostly resolved by 8 am, but 2,524 customers in Leichhardt, Balmain, and Rozelle remained without power until 9 am. ▪ The issue originated from a substation in Homebush, which supplies power to the affected areas, and traffic lights on Victoria Rd were briefly impacted but restored by 8 am.
Daily Mail Nov 2023	**Westfield Parramatta and DFO Black Friday hell: Aussies left trapped in cars for hours at sales nightmare**	▪ On Black Friday, traffic leading into DFO Homebush was severely backed up for kilometres, causing significant delays for shoppers. ▪ Shoppers at DFO Homebush experienced hours of waiting to enter the car park, with queues extending for hundreds of meters. ▪ The heavy traffic and congestion around DFO Homebush continued throughout the day, with long backups persisting even as the shopping centre closed.
Daily Mail Oct 2023	**Map shows Sydney suburbs where life is about to get very noisy as radical change is made to plane routes and new airport launches: Here's how it affects you**	▪ The federal government has proposed changes to Sydney's airspace as part of the draft environmental assessment for the new $5.3 billion Western Sydney International Airport opening in 2026. These changes will impact the flight paths of planes leaving Sydney Airport, particularly affecting the inner-west suburbs such as Marrickville, Newtown, and Camperdown. ▪ The changes to flight paths could increase aircraft noise over several Sydney suburbs, with Lewisham, Burwood, Homebush West, Canada Bay, Liberty Grove, Oatlands and Baulkham Hills and Belmore are also expected to be impacted. However, some suburbs like Lilyfield and Rhodes will experience less aircraft noise. Sydney's western suburbs, including Penrith, Greendale, and Windsor, will also face significant noise from the new airport. ▪ The federal government has urged Sydneysiders to provide feedback on the proposed flight paths, with the final decision to be influenced by community input. Minister Catherine King emphasized the importance of safety while trying to minimize impacts on residential areas. The draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is open for public review until the end of January.

Publication, date and link	Headline	Key points
Daily Mail Aug 2023	**Matildas fans left stranded at Sydney Olympic Park following crushing World Cup defeat to England with 'no trains coming or going'**	▪ Following the Matildas' 3-1 defeat to England in the Women's World Cup semi-final, tens of thousands of fans were stranded at Sydney Olympic Park due to major delays in train services. ▪ Sydney Trains reported that vandalism of equipment at Ashfield caused significant delays across multiple lines, including the T1, T2, T3, T5, T7, and T8 lines. Power supply issues in Ashfield added to the disruption, leading to gaps in services. ▪ Commuters, including fans in green and gold, expressed frustration on social media about the delays. Some complained about a lack of communication and alternative arrangements, while others criticized the lack of additional trains despite prior promises.
ABC News Mar 2023	**Sydney trains again cancelled, delayed after 'urgent signal repairs' at Homebush cause commuter chaos**	▪ Sydney's train network faced delays and cancellations due to "urgent signal repairs" at Homebush, affecting multiple train lines, including T1, T2, T3, T5, T8, and T9. ▪ Passengers were advised to seek alternative arrangements, especially those traveling to Olympic Park for NRL games. Shuttle services were introduced, and some stations had blank information screens. ▪ This incident follows a recent network-wide shut down due to a digital radio system failure. Commuters expressed frustration with the frequent delays, with some passengers stranded for over an hour and no clear information provided.
The Brag Feb 2023	**Sydney warned to brace for traffic chaos in event overload**	▪ Sydney will be overwhelmed with major events this weekend, including Ed Sheeran's sold-out concerts at Accor Stadium in Homebush, with more than 85,000 attendees at each show. Traffic congestion around the venue is anticipated, particularly during peak hours, and parking is already sold out. ▪ Authorities are urging attendees to use public transport to avoid traffic delays. Regular express and limited-stop trains will run from Central and Western Line stations to Olympic Park, with return services available after events. The venue is a short 10-minute walk from the station.
ABC News Sep 2021	**The world is hungry for solar panels. Why did we stop making them?**	▪ Homebush, once the site of Australia's largest solar factory, held a key role in the nation's solar manufacturing history. The BP Solar factory in Homebush produced solar cells and panels and was involved in the installation of solar systems at the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games athletes' village, showcasing Australian innovation in solar technology. ▪ Despite having a strong start in solar technology and panel manufacturing, Australia stopped producing solar panels as China rapidly grew its solar industry in the early 2000s. Chinese production quickly outpaced Australia's, leading to the closure of Australia's largest solar factory by 2009, which was located in Homebush, Sydney. ▪ Australian solar experts, including Dr. Shi Zhengrong, played a pivotal role in China's solar boom. Many UNSW graduates helped establish China's solar manufacturing industry, propelling China to dominate global production while Australia's industry faltered due to high labour costs and lack of government support. ▪ While Australia lost its manufacturing edge, there is potential to revive solar panel production for domestic use and export, particularly with projects like Sun Cable. However, experts debate the financial viability of panel manufacturing in Australia, suggesting that focusing on industries like green steel might offer better economic opportunities.

