

20 December 2022

**Major Projects Assessment
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
Locked Bag 5022
Parramatta NSW 2124**

Atten: Karl Okorn

Dear Mr Okorn,

Application Name: Waratah Super Battery Energy Storage System
Application Number: SSI-48492458

I refer to your request for advice on the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and the associated documentation, exhibited between 11th November 2022 - 8th December 2022 in relation to the Waratah Super Battery Energy Storage System project, near lake Munmorah, NSW.

A major consideration for DRNSW is the potential economic impact of the project on the local region, and the extent to which the project could contribute to the NSW Government economic development strategy for the Central Coast.

Scope of Review

In providing this advice, we have reviewed the following exhibited documents:

- Environmental Impact Statement including social and economic considerations (*section 2*)

Summary of advice

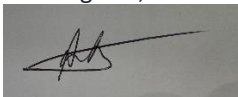
We agree with the assessment of strategic importance of section 2 *Strategic Context* in the EIS.

In particular, the EIS identifies that the project will contribute to delivering the Central Coast and Lake Macquarie REDS 2018-2022 by recognising an opportunity for *using old electricity infrastructure to support renewable energy businesses*. This was identified as an initiative within the Regional Action Plan of the REDS. (Section 9.1, Page 66).

Furthermore, the Regional Economic Development Strategy 2022 Update for the Central Coast and Lake Macquarie (in draft following consultation with key stakeholders with publication imminent) bolsters the alignment of this project, identifying the recently declared Hunter/ Central Coast Renewable Energy Zone and its role as a refocus of priorities for economic development in the Region through the utilisation of the Regions existing infrastructure endowments.

Accordingly, the Waratah Super Battery Energy Storage System has the potential to contribute to the delivery of the REDS, providing growth in the local region, which will support ongoing employment for people in the region.

Kind regards,



Marcus Hucker
Business Development Manager
DRNSW Hunter Central Coast