

To Whom It May Concern,

RE: Corowa Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Development Application – Whitehead Street, Corowa NSW

I am writing as a neighbouring landowner directly opposite the proposed Corowa Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) site at 275 Whitehead Street, Corowa.

In recent years, I completed a subdivision directly opposite the proposed development site. The subdivision consists of nine 20-acre lifestyle blocks, which received approval from Federation Council and were completed last year. These blocks are currently being marketed for residential and lifestyle purposes.

My objection is not to renewable energy infrastructure itself, but to the proposed location of this BESS facility. I believe the development would be more appropriately located in an alternative area with greater separation from existing and future residential and lifestyle properties.

The proposed site is surrounded by a significant number of small farms and rural lifestyle properties. Within approximately 800 metres there are numerous families, children, pedestrians, and recreational road users who utilise the area daily. Given the continued growth of Corowa over the coming decades, there is also a reasonable likelihood that this area will become increasingly residential in nature.

In my view, locating a large-scale battery storage facility in close proximity to these properties is not an appropriate long-term planning outcome. A more isolated industrial or existing energy infrastructure precinct would provide a more suitable location and reduce impacts on neighbouring landowners and future residents.

I also note that the existing electricity network in this area is already supported by major transmission infrastructure and backup systems. Power interruptions in this area have historically been infrequent and generally associated with broader network issues such as storm damage or transformer faults. As such, I question whether the proposed location provides sufficient community benefit to outweigh the impacts on surrounding landowners.

Another concern relates to the long-term visual and environmental management of the site. While there have been discussions regarding landscaping, fencing, and screening, there is currently no certainty around the long-term maintenance and upkeep of these measures over the life of the project.

Additionally, Whitehead Street has only recently undergone substantial road resurfacing works. Previous nearby energy infrastructure projects resulted in deterioration of local roads due to heavy vehicle movements. If this project proceeds, clear commitments should be made regarding road maintenance, repair obligations, and protection of local infrastructure throughout construction and operation.

It is also worth considering whether the facility could be more appropriately positioned closer to the existing solar farm infrastructure west of Corowa. Consolidating large-scale energy infrastructure within one established precinct may reduce impacts on residential and lifestyle areas while still achieving the project's operational objectives.

I respectfully request that the Department carefully consider the suitability of the proposed location and investigate alternative sites that would minimise impacts on neighbouring properties, existing residents, and future community growth.

Thank you for considering this submission.