Kaye Lucas, previous joint owner of 32 Trout Farm Rd, Lake Hume Village

Kaye Lucas **11 Dryandra Way** **Thurgoona NSW 2640**	I object to the development of 32 Trout Farm Rd, Lake Hume Village NSW. Application SSD-61842974 As previous joint owner of above, we called it "Lanark"
Summary **xxxxxxxxxxxxx**	I cannot support the proposal to install a battery at Lanark (32 Trout Farm Rd) because Environment at Lanark will be destroyed, therefore gliders, birds, bats, reptiles and other fauna will be impacted. The ecological survey was incomplete. A lot of fauna was missed because of the timing of surveys. Barbed wire will damage any living thing that gets close, even humans. The BESS is out of character with the rural/lake tourism vibe of Lake Hume Village A perfectly good house is destroyed. Noise and light from battery will affect residents in the village. The project is a money-making venture from a London based company, Australian governments get very little in return ($130000 pa), any other profit goes to shareholders. **There is too more v much at stake and too little reward**.
History of Lanark	This property was originally part of the Webbs "Hawksview" property. Norm and Allison Douglas purchased the property to establish a Trout Farm. The upper portion of the property was designated for home of Norm, Allison and their family. The Douglas family built the house in the 80's. They were instructed by AWDC (Albury Wodonga Development Corporation) to plant 500 trees and build a low-level homestead that was in keeping with the surrounds. The Douglas plantings were under instruction from local authorities and done in the mid 1980's, these (now large) plantings are approximately 50 years old. At some stage the house was divided off from the Trout Farm. (Before my time)
Our history at Lanark	Our family purchased the property in 2002, we loved the beautiful natural setting, surrounds, pond, birdlife and the view. We maintained the property to a similar standard as the Douglas family. So, for the last 40 years -there have been many plantings (in our time, with plants provided or recommended by local Landcare group) -removed many weeds, -been very specific with our use of pesticides & herbicides - left fallen branches where we could -lightly grazed the paddocks, to encourage native grasses -planted food specific plants for gliders to eat during low flowering times.

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xxxxxxx	-we have had many visitors over 20 years that either work as environmentalists or have a keen interest, none have suggested the plantings are of little value. Frequent mention is made of the exotic and non-native vegetation in the EIS. All the planting we did has been species selected by the local Landcare group. Who sourced from local native plant nurseries. They are all native to NSW.
Why respond to EIS? **xxxxxxxxxxx**	Our family lived here for 20 years, we observed the world around us and are keenly interested in birds, fauna, insects and reptiles. We have **a local knowledge far superior to an expert doing a desk top assessment** and even site visits cannot compare to living at 32 Trout Farm Rd. And because the **EIS is misleading and incomplete,** The EIS does not address important aspects of the SEARS, fails to provide critical information for particular aspects/locations critical to the community
Our pink snake like creature	On 4 occasions we have seen pink snakelike creatures. We cannot be sure we saw the same species each time. The first time was memorable because it was inside the house, we removed it to the pond area. Twice I saw smaller creatures on the grass near the pond, after rain. The 4th time a creature was found under a cinder block near the pond. Such creatures were not noted in the EIS. In appendix E p.30 table 2.4 says "no rocky habitat on site" this is repeated in tablet 7.2.1. But Lanark does have rocks, lots of them and some subterranean snakelike creatures, living under rocks around the pond area. In an article in Herpeofauna 35(2) 2005, page 103, (included as appendix B). This article describes the habitat of the Pink Tailed Worm Lizard. The area around the pond matches closely the habitat described. This Pink Tailed Worm Lizard is a nationally threatened species. **Could the ecologist go back and specifically look under the rocks near the pond.**
Scenic beauty view from Riverina Hwy & Trout Farm Rd **xxxxxxxxxxxxall**	The scenic effect of the battery cannot be determined because the 3d modelling does not work, and the final design is not available. Its dependent on the battery supplier. There is uncertainty about height of noise mitigation works. Lightning protectors, ten poles about 20 metres tall. Project lighting, the effect at night will be worse because of the extra light in the normally dark area. Take a drive from Albury to Lake Hume Village, the house, at 32 Trout Farm Rd, is visible for 800m, from catchment divide to turn off to Bellbridge. The house itself is not visible, the roof and solar panels are. The scenery from Riverina Hwy is bucolic, gentle slopes overlooking billabongs and Murray River with occasional glimpses of Hume Dam. Larger hills in the background. In winter you can see snow, it is some of the best inland scenery and is treasured by those who take the trip.

