

Prepared for Mangoplah BESS Pty Ltd

Mangoplah Battery Energy Storage System

EIS Engagement Summary Report

Wagga Wagga LGA, Mangoplah, NSW

September 2025

Project Number: 240779

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We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of this land and pay our respect to Elders past, present and emerging. We recognise that the First Nations peoples of Australia have traditionally managed the resources of this land in a sustainable way, and that they are the original custodians of the Australian environment.

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

| | |
|-------|--|
| ACHA | Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment |
| BESS | Battery Energy Storage System |
| CBS | Community Benefit Scheme |
| CEC | Clean Energy Council |
| CEMP | Construction Environmental Management Plan |
| CSES | Community and Stakeholder Engagement |
| CSU | Charles Sturt University |
| DEMP | Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan |
| DPHI | Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (NSW) |
| EIS | Environmental impact statement |
| EMS | Environmental Management Strategy |
| ES | Engagement strategy |
| FRNSW | Fire and Rescue New South Wales |
| ha | hectares |
| HVAC | Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning |
| ICA | Insurance Council of Australia |
| km | kilometres |
| LALC | Local Aboriginal Land Council |
| LEP | Local Environment Plan |
| LGA | Local government area |
| LVIA | Visual Impact Assessment |
| m | metres |
| MW | Megawatt |
| NEM | National Energy Market |
| NSW | New South Wales |

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| | |
|------|---|
| NVIA | Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment |
| OEMP | Operational Environmental Management Plan |
| PMF | Probable Maximum Flood |
| RFS | Rural Fire Service |
| SES | State Emergency Services |
| SSD | State Significant Development |
| TIA | Traffic Impact Assessment |
| WWCC | Wagga Wagga City Council |

Executive summary

Overview

Samsung C&T Renewable Energy Australia Pty Ltd on behalf of Mangoplah BESS Pty Ltd as Trustee for Mangoplah BESS Pty Ltd (The Applicant) is proposing the development of the Mangoplah Battery Energy Storage System (the Project). The Project would involve the construction, operation and decommissioning of a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) with a capacity of up to approximately 100 Megawatts (MW) / 400MWh (4 hours).

The Project would be located within the Wagga Wagga City Council (WWCC) Local Government Area (LGA), approximately 3.1 kilometres (km) east of the township of Mangoplah, and approximately 30.6 km south of the regional city of Wagga Wagga, New South Wales (NSW). The Project would connect to the national electricity network via the existing 132kV transmission line adjacent to the Project.

The Mangoplah BESS would assist in the stabilisation of the national energy grid, reduce energy wastage, ease peak demand, and support Australia's transition to renewable energy. The Project is anticipated to produce approximately 60 jobs during the peak construction period, with 1-2 full-time ongoing roles expected once operational.

Methodology

A comprehensive stakeholder analysis was developed in November 2024 to inform the Community and Stakeholder Engagement Strategy (CSES). Engagement activities during the EIS phase focused on understanding community sentiment, identifying potential impacts and possible mitigation measures, uncovering community benefit-sharing opportunities, and preparing engagement recommendations post-approval.

Feedback was gathered and analysed over 11 months through a combination of written, online, and in-person engagement activities. Communication efforts included 121 letters sent to residents within 4 km of the Project site, briefing letters to Wagga Wagga City Council (WWCC) and local Members of Parliament, and distribution of fact sheets, FAQs, and three (3) newsletters addressing key concerns. Stakeholders also received 71 direct emails and three (3) campaign emails to a 22-person mailing list providing Project updates.

Engagement activities comprised 19 phone conversations, 56 responses to the community feedback survey, five (5) SIA interviews, three (3) in-person meetings, one (1) online meeting, and two (2) community information sessions with approximately 70 attendees. The Applicant also undertook a full-day cultural awareness tour and training opportunity with a local First Nations organisation.

Community and Stakeholder Feedback

Community and stakeholder feedback revealed opportunities for local benefits alongside significant concerns about safety, land use, and environmental impacts.

| Opportunities | Challenges |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">Community benefit-sharing (support for local groups, facilities, sponsorship, and | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Fire risk and emergency response capacity.Visual impacts and loss of rural character. |

| Opportunities | Challenges |
|---|---|
| <p>beautification).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local economic boost through business and service participation. • Employment and training opportunities, including education partnerships. • Engagement of local suppliers and contractors. • Cultural awareness and First Nations collaboration. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction disruption (traffic, dust, noise). • Flooding and drainage concerns. • Loss of agricultural land. • Property value impacts. • Biodiversity and habitat disruption. • Waste management and decommissioning. • Pollution and contamination risks. • Insurance affordability and coverage. • Accommodation and service pressures. |

Recommendations

Engagement should remain transparent, two-way, and responsive across all Project phases. If approved, priorities include clearly addressing community concerns and closing the feedback loop. During construction, timely updates on traffic, noise, dust, and visual impacts should be paired with opportunities for local business, workforce participation, and First Nations involvement. Once operational, regular communication with residents and education partnerships will help build long-term value, with clear updates during maintenance or decommissioning. Engagement should be monitored, adapted as needed, and supported by a dedicated Project website to maintain trust and accountability.

Conclusion

Consultation revealed strong opposition to the Project, especially from residents nearest the site, who raised concerns about loss of agricultural land, property values, fire risk, environmental impacts, and the cumulative effects of regional renewable development. Survey results confirmed widespread resistance, with minimal neutral or positive views, and many dismissing community benefit sharing as inadequate. While some constructive dialogue occurred, overall sentiment reflected fatigue with ongoing development and scepticism toward consultation processes. The Applicant acknowledged these dynamics and sought to respond, but significant opposition to the Project remains.

1. Overview

Engagement with non-associated receivers and the broader Mangoplah township is crucial for developing a Project that aligns with its social and environmental context, especially in the face of community opposition. Large-scale BESS projects have a particularly unique contribution to the broader environmental impacts of climate change and energy security as they create green, clean energy and work to stabilise the NEM grid. These projects also bring a concentration of both direct and indirect benefits to their host region through community benefit schemes (CBS) along with economic stimulus and employment.

Strong community engagement creates mutual benefits, and when undertaken and utilised successfully can:

- Improve the Project and ensure impacts will be acceptable to the community
- Spread the benefits throughout the community, and
- Build long-term relationships and trust with the community.

1.1. Community/stakeholder engagement and consultation

This section summarises the detailed consultation activities undertaken to achieve the above-outlined goals, considering non-associated receivers, local community members, First Nations community, and government agency stakeholders. It identifies:

- Issues and views raised by stakeholders
- Opportunities to influence the Project
- Plans for future engagement.

1.1.1. Background

This chapter summarises the community engagement and consultation undertaken with the Mangoplah community and other stakeholders during the EIS process. Engagement activities, carried out between November 2024 and October 2025, provided important opportunities to hear feedback and incorporate it into the Project's design.

In response to community feedback, the Project has gone beyond initial commitments by making a series of refinements to reduce potential impacts, strengthen transparency, and demonstrate genuine responsiveness. These measures include:

- The Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) was expanded to include additional photomontages from property viewpoints, rather than limiting the assessment to dwellings.
- A commitment was made to establish western screening, even though the visual impact in that area was assessed as low impact.
- Detailed project updates were provided to the community to directly address concerns.
- Nearby receivers were given access to specialist reports prior to the EIS being made publicly available.
- Communication lines were kept open, with the Applicant taking a proactive approach by responding directly to nearby residents via phone and email.

At the same time, the Applicant acknowledges that many in the community continue to oppose the Project, primarily on the grounds of site suitability. This report seeks to reflect that feedback openly and to summarise both the issues raised and the steps taken in response, recognising the value of community input in shaping the Project.

1.1.2. Scoping phase engagement

The Applicant commenced community engagement and consultation for the Scoping Report in August 2024. The communication and engagement activities applied a broad approach in a bid to engage with as many individuals as possible, and developed stakeholder lists to assess the current state of community sentiment towards the Project while working through queries, concerns and identifying potential community benefit sharing (CBS) opportunities.

A full stakeholder analysis was completed to inform the Community and Stakeholder Engagement Strategy (CSES) in July 2024. Near non-associated receivers were identified through desktop assessment and were contacted via posted mail, resulting in a total of 238 posted letters to non-associated receivers within 4 km of the site. The letters provided an overview of the Project, instructions on how to complete the community feedback survey, encouraged discussions surrounding concerns and opportunities, invited residents to attend meetings with the project team, and outlined additional steps on how to provide feedback.

60 items of email correspondence were sent out, with recipients including:

- Wagga Wagga City Council (WWCC)
- Member for Riverina
- Member for Wagga Wagga
- Wagga Men’s Shed
- Lion Club
- Sunset Probus Club
- Wagga Chamber of Commerce
- Country Women’s Association
- Riverina Sustainable Food Alliance
- Maxwell Group
- Sureway Employment & Training
- Sarina Russo
- VERTO
- GTES
- Industry Capability Network (ICN) Workforce Australia
- TAFE Wagga
- CSU
- Wagga Wagga High School
- Mount Austin High School
- Indi School
- Riverina Anglican College
- Koorinal High School
- Mawang Gaway
- Bundy Cultural Tours
- Wagga Local Aboriginal Land Council
- ESI supply Group (Indigenous)
- MCUE Goannas Football Club

A website was established that outlined Project information, Project maps, frequently asked questions (FAQ), and details on how to contact the Project team (via hotline or email). A community feedback survey, which included social and landscape value questions, was also available on the website and through printed materials available at in-person meetings.

In-person meetings were facilitated with members of WWCC, Wagga Wagga Business Chamber, and non-associated receivers within 4 km (10 attendees over three [3] meetings). Two (2) online meetings were facilitated with both the State and Federal members.

During the Scoping phase, the community feedback captured a sense of the perceived issues and opportunities of the Project. The main issues and opportunities for ongoing discussion and consideration during the EIS period included:

- The biggest opportunities were identified as:
 - Community benefit sharing (mentioned six [6] times)
 - Local employment opportunities (as an area to explore further – mentioned three [3] times)
 - Potential road upgrades on neighbouring property (suggested by R1).
- The biggest concerns and/or challenges that were identified were:
 - Accommodation shortages (mentioned two [2] times)
 - Concerns regarding poor internal access route in wet conditions (mentioned six [6] times)

- Concerns regarding perceived impacts on waterways due to the Project's location adjacent to Burkes Creek (mentioned two [2] times)
- Concerns regarding increases in insurance (raised by R1, R2-R3, and two [2] community members)
- Environmental considerations through fire risk (mentioned six [6] times)
- Cumulative impacts to neighbouring properties due to internal track upgrades (raised by R1)
- Loss of prime agricultural land (mentioned six [6] times)
- The notion that a BESS would trigger a solar farm development in the near future (mentioned five [5] times)
- Impacts on visual amenity (mentioned four [4] times).
- The importance of maintaining continuous engagement with the local community was emphasised by approximately six (6) community members and non-associated receivers, the Member for Riverina, and Member for Wagga Wagga
- When considering community benefits, stakeholders emphasised the importance of keeping benefits local to Mangoplah. Suggestions included:
 - Upgrades to the Mangoplah Hall
 - Upgrades to the club rooms at the football ground
 - Potential support in relation to telecommunication improvements for the area
 - Potential support for access to mains water (some farmers are currently capped by Riverina Water).
- Council emphasised the importance of clear communication with the community for earning social licence and expected minimal concerns due to the project's size. Concerns raised by Council regarding the following topics:
 - Construction timeline
 - Overall footprint
 - Decommissioning plans and waste removal responsibilities
 - Worker accommodation impacts
 - Landowner insurance impacts.
- The Member for Riverina raised questions about neighbour engagement, landowner agreements, site proximity to Holbrook Road and Mangoplah, container colour, and potential vibration issues. The project team outlined ongoing assessments and noise mitigation measures, expressing confidence in minimal impact. Additional queries covered timelines, project costs, SSD status, and next steps. A request was made to receive all current and future materials via email, and while no clear support was stated, the meeting was described as very positive.
- The Member for Wagga Wagga's key concerns included the BESS size and height, the rationale for site selection, and the project's relevance to the region. The team explained the site was chosen for its natural screening and grid suitability, with design details still being finalised. Questions were also raised about the company's background, ownership, and the role of battery storage, with some uncertainty expressed about its local necessity. Interest was shown in a potential Community Benefit Scheme, including improved internet access.
- A First Nations representative from the Bundyi Cultural Tours encouraged that the Applicant undertakes cultural awareness training, to which the Applicant agreed and accepted. Concerns were raised about the site of the BESS, specifically that it borders a creek that may overflow at some point, which needs to be considered. It was emphasised that meetings should occur between nearby neighbours and the First Nations community to break down barriers and foster relationships. It was also mentioned that employment opportunities is a frequent promise that goes unfulfilled.

These issues and opportunities were explored further during the EIS engagement activities and the responses and adaptations applied to the Project are outlined in the section below.

The Applicant recognises that a high level of consultation, engagement and information sharing is required throughout both the EIS phase and beyond. As a result, the Applicant has delivered a robust communications and engagement program that represented a genuine investment in engagement and consultation with the local community.

1.1.3. EIS engagement

Community consultation for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) phase of the Project recommenced in November 2024 and continued through to the EIS submission to the DPHI in October 2025. Throughout this period, the Applicant actively engaged with a broad range of stakeholders, including directly impacted landowners (non-associated receivers), targeted stakeholders, and members of the broader community.

The Project team conducted:

- 121 letters sent to residents within 4 km of the Project site
- Briefing letter sent to WWCC
- Briefing letter sent to Member for Riverina and Member for Wagga Wagga
- 71 stakeholder emails
- Fact sheet to delivered via email
- FAQ document delivered via email
- 3 newsletters emailed to the stakeholder email list, directly responding to key concerns
- 3 campaign emails sent (to a 22-person mailing list) providing Project updates
- 19 phone conversations
- 56 community feedback survey responses
- 3 in-person meetings
- 1 online meeting
- 5 SIA interviews facilitated
- 1 full-day cultural awareness tour and training opportunity undertaken by the Applicant
- 186 users visited the Project website as of 28 August 2025.

Two community information sessions were also hosted at the Mangoplah Hall:

- Tuesday 1 April 2025 from 3:00 pm – 7:00 pm
- Wednesday 2 April 2025 from 7:30 am – 11:30 am.

