
Tamworth Battery Energy Storage

SSD-23830229

9th June, 2024

Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure

Via the Major Projects Portal

RE: TAMWORTH BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM (BESS) (SSD-23830229)

696 BURGMANN'S LANE, TAMWORTH NSW 2340

I am writing to you about concerns and objections related to the above proposed BESS.

I live approximately 1km from the proposed BESS site and have only been made aware of the above proposed Tamworth BESS (after also finding out about the Kingswood BESS and subsequently then about the approved Calala BESS in February 2024) and have also been told that there could be 2 more potential BESSs proposed for Burgmann's Lane, Tamworth which would in total mean that a residential estate will be living along side the possible biggest conglomeration of BESSs in the Southern Hemisphere. I had not received any personal registered mail to inform me of this project prior to making myself known to the agents of the proposed BESS after February 2024. I believe that it is my human right to have access to clean air to breathe and clean water to drink. I lodge a complaint about the proposed construction of Tamworth BESS (Calala BESS, Kingswood BESS and others proposed BESSs) and raise points that would be detrimental to not only the land, waterways and environment, it would be a toxic hazard for all residents who live around the proposed site and potentially all residents of Tamworth. The headings are as follows:

ECOLOGICAL VALUES

The property of the proposed Tamworth BESS is less than 1km from my property and this area is valued for its native grasses and native fauna including native animals, native birds and native bats that use this area as a corridor to pass through.

ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE AND HISTORICAL HERITAGE

Tamworth area has a rich history with the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage these being with the Kamilaroi/Gomeroi peoples of the Kamilaroi Nation. The nearby Goonoo Goonoo Creek and Goonang Creek (the South of the proposed BESS site) would have been used by Aboriginal tribes to camp in its then riparian areas along these waterways as they moved through the land towards the Peel River. The history is not only significant, but it should also be preserved along with its heritage status.

HYDROLOGY AND WATER RESOURCES (including flood risk)

As mentioned above to the south are two water sources, these being the Goonoo Goonoo Creek and Goonang Creek. Flooding meant that the only road access was cut 19 times in one year (2022) and meant that the properties surrounding these creeks were flood affected. If there had been any ponds constructed around the proposed Tamworth BESS

they would have potentially leached or ran into these waterways, causing a major toxic ecological problem and also potentially poisoning the whole Tamworth residential water supply as these creeks run into the Peel River which is the source for Tamworth drinking water.

Any property supplying water to cattle would be affected. Every farm around us does also have clean bores which is the main source to water their animals. The soil is reactive and would leach deep below the surface.

My home is supplied by tank water and any toxic fires from any of the proposed BESSs would affect our drinking water which would obviously be hazardous to human health.

VISUAL AMENITY

The proposed Tamworth BESS would be an eye sore for all residents living around it and especially those of us looking at it. It would be a blight to the landscape and as landholders and those driving into Tamworth could see it from the New England Highway. The 24/7 lighting would be disastrous for everyone of us who lives around it nearby and the area, near or far and would be seen for many kilometres especially on the roads leading into the town of Tamworth. It would turn into an unsightly industrial site.

NOISE AND VIBRATION

It is my understanding that the noise from the proposed Tamworth BESS would be 24/7. These would be noise levels (I am led to believe) similar to an air conditioning unit noise due to the cooling fans and transmitter emissions. Currently there is ZERO noise in this area, therefore any continual noise is an annoyance that would never stop and would be detrimental to everyone living nearby.

TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT

Burgmanns Lane and Ascot Calala Roads are gravel roads. They are maintained by Tamworth Regional Council and the creek crossing on Burgmanns Lane has been washed away in one of the 19 floods in recent years, therefore making the only access to the site via Ascot Calala Road via Whitehouse Lane (which has a restricted truck load limit). During the proposed construction this would be only way in and with the truck limits (set by RMS) it would not be possible. Even with a road upgrade, the increased traffic and traffic noise to the quiet country gravel roads would be horrendous. It would be assumed that over 200 construction vehicles would be needed to have access daily and on these country gravel roads and would be disastrous the only other route is through Calala via Calala Lane, Burgess' Lane via Calala residential estate.

HAZARDS ASSOCIATED WITH BESS PROPOSED SUBSTATION

There are many hazards, too many to mention. The major ones are fire hazards (as seen on at the Rockhampton BESS just late last year). This Burgmanns Lane – Ascot Calala Road area is in a high Fire Risk Zone (BAL) and any hazards that add to the current risks would be, and to point out the obvious, 'would be like throwing fuel on the fire'. The recent Rockhampton BESS fire saw toxic smoke billowing, causing residents to be warned to stay inside with doors and windows closed. Residents noted that the air smelled like burned plastic in the days after the fire. This is a warning that should be looked at seriously and as to why that the Tamworth BESS (and any BESSs) should NOT be

constructed around homes and properties. The leaching of toxic fluids from the BESS would be catastrophic which would poison waterways and nearby bores. The health risks to humans are unknown but any chemical fire would obviously cause health issues, possibly deadly.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The proposed BESS would have major detrimental financial implications for nearby property owners and especially those of us directly next to not only Tamworth BESS but potentially when all 5 BESSs are considered in the equation. The mere sight/sound of the proposed construction would devalue property values immensely and any future EPI for future LEP's planning could/would be affected. Local residents and their families' future would be greatly affected with catastrophic financial losses simply by having any BESS nearby.

It is my hope that you will strongly consider all that I've written about and do genuinely ask that this development **NOT be approved**. I do believe that any substation or BESS should be constructed (if at all) in locations that are already earmarked for industrial buildings or on existing sites such as the electrical substations – such as the site on the Goonoo Goonoo Road Tamworth or unused mine sites so they do NOT impact this area but any farming land or where there are homes nearby. A whole of community meeting was arranged for all residents to have their say all together to oppose the construction of Tamworth BESS and we were informed that we must accept that this will be built as the Australian Government want it regardless of any valid points made prior to its construction as it ticks a box to satisfy the Paris agreement 2050 with targets to be met by 2030. Where we live is already green and clean so I do not understand how concrete, metal, lithium iron batteries and wires that pollute the ground and air can be considered to be 'clean and green energy'.

Thank you for your time.

Regards

Resident of Kingswood NSW 2340 9.6.24



NOTE: the contour banks show the fall of the land towards the creeks leading to the main Tamworth water supply.