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	Appendix I "Landscape Character and Visual Impact Assessment", abbreviated to LCVIA. See figure 7-1 Visual Catchment and location of viewpoints from the public domain. This section in the EIS revolves around 6 different viewpoints. Points 3,5 & 6 are irrelevant. Project only slightly visible. Yet a lot of attention was given to these viewpoints. The important points are 1,2 & 4. Points 1 & 2 are basically the same from different distances. I rate it Moderate **and** because its at the gateway to Lake Hume & the village I rate it Moderate-High. Appendix I says change quantity is low, I disagree. See Fig 7.6, a photomontage of the proposed battery. There are multiple poles breaking the skyline and therefore are intrusive. The battery units are completely out of context with rest of the view. I know there is a sewerage treatment works, but it only shows as a small shed. No noise mitigation included in 7.6. Change is Medium. Viewpoint 4 is from the Trout Farm Rd, the view going up the hill is also irrelevant, but the view looking into the project is the most changed of all views, but no photmontage is included. It is mentioned in the text. *The Project would be visible in the middle ground of northerly views from a short section of Trout Farm Road, from vehicles travelling past the Project area.* *• Some vegetation within the Project area would be removed opening up views to the proposed operations and maintenance area of the Project, located at the southern end of the Project area.* *• The internal access road would be wider and realigned in a straight north-south direction through the centre of the Project area, requiring retaining walls, and allowing views into the Project area from Trout Farm Road.* *• The substation and new transmission connection would be located behind and would be visible rising above the operations and maintenance area.* *• A large area of vegetation would be retained at the western part of the Project area, which would filter views to the BESS compound located in the northern part of the Project area, and a proposed retaining wall, from vehicles travelling east along Trout Farm Road.* *• The road cutting and group of mature trees and shrubs at the southeastern corner of the Project area would largely block views to the Project from vehicles travelling west along Trout Farm Road.* *• The Project would be seen in the context of an existing transmission line easement. Visual impact Moderate* So the project may be hidden by the topography of the land but the large road will be very visible, as will laydown area and retaining walls, I suspect it was not included in the EIS because the change would be so dramatic. Not at all welcoming to visitors to NSW or Lake Hume Village.

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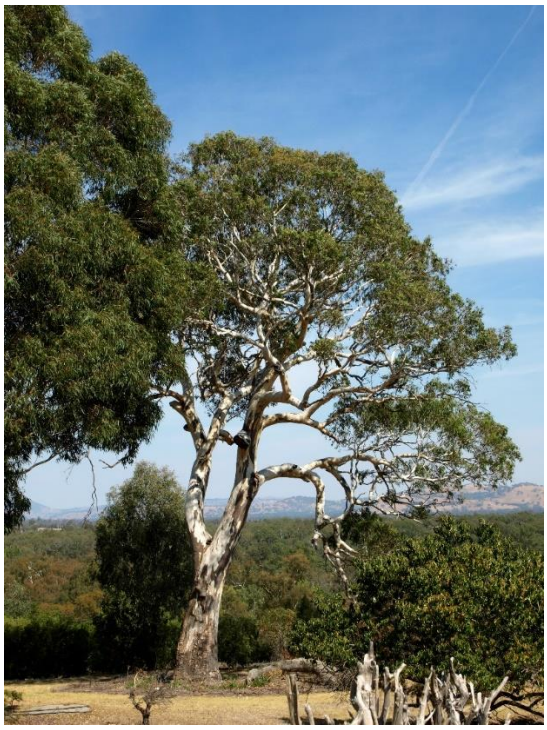
	This road is a well-used entry to NSW from Victoria. What is now a pleasant bucolic scene, will become a large road and retaining walls to stabilise. Not at all in keeping with surrounding area.
Scattered trees (no 1 & 2)	Tree 1 is affectionately known as the big tree in our family, we gave it such a name because it is the focal point of the view from West veranda and home to many creatures. Namely. Two types of possums Gliders, Microbats Larger bats many birds. As well as a nesting site, this tree is used as a resting spot mid-flight for many birds It is an old tree, and it is regenerating, i.e. there were lots of young trees sprouting up close by. So, we removed grass from around base and increased the native species around it. The same was done in Noreuil Park in Albury, to help Hovell tree. It may be a senescing tree, (but as shown by the Hovell tree) will take many years to die) but it still has merit in the environment. The height of the tree makes it an excellent spot for gliders to launch from. Many times, we have watched at sunset as gliders come out of the big tree and glide across to the gums along the driveway. Where they jump/glide from tree to tree to reach flowers, insects and go about their business.  Tree 1. “The big tree”

