

Prop ID: Murray BESS

15 September 2025



Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
Locked Bag 5022
PARRAMATTA NSW 2124

Attention: Rachael Helsham

Dear Rachael,

**Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs)
Murray Terminal Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)
45 Waterfall Farm Road, Khancoban**

Snowy Valleys Council has reviewed the proposed Murray Terminal Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Scoping Report and provides the following matters for inclusion in the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs).

Key Issues for Consideration

1. Strategic and Land Use Planning

- Consistency with the *Tumbarumba Local Environmental Plan 2010* and Snowy Valleys Development Control Plan 2024.
- Compatibility of the proposed BESS with surrounding rural and residential land uses.
- Relationship with regional and State energy strategies, including the NSW Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap and Renewable Energy Zones.

2. Traffic and Access

- Impacts on the local road network, particularly during construction (heavy vehicle access, oversize/overmass vehicles).
- Road safety, intersection upgrades, and traffic management during peak construction periods.
- Ongoing operational traffic impacts.

3. Environmental and Biodiversity Values

- Identification of potential impacts on threatened flora, fauna, and ecological communities.
- Requirement for a Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR).
- Measures for avoidance, minimisation, and offsetting of ecological impacts.

4. Water and Soil Management

- Potential impacts on water quality, hydrology, and groundwater during both construction and operation.
- Erosion and sediment control measures.



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5. Bushfire Risk and Hazard Management

- Assessment against Planning for Bushfire Protection guidelines.
- Fire safety measures specific to BESS facilities, including suppression systems, battery fire risks, and emergency response planning.
- Integration with local Rural Fire Service resources.

6. Noise, Air Quality and Amenity

- Construction and operational noise impacts, particularly in relation to nearby sensitive receivers.
- Dust and vibration management during construction.
- Visual impact of infrastructure (battery units, fencing, ancillary buildings, and lighting) on the surrounding landscape.

7. Human Health, Safety and Emergency Management

- Assessment of risks associated with battery storage technology, including fire, explosion, and hazardous materials management.
- Emergency management framework, including consultation with Fire and Rescue NSW and NSW Rural Fire Service.
- Community safety and resilience planning.

8. Infrastructure and Servicing

- Capacity and adequacy of electricity transmission connection.
- Impacts on, and requirements for, local utilities (water, sewer, telecommunications).
- Decommissioning and rehabilitation planning at end-of-life.

9. Cumulative and Social Impacts

- Consideration of cumulative impacts with other renewable energy or infrastructure projects in the region.
- Assessment of social and economic impacts, including community consultation outcomes.
- Local employment and procurement opportunities.

Assessment Requirements

The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) should:

- Provide detailed specialist studies addressing the issues above.
- Include a comprehensive risk and safety assessment specific to BESS facilities.
- Address compliance with relevant State Environmental Planning Policies (SEPPs), including SEPP (Resilience and Hazards), SEPP (Biodiversity and Conservation), and SEPP (Industry and Employment).
- Outline proposed mitigation, management, and monitoring strategies.
- Demonstrate clear pathways for decommissioning and rehabilitation.

Conclusion

Council requests that the above matters be incorporated into the SEARs to ensure a thorough assessment of the Murray Terminal BESS proposal and its potential impacts on the Snowy Valleys community and environment.

Should you have any questions in relation to this matter, please contact Council's Acting Manager Growth & Development, Anthony Daintith, on 1300 275 782.

Yours faithfully,



Anthony Daintith
Acting Manager Growth & Development