

Baulkham Hills HV BESS

Preliminary Biodiversity Assessment and Biodiversity Development
Assessment Report (BDAR) Waiver Request (Waiver)

Ausconnex

Reference: P527164

Revision: 1

2025-03-25

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Glossary

Term	Meaning
BC Act	<i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i>
BC Regulation	<i>Biodiversity Conservation Regulation 2017</i>
BDAR	Biodiversity Development Assessment Report
BESS	Battery Energy Storage System
DCCEEW	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
DPI	Department of Primary Industries
DPIE	Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
EP&A Act	Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979
EPBC Act	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>
FM Act	<i>Fisheries Management Act 1994</i>
ha	hectares
HV	high voltage
kV	kilovolts
LEP	Local Environment Plan
LGA	Local Government Area
MNES	Matters of National Environmental Significance
MW/ MWh	Megawatt
NSW	New South Wales
PCT	Plant Community Type
Planning Systems SEPP	State Environmental Planning Policy (Planning Systems) 2021
RMU	Ring Main Units
SEPP	State Environmental Planning Policy
SSD	State Significant Development
The Project	Baulkham Hills HV BESS

1 Introduction

1.1 Project context

Ausconnex is planning to develop, construct and operate a grid scale high voltage battery energy storage system (HV BESS) with a capacity of up to 100 MW/ 200 MWh, along with associated infrastructure. It is proposed that the Project ('**Baulkham Hills HV BESS**') be located within Endeavour Energy landholdings adjacent to the existing Baulkham Hills Transmission Substation in Baulkham Hills, New South Wales (NSW).

The Baulkham Hills HV BESS is defined as 'electricity generating works' as per Clause 2.6(1)(b) and Schedule 1(20) of the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Planning Systems) 2021* (Planning Systems SEPP) (Planning Systems SEPP, 2021), with an estimated cost of more than \$30 million. Approval is therefore sought in accordance with Part 4 Division 4.7 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act) for State Significant Development (SSD).

1.2 Assessment context

This biodiversity assessment has been prepared for Baulkham Hills HV BESS on behalf of Ausconnex, and in support of preliminary assessments being undertaken by Aurecon during preparation of the Baulkham Hills Scoping Report.

This report constitutes a preliminary biodiversity assessment and Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR) Waiver Request, under section 7.9 of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (BC Act). A BDAR waiver will only be issued in limited circumstances where the Project is not likely to have any significant impact on biodiversity values. This report has been prepared by a suitably qualified person, per NSW Government and DPIE guidelines (State Government of NSW and DPIE, 2019).

The objective of the biodiversity assessment is to determine the presence of any threatened flora, fauna, populations or ecological communities within the project site, listed under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act), BC Act and/ or *Fisheries Management Act 1994* (FM Act). Where applicable, it will assess the impacts of the Project on any such species or their habitats and address the requirements of a BDAR waiver application (refer to Appendix A).

1.3 Location and site context

Proponent: Ausconnex

Project: The Baulkham Hills HV BESS is likely to have an estimated development cost greater than \$30 million, as such the Project would be considered SSD pursuant to the Planning Systems SEPP.

Site location: The Baulkham Hills HV BESS installation is proposed on the eastern side of the existing Baulkham Hills Transmission Substation within the property boundary located at 191Z Old Windsor Road, Old Toongabbie NSW (Lot 1 in DP 780050). Baulkham Hills HV BESS is within the City of Parramatta Local Government Area (LGA), in Western Sydney New South Wales (NSW), and is located approximately 25 km west of the Sydney Central Business District (refer to Figure 1). The location is bounded by Old Windsor Road (refer to Figure 2), with Toongabbie Creek and Toongabbie Government Farm Archaeological Site (Listing No: 01903) on the northern boundary, and industrial development to the south and west. The project site is currently maintained as mown grass and planted native and non-native trees (refer to Figure 2).

Development: The Baulkham Hills HV BESS would connect to the existing Baulkham Hills Transmission Substation via 33 kV underground cables. The Project would include the following key components:

- Electrical infrastructure

- Permanent ancillary infrastructure
- Temporary construction facilities
- Retention dam for stormwater/ firewater discharge: It is proposed that stormwater and firewater would be managed through constructing a firewater retention dam within the project site. A valve will be installed between dam and existing drainage to control the flow and retain firewater on site as required. The water would be treated sufficiently to allow discharge, or removed from site for treatment at a water treatment facility (refer to Figure 2).

Refer to Appendix A for detailed project description.

2 Methods

2.1 Desktop assessment

Database reviews were conducted to identify potential ecological values that may be impacted upon by the Project. The following databases were reviewed

- **Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) PMST** (Commonwealth DCCEEW, 2024): identifies the potential presence of Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) and other protected matters under the EPBC Act. A search was conducted on 15 October 2024 to identify MNES within a 10 km radius of the project site
- **NSW DCCEEW State Vegetation Type mapping** (State Government of NSW and NSW DCCEEW, 2022): identifies Plant Community Types (PCTs) including association with EPBC Act or BC Act Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs). A review was conducted on 01 November 2024 to assess vegetation mapped in proximity to the project site
- **NSW DCCEEW BioNet Atlas of NSW Wildlife database** (State Government of NSW and NSW DCCEEW, 2024b): The BioNet Atlas of NSW Wildlife database contains records of wildlife sightings within NSW. A search was conducted on 12 November 2024 to identify sightings of threatened flora and fauna listed under the EPBC Act and BC Act, within a 10 km radius of the project site within the last 20 years
- **NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) eSpade soil mapping database** (State Government of NSW and DPIE, 2024): A review was conducted on 01 November 2024 to identify the soil landscape and erodibility risk of the project site
- **NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) Fisheries Spatial Data Portal** (State Government of NSW and DPI and Regional Development, 2024): A review was conducted 01 November 2024 to identify Key Fish Habitat and other matters protected under the FM Act within the project site
- **NSW DPI WeedWise** (State Government of NSW and DPI, 2024) **and Greater Sydney Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan 2023-2027** (State Government of NSW and Greater Sydney Local Land Services, 2022): A review was conducted 01 November 2024 to identify Priority Weeds within the project site
- **NSW DCCEEW Biodiversity Values map and threshold tool** (State Government of NSW and NSW DCCEEW, 2024a): review was conducted 01 November 2024 to identify mapped NSW Biodiversity Values within the project site