Publication, date and link	Headline	Key points
International Olympic Committee Nov 2020	**The Olympic Village**	▪ Environmental Legacy of the Olympic Village: The Sydney 2000 Olympic Village, located on 90 hectares of land near Homebush Bay, was designed with a focus on environmental sustainability. It included features like a solar-powered hot water system, energy and water conservation measures, and the use of renewable energy, making it the largest solar-powered suburb in the world at the time. ▪ Post-Games Development: After the Games, the Village was refurbished and redeveloped into private residences as part of the Newington suburb's revitalization. It now consists of 2,000 homes housing over 5,000 people, with streets named after famous Olympians and Paralympians. ▪ Community and Environmental Impact: The Village's design supported urban consolidation and reduced fossil fuel-based energy use. Wastewater was treated and redirected to a restored wetland, and while car ownership was high, other environmental measures contributed to a sustainable community. By 2011, 94% of homes were occupied.
Euro News July 2020	**City of Sydney now runs on 100% renewable energy**	▪ Local wind and solar farms in New South Wales will supply renewable energy to Sydney, reducing CO2 emissions by 20,000 tonnes annually and saving A$500,000 per year over the next decade. ▪ The city will use renewable energy for all its operations, including streetlights, council buildings, and historic landmarks, marking Australia's largest green energy deal worth over A$60 million. ▪ The move supports regional jobs in wind and solar farms, particularly in Glen Innes, Wagga Wagga, and Shoalhaven, with the Shoalhaven Solar Farm also helping to lower energy costs for local residents.

Appendix E. Social media scan

The following section provides a high-level summary of key topics discussed on social media by the communities surrounding the Site. This media scan was undertaken on the 19 March 2025.

Social media platforms: Facebook and Instagram

Timeframe: within the last five years

Keywords searched: “renewable energy” “energy” “traffic” “infrastructure” “development” “DFO” “Sydney Olympic Park” “Ausgrid” “noise” “employment”

Key findings and insights include:

Infrastructure and Overcrowding:

- Residents are concerned about population growth without adequate infrastructure to support it. Issues like traffic congestion, overcrowded spaces, and limited facilities are common concerns.
- Construction and demolition are causing noise, pollution, and access issues, leading to frustration among locals.

Traffic and Congestion:

- Traffic jams are a major concern, especially during large events in Sydney Olympic Park and at DFO. Poor road design, like the Homebush Bay Drive-Australia Avenue-Underwood Roundabout, contributes to congestion and accidents.

Community Engagement and Development:

- There’s widespread dissatisfaction with over-development and insufficient community consultation. Sydney Olympic Park’s Master Plan 2050 aims to accommodate more residents, but there are concerns about overcrowding and the lack of immediate infrastructure improvements.
- Residents are also interested in the environmental sustainability of ongoing developments.

Education and Facilities:

- A new high school is planned for Wentworth Point to address the growing population's educational needs. The Sydney Olympic Park Master Plan also includes new cultural and community facilities but faces criticism for slow implementation.

Sustainability and Smart Energy:

- Residents have shown interest in sustainable practices, with events focused on smart energy solutions, such as electric vehicles and solar energy.

