



Hunter Environment Lobby Inc.

202 High St
East Maitland NSW 2323
13th December 2023

Tomago Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) – SSD-57107216 - Support

Hunter Environment Lobby inc (HEL) is a regional community-based environmental organization that has been active for over thirty years on the issues of environmental degradation, species and habitat loss, and climate change.

On the 18th December 2019 we submitted to the Department on the proposed Power Station on this site and were critical of that proposal because of the effects on the environment by the emissions from fossil fuels.

We are particularly pleased now that AGL are seeking approval for this project as an alternative to their proposed Gas Fired Power Station approved for the same site.

We note that several other environmental organisations were critical too and we understand that AGL no longer considers it commercially viable.

The BESS proposal with the associated transmission corridors will have relatively minor environmental impacts, principally the clearance of 14.1 hectares of native vegetation and the loss of 14 hollow bearing trees. (EIS p94).

There would be some loss of connectivity for wildlife movement. AGL appears to have adequately addressed the range of environmental issues identified, and to have proposed appropriate mitigation and management, although we defer to the department's professional assessment which may identify outstanding issues, or propose further mitigation and/or conditions.

While any adverse environmental impacts are unfortunate, we ask that the department consider in this case all the options for preservation of Endangered Ecological Communities.

While we see no guarantees that the electricity to be stored will not have been generated by fossil fuels, at least in the medium term, it is also clear that greater storage capacity will be an essential complement to increased generation from renewable sources.

Yours in trust,

Jan Davis
President Hunter Environment Lobby Inc.