

KINGSWOD BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM

SSD-63207219

744 Burgmanns Lane Kingswood NSW 2340

22nd July, 2024

I am writing to object to the above proposed BESS project by Iberdrola.

I live within a 1km radius of the proposed site, however depending on where the 1km zone is taken from, our dwelling is just out of the circle drawn while part of our land is within the zone. While it is only a tick to say that Iberdrola has notified 32 residents, I feel it was a major failure that we, along with direct neighbours have never been notified via direct mail. We only found out about the community meeting in February via a brief pop up add in the local paper. Once again, I believe that Iberdrola has just been able to tick a requirement box to say that this was done. In my opinion, it is not a satisfactory information requirement when our lives will be affected on a **major scale**. After all, it does have to go through the Government Department known as Major Projects.

I refer to incorrect information in the EIS submitted.

Soil: Why would an EIS be submitted without a soil test. I would have thought this would be the first requirement. While the land is referred to as not of a high standard and only can be used for grazing of cattle, this is due to the current owner's lack of farming knowledge and neglect towards the upkeep of their land. To see the land in its neglected state does not reflect on the farms surrounding the proposed site whereby farming practices have been a high standard to ensure productive farmland around. Without care it is left to look like 744 Burgmanns Lane, Kingswood. Land is a farmers' basis for creating a living. In the next few months, the wheat crop next door to that block will be fence height and looking magnificent. This crop would not be able to be grown once the BESS is built due to fire concerns.

Water: Water is a huge requirement to sustain life on the surrounding farms. All the bores on surrounding properties have pristine stock & domestic bores to use as a water source. The fact that Iberdrola believe that they can change the water category of the bore to suit their needs (for construction purposes) is ludicrous as this could potentially drain all the nearby water supply, leaving no

water for livestock or crops. There are two creek water courses nearby. Goonan Creek and Goonoo Goonoo Creek. These could be polluted by toxic runaway and hence pollute the town of Tamworth as these creeks are upstream to the main town water supply. Bores have not been located on our property that are approved by Government Departments.

Construction: The construction site is basically between two 330V corridors and this I believe does not meet the requirements of any construction near electricity towers. There should have been the possibility of locating the BESSs on the property directly in front of the house that is on the land and not alternatively on the hill above where the possible location is on the map. This would remove any visual impact from the site and also create a buffer due to the land being levelled to create a barrier behind. This would be closer to the Transgrid Power Station and contain the spread of these three overseas companies (3 different BESSs with the possibility of a further 2 more yet to go to planning) to contain them in one area. The time frames as suggested in the EIS are not consistent with the guidelines required for any construction to limit the noise element. It should only be between 9am and 5pm weekdays and only 9am to 12 noon Saturdays and of course not a Sunday.

Access: The road access could then be via Burgmanns Lane (off the New England Highway). The 3 companies could upgrade the road to suit their needs. This would be a far better option than to use the Whitehouse Lane/ Ascot Calala Road option. Whitehouse Lane was only ever sealed with bitumen when the housing development went through and is poorly maintained by Tamworth Regional Council. The road is not suited for use by large construction trucks that would further damage already poor roads. The EIS state that Whitehouse Lane is 100km zone. It is not. It has 80km zone limit.

Ascot Calala Road is a gravel road (without a driving limit with RMS stating that vehicles should drive to suit the conditions) the conditions are poorly maintained by Tamworth Regional Council and absolutely will not hold up to the construction vehicles that will be hoping to use that route. Iberdrola state that there are no bus stops along this route however the school bus that uses these roads is able to stop at any driveway to collect passengers. Potentially it can stop innumerable times (on both Ascot Calala Rd & Whitehouse Lane) therefore to state there are no bus stops proves that the author of the EIS does not understand country roads. The statement of 80 light vehicles in and out daily plus 60 heavy vehicles in and out daily would be a disaster to this quiet

area and as previously stated would ruin what roads we have for our use already.

Fire: The EIS states there is a low risk for bush fire rating. This is incorrect. The area has a high BAL for fire rating. Toxic fires can potentially contaminate any drinking water for the residents nearby. There is no thought about if this were to occur.

Noise: There will be 24/7 noise in an area that currently has ZERO noise. Any addition to zero is not acceptable.

Light: There will be lights on the final project 24/7 in an area without streetlights and in a rural setting. This is totally unacceptable.

Wildlife: The area is a corridor for native bat migration. Any addition to lighting and noise and toxic gases will interfere with their migration.

Heritage: The aboriginal people moved through the creek riparian areas onto the larger area of Tamworth. There is historical significance that should be considered.

Cumulative Effect on residents: Kingswood BESS is the third BESS up in the Major Projects for approval in 8 months, with 2 more BESSs in the planning stage. The mental health effect on the residents arguing the cumulative effects on our lives is exhausting to say the least. This is something that NONE of the residents want to do but we feel that we must, if we want our opinions heard (according to planning guidelines) as each is an independent company and requires an individual response. I note that none of the developers have mental health of residents as a concern. It has been noted (in the short time frame we have had to learn about the planning approval process) that each overseas company does the very least to get the required ticks for planning approval. This includes very limited community notification or connection or consideration for residents' mental health. I work within the medical profession and have completed a Mental Health first aid course. I was recently pleased to learn about the possibility of a law being implemented (as per the information by suicide prevention expert Shayne Connell) to legislate government departments could do more to consider 'suicide impact in decision-making to reduce the risk of potential failures of public administration causing distress' especially when the statistics within the Hunter New England health district recorded the most suicides in NSW over a decade. It is a fact that the highest rate of suicide is within the farming sector. These rates apply

to a current everyday farming scenario (weather, market variants etc then throw in the mix of learning about and actually trying to (and so it seems unsuccessfully) to oppose any project means that the rate of stable mental health among farmers will decrease even further. Life is hard enough at times without this extra burden. This is unsatisfactory and MUST be taken into consideration when approving multiple projects so close to each other. The cumulative effect in regard to noise, toxic gases and hundreds of magnetic fields on residents' health create an unknown long term variable. It should be noted that most farms are 100 acres or more and therefore the box to tick for developers suggests to them that the risk to residents is low simply because there are less houses and less people.

I would like to most respectfully request that you consider our way of life as we do, one to be cared for and cherished for future generations, and not torn apart by greedy overseas companies who do not seem to be able add the word HUMAN WELLBEING or MENTAL HEALTH into their Excel Spreadsheets because if they did, their books would never balance.



Conclusion: Our area is already green and clean, and I cannot understand how numerous electricity infrastructures can ever be called green and clean energy.

Thank you for your time – resident of Kingswood NSW 2340