2.2 Field assessment

Field assessment was undertaken on 3 October 2024 by two suitably qualified Aurecon environmental consultants:

- **Dominic Adshead**, Associate environmental consultant with 25 years' experience in biodiversity and bushfire assessments and environmental planning, including 13 years' experience in NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service and NSW and NSW Forestry Corporation and more than 14 years' experience as an environmental consultant. This experience includes hundreds of hours of hands-on flora and fauna surveys, preparation of 100s of Part 5 Review of Environmental Factors, member/part member of four threatened species recovery teams and development of statewide flora and fauna survey protocols. In Western Sydney Dominic has project managed biodiversity surveys and assessments for the Mulgoa Road upgrade, Western Sydney Airport Metro (Orchard Hills to Luddenham), Riverstone East Stage 3, and additional confidential biodiversity projects within all western Sydney Defence sites (Glenbrook, Orchard Hills, Richmond, Bringelly and Londonderry). Dominic has a Bachelor of Science (Forestry) from the Australian National University.
- **Isabelle Andary-Geslin**, environmental consultant with 1.5 years' experience in Aurecon's Bushfire and Biodiversity (Environment and Planning) team

Field assessment identified all vegetation within the project site, and identified potential fauna habitat features within the project site, including human-made structures, native and non-native vegetation, hollow bearing trees, rocks, waterways and aquatic habitat. The field survey included opportunistic observations of fauna (both threatened and non-threatened).

The results of the database assessment and field assessment confirmed the existing environment and biodiversity values that are present within the project site (refer to Section 3).

3 Results

The following results consider the findings of the desktop assessment and ground-truthed field assessment.

3.1 Vegetation

Two native vegetation communities are mapped north of the project site:

- 3320: Cumberland Shale Plains Woodland
- 4025: Cumberland Red Gum Riverflat Forest (refer to Figure 4).

Field assessment confirmed that vegetation within the project site does not constitute a native PCT.

The project site is approximately 0.4 ha, adjacent to an existing substation with associated infrastructure. Vegetation consists of planted native and non-native midstory and canopy vegetation, and groundcover of mown and managed native and non-native grasses and weed species (refer to Table 3-1). Planted vegetation occurs in two areas:

1. On the southern boundary of the existing Baulkham Hills Transmission Substation, established circa 1979
2. On the south-eastern boundary of the property, established post-1990

The project site contains two NSW State Priority Weeds – Camphor laurel (*Cinnamomum camphora*) and African lovegrass (*Eragrostis curvula*), and one priority weed for the Greater Sydney Local Land Services region – Lantana (*Lantana camara*). The latter species is subject to Mandatory Measure prohibits sale within or import into NSW (State Government of NSW and Greater Sydney Local Land Services, 2022); and both are subject to the General Biosecurity Duty, as outlined in the *NSW Biosecurity Act 2015*.

South of the project site, outside of the property boundary, there are several Scarlet bottlebrush (*Melaleuca rugulosa/ Callistemon rugulosus*) plantings. These species are native to Australia, but not endemic to NSW (the species are endemic to South Australia and Victoria).

Table 3-1: Flora within and adjacent to the project site.

Scientific name	Common name	Category	Details	Impacted?
Midstory and canopy species				
<i>Acacia parramattensis</i>	Parramatta wattle	Native, endemic to NSW	■ 36 individual trees	Yes
<i>Banksia integrifolia</i>	Coast banksia	Native, endemic to NSW	■ One individual tree	No
<i>Callistemon salignus</i>	Willow bottlebrush	Native, endemic to NSW	■ Two individual trees ■ Four individual trees	No
<i>Cinnamomum camphora</i>	Camphor laurel	Non-native, NSW State Priority Weed (State Government of NSW and DPI, 2024)	■ One individual tree	Yes
<i>Corymbia citriodora</i>	Lemon-scented gum	Native, not endemic to NSW (endemic to Queensland)	■ Resprout from stump	Yes
<i>Eucalyptus sideroxylon</i>	Mugga ironbark	Native, endemic to NSW	■ One individual tree	No
<i>Grevillea robusta</i>	Silky oak	Native, not endemic to Western Sydney NSW (endemic to northern NSW and Queensland)	■ One individual tree	Yes

Scientific name	Common name	Category	Details	Impacted?
<i>Leptospermum</i> sp.	n/a	Native	■ One individual tree	No
<i>Lophostemon confertus</i>	Brisbane brush box	Native, not endemic to NSW (endemic to Queensland)	■ Five individual trees	No
<i>Olea lancea</i>	Olive tree	Non-native	■ Two olive trees in different parts of the site	Yes
<i>Photinia glabra</i>	Japanese Photinia	Non-native	■ Two individual trees with 11 and 15 stems respectively	Yes
Groundcover species				
<i>Soliva sessilis</i>	Bindi	Non-native	■ 20% cover	Yes
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort plantain	Non-native	■ 1% cover	Yes
<i>Trifolium</i> sp. 1	Clover	Non-native	■ 10% cover	Yes
<i>Trifolium</i> sp. 2	Clover	Non-native	■ 5% cover	Yes
<i>Pennisetum clandestinum</i>	Kikuya	Non-native	■ 80% cover	Yes
<i>Eragrostis curvula</i>	African lovegrass	Non-native NSW State Priority Weed (State Government of NSW and DPI, 2024)	■ 5% cover	Yes
<i>Lantana camara</i>	Lantana	Non-native, Priority Weed for the Greater Sydney (State Government of NSW and DPI, 2024; State Government of NSW and Greater Sydney Local Land Services, 2022)	■ 1% cover	Yes
<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>	Dandelion	Non-native	■ 20% cover	Yes
<i>Briza minor</i>	Shivery grass	Non-native	■ 50% cover	Yes
<i>Panicum</i> species	n/a	Native	■ 30% cover	Yes
<i>Poa</i> species	n/a	Native	■ 30% cover	Yes

3.2 Fauna habitat features

Field assessment confirmed two bird nests within the project site:

- One Bronzewing nest within Japanese Photinia (*Photinia glabra*), to be retained.
- One common Masked Lapwing (*Vanellus miles*) nest within managed native and non-native grass, to be removed.