	Tree 2 is a very healthy, large, locally native tree with small hollows, it is a White Box, and part of a well wooded area that runs from front gate to northern perimeter of "Lanark". Because it is quite dark in this wooded area, we have often seen owls. And other smaller birds. Once again resident possums and gliders. The EIS appendix E, page 58, *"both trees do provide roosting and nest sites for threatened highly mobile species"* referring to trees 1 & 2 **These trees are remnants of native vegetation and hot spots for all sorts of critters, they are marked to go. Tragic for the local fauna and biodiversity.**
Bats (especially microbats)	It was while living at Lanark that I learned about microbats. Bats were seen often, they roosted in the big tree, in the house, in shedding. I would be very surprised if there were not bats living in the house now, even though there are no people living there. Every summer evening they flew around the outside of the house, easy to see when you are looking at a sunset. One evening we saw at least 30 microbats coming out of the big tree hollow (Tree 1). We asked local experts and were told it was a nursery colony. They stay a few days then move on. We had bats give birth in our bedroom, not such a delight. The bats were in a wastepaper basket, we took the basket outside and let them sort themselves out. Many times, they would get jammed in doors, windows. They could climb the brick interior walls and get into the roof cavity. One day when bringing in kindling from one of the sheds, I bought a box of kindling and put in inside near the fire. A dozen or so bats then flew out of the box and around the family room. We opened the sliding doors, and they left. Bats go into a breeding frenzy in spring and summer, but as nights get cooler, they lower their body temperature go into a mini hibernation. I did a search on the weather the night of the bat surveys, it was cold and windy. Bats are fragile, stay hidden in strong winds, and bats have trouble with cold. (There are no bats in antarctica.) They would have been secreted away somewhere warm and sheltered. We found the bats often flew between big tree and pond. Where was the location of the survey? EIS Appendix E p.58 *("bats won't be in house or structures"*, I disagree strongly. Bats were not noted by ecologist, perhaps he should go back in warmer months, there will be lots. The land care group gave us some boxes and asked us to put them up. But our response was, **"we have so many bats they don't need bat boxes".**
Gliders	What a delight when we first saw Squirrel Gliders fly/glide at "Lanark". We did some planting specifically suited to Squirrel Gliders, installed nest boxes and monitored the boxes. Best of all was seeing the gliders come out of the big tree for the first time

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xxxxxxxxxx	Gliders move around a lot; they did have favourite nest boxes, but they move constantly. So bigger trees that are relatively close to each other are essential for their travel between nesting and feeding sites. If they must get on the ground they face predation from cats, foxes, dogs & cars. The survival of the squirrel glider is dependent on availability of big trees. Lights are a problem for gliders, EIS mentions in Appendix D, page 2 B03, that lights should be directed North or South. Is this appropriate given the movement of gliders? Would depend on the placement of the lights. **Any destruction of habitat known to be frequented by squirrel gliders should be avoided.**
Barbed Wire	 It was a sad day when we found this glider, it died as a result of being tangled in barbed wire between Lanark and Trout Farm. Our family response was to get rid of the barbed wire wherever it was close to gliders. There was quite a lot of barbed wire when we first moved in. We had a problem on boundary fences, the neighbours had cows and believed they needed barbed wire. We compromised by covering the boundary fences with poly pipe. Everyone happy. We were given a grant by Landcare group to remove or cover barbed wire with poly pipe, and Landcare group loaned us the equipment.

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Our son John winding up barbed wire.

Stuart, John and Andrew splitting poly pipe to go over barbed wire strands.