Local Political Attention:

- Local leaders are focusing on issues like traffic congestion, over-development, and environmental sustainability, responding to community concerns.

Relevant Facebook groups

Group and link	Number of members	Accessibility
Sydney Olympic Park residents & community	5.4K members	Private
Wentworth Point Local Business & Community	7K members	Private
Strathfield locals	4.1K members	Private

Site, date	Post details	Summary
Facebook (Sydney Olympic Park residents & community) Feb 2025	"Great to see Wentworth Point and the abominable Hill Road are a priority and focus for our Liberal candidate for Reid, Grange Chung for Reid" *Includes video*	■ Post indicates community interest in fixing Hill Road due to traffic congestion.
Facebook (Sydney Olympic Park residents & community) Dec 2024	"Food for thought. In ABC news today: Sydney will have nearly 650,000 more people by 2034, according to the latest NSW population projections. To meet that need, NSW will need four large new hospitals, 436 new primary schools and 81 new high schools by 2034 if it is to maintain the same service levels available now. In Sydney, there will be half a million more cars on the roads and 72,000 more passengers on trains each day. And in Wentworth Point-SOP, population density is predicted to go up by a whopping 47%. https://www.abc.net.au/.../nsw-sydney.../104131664?" Comments from community member "Enough of Minns and Labor building urban ghettos without infrastructure!!"	■ Post indicates community concern regarding the predicted population increase without upgrading supporting infrastructure.

Site, date	Post details	Summary
Facebook (Sydney Olympic Park residents & community) Oct 2024	"ON EXHIBITION! The Sydney Olympic Park Masterplan 2050 is on exhibition from Monday 28 October. Sydney Olympic Park is currently home to approximately 5,250 people. Master Plan 2050 envisages up to 25,000 additional residents living in Sydney Olympic Park over the next 25 years. Proposed social infrastructure includes - ▲a new cultural centre, ▲a new library and community hub, ▲new community sports and leisure centres, ▲2 new schools, ▲7 new public spaces, ▲4 new sports fields and ▲over 10 playgrounds To read the plan and provide your feedback click here - http://www.sydneyolympicpark.nsw.gov.au/master-plan" Comments from community members "I've submitted my feedback against, but fully expect this will go ahead. 13,000 apartments, about 26,000 new residents, still only one way out onto Homebush Bay Drive, increased traffic… a car-light precinct is a fantasy, it won't happen. Say goodbye to our peaceful easy going community." "There are some serious concerns for the residents as there is an immense amount of overcrowding with little or no infrastructure provided by the government. Please be mindful of that when looking at the plans. The infrastructure is phased out and will not take effect for a while after"	▪ Post from Donna Davis MP indicates community concern regarding the predicted population increase without upgrading supporting infrastructure.
Facebook (Strathfield locals' group) June 2024	"Smart Energy Expo - organised by Climate Action Burwood Canada Bay - EV displays and rides, induction cooking with a wok, expert panel discussions, solar, heat pumps and lots more. FREE ENTRY - under cover regardless of the weather at MLC Junior School. MC is Julia Zemiro from ABC tv Home Delivery!!"	▪ Post indicates community interest in smart energy, with event including discussions on how to save on energy bills and advice from home energy experts.