Field assessment confirmed that vegetation and human-made structures within the project site do not constitute suitable foraging, roosting, or nesting threatened fauna habitat. While the project site does contain one common Masked Lapwing, these species have broad nesting requirements (the species nests in a scrape in the ground away from ground cover, often in recreational areas including schools, paths, and sporting fields). Potential habitat features identified within the project site include:

- Mown grass dominated by lawn and non-native species: perpetually managed and maintained, and considered unsuitable foraging habitat for native and threatened fauna species
- Native planted trees: of the trees to be removed within the project area, one Silky oak, one Lemon-scented gum and 36 Parramatta wattle are native, and only Parramatta wattle is endemic to the region. All individuals are planted (refer to Figure 3). These trees do not contain bird nests or signs of fauna use, do not contain habitat features such as hollows, and are considered unsuitable for roosting or nesting habitat for fauna species. Silky Oak and Lemon-scented gum are not endemic to the region, however, have the potential to provide foraging resources for nectar-feeding threatened fauna such as birds and Grey-Headed Flying Fox. While there are general foraging resources within endemic and native species, all Parramatta wattle individuals are small diameter, the majority are senescing mature/overmature individuals or dead, with minimal foraging habitat value. There is a lack of new seedling recruitment potentially as a result of lack of soil disturbance and ongoing site mowing.
- Non-native planted trees: Two olive trees and one Camphor laurel to be removed within the project area do not contain bird nests or signs of fauna use, do not contain habitat features such as hollows, are considered unsuitable for roosting or nesting habitat for fauna species, and the species is considered unsuitable foraging habitat for native bird species.

3.3 Waterways and aquatic habitat

Field assessment confirmed that the project site does not contain waterways or aquatic habitat. No impacts to aquatic habitat or species are likely to occur as a result of the Project.

The nearest substantial aquatic and riparian habitat is associated with Toongabbie Creek. This area is 90 m north of the project site. The topography of the Baulkham Hills site slopes down towards Toongabbie Creek. Toongabbie Creek contains Key Fish Habitat (State Government of NSW and DPI and Regional Development, 2024), and is associated with NSW Biodiversity Values 'Threatened species or communities with potential for serious and irreversible impacts' (State Government of NSW and NSW DCCEW, 2024a).

3.4 Threatened flora and fauna, and TECs

Field assessment confirmed that no TECs occur within the project site. Based on the desktop feasibility assessment previously undertaken (AECOM, 2024), the closest TEC is River-flat eucalypt forest on coastal floodplains of the NSW North Coast, Sydney Basin and South East Corner bioregions (BC Act – Endangered) and Cumberland Plain Shale Woodlands and Shale-Gravel Transition Forest (EPBC Act – Critically Endangered), which occur approximately 60 m north of the project site.

There are records of threatened fauna species within 10 km of the project site, including records of the following species within 500 m of the project site:

- Greater Broad-nosed Bat (*Scoteanax rueppellii*), recorded in 2016, approximately 450 m east of the project site, in proximity to Toongabbie Creek
- Grey-headed Flying-fox (*Pteropus poliocephalus*), most recently recorded in 2021, approximately 450 m in all directions of the project site
- Little Lorikeet (*Glossopsitta pusilla*), recorded in 2012, approximately 500 m east of the project site
- Powerful Owl (*Ninox strenua*), recorded in 2020, approximately 450 m west of the project site, in proximity to Toongabbie Creek
- Sydney Plains Greenhood (*Pterostylis Saxicola*), recorded in 2016, approximately 200 m north of the project site across Toongabbie Creek
- White-throated Needletail (*Hirundapus caudacutus*), recorded in 2017, approximately 450 m east of the project site, in proximity to Toongabbie Creek

Field assessment confirmed that no threatened flora species occur within the project site. During field assessment, no threatened fauna species were incidentally identified within the project site. Field assessment confirmed that vegetation and human-made structures within the project site do not constitute

suitable foraging, roosting, or nesting fauna habitat for threatened or native species (refer to Section 3.2). Groundcover is regularly mown to provide an operational buffer to the existing structure, and power line clearance. As a result, no threatened flora or fauna species were considered moderately or highly likely, or known to occur within the project site.

4 Impacts

4.1 Impacts to vegetation

4.1.1 Impacted vegetation

The project site encompasses approximately 0.4 ha of land heavily modified through previous historical disturbance, including complete clearing prior to 1978, and majority clearing prior to 1991 (refer to Figure 3). The site contains two rows of planted native and non-native midstory and canopy vegetation, and groundcover of mown and managed native and non-native grasses and weed species. Of the vegetation within the project site (refer to Table 3-1), the following will be impacted:

- Approximately 0.4 ha of mown and managed native and non-native grasses and weed species
- One Japanese photinia (non-native), no habitat features
- One row of 41 planted trees on the eastern boundary of the project site (refer to Table 4-1).

Table 4-1. Trees to be removed on the eastern boundary of the project site

Scientific name	Common name	Count	Details
<i>Cinnamomum camphora</i>	Camphor laurel	1	Non-native, NSW State Priority Weed (State Government of NSW and DPI, 2024)
<i>Olea lancea</i>	Olive tree	2	Non-native, within planted row
<i>Corymbia citriodora</i>	Lemon-scented gum	1	Native, not endemic to NSW (endemic to Queensland), within planted row
<i>Acacia parramattensis</i>	Parramatta wattle	36	Native, endemic, within planted row
<i>Grevillea robusta</i>	Silky oak	1	Native, not endemic to Western Sydney NSW (endemic to northern NSW and Queensland), within planted row
Total		41	

Therefore, removal of vegetation consists of 0.4 ha of non-native-dominated mown and managed grass, one non-native tree, and one row of 41 planted native endemic, non-endemic, and non-native trees.

