

Application No.: SSD 23830229

Project: Tamworth Battery Energy Storage System

As a direct neighbour to the Tamworth BESS project, I fiercely oppose its approval on the subsequent grounds:

- Risk of contamination from battery leakage or fire into the water supplies of nearby properties that are reliant on underground water bores and wells for their stock and domestic supplies would be disastrous. Most of the bores and wells have a very shallow water table, between approximately 3 to 4 metres, with water being visible from the ground level. The risks are further highlighted by the fire near Geelong in Victoria at a Tesla battery project, which is believed to have been started by a coolant leak.¹
- ‘Communication’, a term for which I do not think this applicant company understands its meaning. I hardly consider 2½ years a reasonable amount of time for the applicant company to contact neighbours of the proposed project, especially direct neighbours.
- The legal acquisition of all 4 properties where the proposed projects are planned was completed in the very guarded way, with all vendors having to sign nondisclosure arrangements. Then the applicant company holds a stipulation over the purchased properties for over 3 years, paying the vendor a peppercorn rent whilst awaiting approval for the proposed project. Additionally, the inflated purchase prices offered to pull the vendors in, will have a striking effect on the Valuer General's valuation's and in turn the council rates of nearby properties, despite the actual sale value for the nearby properties decreasing, caused by the proposed project.
- A major consequence for this project is the constant magnified noise and light pollution that it will generate. Then when the 3 other BESS projects, including Calala BESS and Kingswood BESS are considered, given that they are all located within a 500-metre radius of each other, the noise and light pollution footprint would overlap, which therefore amplifies its impact on surrounding properties.
- For properties that join the proposed project site, the financial effect on their ability to subdivide suitable land nearby would be infinite. Attracting buyers who would be then living within 300 metres of the proposed project site would be impossible.

¹ Fire at Tesla giant battery project near Geelong was likely caused by coolant leak, investigation finds.
<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-09-28/fire-at-tesla-giant-battery-project-near-geelong-investigation/100496688>