Site, date	Post details	Summary
Facebook (Strathfield locals' group) March 2024	"Heavy industry is part of many Strathfield streets. Often there are several demolition/construction sites in one street. (Photos above)" Comments from community member "I'd imagine asbestos is an issue as some of the homes being demolished are 100 years old. Ours is." "Tell me about it. They often park across our driveway and block us in. No respect for the people living in the street!" "Yes, Sandra. The noise, dust, pollution & damage to footpaths & driveways etc are awful. Mayor Pensabene says there's very little Council can do. Just send s.o. around if there's excessive dust, for example. Some building goes on for years as builders like to have several jobs going at once"	■ Post indicates community concern around number of demolition/construction sites and impacts including noise, dust, pollution, damage to footpaths & driveways and property access.
Facebook (Sydney Olympic Park residents & community) Nov 2023	"Have been living here for 2 years. All good except: 1. Traffic jams every DFO sale season and big events nearby. 2. Late-night drag race and modified exhausts noise —constant hassle. Pretty hopeless." Comments from community member "DFO - not just sales events...try every single weekend. Drag races - every night. Don't forget the lack of traffic management when there are events on...and..the idiot on the mic at 6am in the lead up to an event at Olympic Park."	■ Post indicates community frustration over traffic jams from DFO, drag racing and poor traffic management for Sydney Olympic Park events.
Facebook (Sydney Olympic Park residents & community) Feb 2023	"Three major international acts will take over Sydney Olympic Park on Saturday night, prompting a major congestion warning for the 120,000 expected attendees. The huge, expected crowds have seen warnings from authorities for people to plan ahead, travel by public transport, avoid driving and expect delays. MORE: https://nine.social/8p1 #9News | WATCH LIVE 6pm" Comments from community members "Oh great! So, a 20 Min home trip will now take 2 hrs" "Been here for over 20 years and the DFO roundabout still petrifies me parramatta road save a little time but at least you're not in grid lock traffic!"	■ Post indicates community frustration with traffic management for Sydney Olympic Park events.

Site, date	Post details	Summary
Instagram (building_beautifully) Feb 2023	“The Homebush Bay Drive-Australia Avenue-Underwood Roundabout near DFO Homebush is one of the worst roundabouts in Sydney, and probably even Australia. A combination of poor design and its proximity to a massive traffic-attracting shopping centre make this a roundabout that is consistently congested in peak hour. The congestion makes drivers impatient and leads to rear-end crashes; it’s a well-known black spot. Something is being done about the roundabout at least. You’ll find out soon enough. I didn’t go film these drone shots just for an Instagram post 😉” Comment “Also, this roundabout is the worst lol. So many accidents happen here.”	■ Post regarding the functionality of the Avenue-Underwood Roundabout near DFO Homebush. ■ The “poor design” and “proximity to a massive traffic-attracting shopping centre” is identified as factors that contribute to congestion at peak hour.
Facebook (Strathfield locals’ group) Nov 2021	“Meet our Strathfield Labor Team Cr Karen Pensabene "For the past four years on Council, representing the people from Strathfield, my only focus was to create meaningful outcomes that delivered benefits to every community member, especially regarding our most vulnerable community persons." If elected on December 4, I will again work with honesty, integrity and energy to continue the journey of identifying and creating solutions for those critical issues impacting our Strathfield Community. The next four years are incredibly important for Strathfield LGA, as we tackle the big issues of over-development, community engagement, and continued work on environmental sustainability. I welcome feedback from every member from our community to ensure I and each member of our Labor Team fully understand the details of your issues so we can continue to represent you on Council. Strathfield community Sally Sitou - Labor for Reid Homebush West Homebush, New South Wales, Australia Strathfield community Jodi McKay MP Sharangan Maheswaran Cr Karen Pensabene”	■ Post regarding Strathfield Labour Team’s identified “critical issues impacting our Strathfield Community”. ■ Critical issues noted included over-development, community engagement, and continued work on environmental sustainability.

Site, date	Post details	Summary
Facebook (Wentworth Point Local Business & Community) Sep 2021	"Message from School Infrastructure NSW A new high school is being planned for Burroway Road to cater for the growing population in the Sydney Olympic Park, Concord West and Wentworth Point communities. There will be a virtual information session to share more information about the project, including details about how to view the SSD application. We are inviting stakeholders and the community to attend the virtual session, which runs from 9 am Thursday 16 September to 5 pm Thursday 23 September by visiting: https://www.schoolinfrastructure.nsw.gov.au/.../sydney... Note from me: Why do they only allow for one week is beyond me. I will put up a separate post with some images for those who want a quick glance."	▪ Post regarding a new high school to cater for the growing population in the Sydney Olympic Park, Concord West and Wentworth Point communities.
Facebook (Wentworth Point Local Business & Community) May 2020	"Smells like was a little fire at the power substation on Bennelong Road that the fire trucks just rocked up to. Ausgrid employees let them in and doesn't appear to be any rush." Comment from community member "At least the power is still on"	▪ Post regarding fire at an Ausgrid power substation

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