4.2 Impacts to fauna habitat features

Vegetation and human-made structures within the project site do not constitute suitable foraging, roosting, or nesting threatened fauna habitat. Of the fauna habitat features within the project site, the following will be impacted:

- One common Masked Lapwing nest within managed native and non-native grass. Masked Lapwings are visibly defensive of nesting locations and chicks (WIRES, 2024). Eggs typically hatch between 28 – 30 days, and chicks are able to leave the nest hours after hatching (Tasmanian Government and Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania, 2024; WIRES, 2024). As relocation of an active nest would likely result in egg abandonment (WIRES, 2024), all potential impacts would be avoided

through undertaking the project after any eggs have hatched, when the resulting chicks are not dependent on the nest.

- Managed native and non-native grass: perpetually managed and maintained, and considered unsuitable foraging habitat for native and threatened fauna species.
- One individual Japanese Photinia (non-native): does not contain bird nests or signs of fauna use, does not contain habitat features such hollows, and is considered unsuitable foraging habitat for native bird species.
- One row of 41 planted trees (native endemic, non-endemic, and non-native trees): does not contain bird nests or signs of fauna use, do not contain habitat features such hollows, and are considered unsuitable roosting or nesting habitat for fauna species. Silky Oak and Lemon-scented gum are not endemic to the region, however, have the potential to provide foraging resources for nectar-feeding threatened fauna such as birds and Grey-Headed Flying Fox. While there are general foraging resources within native species, all Paramatta wattle individuals are small diameter, the majority are senescing mature/overmature individuals or dead, with minimal foraging habitat value. There is a lack of new seedling recruitment potentially as a result of lack of soil disturbance and ongoing site mowing.

4.3 Impacts to waterways and aquatic features

There are no waterways within the project site. The topography of the Baulkham Hills site slopes down towards Toongabbie Creek, 90 m north of the project site. Potential impacts would be controlled for by standard mitigation measures.

4.4 Impacts to threatened flora and fauna, and TECs

There are no TECs, or threatened flora species within the project site. No threatened fauna species were incidentally identified within the project site. No threatened flora or fauna species were considered moderately or highly likely or known to occur within the project site.

5 Conclusion

The project site is predominantly non-native planted vegetation and mown grasses, and planted native and non-native vegetation, historically cleared and adjoining an existing substation with associated infrastructure.

It is concluded that if the project is to proceed as planned there will be no significant impacts to biodiversity values and as such a BDAR Waiver is requested to be granted in accordance with s.7.9(2) of the BC Act (refer to Appendix A).

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Appendix A

BDAR Waiver Checklist

Table 6-1: Biodiversity development assessment report waiver request information requirements

Information	Description
Admin	
Proponent name and contact details	Name: Ausconnex Address: 49 Glendenning Road, Glendenning NSW 2761 Contact: Johann Coetzer Johann.coetzer@ausconnex.com.au
Project ID	No SSD identification currently. The Baulkham Hills HV BESS is likely to have an estimated development cost greater than \$30 million, as such the Project would be considered SSD pursuant to the Planning Systems SEPP.
Name and ecological qualifications of person completing	Name: Naomi Mansell Tertiary qualification: MSc Wildlife and Conservation Management, University of South Wales (2019) Experience: 3.5 years in as an environmental consultant, in Aurecon's Bushfire and Biodiversity (Environment and Planning) team, including field identification of plant and animal species and habitats.
Site details	
Location	The Baulkham Hills HV BESS installation is proposed on the eastern side of the existing Baulkham Hills Transmission Substation within the property boundary located at 191Z Old Windsor Road, Old Toongabbie NSW (Lot 1 in DP 780050). Baulkham Hills HV BESS is located in the City of Paramatta LGA, in Western Sydney NSW.
Description of development site	The indicative development footprint is approximately 0.4 ha and is bordered by perimeter security fencing. The project site is bordered Toongabbie Creek and Toongabbie Government Farm Archaeological Site (Listing No: 01903) approximately 90 m north of the project site, by industrial development to the south and west, and by Old Windsor Road to the southwest. Old Windsor Road is three to four lanes each direction, and is classified as a State road (zoned SP2 – Infrastructure) under the <i>Roads Act 1993</i>. During construction and operation of the Baulkham Hills HV BESS, vehicular access would be via the sealed driveway, accessible from the southbound lane of Old Windsor Road, south of the site. The land is currently zoned E4 – General Industrial, under the Parramatta Local Environment Plan (LEP) 2023. The project site is bordered by industrial and residential development. Surrounding land uses include RE1 – Public Recreation to the north, E4 – General Industrial to the east, and R2 – Low Density Residential and R3 – Medium Density Residential to the south and west. The site is heavily modified through previous historical disturbance, including complete clearing prior to 1978, and majority clearing prior to 1991 (refer to Figure 3). The indicative development footprint has a non-native-dominated mown grass, planted native and non-native midstory and canopy vegetation, and weed species. This includes one

Information	Description
	row of 41 planted trees on the eastern boundary of the project site (refer to Table 4-1). The site is located 27-30 m above sea level.
Location map	Refer to Figure 1.
Site map	Refer to Figure 2.
Proposed development	
Project description	The Baulkham Hills HV BESS would connect to the existing Baulkham Hills Transmission Substation via 33 kV underground cables. The MW/ MWh capacity of Baulkham Hills HV BESS would be 70 - 100 MW / 140 - 200 MW. Based on a concept layout, the Project would include the following key components: ■ Electrical infrastructure including: – Two new feeder bays to be installed at the 33 kV busbar – Existing 33 kV overhead transmission line belonging to the feeder 472 to be replaced with an underground cable traversing the eastern boundary of the Baulkham Hills Transmission Substation – 40 Megapack units – 20 transformers – 33 kV cable – Ring Main Units – 33 kV Switchroom and control room. ■ Other permanent ancillary infrastructure including: – Access road (10 m wide and 150 m long), which would provide access to the BESS site – Concrete pads for the HV BESS modules and associated infrastructure – Operation and maintenance building – Car parking – Security fencing, lighting, signage and lightning protection – Fire detection and suppression equipment – Internal access track – Formalised underground stormwater network, and provision for water detention (for water quality and fire water purposes). – Potential noise barrier (pending detailed noise impact assessment). ■ Temporary construction facilities including: – Site office – Construction compounds and laydown areas – Stormwater and sediment controls for the Project area. During construction and operation of the Baulkham Hills HV BESS, vehicular access would be via the sealed driveway, accessible from the southbound lane of Old Windsor Road, south of the site.