Together, these sessions attracted approximately 70 attendees, with the purpose of providing stakeholders and community members an opportunity to:

- Learn more about the Project and the SSD and EIS process
- Ask questions directly of the Project team
- Share feedback and concerns
- Explore ideas for potential community benefit-sharing initiatives.

The evening session saw the arrival of a coordinated and vocal group of participants, many of whom appeared to have attended with the intention of demonstrating collective opposition to the Project. While the session remained largely respectful, the tone was heated at times, and several discussions became emotionally charged, reflecting the depth of concern and passion held by local residents.

Rather than engaging in individual or small group conversations, many attendees participated in open group discussions, often with multiple voices contributing at once. As a result, the opportunity for in-depth, one-on-one dialogue between individuals and the Project team was more limited during this session. Nevertheless,

the Applicant acknowledges the significance of this collective engagement, as it demonstrated both the strength of local sentiment and the community's desire to be heard and considered in the planning process.

The morning session offered a more informal and conversational environment, with smaller numbers of attendees engaging in more focused discussions with members of the Project team. This enabled more detailed exploration of individual perspectives, questions, and ideas for local benefit sharing.

Together, both sessions provided valuable insight into community attitudes, capturing a spectrum of views and reinforcing the importance of ongoing, transparent, and responsive consultation.

The EIS engagement period was marked by strong, passionate feedback, particularly from residents in close proximity to the proposed site. Many participants voiced deep concerns and strong opposition, reflecting a high level of interest and emotional investment in the future of their community and the overall agricultural landscape.

While opposition was the prevailing sentiment among directly impacted neighbours, the engagement also revealed small levels of interest and conditional support from the broader community, particularly in relation to potential benefits such as local job creation, training opportunities, and infrastructure improvements.

Key issues included:

- Environmental impacts (including fire risk, pollution, flooding)
- Visual and noise concerns
- Access restrictions and local road disruption
- Property devaluation, mental health concerns, and insurance impacts
- Uncertainty around decommissioning and long-term site management
- Perceived imbalance of risk and reward for nearby landowners, with one stakeholder asking, "outside of community benefits, how does this benefit the neighbours? There is no benefit."
- Loss of agricultural land and farming continuity
- Lack of confidence in the consultation process and the regulatory framework.

Opportunities identified:

- Local job creation and training pathways
- Cultural heritage preservation
- Infrastructure upgrades (roads)
- Partnerships with educational institutions
- Community benefit initiatives and investment
- Environmental rehabilitation and stewardship.

These issues and opportunities were revisited consistently across all engagement formats, contributing to a more nuanced understanding of the Project's potential impacts and benefits. The feedback received during this phase helped shape the SIA and informed potential refinements to the Project design and proposed mitigation measures.

1.1.4. Key community stakeholders

A Project team led by NGH was responsible for developing the Engagement Action Plan (EAP), and implementation of the EAP was done in collaboration between both the Applicant and NGH. A detailed list of Project stakeholders was developed to inform the EAP.

This analysis considered the level of impact, influence, and engagement approach, in keeping with the International Association of Public Participation (IAP2) Engagement Framework. The engagement approach adopted for each stakeholder group identified was summarised within the EAP.

Table 1-1 Project stakeholder breakdown and engagement approach

| Stakeholder group | Targeted stakeholders | Interests | Objectives and opportunities | Impact (High / Medium / Low) | Interest (High / Medium / Low) | Quality of relationship (very poor, poor, neutral, strong, very strong) | Engagement needs and/or expectations | Engagement approach |
|---|--|--|---|------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Non-associated receivers (within 4km) – see Appendix J | Residential properties within a 1 km radius of the proposed site (pending noise and visual assessments). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Property impacts Noise impacts Visual impacts Access changes Environmental changes Commercial agreements Community benefits Hazards and risks Flooding and impacts on waterways Governance and ownership of the developing entity Impacts on agricultural outputs. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a strong partnership with the community Keep neighbours informed about the Project from early in the planning phase Identify impacts and mitigations through a collaborative process Discuss neighbour benefit sharing options directly Provide opportunities to raise issues and provide feedback. | H | H | Strong - multiple attempts to contact non-associated receivers, noting not all chose to engage/participate, while ongoing conversations occurred with multiple others. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consistent engagement To be informed first of any information Open and transparent dialogue Opportunity for discussions and feedback Face-to-face discussions Personalised relationships Discussions regarding impacts and possible mitigations Collaborative approach towards mitigation development Understanding of cumulative impacts. | <p>Inform, consult, involve, collaborate</p> <p>Consultation with this group will involve phone calls, distributing letters, invitations to the community drop-in sessions and a direct face-to-face meeting at their property.</p> |

| Stakeholder group | Targeted stakeholders | Interests | Objectives and opportunities | Impact (High / Medium / Low) | Interest (High / Medium / Low) | Quality of relationship (very poor, poor, neutral, strong, very strong) | Engagement needs and/or expectations | Engagement approach |
|--|--|---|---|------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|---|---|
| Broader community and region | Mangoplah township including residents, businesses, and organisations. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visual impacts Noise impacts Transport access impacts or changes Environmental changes Community benefits Governance and ownership of the developing entity Loss of agricultural outputs Risks and hazards Regional economic development. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop an understanding of and opportunity to participate in the Project Provide opportunities to raise issues and provide feedback Discuss community benefit sharing options. | M | M | Neutral – attempts to engage with the wider community through pop-ups, advertisements, social media, and posters around town | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing Project updates Information readily available Opportunity for discussions and feedback Identification of benefits. | <p>Inform, consult, involve</p> <p>This group should be re-engaged through broader communications during the development application phase through community drop-in sessions, a public notice and communications through the Project team. Ideally, communications to this group would make use of the Project website.</p> |
| First Nations representatives, groups and organisations. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wagga Wagga Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC) Bundi Cultural | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental changes Commercial agreements Impacts to Country | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage with the relevant Local Aboriginal Land Council and RAPs through the formal process | H | H | Very strong. Attempts to engage with the LALC and Mawang Gaway occurred. Multiple engagement | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engagement to occur face-to-face, not technology focused Open and | <p>Inform, Involve, Collaborate and Empower</p> <p>This group should be re-engaged through community drop-in sessions, meetings and</p> |

| Stakeholder group | Targeted stakeholders | Interests | Objectives and opportunities | Impact (High / Medium / Low) | Interest (High / Medium / Low) | Quality of relationship (very poor, poor, neutral, strong, very strong) | Engagement needs and/or expectations | Engagement approach |
|-------------------------|--|--|--|------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|--|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tours Mawang Gaway Aboriginal Cultural Consultancy ESI supply Group (Indigenous). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community benefits Cultural heritage impacts Impacts on agricultural outputs. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look for opportunities to contribute to the story of Country and contribute to the local Aboriginal Community Involve local community organisations in community benefit sharing initiatives. | | | activities were undertaken with ESI supply Group (Indigenous). The Applicant participated in a full-day cultural tour facilitated by Bundy Cultural Tours. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> transparent dialogue Opportunity for discussions and feedback To be listened to Personalised relationships formed Participation in benefits development Feelings of empowerment with decision-making. | <p>Project update emails.</p> <p>Ideally, communications to this group would be via direct contact. The approach is to ensure we create meeting opportunities that are best suited to this stakeholder group, mitigating participation barriers where possible. For example, a walk on Country and/or a listen and yarn activity.</p> |
| Community organisations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apex, Rotary, Lions, Country Women’s Association (CWA), local sporting organisations, tourism groups, sporting clubs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Property impacts Visual impacts Access changes Environmental changes Commercial agreements Community benefits | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop an understanding of and opportunity to participate in the Project Provide opportunities to raise issues and provide feedback Discuss | H | H | Neutral - multiple attempts to engage were facilitated. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing Project updates Information readily available Opportunity for discussions and feedback Face-to-face discussions | <p>This group should be re-engaged through broader communications during the EIS phase through community drop-in sessions, a public notice (print) and communications via the Project team.</p> <p>Ideally, communications to this group would make use</p> |

| Stakeholder group | Targeted stakeholders | Interests | Objectives and opportunities | Impact (High / Medium / Low) | Interest (High / Medium / Low) | Quality of relationship (very poor, poor, neutral, strong, very strong) | Engagement needs and/or expectations | Engagement approach |
|------------------------------------|--|---|---|------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|--|---|
| | like the Mangoplah Football and Netball Club. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governance and ownership of the developing entity Impacts on agricultural outputs. | community benefit sharing options. | | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussions regarding issues mitigation, opportunities Community benefits/VPA discussions. | of the Project website. |
| Government Agencies/Utility owners | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DPHI and other agencies through the SEARs process (such as NSW Farmers Association) Wagga Wagga City Council Planning and Development Department of Agriculture Transport for NSW (Rail) / UGL Geo Science NSW | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impacts on local infrastructure Assessment process Consideration of impacts Consideration and mitigation of concerns Consultation process Application of standards and frameworks. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and maintain a positive relationship Build on previous discussions Develop and maintain a positive relationship Identify opportunities to support the local economy. | M | M | Very strong – ongoing agency and Council consultation underway. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing engagement regarding updates Information readily available Opportunity for discussions and feedback. | <p>Inform, consult</p> <p>This group should be re-engaged directly through phone calls, briefings, distributing letters, and direct meetings/briefings where possible.</p> |

| Stakeholder group | Targeted stakeholders | Interests | Objectives and opportunities | Impact (High / Medium / Low) | Interest (High / Medium / Low) | Quality of relationship (very poor, poor, neutral, strong, very strong) | Engagement needs and/or expectations | Engagement approach |
|---------------------------|--|---|---|------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|--|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Civil Aviation Safety Authority Air Services Australia Biodiversity Conservation Trust (BCT) National Parks and Wildlife. | | | | | | | |
| State and Federal Members | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Member for Wagga Wagga, Dr Joe McGirr MP Member for Riverina, the Hon Michael McCormack MP | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impacts on local infrastructure Assessment process Consideration of impacts Consideration and mitigation of concerns Consultation process Application of standards and frameworks. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and maintain a positive relationship Build on previous discussions Develop and maintain a positive relationship Identify opportunities to support the local economy. | M | H | Strong - Consultation with State and Federal MP facilitated. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing engagement regarding updates Information readily available Opportunity for discussions and feedback Community benefits/VPA discussions throughout EIS Understanding of cumulative impacts. | <p>Inform, consult</p> <p>This group should be re-engaged directly through phone calls, briefings, distributing letters, and direct meetings/briefings where possible.</p> <p>Ideally, communications to this group would make use of the Project website.</p> |

| Stakeholder group | Targeted stakeholders | Interests | Objectives and opportunities | Impact (High / Medium / Low) | Interest (High / Medium / Low) | Quality of relationship (very poor, poor, neutral, strong, very strong) | Engagement needs and/or expectations | Engagement approach |
|----------------------------------|---|---|--|------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|--|--|
| Schools, TAFEs and Universities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> TAFE Wagga Wagga Charles Sturt University Public, Private and Catholic Schools. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impacts on local infrastructure Impacts on local workforce Training opportunities Community benefits. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure organisations are updated on education and vocational opportunities associated with the Project. Identify relevant community benefit scheme opportunities. | M | L | Neutral – attempts to engage were made. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing engagement regarding updates Information readily available Face-to-face discussions Discussions regarding issues mitigation, opportunities. | <p>Inform, consult, involve</p> <p>This group should be re-engaged directly through phone calls, distributing letters, invitation to the community drop-in sessions and a direct face to face meeting where possible.</p> <p>Ideally, communications to this group would make use of the Project website.</p> |
| Business groups/small businesses | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wagga Wagga Chamber of Commerce Industry Capability Network Mangoplah township businesses and those with a broader interest in the region | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Property impacts Visual impacts Access changes Environmental changes Commercial agreements Community benefits Governance and ownership of the developing entity | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with the chamber to identify any local businesses that may be impacted by the Project (positive or negative). Identify opportunities to develop or utilise local capability. | L | H | Very strong – consultation with Chamber and Industry Capability Network occurred. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing engagement regarding updates Information readily available Opportunity for discussions and feedback Identification of possible opportunities/participation. | <p>Inform, consult</p> <p>This group should be engaged through broader communications during the EIS phase through community open drop-in sessions, a public notice (print) and communications via the Project team.</p> <p>Ideally, communications to this group would make use of the Project website.</p> |

| Stakeholder group | Targeted stakeholders | Interests | Objectives and opportunities | Impact (High / Medium / Low) | Interest (High / Medium / Low) | Quality of relationship (very poor, poor, neutral, strong, very strong) | Engagement needs and/or expectations | Engagement approach |
|-------------------|--|---|--|------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|--|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solar Professionals Wagga Wagga (construction and operation recycling, maintenance and decommissioning services) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impacts on agricultural outputs. | | | | | | |
| Advocacy groups | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potentially Wagga Wagga Chamber of Commerce or ESI, though no stakeholder has opted to be an advocate. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional growth Community benefits Governance and ownership of the developing entity. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider opportunities for partnerships and community events Consider advocacy opportunities Potential for partnerships. | M | M | Very strong - consultation occurred over multiple periods. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing engagement regarding updates Information readily available Opportunity for discussions and feedback Identification of possible advocacy activities. | <p>Inform, consult</p> <p>Outside of the sensitive receivers identified, this group should be engaged through broader communications during the EIS phase through a community open drop-in session, a public notice (print) and communications via the Project team.</p> <p>Ideally, communications to this group would make use of the Project website.</p> |
| Groups of | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CWA | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Property impacts | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and | M | H | Neutral/strong - | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing | <p>Inform, consult</p> |

| Stakeholder group | Targeted stakeholders | Interests | Objectives and opportunities | Impact (High / Medium / Low) | Interest (High / Medium / Low) | Quality of relationship (very poor, poor, neutral, strong, very strong) | Engagement needs and/or expectations | Engagement approach |
|---------------------|--|---|--|------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|---|---|
| renewable objectors | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Riverina Sustainable Food Alliance Eunony Valley Association. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visual impacts Access changes Environmental changes Commercial agreements Community benefits Governance and ownership of the developing entity Impacts on agricultural outputs. | <p>address concerns as required</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare responses to known concerns based on previous Projects Manage issues constructively and efficiently Ensure equity in the engagement (allow other stakeholders time to talk in information sessions). | | | consultation occurred over multiple periods. | <p>engagement regarding updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information readily available Opportunity for discussions and feedback. Discussions regarding issues mitigation, opportunities Community benefits. | <p>This group should be engaged through broader communications during the EIS phase through community open drop-in sessions, a public notice (print) and communications via the Project team.</p> <p>Ideally, communications to this group would make use of the Project website.</p> |

1.1.5. Overview of engagement approach

The EIS engagement phase involved a strategic and multi-channel approach designed to raise awareness, address key concerns, and foster two-way dialogue between the Project team and the community.

