

Kurtis Wathen
Department of Planning

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Lake Lyell Pumped Hydro (SSD- 60598738) (Lithgow City Council)

Dear Kurtis

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the Lake Lyell Pumped Hydro Draft SEARs (SSD-60598738). The NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) Agriculture collaborates and partners with our stakeholders to protect and enhance the productive and sustainable use and resilience of agricultural resources and the environment.

The Draft SEARs and the Scoping Report, prepared by EMM, July 2023, has been reviewed for its impacts on agricultural lands, production, and operations. While the development is not located on agricultural lands, there is the potential for impacts to agriculture to occur in the vicinity. DPI suggests that the SEARs could include the following to address those issues:

1. Agriculture – a description of the agriculture, supporting services, processing facilities and value adding industries, their nature and location and potential to be impacted by the development as well as mitigation measures to address those impacts.
2. Access arrangements for farm properties – access to properties that may be impacted by the construction and operation phases of the Project.
3. Information on how the 600-person workforce is to be accommodated and the potential for land use conflicts if sited on land used for agricultural purposes or on land that will impact agriculture. The proposed Land use Conflict Risk Assessment should include a workforce accommodation component. For example, protocols associated with potential and current emergency animal disease issues for the proposed accommodation camp (see below).
4. Biosecurity – potential risks of emergency animal diseases such as foot and mouth disease (FMD) and Japanese Encephalitis, potentially spread from and to workers and their equipment associated with over 600 people working on the Project. This is important for workers visiting or working on piggeries nearby or workers in contact with wild pigs in the area and for people who engage in outdoor activities near significant mosquito populations, such as near waterways. Weeds and pests should also be addressed in a Biosecurity Management Plan.

Should you require clarification on any of the information contained in this response, please do not hesitate to contact Wendy Goodburn on 0402 069 605 or by email at landuse.ag@dpi.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



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