Information	Description
Proposed site plan	Refer to Figure 2.
Impacts on biodiversity values	
Biodiversity values	Refer to Table 6-2 below. For each biodiversity value, an explanation has been provided as to why the value is not relevant to the Project or how impacts have been avoided. The likelihood and extent of any remaining impacts of the Project, including impacts prescribed under Clause 6.1 of the BC Regulation 2017 have been included. The following are supplied as appendices: ■ Appendix B – BioNet Atlas search results ■ Appendix C – PMST search results ■ Appendix D – Vegetation mapping ■ Appendix E – Site photographs

Table 6-2: Impacts of the proposed development on biodiversity values

Biodiversity value	Meaning	Potential impacts under the BC Regulation
Vegetation abundance – 1.4(b) BC Regulation	Occurrence and abundance of vegetation at a particular site	The project site encompasses approximately 0.4 ha of land heavily modified through previous historical disturbance, including complete clearing prior to 1978, and majority clearing prior to 1991 (refer to Figure 3). The site contains two rows of planted native and non-native midstory and canopy vegetation, and groundcover of mown and managed native and non-native grasses and weed species. Vegetation within the project site does not constitute a native PCT. Removal of vegetation within the project site consists of: ■ 0.4 ha of non-native-dominated mown and managed grass ■ One non-native tree – Japanese photinia ■ One row of 41 planted native endemic, non-endemic, and non-native trees. Refer to Photo 1 - Photo 5 for vegetation within the project site. All Paramatta wattle individuals are small diameter, the majority are senescing mature/overmature individuals or dead, with minimal foraging habitat value. There is a lack of new seedling recruitment potentially as a result of lack of soil disturbance and ongoing site mowing. The remaining trees to be impacted within the Project site are Silky oak, Lemon-scented gum, Japanese photinia, Olive tree and Camphor laurel. These are non-endemic, and non-native invasive species. Given the poor condition of existing vegetation, the removal of these species is not considered to have a significant impact on vegetation abundance within the Project site. The Project would not have a significant impact on vegetation abundance.
Vegetation integrity 1.5(2)(a) BC Act	Degree to which the composition, structure and function of vegetation at a particular site and the surrounding landscape has been	Vegetation within the project site is heavily modified through previous historical disturbance, including complete clearing prior to 1978, and majority clearing prior to 1991 (refer to Figure 3). Vegetation within the project does not constitute a native PCT. There are no TECs within or adjoining the project site. Removal of vegetation within the project site consists of:

Biodiversity value	Meaning	Potential impacts under the BC Regulation
	altered from a nearnatural state	0.4 ha of non-native-dominated mown and managed grass (groundcover is dominated by non-native species, including 80% Kikuya grass and 50% Shivery grass). - One non-native tree – Japanese photinia - One row of 41 planted native endemic, non-endemic, and non-native trees. The project site contains two NSW State Priority Weeds – Camphor laurel (<i>Cinnamomum camphora</i>) and African lovegrass (<i>Eragrostis curvula</i>), and one priority weed for the Greater Sydney Local Land Services region – Lantana (<i>Lantana camara</i>). The structural and functional integrity of vegetation within the project site is considered to be low, with low species diversity and no non-planted native vegetation. There is no connectivity between planted trees and vegetation within or adjacent to the project site. The Project would not have a significant impact on vegetation integrity.
Habitat suitability 1.5(2)(b) BC Act	Degree to which the habitat needs of threatened species are present at a particular site	No threatened fauna species were incidentally identified within the project site. No threatened flora or fauna species were considered moderately or highly likely or known to occur within the project site. The Project would not contribute to an increase of noise or light, such that would impact threatened fauna species. The project site is currently zoned E4 – General Industrial, under the Parramatta Local Environment Plan (LEP) 2023. The project site is bordered by industrial and residential development. Surrounding land uses include RE1 – Public Recreation to the north, E4 – General Industrial to the east, and R2 – Low Density Residential and R3 – Medium Density Residential to the south and west. The project site is adjacent to Old Windsor Road, serviced by heavy vehicular traffic. Old Windsor Road is three to four lanes each direction, and is classified as a State road (zoned SP2 – Infrastructure) under the <i>Roads Act 1993</i>. During construction and operation of the Baulkham Hills HV BESS, vehicular access would be via the sealed driveway, accessible from the southbound lane of Old Windsor Road, south of the site. The Project would not result in measurable changes to the functioning of the development site or the amount or type of vehicular traffic using the area. Vegetation within the project site is heavily modified through previous historical disturbance and consists of non-native-dominated mown and managed grass, one planted non-native tree, and one row of 41 planted native endemic, non-endemic, and non-native trees. The project site does not contain threatened species, or TEC. The project site <i>does not</i> contain the following features: - karst, caves, crevices, cliffs and other geological features of significance - rocks - human-made structures The project site <i>does</i> contain the following features: - non-native vegetation However, these features are not considered to be suitable fauna habitat for the following reasons: - Non-native-dominated mown and managed grass: perpetually managed and maintained, and considered unsuitable foraging habitat for native and threatened fauna species

