

Alana Koslin
Stakeholder Lead
Ausgrid Operator Partnership
42 Honeysuckle Drive
Newcastle, NSW, 2300

28/04/2026

Subject: Steel River East BESS – Staging Request

Dear Dr. Koslin

I refer to your submissions dated 23 March 2026 and 2 April 2026, requesting Secretary's approval to stage the development and specific management plans in accordance with Schedule 2, Condition C3 of the Development Consent for Steel River East BESS (SSD-77450458). I also acknowledge your response to the Department's review comments and request for additional information.

The Department has carefully reviewed the staging request and notes that the Steel River East BESS Project is proposed in the following stages of development:

- Stage 1 – Preconstruction minor works: artefact surveys and/or salvage, overhead line safety marking, building and road dilapidation surveys, geotechnical drilling, excavation or salvage, establishing temporary site office, installation of environmental impact mitigation measures, fencing and enabling works, construction of minor access roads and minor adjustments to services/utilities
- Stage 2a – Construction Stage 1: civil, structural, mechanical and electrical works, excluding delivery and installation of BESS components;
- Stage 2b – Construction Stage 2: delivery and installation of BESS facility components, including: Tesla Megapack battery units, switch room and control room, ring main units and auxiliary transformers, transportable operations and maintenance buildings Testing and commissioning works for the BESS facility;
- Stage 3 – Operation; and
- Stage 4 – Decommissioning.

The Department understands that Ausgrid seeks to stage the submission of the Traffic Management Plan for Stage 2a and revise it prior to the commencement of Stage 2b.

All other relevant management plans, including the Transport Management Plan, must be approved by the Planning Secretary prior to the commencement of Stage 2a. Each stage, a map of the Project site, an indication of the area each stage relates to and a list of the strategies, plans or programs required for

the project and details about their staged submission must be undertaken as per letter dated 2 April 2026.

Ausgrid have confirmed that no development that could directly or indirectly impact biodiversity values requiring offset will be undertaken prior to retiring biodiversity credits for Stage 2a.

Accordingly, as nominee of the Planning Secretary, I approve the staging of the development including the staging of the Final Layout Plan and Emergency Plan in accordance with Schedule 2, Condition C3 of the Development Consent

If you wish to discuss the matter further, please contact Wayne Jones on (02) 6575 3406.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Iwan Davies', written in a cursive style.

Iwan Davies
Director
Energy Assessments

As nominee of the Planning Secretary