Building on insights from the Scoping phase, the Applicant developed and distributed a diverse suite of engagement tools to ensure that stakeholders, particularly non-associated receivers and directly affected neighbours, had opportunities to be heard, informed, and involved. This included the development of targeted materials such as a fact sheet, detailed frequently asked questions (FAQs), and tailored newsletters to respond directly to emerging community questions and misconceptions as they arose.

In direct response to discussions during Scoping, the Project team also actively sought feedback from non-associated receivers and other interested community members on how they would like engagement activities to be shaped moving forward. Despite these targeted efforts, no residents responded to the outreach.

The Applicant also maintained a strong presence with local residents, opting to call non-associated receivers and community members directly rather than relying solely on indirect channels. This approach was aimed at avoiding any “us and them” sentiment, instead fostering quality relationships and ensuring responses were empathetic and grounded in mutual respect.

The engagement approach also placed emphasis on:

- Layered engagement, allowing stakeholders to interact in formats that suited their needs, from public sessions and surveys to direct phone calls and face-to-face briefings
- Responsiveness, by tracking recurring issues and ensuring detailed responses were provided in a timely and accessible manner
- Inclusivity, through cultural awareness training and efforts to engage with underrepresented or quieter voices in the community
- Development of community benefit sharing ideas, drawing on both formal brainstorming sessions and informal conversations.

As engagement progressed, the Project team refined its communication approach to better reflect the values, communication styles, and lived experience of the local community. Given that much of the audience comprised farmers and landholders predominantly aged 55 and above (as noted in the community feedback survey) the team focused on being clear, direct, and transparent in both written and verbal communications.

Technical information was still provided but was framed with practical relevance and local context in mind, acknowledging the community’s strong connection to land, productivity, and long-term stewardship. This approach reinforced the Applicant’s commitment to keeping stakeholders informed and involved, and supported constructive, informed discussions throughout the engagement process.

A summary of the timing and focus of key engagement activities is provided below.

Table 1-2 Overview of EIS phase engagement activities

| Activity | Outcome | Delivery timing and reach |
|---|---|--|
| Information sessions | | |
| Pop-up community sessions Mangoplah Hall | <p>Explained the Project, outlined the EIS process, discussed issues/opportunities, and engaged with local stakeholders.</p> <p>Materials were produced in large format (i.e., indicative site map, examples of BESS components, Community Benefit Sharing mind map, and the NSW SSD process), Project fact sheets and FAQ documents were available to take away and the team completed feedback forms capturing discussions and sentiment. People were also encouraged to complete the online survey by scanning a QR code on the Project materials in their own time.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuesday 1 April 2025 3:00 pm – 7:00 pm • Wednesday 2 April 2025 7:30 am – 11:30 am • Reach: Approximately 70 attendees |
| Non-associated receiver consultation | | |
| Posted letters to non-associated receivers within 4 km of the site (See Appendix A) | Provided an update on the Project, an overview of the EIS process, highlighted opportunities to learn more, provided information on how to find the Project website, provided information on community information sessions, responded to key issues and highlighted benefit-sharing opportunities. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribution date: 17 March 2025 • Reach: 121 properties. |
| Targeted phone calls/liaison | Phone calls were made to discuss the Project and answer questions with non-associated receivers and community members to support discussions around coordinating face-to-face or online meetings, and to discuss key concerns and | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approximately 19 calls were made. |

| Activity | Outcome | Delivery timing and reach |
|---|---|---|
| | potential mitigations. | |
| Property visits for visual impact assessments (VIA) | <p>A preliminary LVIA identified seven (7) non-associated private receivers within the 2.5 km study area with a theoretical line of sight to the Project based on topography. Desktop assessment found all would experience Very Low to Low visual impact, with views largely screened or fragmented by existing vegetation.</p> <p>In line with SEARs consultation requirements, further assessment was undertaken for two (2) neighbouring non-associated dwellings, R1 and R2-R3. Site visits in March 2025 included assessment of selected private viewpoints. These confirmed that potential visual impacts are limited to a small number of privately owned properties adjacent to the Project Area, and that existing vegetation and Project scale result in minimal impact from main dwelling views. See LVIA (Section 6.6) in the EIS report for more information.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All 7 receivers have been assessed using desktop assessment tools including ZVI, topographic maps and aerial imagery • Two (2) property visits facilitated <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Assessments were undertaken from the primary dwellings, and additionally from viewpoints on the properties (driveway and sheds) to further represent low impact • Public viewpoints also assessed. • Despite the low impact, western screening has been put forward beyond what is required. |
| Consultation for noise impact assessments (NIA) | <p>For the NIA assessment, seven (7) non-associated residential residences were identified within 2 km of the Project using desktop tools (aerial maps). Rating Background Levels were assumed for rural residences, as required under the Noise Policy for Industry Guideline 2017. As such, no property visits were required. Based on this desktop assessment, no non-associated receivers were identified as exceeding noise allowances during the construction phase of the Project, with no impacts during the operational phase. Noise impacts during construction would be highly localised and short-term. See the NIA report (Section 6.7)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No property visits required. |

| Activity | Outcome | Delivery timing and reach |
|--|--|---|
| | in the EIS report for more information. | |
| Traditional media | | |
| Public notice in the Daily Advertiser (See Appendix B) | <p>A public notice was placed in the local newspaper, the Daily Advertiser ahead of the community information sessions on 1 April 2025.</p> <p>The public notice provided an outline of the Project and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoted the community information sessions • Encouraged people to visit the Project website to read the FAQ, and complete the feedback survey • Encouraged people to set up a meeting with the Project team. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wednesday 5 March 2025 |
| Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) Sheet (See Appendix C) | A FAQ document was developed to answer common BESS and NSW SSD-related questions. The Fact Sheet was available at community pop-up sessions, provided at briefings, and on the Project website. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Throughout the EIS engagement period. |
| Project Fact Sheet (See Appendix D) | A Fact Sheet was developed to provide an overview of the Project and the NSW SSD process. The Fact Sheet was available at community pop-up sessions, provided at briefings, and on the Project website. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Throughout the EIS engagement period. |
| Project Newsletters (See Appendix E) | Regular newsletters were developed to provide updates on the Project’s progress, community information sessions, and EIS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Throughout the EIS engagement period (specifically March 2025 and July 2025). |

| Activity | Outcome | Delivery timing and reach |
|--|---|--|
| | assessment outcomes. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reach: 40 stakeholders over three newsletters. |
| Email campaigns (See Appendix F) | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> |
| Digital tools | | |
| Website https://www.mangoplahbess.com/ | Provided a central location for Project updates, information, online survey, and a detailed list of FAQs. The website has been available throughout Scoping and EIS and will remain a source of information for stakeholders as the Project progresses. | Website reach: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 186 page views (as of 28 August 2025). |
| Online Survey (See Appendix G) | The online survey aimed to capture thoughts on the Project in a way that informed the SIA and follow-up engagement discussions. The survey was promoted through information sessions, stakeholder briefings, newspaper advertisements, printed materials, and on the Project website. | The survey was live for 5.5 weeks between 27 March 2025 and 30 April 2025. Results from the survey included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 46 complete and 10 incomplete responses received |
| Stakeholder group presentations/briefings | | |
| Wagga Wagga City Council (WWCC) (See Appendix H) | The Applicant and NGH held several discussions with WWCC between October 2024 and May 2025. The initial discussions focused on providing an update on the Project, an outline of the EIS process, outcomes on technical | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Letter delivered via email on 19 March 2025 Face-to-face meeting held with the CEO and Manager of Planning on 12 March 2025 VPA offer with focus criteria for near |

| Activity | Outcome | Delivery timing and reach |
|---|--|---|
| | <p>assessments, discussion of key issues and opportunities, and asking for feedback and expectations regarding benefit sharing and local industry engagement.</p> <p>Subsequent discussions were held to negotiate an agreement regarding the Council-led Community Benefit Scheme, and outcomes to road access requirements.</p> | <p>neighbour benefits was delivered to WWCC on 19 September 2025. This will continue to be discussed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WWCC currently drafting internal benefit-sharing policy in response to the large number of developments. • Five (5) emails sent/received between 15 November 2024 and August 2025. |
| <p>Mawang Gaway Bundy Cultural Tours Bidya Marra Consultancy Wagga Local Aboriginal Land Council</p> | <p>Throughout the Scoping and EIS phases, NGH made multiple attempts to arrange briefings with a representative of the LALC, Mawang Gaway, and Bidya Marra Consultancy. Despite these efforts, a meeting could not be facilitated. Engagement with Bundy Cultural Tours was prosperous with multiple phone calls and meetings facilitated. During the EIS phase, a full-day cultural tour was undertaken by the Applicant with Bundy Cultural Tours, representing the Applicant’s commitment to knowledge sharing and building strong partnerships in the First Nations community.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nine (9) emails between 11 December 2024 and 23 March 2025 • Three (3) newsletters delivered between 7 February 2025 and 15 July 2025 • One (1) cultural tour undertaken on 31 March 2025. |
| <p><u>Training providers / employment</u> Sureway Employment & Training Sarina Russo VERTO GTES Workforce Australia (Riverina-Murray)</p> | <p>The Project team provided an update on the Project, outlined the EIS process, provided information on benefit sharing, and details on how to complete the survey and provide feedback, details on the community information events, and requested a meeting for a verbal briefing and/or participation in an SIA interview. A representative from Workforce Australia was interviewed within the SIA.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nine (9) emails between 11 December 2024 and 23 March 2025 • Three (3) newsletters delivered between 7 February 2025 and 15 July 2025 • One (1) in-person meeting facilitated with Workforce Australia on 1 April 2025. |

| Activity | Outcome | Delivery timing and reach |
|---|--|---|
| <p><u>Educational Institutions:</u> TAFE Wagga CSU Wagga Wagga High School Mount Austin High School Indi School Riverina Anglican College Koorinal High School</p> | <p>The Project team provided an update on the Project, outlined the EIS process, provided information on benefit sharing, and details on how to complete the survey and provide feedback, details on the community information events, and requested a meeting for a verbal briefing and/or participation in an SIA interview.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three (3) newsletters delivered between 7 February 2025 and 15 July 2025. |
| <p><u>Local Community Groups and/or Interest Groups:</u> Wagga Men’s Shed Lions Club Sunset Probus Club Mangoplah Goannas Football Club Country Women’s Association Riverina Sustainable Food Alliance Maxwell Group</p> | <p>The Project team provided an update on the Project, outlined the EIS process, provided information on benefit sharing, and details on how to complete the survey and provide feedback, details on the community pop-up events, and requested a meeting for a verbal briefing and/or participation in an SIA interview.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three (3) newsletters delivered between 7 February 2025 and 15 July 2025. |
| <p><u>Professional consultees:</u> Wagga Chamber of Commerce ESI supply Group (Indigenous) Industry Capability Network (ICN)</p> | <p>The Project team provided an update on the Project, outlined the EIS process, provided information on benefit sharing, and details on how to complete the survey and provide feedback, details on the community pop-up events, and requested a meeting for a verbal briefing and/or participation in an SIA interview. A representative from ESI and ICN were interviewed within the SIA.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three (3) newsletters delivered between 7 February 2025 and 15 July 2025 • Face-to-face meeting with ESI on 2 April 2025 • Online meeting with ICN on 4 April 2025 • SIA interviews held with ESI 23 July 2025 and ICN 16 July 2025. |

| Activity | Outcome | Delivery timing and reach |
|--|---|--|
| State MP, Member for Wagga Wagga (See Appendix I) | The Project team provided a brief update on the Project and offered to brief Dr Joe McGirr, MP in person or over Microsoft Teams. Supporting information was provided by email to the electoral office. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter delivered via email on 19 March 2025 • Eight (8) pieces of email correspondence delivered between 8 November 2024 and 26 March 2025 • Two (2) newsletters provided between March and July 2025 • Face-to-face briefing on 2 April 2025 |
| Federal MP, Member for Riverina (See Appendix I) | The Project team provided a brief update on the Project and offered to brief Mr Michael McCormack MP over Microsoft Teams. Supporting information was provided by email to the electoral office. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter delivered via email on 19 March 2025 • Three (3) pieces of email correspondence delivered between 8 November 2024 and 19 March 2025 • Two (2) newsletters provided between March and July 2025 |

1.2. Summary of consultation findings

1.2.1. Overall sentiment

Engagement throughout the EIS phase revealed a mixed community sentiment, with feedback leaning toward negative overall, particularly among those living in close proximity to the Project site.

While some directly impacted nearby receivers were open to dialogue and sought to understand Project implications, a significant proportion expressed strong reservations or opposition, citing concerns around the change of land use, personal impacts (property value and insurance), visual impact, fire risk, and trust in development processes. From the broader Wagga Wagga community and more distant Mangoplah residents, sentiment tended to be more moderate, with lower levels of direct concern observed.

The Applicant acknowledges that this Project is being progressed within a region already experiencing a high concentration of renewable energy developments, including nearby proposed projects such as the Maxwell Downs Solar Farm and the approved Burke's Creek Solar Farm.

Many community members who engaged during the EIS process had already participated in other consultation efforts, resulting in a noticeable sense of frustration and scepticism and a feeling that engagement was merely a "box-ticking exercise." This sentiment carried over into engagement on this Project, despite efforts to distinguish its design, impacts, and benefits.

Compounding this sentiment was the assumption held by some stakeholders that the approval of this Project could pave the way for future solar farm developments in the area. While such future development is speculative and outside the scope of this Project, the lack of clarity about long-term land use has contributed to growing anxiety about cumulative impacts, particularly for those with bordering properties to the Project site, and strong ties to the rural landscape and agricultural identity of the region.

The Applicant recognised this dynamic early in the EIS engagement process and approached consultation with sensitivity to the broader development context, acknowledging that much of the concern was not solely Project-specific, but rather a reflection of ongoing regional change, development fatigue, and a desire for greater transparency and certainty.