Biodiversity value	Meaning	Potential impacts under the BC Regulation
		- One planted non-native tree: does not contain bird nests or signs of fauna use, does not contain habitat features such hollows, and is considered unsuitable foraging habitat for native bird species. - One row of 41 planted native endemic, non-endemic, and non-native trees: does not contain bird nests or signs of fauna use, does not contain habitat features such hollows, and are considered unsuitable roosting or nesting habitat for fauna species. While there are general foraging resources within endemic species for native birds, all Paramatta wattle individuals are small diameter, the majority are senescing mature/overmature individuals or dead, with minimal foraging habitat value. There is a lack of new seedling recruitment potentially as a result of lack of soil disturbance and ongoing site mowing. The project site contains low habitat suitability for native or threatened flora and fauna. The Project would not have a significant impact on habitat suitability.
Threatened species abundance 1.4(a) BC Regulation	Occurrence and abundance of threatened species or threatened ecological communities, or their habitat, at a particular site	Vegetation within the project site is heavily modified through previous historical disturbance and consists of non-native-dominated mown and managed grass, one planted non-native tree, and one row of 41 planted native endemic, non-endemic, and non-native trees. There are no TECs, or threatened flora species within the project site. No threatened fauna species were incidentally identified within the project site. No threatened flora or fauna species were considered moderately or highly likely or known to occur within the project site. The project site is within a developed industrial and residential area and adjacent to Old Windsor Road, serviced by heavy vehicular traffic. The Project would not result in measurable changes to the functioning of the development site or the amount or type of vehicular traffic using the area. The Project would not contribute to an increase in vehicle strikes on threatened species of animals or on animals that are part of a threatened ecological community. There are no human-made structures within the project site. The Project would not impact potential microbat roosting habitat. Microbats and bird species may be considered to forage aerially within the project site, the project would not alter use or measurably decrease aerial foraging habitat of the surrounding land. Vegetation, including non-native vegetation, within the project site does not constitute suitable foraging, roosting, or nesting fauna habitat. The project site is highly urbanised with little to no native vegetation assemblages, and is considered to contain low habitat suitability for native or threatened flora and fauna. There are no waterways (natural or non-natural) within the project site, and no suitable habitat for threatened amphibian species. The Project would not have a significant impact on threatened species abundance.
Habitat connectivity 1.4(c) BC Regulation	Degree to which a particular site connects different areas of habitat of threatened species to facilitate the movement of those species across their range	The project site is located in a highly urbanised, industrial and residential area within the City of Parramatta LGA. Vegetation within the project site is heavily modified through previous historical disturbance and consists of non-native-dominated mown and managed grass, one planted non-native tree, and one row of 41 planted native endemic, non-endemic, and non-native trees. This planted tree row is on the south-eastern boundary of the property, immediately adjacent to security fencing. The security fencing borders industrial development. The planted row of vegetation does not form habitat corridors within the

Biodiversity value	Meaning	Potential impacts under the BC Regulation
		project site or connect to vegetation within the project site. Vegetation within the project site does not facilitate habitat connectivity to any areas of native or non-native vegetation adjacent to the project site, or to the vegetated riparian habitat adjacent to the Toongabbie Creek, approximately 90 m north of the project site. The Project would not have a significant impact on habitat connectivity.
Threatened species movement 1.4(d) BC Regulation	Degree to which a particular site contributes to the movement of threatened species to maintain their lifecycle	The project site is located in a highly urbanised, industrial and residential area within the City of Paramatta LGA. The site is surrounded by a perimeter security fence and is adjacent to Old Windsor Road, serviced by heavy vehicular traffic. Vegetation within the project site does not form habitat corridors within the project site, or connect to patches of vegetation within or adjacent to the project site. No threatened fauna species were considered moderately or highly likely or known to occur within the project site, as vegetation within the project site do not constitute suitable foraging, roosting, or nesting fauna habitat. The Project would not alter dispersal or movement of aerial birds, amphibians, reptiles or mammals through the project site. This project site provides suboptimal habitat to facilitate movement of threatened fauna across the landscape or any other threatened species to maintain their lifecycle. The Project would not have a significant impact on threatened species movement.
Flight path integrity 1.4(e) BC Regulation	Degree to which the flight paths of protected animals over a particular site are free from interference	31 species of migratory birds have previously been recorded within 10 km of the project site (refer to Appendix B). The majority of these records are associated with the waterways within Sydney Olympic Park (within 10 km of the project site) and other waterways. Several species of microbat have previously been recorded within 10 km of the project site. These species are: ■ Large-eared Pied Bat (<i>Chalinolobus dwyeri</i>) ■ Eastern False Pipistrelle (<i>Falsistrellus tasmaniensis</i>) ■ Eastern Coastal Free-tailed Bat (<i>Micronomus norfolkensis</i>) ■ Little Bent-winged Bat (<i>Miniopterus australis</i>) ■ Large Bent-winged Bat (<i>Miniopterus orianae oceanensis</i>) ■ Southern Myotis (<i>Myotis macropus</i>) ■ Yellow-bellied Sheath-tail-bat (<i>Saccolaimus flaviventris</i>) ■ Greater Broad-nosed Bat (<i>Scoteanax rueppellii</i>) ■ Eastern Cave Bat (<i>Vespadelus troughtoni</i>) Grey-headed Flying-foxes (<i>Pteropus poliocephalus</i>) are known within the area, with the nearest camp (Parramatta Park 1(134)) located 4 km south-east of the project site. The project site does not provide suitable foraging, nesting or roosting habitat for common native bird species, threatened birds, migratory birds or flying mammals including microbats and Grey-headed Flying-foxes (<i>Pteropus poliocephalus</i>). As such, the Project would not fragment existing habitat. The Project would not alter dispersal or movement of aerial birds or mammals through the project site. The project would not increase the height of infrastructure more than what already exists within the project site, and would not interfere with the flight path of protected animals. As

Biodiversity value	Meaning	Potential impacts under the BC Regulation
		such, the Project would not create a dispersal barrier to suitable habitat areas within the wider environment. The Project would not have a significant impact on flight path integrity.
Water sustainability 1.4(f) BC Regulation	Degree to which water quality, water bodies and hydrological processes sustain threatened species and threatened ecological communities at a particular site	Field assessment confirmed that the project site does not contain waterways or aquatic habitat. nearest substantial aquatic and riparian habitat is associated with Toongabbie Creek, 90 m north of the project site. The topography of the Baulkham Hills site slopes down towards Toongabbie Creek. Potential indirect impacts to waterways would be managed through standard controls. The Project does not involve underground mining or development which would cause subsidence or upsidence. The Project would not have a significant impact on water sustainability.