	 Fitting the split pipe over the barbed wire. The local land services website (lls.nsw.gov.au) under How can you help Squirrel Gliders lists: -Reduce feral predator numbers -Improve available habitat -Protect hollow bearing trees -Reduce barbed-wire fencing. There is an often-repeated phrase in the EIS, "where possible barbed wire fencing should not be used". This is vague, the EIS should state. **"Barbed wire not to be used in any circumstances"**
Birds	See attached Appendix A Our family is a group of keen bird watchers. It started with our honeymoon (1991) at O'Reilly's guesthouse in Lamington National Park. Continues to this day. Everywhere we go we take our "Bird book" (The Slater Field Guide to AUSTRALIAN BIRDS) and if we see a bird we don't recognise, we consult books and internet to get an identification. We also have Simpson and Day (Field Guide to the birds of Australia) printed 2004. Knowing our bird texts are old, we ran the lists past 2 specialist bird watchers. They were impressed with the number and variety and corrected some names that have changed since we got our now old texts. We are proud to say we saw over 120 different species of birds at Lanark. Each new bird was marked by putting an "L" next to the entry in Slater.

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	We have seen evidence of breeding in the following species *Australian White Ibis *Azure Kingfisher *Black backed magpie *Common Myna *Crested Pigeon *Diamond Firetail *Galah *Grey Fantail *Grey shrike thrush *King Parrot *Magpie Lark *Pacific Black Duck *Rainbow Bee-eater *Red Rumped Parrot *Sulphur crested cockatoo *Superb Blue Wren *Tawny Frogmouth Owl *Welcome Swallow *Willy Wagtail *Yellow Rosella Not bad considering the size of Lanark, 3.98ha. Lanark had some rarer, endangered species also +Barking Owl, vulnerable in NSW, Critically endangered in Vic, CAP listed +Brown Treecreeper. vulnerable in NSW +Diamond Firetail, vulnerable in NSW & VIC +Dusky woodswallow, vulnerable in NSW +Flame robin, vulnerable in NSW +Gang Gang, listed as endangered federally, vulnerable in VIC +Gold Finch vulnerable in VIC +Little eagle vulnerable in NSW & VIC +Little pied cormorant vulnerable in NSW +Purple crowned lorikeet, vulnerable in NSW +Swift parrot critically endangered federally & in VIC, endangered in NSW +White breasted sea eagle, vulnerable in NSW, endangered in VIC The variety of birds at Lanark was a big part of us buying the property. **What's going to happen to these birds if the BESS is installed at Lanark?**
Traffic	Not really my area of expertise, but with the existing driveway turning right into Lanark was dangerous. To safely turn into Lanark, when coming from Lake Hume Village * Must give driver behind you ample warning or they could run into the back of your car *Must drive as close to middle white line as possible, thus giving inattentive drivers behind you space to go to left of the road. *Small vehicles have difficulties; I'm sure Foresight staff can attest. **Given the width of Trout Farm Rd, turning into the project will be a hassle.**

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$4Million over 30 years **xxxxxxxxx**	See p ix of Executive Summary. Appendix R Social/Economic "*During operation, the Project is expected to generate a total GVA of $4 million to NSW over the 30-year operating period (i.e. $130,000 per annum).*" This seems like a ridiculously small amount of money over 30 years. **There is no financial justification for this project to go ahead.** Factor in loss in tourism with battery at Lake Hume Village, Loss of habitat and therefore biodiversity in the area.
Albury City plans for Lake Hume Village area. Murray River experience. See p 9 of main report	Albury city has approved a **"Murray River Experience",** their plans for Lake Hume Village are in line with the philosophy to promote the Lake Hume Village and surrounds as a summer playground. There plans are -New Walking Trail -Apex Park Improvements -Lake Hume Boat Launching area -Floating and Fishing Pontoons -Improved Entrance and New Tourist Route -Vegetation management and revegetation -Public Open Space Development -Bethanga Bridge pedestrian/cycle link -Water Monitoring - Future recreational trail Full details supplied in Appendix D **Lake Hume Village is already a tourism hotspot in the area, Albury City is clearly trying to increase tourism. Is a large-scale battery consistent with the aim of increasing tourism?**

APPENDIXES

A BIRD LIST

B HABITAT OF PINK TAILED WORM LIZARD

C THE INFLUENCE OF URBAN ENCROACHMENT ON SQUIRREL GLIDERS

D LAKE HUME RESERVES MAJOR WORKS SUMMARY.