This sentiment was also echoed by local state and federal Members of Parliament, who acknowledged that the volume and overlap of engagement processes across the region was becoming tiresome for their constituents, and risked undermining confidence in consultation more broadly. MPs expressed concern about the toll this was taking on community sentiment, while also highlighting the importance of transparent and consistent communication.

Despite these challenges, elected representatives engaged respectfully and openly with the Applicant throughout the EIS period. They also expressed a wish to remain informed about the Project so that they could accurately respond to community enquiries and support the distribution of information where needed.

Despite a generally cautious or critical tone from some stakeholders, the engagement process also revealed small levels of support and constructive dialogue, particularly from members of the wider community who saw value in the Project's potential to deliver local economic benefits, training opportunities, and long-term regional investment.

1.2.2. Online community feedback survey

Communication tools such as posted letters, emails, newspaper advertising, two face-to-face information sessions, FAQ documents, newsletters, and fact sheets encouraged participation in the online community feedback survey for the SIA (see Section **Error! Reference source not found.**). The survey contained 20 questions and was open for completion for 5.5 weeks between 27 March 2025 and 30 April 2025. 56 responses were received, including 10 incomplete responses. A demographic overview of the three largest respondent groups is provided below.

Table 1-3 Demographic snapshot – top 3 responses

| Category | Response option | Percentage | Number of responses |
|----------------------------|---|------------|---------------------|
| Age | 55-64 | 26.79% | 15 |
| Age | 65-74 | 21.43% | 12 |
| Age | 25-34 | 17.86% | 10 |
| Gender Identification | Female | 53.57% | 30 |
| Gender Identification | Male | 42.86% | 24 |
| Gender Identification | Prefer not to say | 3.57% | 2 |
| Community Involvement | I am involved in agriculture | 76.92% | 40 |
| Community Involvement | I live here | 75.00% | 39 |
| Community Involvement | I am a member of a local club or community organisation | 48.08% | 25 |
| Highest Level of Education | University | 37.5% | 21 |
| Highest Level of Education | TAFE / Vocational (VET) | 25.00% | 14 |
| Highest Level of Education | Year 10 or equivalent | 21.43% | 12 |
| Proximity to Project Site | 1 km – 5 km | 39.29% | 22 |
| Proximity to Project Site | 5 km – 10 km | 30.36% | 17 |
| Proximity to Project Site | More than 10 km but within Wagga Wagga LGA | 14.29% | 8 |

Community values and challenges

When asked in the survey **to describe the attributes they are most proud of** (open-ended question), several clear themes emerged. Many participants spoke about the area’s “tight-knit community” and “friendly and strong neighbourly bonds”, emphasising a culture where “everyone looks out for one another” and people “come together in times of need”.

Agricultural heritage and farming traditions were strongly valued, with pride in “family farms keeping productive land for farming”, “farming history that goes back over 100 years”, and the community’s identity as a “proud pioneer farming community”.

The natural environment was also a point of pride, described as “beautiful farming area with gorgeous views and naturally stunning” and “rich farming area... surrounded by prime agricultural land”, along with a commitment to “protection of flora and fauna”.

Others highlighted the area’s peace and safety, calling it a “quiet peaceful area” and valuing “the safe nature of the land”. Across responses, there was a consistent emphasis on resilience, hard work, and the ability to band together in the face of challenges to the community’s livelihood, environment, and way of life.

This is also noted in the SIA in Section 6.13 of the EIS report, with “Engagement feedback and survey responses highlighting pride in productive farming, multi-generational family ties, mutual assistance, and the stewardship of natural resources. These attributes promote a strong sense of place, resilience, and self-reliance, while also shaping how potential changes are interpreted and acted upon.”

Table 1-4 Response to question, "What do you value most about the local area?"

| Answer choices | Percentage | Number of responses |
|--|------------|---------------------|
| Cultural heritage | 34.62% | 18 |
| Community/family ties | 78.85% | 41 |
| Community safety and resilience | 75.00% | 39 |
| Historic values | 53.85% | 28 |
| Landscape and views | 82.69% | 43 |
| Health and wellbeing | 65.38% | 34 |
| Natural values, including biodiversity, ecosystems, etc. | 75.00 | 39 |
| Recreation opportunities including sporting, fishing, nature based, etc. | 36.54% | 19 |
| Work opportunities | 30.77% | 16 |
| Other (please specify) | 7.69% | 4 |

When asked the open-ended question, “**What, if any, do you see as the major challenges that the Mangoplah community is currently facing?**” the following were identified:

- Loss of agricultural land and farming identity, including risk to food production, farmland value, and multi-generational farming traditions. “Destroying valuable farming land... our culture will be destroyed as a result of the solar industry,” and ““Renewables on prime agricultural land... it is tearing down the community.”
- Environmental and safety risks. Concerns include battery fires, contamination of soil and waterways, and impacts on biodiversity. “Safety: fire is a major risk here at any time... polluting the air and contaminating the soil with chemicals.”
- Community division and social change. Respondents noted strained relationships, demographic shifts, and loss of cohesion. “Family’s that have been friends for generations have been torn apart because of opposing views.”
- Loss of local services, including loss of schools, playgroups, and small businesses. “Loss of services for children such as school and playgroup... potentially losing the local shop and pub.”

- Infrastructure and land use changes, including increased traffic, altered water flows, and visual impacts. “Changing the road of entry will alter the water flow and level on our land... the view of the landscape will change.”
- Maintaining rural character. Respondents valued preserving peace, quiet, and the area’s agricultural heritage. “Quiet peaceful area... we do not want this.”

Priorities and concerns

When asked, “**Please identify your level of importance in terms of social and economic considerations**”, the issues rated as “very important” by the most respondents were potential impacts to property values (46 respondents), engagement with near neighbours (44 respondents), and disruption to community cohesion (36 respondents), as seen in the graph below.

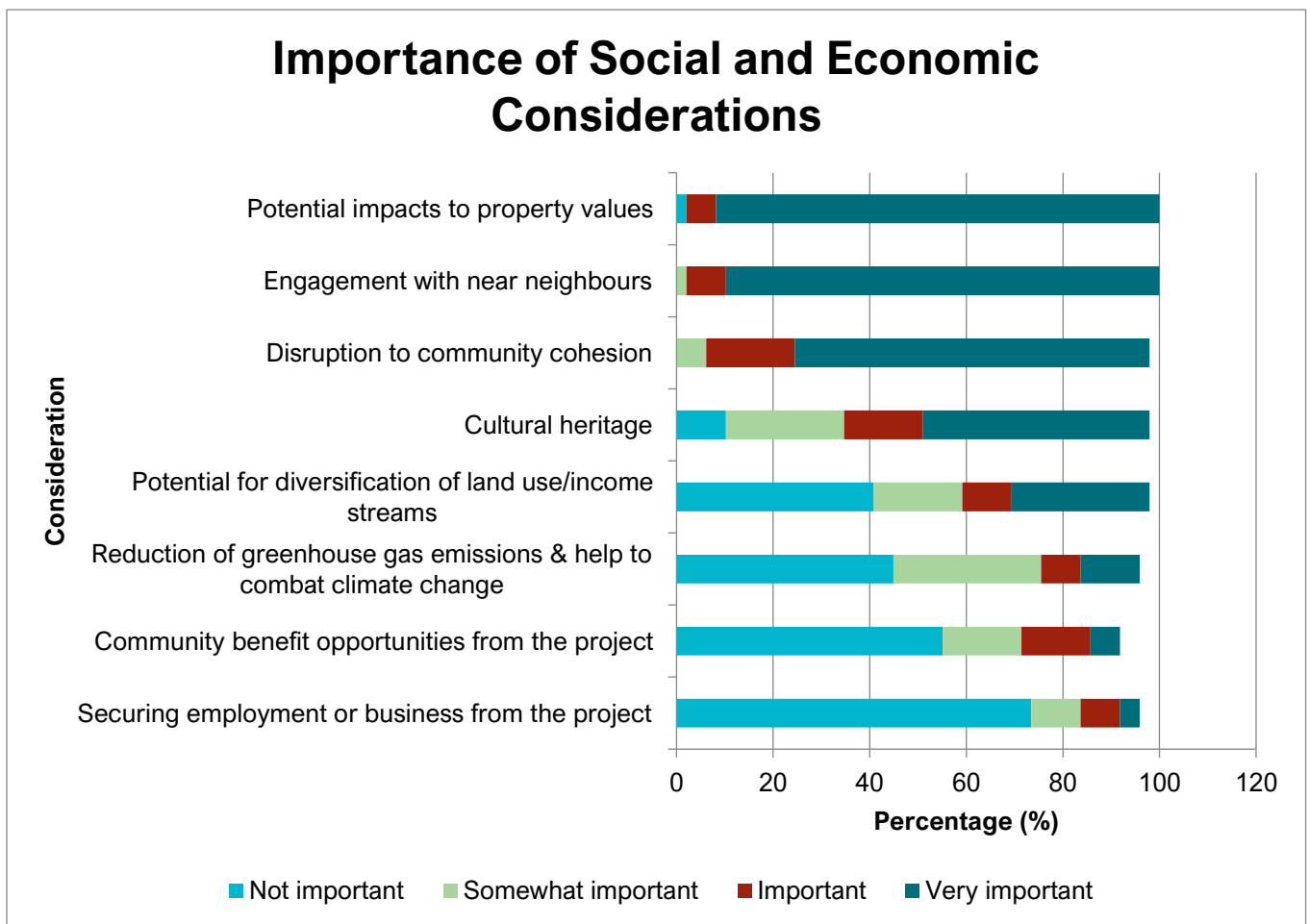


Figure 1-1 Importance of social and economic considerations (survey data)

When asked, “**What concerns do you have (if any) about the proposed Mangoplah BESS?**”, most respondents reported being “very concerned” across multiple areas, with the highest concern areas being effects on land values (45 respondents), effects on agricultural land use (44 respondents), and potential impacts to waterways (44 respondents), as seen in the graph below.

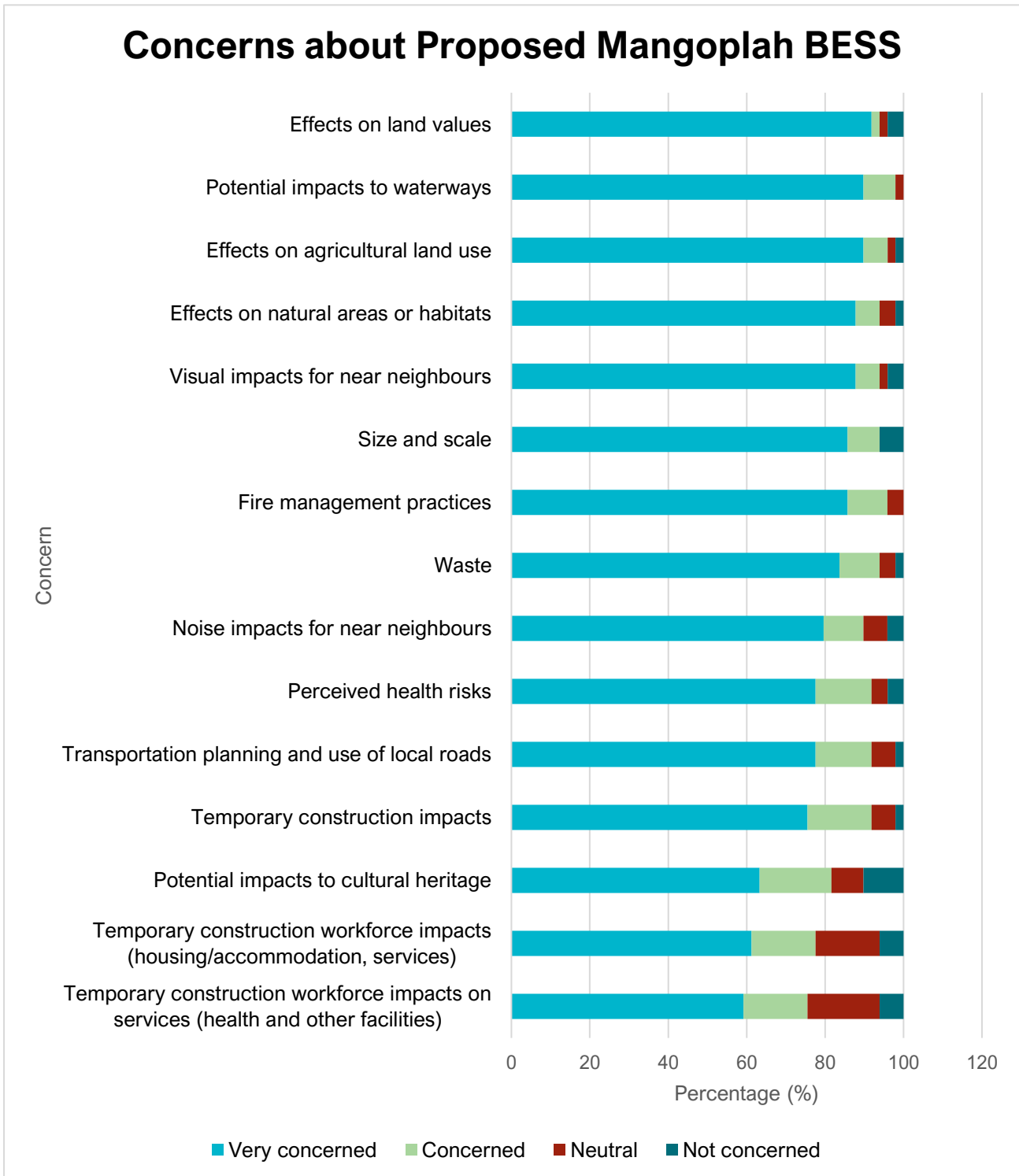


Figure 1-2 Concerns about Proposed Mangoplah BESS (survey data)

Support or opposition

When asked, “Please rate your overall level of support for the proposed project”, survey results showed overwhelming opposition, with 43 respondents indicating they “strongly oppose” it and only 1 respondent expressing strong support. Neutral or undecided views were minimal, and no respondents

reported somewhat or full support, as seen in the graph on the following page.