Appendix B

BioNet Atlas search results

Data from the BioNet Atlas website, which holds records from a number of custodians. The data are only indicative and cannot be considered a comprehensive inventory, and may contain errors and omissions. Species listed under the Sensitive Species Data Policy may have their locations denatured (^ rounded to 0.1°C; ^^ rounded to 0.01°C. Copyright the State of NSW through the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment. Search criteria : Licensed Report of all Valid Records of Threatened (listed on BC Act 2016) ,Commonwealth listed ,CAMBA listed ,JAMBA listed or ROKAMBA listed Entities in selected area [North: - 33.68 West: 150.86 East: 151.08 South: -33.88] recorded since 12 Nov 2004 until 12 Nov 2024 returned a total of 21,707 records of 118 species.

Table 6-3. BioNet Atlas search results: threatened flora

Scientific Name	Common Name	BC Act	EPBC Act	Records
Flora				
<i>Acacia pubescens</i>	Downy Wattle	V	V	288
<i>Callistemon linearifolius</i>	Netted Bottle Brush	V	n/a	3
<i>Cryptostylis hunteriana</i>	Leafless Tongue Orchid	V	V	1
<i>Darwinia biflora</i>	n/a	V	V	121
<i>Dillwynia tenuifolia</i>	n/a	V	n/a	4
<i>Dillwynia tenuifolia</i>	Dillwynia tenuifolia Sieber ex D.C. in the Baulkham Hills local government area	E population	n/a	1
<i>Epacris purpurascens</i> var. <i>purpurascens</i>	n/a	V	n/a	198
<i>Eucalyptus nicholii</i>	Narrow-leaved Black Peppermint	V	V	13
<i>Eucalyptus</i> sp. <i>Cattai</i>	n/a	CE	CE	211
<i>Galium australe</i>	Tangled Bedstraw	E	n/a	2
<i>Grammitis stenophylla</i>	Narrow-leaf Finger Fern	E	n/a	1
<i>Grevillea juniperina</i> subsp. <i>juniperina</i>	Juniper-leaved Grevillea	V	n/a	19
<i>Hibbertia puberula</i>	n/a	E	n/a	1
<i>Hibbertia spanantha</i>	Julian's Hibbertia	CE	CE	3
<i>Hibbertia superans</i>	n/a	E	n/a	50
<i>Lasiopetalum joyceae</i>	n/a	V	V	2
<i>Leucopogon fletcheri</i> subsp. <i>fletcheri</i>	n/a	E	n/a	2
<i>Macadamia integrifolia</i>	Macadamia Nut	n/a	V	13

Scientific Name	Common Name	BC Act	EPBC Act	Records
<i>Marsdenia viridiflora</i> subsp. <i>viridiflora</i>	Marsdenia viridiflora R. Br. subsp. viridiflora population in the Bankstown, Blacktown, Camden, Campbelltown, Fairfield, Holroyd, Liverpool and Penrith local government areas	E population	n/a	40
<i>Melaleuca deanei</i>	Deane's Paperbark	V	V	1
<i>Persicaria elatior</i>	Tall Knotweed	V	V	1
<i>Persoonia hirsuta</i>	Hairy Geebung	E	E	6
<i>Pimelea curviflora</i> var. <i>curviflora</i>	n/a	V	V	36
<i>Pimelea spicata</i>	Spiked Rice-flower	E	E	254
<i>Pomaderris prunifolia</i>	P. prunifolia in the Parramatta, Auburn, Strathfield and Bankstown Local Government Areas	E population	n/a	16
<i>Pterostylis saxicola</i>	Sydney Plains Greenhood	E	E	2
<i>Pultenaea parviflora</i>	n/a	E	V	2
<i>Pultenaea pedunculata</i>	Matted Bush-pea	E	n/a	1
<i>Rhodamnia rubescens</i>	Scrub Turpentine	CE	CE	3
<i>Syzygium paniculatum</i>	Magenta Lilly Pilly	E	V	27
<i>Tetradlea glandulosa</i>	n/a	V	n/a	68
<i>Wahlenbergia multicaulis</i>	Tadgell's Bluebell in the local government areas of Auburn, Bankstown, Baulkham Hills, Canterbury, Hornsby, Parramatta and Strathfield	E population	n/a	43
<i>Wilsonia backhousei</i>	Narrow-leaved Wilsonia	V	n/a	23
<i>Zannichellia palustris</i>	n/a	E	n/a	6

Table 6-4. BioNet Atlas search results: threatened and migratory fauna

Scientific Name	Common Name	BC Act	EPBC Act	Records
Fauna				
Amphibians				
<i>Litoria aurea</i>	Green and Golden Bell Frog	E	V	10820
<i>Pseudophryne australis</i>	Red-crowned Toadlet	V	n/a	36
Birds				
<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	Common Sandpiper	n/a	C,J,K	50
<i>Anthochaera phrygia</i>	Regent Honeyeater	CE	CE	14
<i>Apus pacificus</i>	Fork-tailed Swift	n/a	C,J,K	12
<i>Ardeanna pacifica</i>	Wedge-tailed Shearwater	n/a	J	1

