

Mandana Mazaheri

From: Richard Denyer <richard.denyer@bathurst.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 25 November 2025 12:35 PM
To: Mandana Mazaheri
Cc: Neil Southorn
Subject: RE: Request for advice on SEARs - McPhillamys Electricity Transmission Line [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Mandana

I refer to your request for input into SEARS for the proposed McPhillamys Electricity Transmission Line (Critical State Significant Infrastructure).

Council has recently resolved to adopt a Policy Position (provided below) which outlines its minimum expectations for proponents undertaken SSD and SSI projects.

RESOLVED:

That Council:

1. Notes the information.
2. Adopt a policy position that all proponents of State Significant Development (SSD) or Critical State Significant Development (CSSD) within the Bathurst Local Government Area, or any project materially impacting the Bathurst LGA, are requested to provide (at scoping report stage) Bathurst Regional Council with detailed information relating to:
 - a. road dilapidation reports and haulage route impacts;
 - b. transport logistics for oversized/over-mass vehicle movements;

- c. workforce accommodation arrangements and resulting impacts on local housing, rental markets, services and utilities;
 - d. projected impacts on potable and non-potable water supplies, sewerage systems, waste services, emergency services and health services;
 - e. cumulative environmental, social, and infrastructure impacts, including cross-LGA interactions;
 - f. local industry impacts and mitigation or compensation proposals;
 - g. community consultation plans prior to exhibition of the EIS;
 - h. detailed decommissioning plans, including the extent of substructure removal and independently verified costings;
 - i. proposed bank guarantees or financial assurances to cover decommissioning and road repairs.
3. Note that this information is required for councillors and staff to prepare informed, transparent submissions and recommendations to the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure and, where applicable, to the Independent Planning Commission.
4. Clarify that this requirement does not constitute Bathurst Regional Council acting as consent authority for SSD or CSSD proposals, but forms part of Council's role in representing community interests during the statutory planning and assessment process.
5. Adopt the policy that Council will not express support or endorsement for any SSD or CSSD proposal where the proponent has not provided the information listed in point 2, noting Council's responsibility to communicate impacts and risks to the consent authority on behalf of the community.
6. Backdates the policy to capture existing SSD proposals in the region and requests the information from proponents.

To this end the cumulative impacts of this and other foreshadowed SSD development needs to be considered in a regional context.

Council notes that the proposed northern option passes through the Bathurst LGA.

Council would request the following matters should be considered.

- The northern route will rely upon the use of Council controlled roads during the construction phase. The extent to which these roads are suitable for construction traffic, necessary upgrades, maintenance and monitoring will need to be quantified.

- The proposed route is likely to contain significant areas remnant vegetation which will need to be investigated.
- The Bathurst community considers that the rural landscapes are highly valued. Whilst they may not contain the geographical features, significant vegetation or water often associated with “high” scenic quality, they are nonetheless considered significant by the local community.

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Bathurst Regional Council acknowledges the Wiradjuri People as the Traditional Custodians of the land in the Bathurst Region. We pay respect to Elders, past, present, and emerging and acknowledge all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who live, work and play in the Bathurst region.