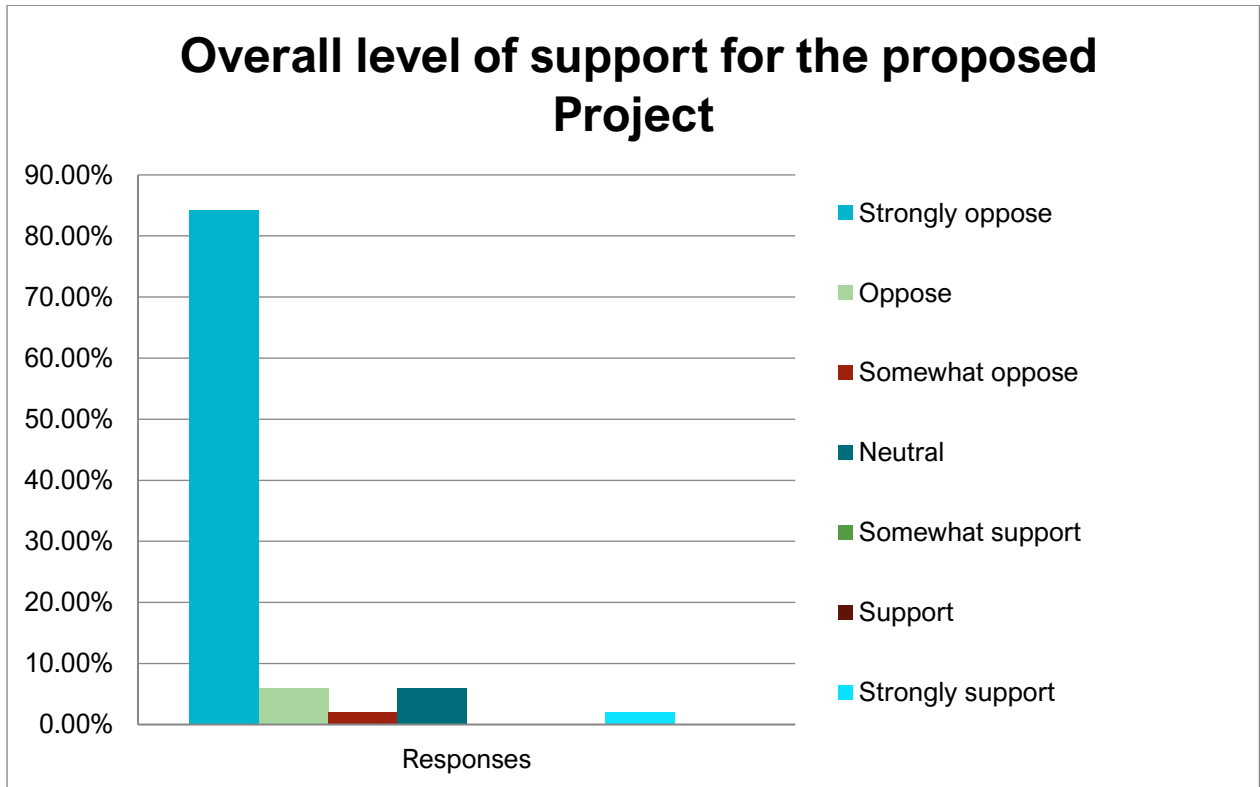


Figure 1-3 Level of support for the Project (survey data)

Community benefits

When asked about potential investment in community initiatives by the Applicant, the majority of respondents stated they did not want any investment and instead opposed the Project entirely. Many expressed that no amount of funding could offset the perceived negative impacts of the proposal, with terms such as “bribery” and “hush money” used to describe the concept of community investment.

Some indicated that investment was incompatible with the community’s values, citing the loss of agricultural land, environmental risks, and concerns about profits leaving the area. A small number of respondents, while still critical of the Project, suggested specific initiatives that could benefit the community if investment were to occur. These included:

- Road infrastructure upgrades to improve traffic safety and capacity
- Enhancements to community facilities such as playgrounds, main street beautification, parks, murals, and public seating
- Sponsorship and upgrades for local sporting clubs (football, tennis)
- Development of recreation infrastructure such as bike/running trails, pool, or gym
- Assistance to farmers through reduced costs of farm materials.

1.2.3. Summary of key issues and opportunities

The Project team responded to community questions and feedback throughout the entire EIS engagement period. Section 3.6 of the SSD Guidelines recommends that applicants categorise key concerns into specific groups for consistency. It is important to note that not all categories are included in the table below, as this depends on the outcomes of the engagement.

The categories outlined in the guidelines include:

- The strategic context, including valued natural and built features that may be affected by the project
- The design of the project and any alternatives considered
- Relevant statutory issues
- Community engagement (e.g. the level and quality of engagement during the EIS preparation and future engagement if the project is approved)
- Economic, environmental, and social impacts of the project
- Justification and evaluation of the project (e.g. alignment with Government plans, policies, or guidelines; overall project merit)
- Issues outside the project’s scope (e.g. broader policy matters or unrelated concerns).

Further details on the specific concerns raised during engagement are provided in **Error! Reference source not found.1Error! Reference source not found.** be low.

Table 5-1 Key community Project issues and opportunities

| Strategic category | Sub-category | Details and project team responses |
|--|------------------|--|
| Economic, environmental, and social impacts of the project | Fire risk | <p>Concerns regarding fire risk and safety were raised by approximately 66 stakeholders during consultation activities and the online survey, in particular 54 respondents either explicitly mentioned fire risk or expressed being concerned about fire management in their survey responses. The topic was the most frequently mentioned across all engagement formats, with stakeholders frequently highlighting “fire brigade will not attend fires, so this makes it dangerous for the community.”</p> <p>Concerns regarding fire risk and emergency preparedness featured prominently throughout both the community survey and broader consultation activities. Approximately seven (7) stakeholders sought detailed information about the</p> |

| Strategic category | Sub-category | Details and project team responses |
|--|---------------------------------|---|
| | | <p>Project’s fire mitigation measures, including vegetation management, emergency vehicle access, and the specific responsibilities of emergency services such as the Rural Fire Service (RFS). One [1] non-associated receiver, who identified as a full-time firefighter, expressed serious concerns based on first-hand experience with lithium battery fires, noting their unpredictability and difficulty to extinguish. Others raised doubts that local volunteer crews would respond to a BESS fire, citing personal safety risks, inadequate site access, and insufficient local capacity.</p> <p>These fears were echoed in multiple survey responses, with some participants referencing the trauma of past bushfire seasons and questioning whether the Project could safely operate in a fire-prone landscape. One respondent asked for guarantees the BESS would not catch fire, while another cited toxic fumes and potential waterway contamination in the event of a fire. A non-associated receiver also questioned whether the Project’s fire risk would impact the firebreak requirements along their adjoining property boundary, seeking clarity on whether they would be expected to adjust or extend their own mitigation measures.</p> <p>The Applicant acknowledges community queries regarding bushfire risk and safety. Fire safety has been integral to the Project design, with measures including adequate spacing between units, gravel surfaces to reduce fuel loads, Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) systems to regulate temperatures, and continuous remote monitoring to detect and address abnormal conditions before they escalate. Asset protection zones, perimeter roads, and compliance with NSW RFS requirements further reduce the potential for fires to enter or leave the site.</p> <p>A Bushfire Assessment (Category 3 – Medium Bushfire Risk) and Preliminary Hazard Analysis have been undertaken, confirming the Project’s capacity to protect structures, maintain safe separation between hazards, provide defensible space, support firefighting efforts, and maintain bushfire protection measures. The Proponent continues to engage with the RFS, FRNSW, and other authorities to finalise the Fire Safety Study, emergency response plans, and address community questions. See Section 6.4 Error! Reference source not found. (PHA) of the EIS report for more information.</p> |
| The design of the Project and any alternatives | Potential visual impacts | Concerns related to visual impact were raised by a total of 54 unique stakeholders during consultation for the Project. This includes 8 mentions during consultation activities and 46 survey respondents who selected “concerned” or “very concerned” in relation to visual impact. These concerns included visual intrusion, the loss of rural or scenic views, and the perceived industrialisation of the local landscape due to the proximity of the infrastructure to homes, roads, and |

| Strategic category | Sub-category | Details and project team responses |
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| considered | | <p>community viewpoints. Survey respondents echoed these sentiments, describing the Project as visually dominant, out of place, and at odds with the rural identity of Mangoplah.</p> <p>Common themes raised during consultation included the degradation of visual amenity in what many described as a natural and agricultural setting, concern about property devaluation, and requests for screening vegetation or buffers to reduce the visibility of infrastructure. In several cases, stakeholders explicitly questioned the adequacy of the proposed LVIA, and others expressed frustration that the long-term landscape character would be permanently altered.</p> <p>In response, the Applicant explained the preliminary LVIA findings, which identified seven (7) non-associated private receivers within the 2 km study area with a theoretical line of sight to the Project based on topography. Desktop assessment found all would experience Very Low to Low visual impact, with views largely screened or fragmented by existing vegetation.</p> <p>In line with SEARs consultation requirements, further assessment was undertaken for two (2) neighbouring non-associated dwellings, R1 and R2-R3. Site visits in March 2025 included assessment of selected private viewpoints from the residence, plus additional on-farm views from sheds and driveways, highlighting the LVIA went above and beyond the guidelines (2023). These confirmed that potential visual impacts are low, and that existing vegetation and Project scale result in minimal impact from main dwelling views. Despite the low impact, the design has been altered to include western screening, going beyond what is required. See Section 6.6 (LVIA) of the EIS report for more information.</p> |
| Economic, environmental, and social impacts of the project | Potential construction impacts | <p>Concerns about construction impacts were raised by 46 survey respondents who selected “concerned” or “very concerned” in the community feedback survey, with a further seven (7) mentions during wider engagement activities.</p> <p>Key issues included increased traffic, dust, noise, and general disruption to rural life during construction. Stakeholders questioned whether local roads could accommodate construction vehicles and called for safety upgrades and traffic management plans.</p> <p>Frustration was also expressed around the lack of clear mitigation planning, and a few stakeholders questioned the environmental integrity of the Project, with one noting, “You will create more carbon emissions in construction and leave a toxic waste behind killing the natural habitat...”</p> |

| Strategic category | Sub-category | Details and project team responses |
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| | | <p>In response, the Applicant communicated to residents that, if approved, the Project will be subject to a comprehensive set of environmental and operational management plans to reduce construction-related impacts. These will be coordinated through a Project Environmental Management Strategy (EMS), including the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP), Operational Environmental Management Plan (OEMP), and Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (DEMP).</p> <p>Each plan will be prepared ahead of its respective project stage and supported by targeted sub-plans, such as a Soil and Water Management Plan and a Traffic Management Plan, to ensure construction is undertaken safely, responsibly, and with minimal disruption. These plans will detail actions to manage potential impacts on local roads, air quality, and the surrounding environment, and will be developed in accordance with approval conditions.</p> <p>All management plans will be reviewed by the relevant authorities to ensure compliance, accountability, and that any inconvenience to the community is kept to a minimum during construction. See Section 6.3 (TIA) of the EIS report for more information.</p> |
| <p>Economic, environmental, and social impacts of the project</p> | <p>Flooding</p> | <p>Concerns about flooding and overland runoff were consistently raised throughout the consultation process, with particularly strong and detailed feedback provided by R1. Across multiple engagements, R1 expressed serious concern about the site’s flood vulnerability, particularly in relation to Burke’s Creek and the broader drainage patterns of the surrounding paddocks.</p> <p>R1 repeatedly questioned the Applicant on whether worst-case flood scenarios had been modelled and what design measures would be in place to manage heavy rainfall and overland flow. He emphasised that the site has a known history of inundation and warned that any alteration to natural drainage paths could result in unintended runoff impacts to neighbouring land, including his dams that rely on runoff. His feedback reflected both a high level of concern and deep familiarity with the local flood behaviour.</p> <p>A further 17 stakeholders raised related concerns across open-ended survey responses and broader engagement activities. One respondent stated, “Not the right place — close to a waterway and a flood plain.” Others noted that the natural fall of the land and undulating terrain could cause floodwater to pool or redirect in unexpected ways if not properly managed during site preparation and construction.</p> |

| Strategic category | Sub-category | Details and project team responses |
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| | | <p>The Applicant acknowledges concerns about past flooding and potential changes from the Project. A detailed hydrology assessment by Cumulus Engineering modelled extreme events using the Probable Maximum Flood (PMF), which covers scenarios equal to or more severe than the 2010 flood.</p> <p>Findings confirm the BESS footprint is outside the main floodway, subject only to shallow inundation (less than 30 mm), and will not increase flood depths, change water flow, or create new hazards for neighbouring properties or downstream areas. Proposed access road upgrades are not expected to adversely affect current conditions, and a designated emergency route will ensure safe access and departure during flood events, for use in emergencies only</p> <p>The Project meets all flood risk management planning requirements and has been reviewed with Council and the State Emergency Service (SES), who have been engaged on modelling and emergency management measures. The assessment confirms the Mangoplah BESS will not worsen flooding or impact neighbouring landholders.</p> <p>See Section 6.8 (Hydrology) of the EIS report for more information.</p> |
| <p>Economic, environmental, and social impacts of the project</p> | <p>Property value</p> | <p>Concerns related to property value were raised by a total of 49 unique stakeholders during EIS consultation. This includes three (3) mentions during consultation activities and 46 survey respondents who referenced the potential for reduced home values due to the proximity of the Project. Concerns were often tied to broader themes of visual impact, fire risk, and the industrial character of the infrastructure being out of place in a rural, agricultural setting.</p> <p>Stakeholders expressed fears that the Project would negatively affect resale potential, diminish the aesthetic and economic appeal of surrounding land, or result in financial loss for neighbouring landowners. Several community members stated that the uncertainty surrounding future infrastructure developments, including the assumption that the Project could pave the way for further solar or battery projects, was increasing anxiety about long-term land value. Others questioned whether compensation would be offered to those most impacted, particularly if valuations were demonstrably affected.</p> <p>One non-associated receiver noted that they had already been warned by a local real estate agent that nearby energy developments may deter future buyers. Another respondent linked the issue to broader feelings of unfairness, expressing that those bearing the brunt of perceived risks, such as noise, views, or safety fears, would receive no</p> |