Scientific Name	Common Name	BC Act	EPBC Act	Records
<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	Ruddy Turnstone	n/a	C,J,K	3
<i>Artamus cyanopterus cyanopterus</i>	Dusky Woodswallow	V	n/a	43
<i>Botaurus poiciloptilus</i>	Australasian Bittern	E	E	10
<i>Burhinus grallarius</i>	Bush Stone-curlew	E	n/a	1
<i>Calidris acuminata</i>	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	n/a	C,J,K	722
<i>Calidris canutus</i>	Red Knot	n/a	E,C,J,K	8
<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	Curlew Sandpiper	CE	CE,C,J,K	168
<i>Calidris melanotos</i>	Pectoral Sandpiper	n/a	J,K	33
<i>Calidris ruficollis</i>	Red-necked Stint	n/a	C,J,K	20
<i>Calidris tenuirostris</i>	Great Knot	V	V,C,J,K	1
<i>Callocephalon fimbriatum</i>	Gang-gang Cockatoo	E	E	15
<i>Calyptorhynchus lathami lathami</i>	South-eastern Glossy Black-Cockatoo	V	V	11
<i>Chthonicola sagittata</i>	Speckled Warbler	V	n/a	4
<i>Circus assimilis</i>	Spotted Harrier	V	n/a	13
<i>Climacteris picumnus victoriae</i>	Brown Treecreeper (eastern subspecies)	V	V	2
<i>Cuculus optatus</i>	Oriental Cuckoo	n/a	C,J,K	1
<i>Daphoenositta chrysoptera</i>	Varied Sittella	V	n/a	19
<i>Epthianura albifrons</i>	White-fronted Chat population in the Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Area	E population	n/a	321
<i>Epthianura albifrons</i>	White-fronted Chat	V	n/a	321
<i>Falco subniger</i>	Black Falcon	V	n/a	1
<i>Gallinago hardwickii</i>	Latham's Snipe	V	V,J,K	1590
<i>Glossopsitta pusilla</i>	Little Lorikeet	V	n/a	53
<i>Haematopus longirostris</i>	Pied Oystercatcher	E	n/a	1
<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>	White-bellied Sea-Eagle	V	n/a	555
<i>Hieraaetus morphnoides</i>	Little Eagle	V	n/a	32
<i>Hirundapus caudacutus</i>	White-throated Needletail	V	V,C,J,K	68
<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	Caspian Tern	n/a	J	94
<i>Ixobrychus flavicollis</i>	Black Bittern	V	n/a	7
<i>Lathamus discolor</i>	Swift Parrot	E	CE	43
<i>Limicola falcinellus</i>	Broad-billed Sandpiper	V	C,J,K	1
<i>Limosa lapponica</i>	Bar-tailed Godwit	n/a	C,J,K	935
<i>Limosa limosa</i>	Black-tailed Godwit	V	E,C,J,K	1

Scientific Name	Common Name	BC Act	EPBC Act	Records
<i>Lophochroa leadbeateri</i>	Pink Cockatoo	V	E	1
<i>Lophoictinia isura</i>	Square-tailed Kite	V	n/a	8
<i>Motacilla flava</i>	Yellow Wagtail	n/a	C,J,K	3
<i>Neophema pulchella</i>	Turquoise Parrot	V	n/a	5
<i>Ninox connivens</i>	Barking Owl	V	n/a	9
<i>Ninox strenua</i>	Powerful Owl	V	n/a	803
<i>Numenius madagascariensis</i>	Eastern Curlew	n/a	CE,C,J,K	12
<i>Oxyura australis</i>	Blue-billed Duck	V	n/a	2
<i>Pandion cristatus</i>	Eastern Osprey	V	n/a	13
<i>Petroica boodang</i>	Scarlet Robin	V	n/a	6
<i>Petroica phoenicea</i>	Flame Robin	V	n/a	3
<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>	Ruff	n/a	C,J,K	1
<i>Pluvialis fulva</i>	Pacific Golden Plover	n/a	C,J,K	249
<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	Grey Plover	n/a	C,J,K	12
<i>Pycnoptilus floccosus</i>	Pilotbird	V	V	1
<i>Rostratula australis</i>	Australian Painted Snipe	E	E	9
<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	Common Tern	n/a	C,J,K	2
<i>Sternula albifrons</i>	Little Tern	E	C,J,K	2
<i>Stictonetta naevosa</i>	Freckled Duck	V	n/a	2
<i>Thalasseus bergii</i>	Crested Tern	n/a	J	24
<i>Tringa brevipes</i>	Grey-tailed Tattler	n/a	C,J,K	2
<i>Tringa glareola</i>	Wood Sandpiper	n/a	C,J,K	1
<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	Common Greenshank	n/a	C,J,K	23
<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>	Marsh Sandpiper	n/a	C,J,K	26
<i>Tyto longimembris</i>	Eastern Grass Owl	V	n/a	1
<i>Tyto novaehollandiae</i>	Masked Owl	V	n/a	9
<i>Tyto tenebricosa</i>	Sooty Owl	V	n/a	1
<i>Xenus cinereus</i>	Terek Sandpiper	V	V,C,J,K	1
Gastropod				
<i>Meridolum corneovirens</i>	Cumberland Plain Land Snail	E	n/a	131
<i>Pommerhelix duralensis</i>	Dural Land Snail	E	E	138
Mammal				
<i>Cercartetus nanus</i>	Eastern Pygmy-possum	V	n/a	2

Scientific Name	Common Name	BC Act	EPBC Act	Records
<i>Chalinolobus dwyeri</i>	Large-eared Pied Bat	E	E	7
<i>Dasyurus maculatus</i>	Spotted-tailed Quoll	V	E	13
<i>Falsistrellus tasmaniensis</i>	Eastern False Pipistrelle	V	n/a	56
<i>Micronomus norfolkensis</i>	Eastern Coastal Free-tailed Bat	V	n/a	92
<i>Miniopterus australis</i>	Little Bent-winged Bat	V	n/a	42
<i>Miniopterus orianae oceanensis</i>	Large Bent-winged Bat	V	n/a	266
<i>Myotis macropus</i>	Southern Myotis	V	n/a	108
<i>Petauroides volans</i>	Southern Greater Glider	E	E	1
<i>Petaurus australis</i>	Yellow-bellied Glider	V	V	2
<i>Petaurus norfolkensis</i>	Squirrel Glider	V	n/a	2
<i>Phascolarctos cinereus</i>	Koala	E	E	16
<i>Pteropus poliocephalus</i>	Grey-headed Flying-fox	V	V	2000
<i>Saccolaimus flaviventris</i>	Yellow-bellied Sheath-tail-bat	V	n/a	47
<i>Scoteanax rueppellii</i>	Greater Broad-nosed Bat	V	n/a	59
<i>Vespadelus troughtoni</i>	Eastern Cave Bat	V	n/a	2

Appendix C

PMST search results



Australian Government

Department of Climate Change, Energy,
the Environment and Water

EPBC Act Protected Matters Report

This report provides general guidance on matters of national environmental significance and other matters protected by the EPBC Act in the area you have selected. Please see the caveat for interpretation of information provided here.

Report created: 15-Oct-2024

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