

Submission Objecting to SSD-6698-MOD-2 – Coppabella Wind Farm (Distributed BESS)

To: NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure

Re: SSD-6698-MOD-2 – Coppabella Wind Farm Modification Application

I wish to lodge an objection to the proposal to install up to 318 containerised Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) units at Coppabella Wind Farm, primarily due to high fire danger, environmental, social and cumulative impacts.

Environmental Impacts: The development will increase biodiversity loss, erosion risk and slope instability. The claim that there will be no additional land clearing is unsubstantiated and lacks veracity. The valuable biodiversity in the area will already be severely impacted by the installation of wind turbines; this impact will be exacerbated by the BESS. In addition, the BESS components contain hazardous material and their degradation over time will cause leaching of poisonous substances into the ground and nearby waterways. This posed unacceptable risks to surrounding biodiversity, livestock and agricultural land.

Fire Risk: The proposal introduces significant bushfire risk in an already high-risk landscape. The fire risk assessment lacks independent verification and worst-case fire scenario modelling. Emergency aerial access and response capability will be hampered by the presence of wind turbines. The cumulative fire risk has not been adequately addressed. It is likely on an extreme fire day that rural emergency services WILL be overwhelmed by the scale of potential hazards. The proximity of the BESS to residential dwellings, towns and livestock creates a risk that is entirely unacceptable.

Cumulative and Regional Impacts: The modification adds to already severe regional pressures from multiple energy projects in the local area. Cumulative fire risk, emergency service saturation, agricultural land loss, and social/environmental are all direct consequences of this project and are not sufficiently considered.

Social and Mental Health: Rural communities face increasing uncertainty, stress, and mental health impacts due to repeated modifications, lack of transparency, and escalating risks as mentioned above. These issues are not meaningfully addressed in the report.

Improved assessment required: a comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment with independent fire modelling, updated environmental and cumulative impact studies, and genuine evaluation of social and mental health effects are necessary.

Yours faithfully



Camilla Taylor
175 Stadtmillers Lane Bowning NSW 2582

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