| Strategic category | Sub-category | Details and project team responses |
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| | | <p>direct benefit yet suffer a potential loss in asset value.</p> <p>In response, the Applicant communicated to residents that, as grid-scale battery projects are relatively new in Australia, there is no clear evidence they affect property values or limit future land use opportunities. The Project has been designed in line with mitigation measures recommended by specialist assessments, including the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) and Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment (NVIA), with both concluding that residual impacts are low. The LVIA, undertaken in accordance with NSW visual impact guidelines, found minimal visual impact to private receivers due to existing vegetation and the scale of the Project. In direct response to community concerns, and not as a direct result of LVIA outcomes, the Applicant committed to screen planting along the western boundary to further reduce perceived impacts. The NVIA confirmed that construction and operational noise will comply with all relevant criteria given the Project’s size and distance from receivers.</p> <p>These findings confirm the Project will not create new adverse impacts for neighbouring properties, and the Applicant remains committed to minimising any factors that could influence perceptions of property value. Property value considerations are also addressed within the broader SIA. See Section 6.13 (SIA) of the EIS report for more information.</p> |
| <p>Economic, environmental, and social impacts of the project</p> | <p>Loss of agricultural land / change in land use</p> | <p>Concerns about the loss of agricultural land and impacts on farming operations were raised by 56 unique stakeholders during consultation for the Project. This included five (5) mentions during consultation activities and 48 survey respondents who selected “concerned” or “very concerned” when asked about agricultural land use.</p> <p>Stakeholders commonly viewed the Project as incompatible with the surrounding farming landscape; with fears it could lead to the industrialisation of productive rural land and set a precedent for further development. Several raised issues around the reduction of viable farmland, loss of rural character, and potential impacts on the agricultural economy.</p> <p>These concerns were especially pronounced among generational farmers, some of whom tied the Project to broader frustrations about regional planning and land use. One respondent described the situation simply as: “Destruction of the agricultural community.” Others called for energy infrastructure to be sited on non-arable land and questioned how the Project might affect access, grazing, and surrounding paddocks.</p> <p>The Applicant acknowledges the strategic importance of local agriculture and notes that soil mapping indicates the site</p> |

| Strategic category | Sub-category | Details and project team responses |
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| | | <p>is classified as Class 4, meaning it is generally suited to grazing and limited cropping rather than high-value intensive agriculture. With the Project’s relatively small footprint (3.6ha of fenced BESS), all surrounding agricultural activities will be able to continue unaffected. The site was selected for its proximity to existing grid infrastructure and compatibility with nearby development, balancing technical requirements with land use considerations. See Section 6.11 (land use capability) of the EIS report for more information.</p> |
| <p>Economic, environmental, and social impacts of the project</p> | <p>Biodiversity impacts</p> | <p>Concerns about biodiversity loss, native vegetation, and impacts to local flora and fauna were raised by at least 54 unique stakeholders across both the community survey and consultation activities. This figure includes stakeholders who selected “concerned” or “very concerned” in response to the survey question on “Effects on natural areas or habitats,” as well as those who raised the issue in open-ended survey responses. Key themes included potential disruption to wildlife habitats, clearing of trees and vegetation, and broader degradation of the area’s natural ecosystems.</p> <p>Stakeholders highlighted the presence of native forest and local creek systems surrounding the Project site, as well as specific species and habitats they felt could be threatened. One participant referenced their involvement in a “squirrel glider protection program through National Parkes and Wildlife Services,” expressing concern that the Project would jeopardise that work.</p> <p>Several respondents pointed to the cumulative impact of multiple developments in the area, arguing that even small disturbances could have lasting consequences for biodiversity connectivity and ecosystem health. Comments also reflected general distress about the perceived “ecocidal impacts” of clearing or altering native landscapes for infrastructure.</p> <p>The Applicant acknowledged these concerns and explained that the proposed location for the BESS was selected within a cropped paddock due to its flat terrain and absence of trees, thereby reducing impacts on native vegetation. Only a small number of trees (five in total) will need to be removed along the access road. By situating the BESS in previously grazed and pasture-improved areas, disturbance to natural ecosystems is minimised, with limited impacts on native vegetation and wildlife habitat. The site has also been positioned to avoid paddock trees, meaning there are not expected to be significant impacts on bird nesting sites or other native animal habitats. This includes the squirrel glider,</p> |

| Strategic category | Sub-category | Details and project team responses |
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| | | <p>which was observed in the area during biodiversity surveys.</p> <p>The BESS site itself is wholly exotic in character, and has been located as far as possible from Burkes Creek, within the cropped paddock, to further reduce any potential indirect impacts on the waterbody and riparian woodland habitat. Further details are provided in Section 6.1 (Biodiversity) of the EIS report.</p> |
| <p>Economic, environmental, and social impacts of the project</p> | <p>Waste</p> | <p>Concerns about waste management and decommissioning were raised by 46 survey respondents who selected “concerned” or “very concerned” in relation to end-of-life impacts of the Project, in addition to at least six (6) stakeholders identified during consultation activities.</p> <p>These concerns focused on the uncertainty surrounding lithium-ion battery disposal, the long-term handling of toxic materials, and whether clear and enforceable plans exist to ensure the site is remediated and cleared at the end of the Project’s life. Several respondents questioned whether decommissioning obligations would be legally binding or adequately funded, with one stakeholder stating that “lease agreements or contracts aren’t worth the piece of paper they’re on.”</p> <p>A strong theme of distrust emerged, with many respondents sceptical that the land would ever be returned to its original condition. One participant asked bluntly whether the development would become “toxic waste in less than 10 years”, while another described the potential outcome as “a scam... a social and environmental disaster.” Multiple comments raised concern about the cumulative environmental burden, with one respondent stating the Project would “leave toxic waste behind killing the natural habitat, native animals and bankrupting neighbours.”</p> <p>The Applicant acknowledged community concerns about decommissioning and explained that a detailed decommissioning plan is a mandatory requirement within the EIS. This plan will outline how battery materials will be safely managed at the end of the Project’s life, including removal, dismantling, and recycling in accordance with national regulations.</p> <p>It was explained that utility-scale battery systems, such as those proposed for the Project, are more technologically advanced than residential batteries, with longer operational lifespans, enhanced durability, and integrated systems to support end-of-life management and recyclability. The Applicant noted that larger systems offer greater recycling value</p> |

| Strategic category | Sub-category | Details and project team responses |
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| | | <p>due to their size, material concentration, and ease of disassembly.</p> <p>In Australia, battery stewardship is being strengthened through initiatives such as the B-cycle program and the recently introduced NSW Product Lifecycle Responsibility Act (2025), which makes recycling and safe disposal mandatory for producers. Industry leaders, including Tesla, are also implementing take-back schemes to ensure responsible dismantling and material recovery. See Section 7.2 (Resource use and waste generation) of the EIS report for more information.</p> |
| <p>Economic, environmental, and social impacts of the project</p> | <p>Pollution and contamination</p> | <p>Concerns about pollution, environmental contamination (toxins), and poison were raised by at least eight (8) unique survey respondents and seven (7) stakeholders during consultation for the Project. As there was no direct survey question referencing contamination or pollution, this analysis is based on specific word choices in open-ended responses. Concerns focused on the potential for toxic fumes, chemical runoff, and contamination of soil and waterways, particularly in the event of a battery failure or fire.</p> <p>Stakeholders questioned whether the Project could be safely integrated into the landscape without placing local ecosystems, human health, and livestock at risk. One resident warned of “toxic poisonous fumes – causing death for human beings, stock & wildlife,” while another raised fears about “toxic fumes drifting to adjoining neighbours and village”.</p> <p>The potential for contamination of Burke’s Creek was raised repeatedly, including by community members who expressed concern about chemicals entering local water systems during emergency events. A First Nations stakeholder also raised this concern and requested information around the water management strategy. Others asked whether the batteries could withstand extreme weather, and how stormwater would be managed to avoid environmental harm.</p> <p>The Applicant communicated to residents that the Project is specifically designed to prevent chemical leaks and protect surrounding land, waterways, and biodiversity. Each battery unit includes internal bunding to capture and isolate any potential spills, and in the rare event of a fire, an advanced detection system will shut down the unit prior to ignition. The Rural Fire Service (RFS) does not apply water to battery fires, further reducing the risk of contaminated runoff entering soil or waterways. In addition, appropriate drainage controls will be incorporated to minimise pollutant</p> |

| Strategic category | Sub-category | Details and project team responses |
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| | | <p>generation, including consideration of how to manage water that may be applied to surrounding land during an emergency fire response. This will be explored further as part of the detailed design process.</p> <p>As part of the EIS, baseline soil testing has been undertaken to understand existing conditions. If approved, these conditions will be monitored throughout construction and operation under the Project’s environmental management plans, ensuring any potential issues are identified and addressed promptly. The Applicant also confirmed that Burkes Creek and other waterway areas on the northern part of the site have been intentionally avoided to protect biodiversity and reduce environmental impacts. See Section 6.10 (Soils and contamination) of the EIS report for more information.</p> |
| Economic, environmental, and social impacts of the project | Community benefits | <p>Community benefits were referenced apprehensively across the engagement activities, with approximately nine (9) relevant suggestions identified in the community survey and six (6) mentions during consultation activities. While not a dominant theme, suggestions from survey respondents and stakeholders included financial support for local community groups, sponsorship of sporting organisations, upgrades to the local playground and hall, beautification of the village area, murals and travelling facilities (such as park benches and bins) to encourage visitors to stop, upgrades to the main street, and helping farmers by reducing the cost of farm materials. Another stakeholder proposed the creation of protection zones through Landcare programs, expressing interest in preserving local flora and fauna. Practical ideas were also raised, such as supporting the Mangoplah Rural Fire Brigade to keep equipment updated, and one respondent noted: “Create safer roads. It is a high traffic area, and the roads need to be wider.”</p> <p>These ideas were typically presented as suggestions rather than expectations and often accompanied by scepticism about whether such benefits would ever eventuate. During the community information sessions, the heated and emotional atmosphere deterred many attendees from engaging with the ‘community benefits brainstorming’ poster. One couple approached the poster intending to contribute ideas but stepped away after realising that others in the room were vocally opposed to the Project. A more common tone among the community was one of doubt or criticism toward the concept of community benefits, with one particularly strong statement captured within the survey describing the idea as disingenuous: “There are no genuine community benefits ever.” See Section 6.13.4 (Mitigation measures, particularly the Community Benefit Sharing Program) in the EIS report for more information.</p> |
| Economic, | Impacts to | Concerns related to insurance impacts were raised by a total of seven (7) unique stakeholders during EIS consultation. |

| Strategic category | Sub-category | Details and project team responses |
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| environmental, and social impacts of the project | insurance | <p>This includes five (5) mentions during consultation activities and two (2) survey respondents who directly referenced insurance concerns in open-ended responses. These concerns centred on the potential for rising insurance premiums, loss of coverage, and uncertainty around liability in the event of fire, structural failure, or other incidents associated with the Project. No specific question was included in the community feedback survey to capture broader data on this topic, meaning the number of community members holding such concerns may be higher than recorded.</p> <p>A recurring theme among stakeholders was that the Project’s proximity to homes and farmland may result in properties becoming uninsurable, or at least more expensive to insure, particularly due to perceived fire risk. Several community members with farming backgrounds cited prior experiences with local insurers refusing coverage for properties near industrial infrastructure. Others raised questions about who would bear responsibility if the Project contributed to property damage, livestock harm, or environmental contamination.</p> <p>Notably, one non-associated receiver stated that their insurer had already indicated the Project’s presence may impact their policy. Another noted that their bushfire insurance premiums had increased in recent years and feared that BESS infrastructure would exacerbate this trend.</p> <p>At the time of writing, the Insurance Council of Australia (ICA) has stated that insurers do not have specific concerns related to neighbouring energy infrastructure and are unaware of instances where a property owner has been unable to provide insurance or has increased premiums as a result of a neighbour’s energy infrastructure. Additionally, the Clean Energy Council (CEC) is not aware of any evidence that demonstrates renewable projects significantly increased risk to neighbouring landholders. This assessment is based on the need to adhere to rigorous standards and regulations, being thoroughly assessed in the planning phase, developing comprehensive emergency management plans and undertaking activities to actively reduce risk. The CEC also links increases to premiums to inflation more broadly, and the increase in natural disasters seen due to climate change.</p> <p>Regardless of this, the Applicant is aware of the concerns raised about insurance and acknowledges the importance of addressing them. Through assessments within the EIS (such as bushfire and hazards), the Project will identify mitigation measures to reduce these concerns. In addition, the Project will be designed in full compliance with all SSD criteria and limits, including noise, visual, and other relevant standards, as well as agency requirements.</p> |

1.2.4. Future engagement

The following future engagement activities are recommended for the Project should it progress through to construction and operation. See Section 6.13 (SIA) of the EIS report for further engagement needs, impacts and benefits.

Table 1-5 Planned future engagement activities

| Group | Response to submissions | Post approval | Construction | Operation |
|---------------------|---|---|--|---|
| Stakeholders | Non-associated receivers, wider Mangoplah community, WWCC, Member for Riverina, Member for Wagga Wagga, Rotary Club of Wagga, Wagga Men’s Shed, Wagga Lions Club, Apex Club, Wagga Chamber of Commerce, CSU, TAFE, local First Nations community, Wagga Wagga LALC, and local Mangoplah businesses. | Non-associated receivers, wider Mangoplah community, WWCC, Member for Riverina, Member for Wagga Wagga, Rotary Club of Wagga, Wagga Men’s Shed, Wagga Lions Club, Apex Club, Wagga Chamber of Commerce, CSU, TAFE, local First Nations community, Wagga Wagga LALC, and local Mangoplah businesses. | Non-associated receivers, wider Mangoplah community, WWCC, Member for Riverina, Member for Wagga Wagga, Rotary Club of Wagga, Wagga Men’s Shed, Wagga Lions Club, Apex Club, Wagga Chamber of Commerce, CSU, TAFE, local First Nations community, Wagga Wagga LALC, and local Mangoplah businesses. | Non-associated receivers, wider Mangoplah community, WWCC, Member for Riverina, Member for Wagga Wagga, Rotary Club of Wagga, Wagga Men’s Shed, Wagga Lions Club, Apex Club, Wagga Chamber of Commerce, CSU, TAFE, local First Nations community, Wagga Wagga LALC, and local Mangoplah businesses. |
| Key actions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicant to review and consider all submissions made during the public exhibition of the EIS. • Applicant to prepare a detailed Response to Submissions (RtS) report addressing the issues raised by stakeholders, agencies, and the community. • Applicant to provide targeted updates to | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicant to provide updates to interested non-associated receivers on the results of visual impact assessments and noise impact assessments conducted. • Applicant to deliver update of EIS outcome to interested stakeholder groups such as non-associated receivers (who have opted into future | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicant to engage with near non-associated receivers and the wider Wagga community about planned traffic arrangements, construction activities and impact mitigations. • Applicant to provide detailed engagement with non-associated receivers and the wider community about visual impact | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicant to continue to engage with near non-associated receivers with key details regarding operation details of the site. • Applicant to continue to engage with the local community and key community groups to highlight key milestones during operation. • Applicant to collaborate |

| Group | Response to submissions | Post approval | Construction | Operation |
|-------|--|---|--|--|
| | <p>interested stakeholders (non-associated receivers, WWCC, Bundyi Cultural Tours, ESI Supply Group, local state and federal representatives, wider First Nations groups, and community organisations) outlining how key issues raised in submissions have been addressed in the RtS.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicant to maintain ongoing availability (via email, phone, and meetings) to clarify technical aspects of the RtS for stakeholders who request further explanation. • Applicant to continue dialogue with WWCC, the local First Nations community, and industry groups regarding the Project’s benefit-sharing arrangements, and to integrate feedback where feasible. • Applicant to communicate to the wider Mangoplah and Wagga Wagga community the next steps in the | <p>communications), WWCC, Bundyi Cultural Tours, ESI Supply Group, and local state and federal representatives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicant to continue to engage with the local community and key community groups to highlight key milestones pre-construction. • Applicant to continue discussions with WWCC around the development of a CBS including negotiations on a formal figure and a governance structure. • Applicant to continue engagement with ESI Supply Group and other identified First Nations groups regarding local industry participation opportunities pre-construction. | <p>mitigations, including proactive planting of screening vegetation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicant to provide updates via letters (up to 2 km radius), email updates and public notices regarding construction activities, employment opportunities and expected impacts (traffic, noise, dust). • Delivery of updates to interested stakeholder groups such as non-associated receivers, WWCC, Bundyi Cultural Tours, ESI Supply Group and local state and federal representatives. • Updates to be provided to stakeholders who have opted into future communications. • Facilitate events for local suppliers or employees to allow for local participation during the construction phase of the Project. • First Nations representative | <p>with local schools and education/skills providers to provide education opportunities through presentations etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicant to engage via email and posted letters to residents within a 2 km radius should any large maintenance work be carried out during operation and mitigate any impacts that may arise. • Continue to foster strong relationships with the community via the establishment of community partnerships and industry participation. • Continue to establish the Applicant as an active, responsible member of the wider community. • Proactively communicate the decommissioning strategy (including damaged components, where relevant) to interested stakeholder groups and the wider |

| Group | Response to submissions | Post approval | Construction | Operation |
|--|--|---|---|--|
| | <p>approvals process, including anticipated timeframes.</p> | | <p>from Bundyi Tours to be invited to undertake heritage induction for construction phase.</p> | <p>community.</p> |
| <p>Consistency with 'Undertaking Engagement Guidelines for State Significant Projects' (DPHI, 2024)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engagement during the RtS phase will demonstrate transparency, by clearly explaining how community and stakeholder concerns have been considered. The RtS process will allow for two-way engagement, not only informing stakeholders but also responding to queries, ensuring alignment with the guideline's principles of "responding and closing the loop." | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to engage with the community, WWCC and government agencies during the pre-construction, construction, operation and decommissioning of the project (and/or rehabilitation of the site) in line with the conditions of approval. The community is able to track the progress of the Project and raise any post-approval concerns with the Applicant and/or contractor. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proactive, transparent, and collaborative engagement, spanning from informing on construction activities to involving and collaborating through benefit-sharing opportunities and other community partnership opportunities. Applicant will also continue to gather ideas from the local community regarding opportunities to work with local businesses and/or suppliers and minimise construction impacts. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applicant will continue to actively engage during the operation and decommissioning stage of the Project in line with the conditions of approval. Applicant will also continue to foster strong relationships with key stakeholders and further liaise with WWCC regarding the implementation of benefit sharing within the local community through the requested CBS program or VPA. |
| <p>Monitoring of effectiveness for community participation</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Applicant will track the number and type of issues raised in submissions and assess how effectively responses have been communicated back to the community. Engagement effectiveness | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The evaluation of community participation will be continuously monitored, reviewed, and adapted post-approvals to ensure ongoing transparency and involvement in the project. The Applicant will continue to gather community | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Applicant will continue to liaise with stakeholders and monitor community sentiment to resolve key issues and opportunities. Explain to stakeholders at post-approval how community views were | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Applicant will continue to proactively engage through the operation and decommissioning stage to ensure the local community and interested stakeholder groups are well-informed on key |

| Group | Response to submissions | Post approval | Construction | Operation |
|-------|--|---|--|--|
| | <p>will be monitored through stakeholder feedback following the RTS release, with adjustments made where additional clarification is required.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commitment to continuous improvement of engagement methods between RtS and final determination of approval. | <p>feedback through to assess the community’s experiences and perceptions, identifying areas for improvement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engagement approaches will remain flexible and will be reassessed throughout the post-approval phase based on feedback, which may include modifying meeting formats, diversifying communication channels, or addressing key community concerns. | <p>considered when reaching decisions and how they helped to inform the Project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applicant will utilise local knowledge and expertise with suppliers and contractors where possible. Applicant will ensure they use appropriate engagement techniques when targeting specific groups. The Project website will continue to update information on the progress of the Project, and to make information easily accessible to stakeholders. | <p>elements of the Project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proactive engagement will make it easy for the community to access information. A Project website will continue to facilitate information on the Project, to make information easily accessible for stakeholders and community members. |

Appendix A Non-associated receiver letter



SAMSUNG C&T RENEWABLE ENERGY AUSTRALIA

Samsung C&T Renewable Energy Australia Pty Ltd (SREA)

Suite 8.04, Level 8
227 Elizabeth Street
Sydney NSW 2000

14 March 2025

Dear Resident,

RE: Proposed Mangoplah Battery Energy Storage System

Following our previous communication in August 2024 about the proposed Mangoplah BESS, we are reaching out again to provide an update and gather your valuable feedback. The Project, being investigated by Samsung C&T Renewable Energy Australia Pty Ltd (SREA) is located 3 km east of the Mangoplah township, off Holbrook Road.

You are receiving this letter as you live within 4 km of the Project site. A map of the proposed site location is enclosed with this letter for your reference.

Your feedback is essential to shaping this Project, developing community initiatives for SREA to support, and informing the procedures related to the proposed BESS. We want to ensure that the local community has the opportunity to contribute meaningfully to the Project.

The expected capacity and storage duration for the BESS would be approximately 100MW/400MWh (4-hour storage) and its investment value will trigger the NSW State Significant Development (SSD) planning pathway through the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI).

Project update

In mid-2024, SREA commenced engaging with the community and key stakeholders to complete the initial stages of a development application, called a Scoping Report.

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- Visual impact
- Noise
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Once the EIS is submitted, it will be placed on public exhibition. During this stage, the community and government agencies will be invited to provide feedback on the Project. SREA will then respond to any issues, comments or concerns raised by the community and stakeholders within a Submissions Report. DPHI will then make a recommendation on whether the project should be approved.

Visual Impact Assessments (VIA)

Technical experts have commenced the VIA for the Mangoplah BESS. Properties requiring detailed assessment have already been identified, and landowners have been contacted directly to arrange specialist visits for data collection. The outcomes of these assessments will be shared in upcoming newsletters. To receive updates via email, please reach out using the contact details provided at the end of this letter.

How to provide feedback

SREA is committed to engaging and collaborating with residents to support beneficial outcomes for both the environment as well as the local community. Communities are at the centre of what we do, and our team is proudly committed to genuine community engagement and strives to build positive relationships.

SREA and NGH are hosting two community information drop-in sessions that will be held in early April 2025. Members from NGH and the SREA team will be there to discuss the Project and answer questions. The details of the information sessions are on the following page.

Tuesday, 1 April 2025

3:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Mangoplah Hall
14 Cox St, Mangoplah NSW 2652

Wednesday, 2 April 2025

7:30 am – 11:30 am

Mangoplah Hall
14 Cox St, Mangoplah NSW 2652

We would be happy to arrange a one-on-one meeting to discuss the Project in more detail if you are unable to attend the sessions above. If you're interested, please let us know your preferred time within the available dates, and we will coordinate an in-person meeting.

If you prefer an online meeting, we can arrange one outside of these dates. To do this, please contact the Project team via one of the methods provided at the end of this letter.

We also encourage you to complete the community feedback survey through the QR code, or by visiting <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MangoplahBESSEIS>.



Local benefits

Community Benefit Schemes are an integral part of State Significant Developments in NSW, ensuring that local communities receive long term advantages beyond job creation and related services.

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Once operational, the site will be largely remotely managed, with an estimated 1-2 full-time equivalent roles. The Project will also make a significant contribution to the NSW Government's goal of reaching net-zero emissions by 2050 by supplying clean, renewable energy to the grid.

About Samsung C&T Renewable Energy Australia Pty Ltd (SREA)

SREA began operations in Australia in 2022 and has solar and storage project interests across New South Wales, Victoria, and Queensland. SREA currently operates out of offices in Sydney and Brisbane, with personnel working remotely in Victoria.

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Get in touch

SREA will always look for ways to invest in the local community to help support local initiatives and improvements. We would also love to hear your ideas on how to share Project benefits locally, so if you have any suggestions on initiatives or programs that would support the local community, please reach out.

If you have any questions about the Project, please contact us via any of the following methods:

W: <https://www.mangoplahbess.com>

E: engage@nghengage.com.au

P: 1800 607 484.

Kind regards,

Stephan Mitchell
Development Manager

Samsung C&T Renewable Energy Australia Pty Ltd (SREA)



SAMSUNG C&T RENEWABLE ENERGY AUSTRALIA

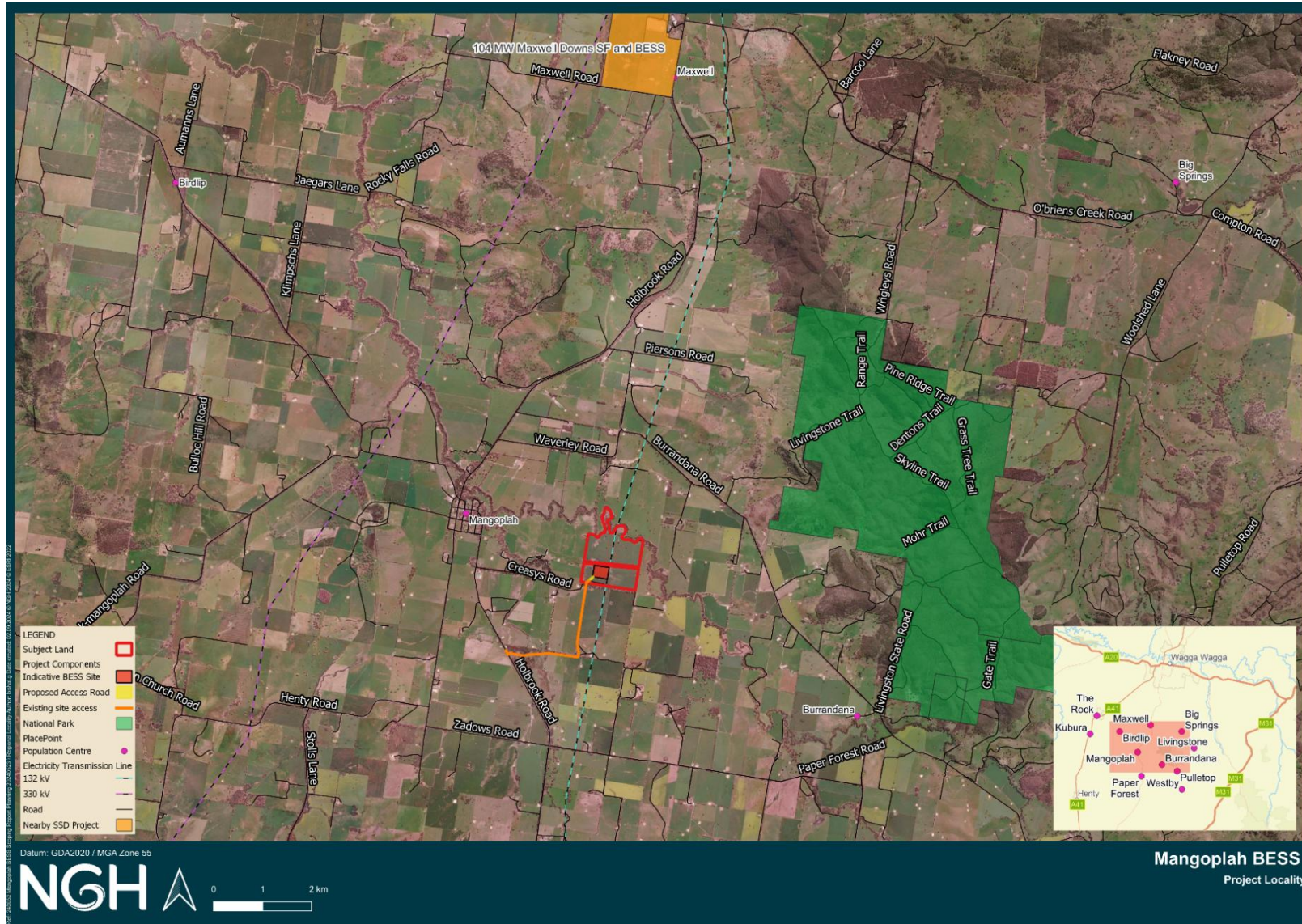


Figure 4 Project location map

Appendix B Newspaper advertising (Daily Advertiser)

Street of the Year award with resident Lockett and Isabel Jones accepting the award from Wagga's Mayor, Kevin Wales and Tiddy Towns Committee president, Bob Williams.

The new national office for clay target shooting in Wagga has recently spent more than \$600,000 on renovations and upgrades.

50 YEARS AGO

Wagga's Mayor, Ald Dick Gorman, defended the use of sheep to keep down weeds at the Wagga Cemetery after several complaints were received by Council.

...al open rodeo was held at the Kurrajong Reserve at North Wagga.

Retail stores in Wagga will open for late night shopping on Wednesday rather than Thursday this week so as families will be able to prepare for the Easter long weekend. Stores will also be closed on Saturday morning.

A record number of 568 dogs took part in the recent Wagga Kennel Club show.

Work is proceeding to schedule on a new bridge across the Murrumbidgee River

...vertising the new Holden Gemini developed jointly by GM and Isuzu Motors Japan.

Mr and Mrs Lionel Robinson of Old Narrandera Road celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary.

Mr Bartie Nixon of North Wagga who has lived with his wife, Violet in the same house since 1921 celebrated his 91st birthday.

RSL Club President Mr Stan Sadleir reported that the Club made a net profit of \$123,412 during the 12 months ending last December which was an increase of almost \$20,000 on the previous year.

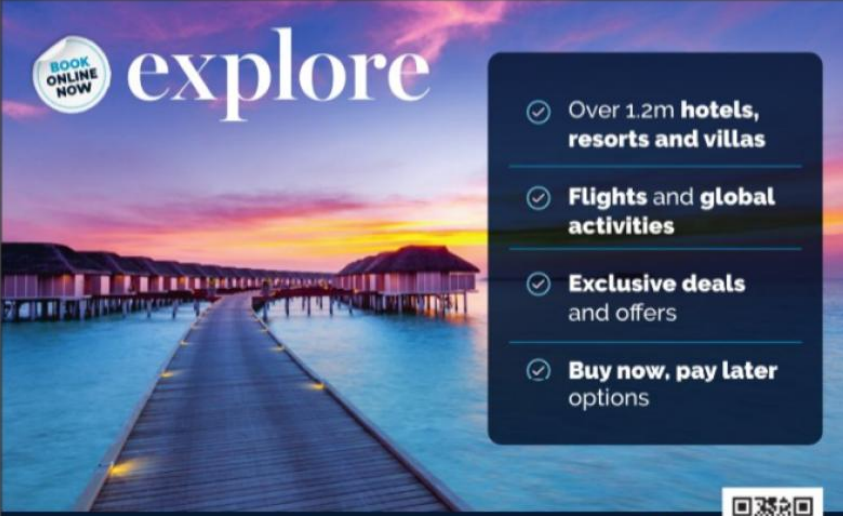
About 70 Riverina school teachers have

...a four times Australian representative and president of the NSW Orienteering Association.

David French, Helen McIntyre and Sally Meech were among those winning medals at the Little Athletics State Championships.

Keith Rowe and Barry Sadlier from the Tolland Soccer Sporting Club presented guernseys and soccer balls to Tolland Primary School Sports Mistress, Jenny Currie and School Captain Peter Jolliffe.


Contact Wagga Wagga and District Historical Society at www.wwdhs.org.au or on Facebook



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- ✔ Flights and global activities
- ✔ Exclusive deals and offers
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IMAGINE explore BOOK NOW



Mangoplah Battery Energy Storage System Community Information Sessions

SAMSUNG SAMSUNG C&T RENEWABLE ENERGY AUSTRALIA

Samsung C&T Renewable Energy Australia Pty Ltd (SREA) is developing a planning application for a potential Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) in Mangoplah, NSW, approximately 3.1 km east of the township. The project has now moved to the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) stage which allows SREA to fully assess the merits of the proposed BESS. SREA invites you to attend a community drop-in session where you can learn more about the project, meet the team, and provide valuable feedback.

Come and Meet the Team

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>Tuesday, 1 April 2025 3:00 pm – 7:00 pm Mangoplah Hall 14 Cox St, Mangoplah NSW 2652</p> | <p>Wednesday, 2 April 2025 7:30 am – 11:30 am Mangoplah Hall 14 Cox St, Mangoplah NSW 2652</p> |
|---|--|

If you have any questions about the Project, please contact us via any of the following methods:
 E: engage@nghengage.com.au
 P: 1800 607 484
 W: <https://www.mangoplahbess.com.au>

Alternatively, feel free to provide your feedback via the QR code.



Appendix C Frequently Asked Questions

Appendix D Fact Sheet

Appendix E Newsletter 1, 2 & 3

Appendix F Email campaigns: 1, 2 & 3

Appendix G Community feedback survey

Appendix H WWCC letter



SAMSUNG C&T RENEWABLE ENERGY AUSTRALIA

Samsung C&T Renewable Energy Australia Pty Ltd (SREA)

Suite 8.04, Level 8
227 Elizabeth Street
Sydney NSW 2000

19 March 2025

Carly Hood - Manager of Environment and Sustainability
Wagga Wagga City Council
243 Baylis Street
Wagga Wagga NSW 2650
e: hood.carly@wagga.nsw.gov.au

Dear Carly,

RE: Project update: Proposed Mangoplah Battery Energy Storage System

Following on from our conversations in October last year, we wanted to reach out again and provide an update on the proposed **Mangoplah Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)** in Mangoplah, NSW.

For context, SREA is studying a 10.4 ha portion of land (The Project Site) off Holbrook Road, Mangoplah for the siting of the BESS, that would connect into the 132 kV electricity transmission network that traverses the site.

The expected capacity and storage duration for the BESS would be approximately 100MW/400MWh (4-hour storage) and its investment value will trigger the NSW State Significant Development (SSD) planning pathway through the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI).

A map of the proposed site location and indicative layout is enclosed with this letter for your reference.

Project update

In mid-2024, SREA commenced engaging with the community and key stakeholders to complete the initial stages of a development application, called a Scoping Report.

The Scoping Report was submitted to the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) in October, and SREA subsequently received the Secretary's Environmental Assessment

Requirements (SEARs) on 27 November 2024. The SEARs list the information that must be included with a development application in the form of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The Scoping Report and SEARs can be found here <https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/projects/mangoplah-battery-energy-storage-system>.

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- Visual impact
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SREA aims to submit the EIS report to the DPPI in mid-2025. Community and stakeholder engagement over the coming months will be summarised within the EIS, along with the outcomes of the specialist reports outlined above.

Once the EIS is submitted, it will be placed on public exhibition. During this stage, the community and government agencies will be invited to provide feedback on the Project. SREA will then respond to any issues, comments or concerns raised by the community and stakeholders within a Submissions Report. DPPI will then make a recommendation on whether the project should be approved.

Future engagement

SREA is committed to engaging and collaborating with residents to support beneficial outcomes for both the environment as well as the local community. Communities are at the centre of what we do, and our team is proudly committed to genuine community engagement and strives to build positive relationships.

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Thank you for confirming the in-person meeting at your Wagga Wagga City Council office on 1 April 2025 at 11:30 am. We are looking forward to speaking with you then.

Local benefits

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SAMSUNG C&T RENEWABLE ENERGY AUSTRALIA

Appendix I Letter to MPs



SAMSUNG C&T RENEWABLE ENERGY AUSTRALIA

Samsung C&T Renewable Energy Australia Pty Ltd (SREA)

Suite 8.04, Level 8
227 Elizabeth Street
Sydney NSW 2000

19 March 2025

Dr Joe McGirr, MP
Member for Wagga Wagga

64 Baylis Street
Wagga Wagga NSW 2650

e: waggawagga@parliament.nsw.gov.au

RE: Project update: Mangoplah Battery Energy Storage System

Dear Mr McGirr,

As you may recall from our correspondence in October last year, Samsung C&T Renewable Energy Australia Pty Ltd (SREA) is currently assessing the potential for a battery energy storage system (BESS) located approximately 3.1 km east of Mangoplah, NSW.

For context, SREA is studying a 10.4 ha portion of land (The Project Site) for the siting of the BESS, that would connect directly into the 132 kV electricity transmission network that traverses the site.

The expected capacity and storage duration for the BESS would be approximately 100MW/400MWh (4-hour storage) and its investment value will trigger the NSW State Significant Development (SSD) planning pathway through the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI).

BESS developments provide reliable and efficient energy by stabilising the grid. They store energy from renewable sources like solar, and make it available during peak periods, or when the sun is not shining. The project would assist in reducing Australia's emissions, improve national resilience in energy supply, and support affordable clean energy for Australians. The project will also provide benefits to the local community.

Project update

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The EIS and the associated community engagement activities are being managed by NGH – a leading Australian environmental, social, and planning firm. SREA is currently working with NGH to gather information from locals to help inform the EIS.

Our planned engagements over the coming months include:

- Ongoing discussions with nearby landowners
- Two face-to-face pop-up information sessions
- Email/letter updates to the stakeholder database focused on assessment activities
- Presentations to a range of groups, including the Berrigan Shire Council
- Running an online survey focused on capturing thoughts on key issues and landscape values
- Social impact specific research – including targeted interviews to discuss impacts and opportunities.

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We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you and discuss the Project further at your Wagga office. If this would be of interest, please advise a day and time outside of the above information sessions, and our team will organise an in-person meeting (or online on a different date, if preferred).

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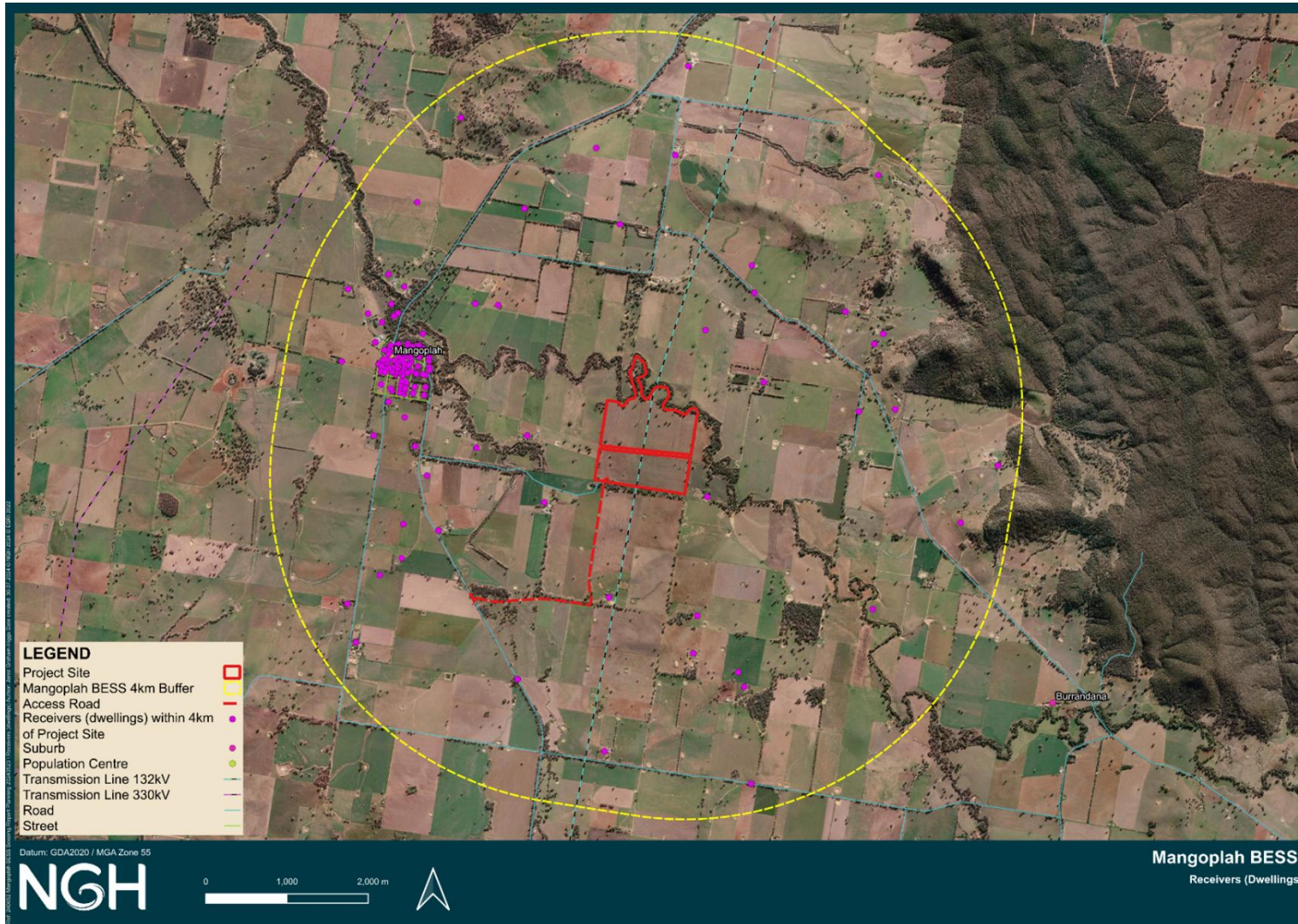
Kind regards,

Stephan Mitchell
Development Manager

Samsung C&T Renewable Energy Australia Pty Ltd (SREA)



Appendix J Non-associated receiver map



NGH

NSW • ACT • QLD • VIC

ABN 31 124 444 622 ACN 124 444 622

E: ngh@nghconsulting.com.au

GOLD COAST

2B 34 Tallebudgera Creek Road
Burleigh Heads QLD 4220

T. (07) 3129 7633

SYDNEY REGION

Suite 9.01, Level 9, 28 Foveaux Street
Surry Hills NSW 2010

T. (02) 8202 8333

BEGA

Suite 11, 89-91 Auckland Street
(PO Box 470)
Bega NSW 2550

T. (02) 6492 8333

MELBOURNE

Level 14, 10-16 Queen Street
Melbourne VIC 3000

T: (03) 7031 9123

TOWNSVILLE

Level 4, 67-75 Denham Street
Townsville QLD 4810

T. (07) 4410 9000

BRISBANE

T3, Level 7, 348 Edward Street
Brisbane QLD 4000

T. (07) 3129 7633

NEWCASTLE - HUNTER & NORTH COAST

2 Dick Street
Newcastle West NSW 2302

T. (02) 4929 2301

WAGGA WAGGA - RIVERINA & WESTERN NSW

35 Kincaid Street (PO Box 5464)
Wagga Wagga NSW 2650

T. (02) 6971 9696

CANBERRA

Unit 8, 27 Yallourn Street
(PO Box 62)
Fyshwick ACT 2609

T. (02) 6280 5053

SUNSHINE COAST

Building 1, 30 Chancellor Village Boulevard
Sippy Downs QLD 4556

T: 13 54 93

WODONGA

Unit 2, 83 Hume Street
(PO Box 506)
Wodonga VIC 3690

T. (02) 6067 2533