

MDBA REF: D20/34386
YOUR REF: SSD-10460 - Hume BESS - 33566

02 September 2020

Natasha Homsey
NSW Planning
c/- natasha.homsey@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Natasha

Subject: State Significant Development - SSD-10460 - Hume BESS - 33566

We refer to the above proposal for a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and associated infrastructure, adjacent to the Hume Dam Hydro Power Station and within the Albury City Local Government Area of NSW.

In considering this proposal, it is the role of the Murray-Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) to ensure the water quality of the River Murray is maintained or improved, contributing to the protection of the riverine and floodplain environment. Additionally, we ensure there is no impact on the flow carrying capacity of the River Murray.

Based on the information provided, the MDBA has completed its assessment and concludes the proposal is unlikely to have a detrimental impact on the flow, control, use or quality of the River Murray.

The MDBA supports the Hume BESS and notes the following conditions of consent relating to its continued development:

1. The MDBA will continue to be involved in the proposal as it proceeds under the management of WaterNSW, with oversight by the MDBA in relation to Hume Dam and its operation
2. Energy storage within the Hume BESS is reliant on discharge conditions from Hume Dam, with discharge governed by the Hume storage operating rules (as amended from time to time)
3. Alignment of, and easement conditions for, the connection of the Hume BESS to the existing switchyard will need to consider and appropriately resolve impacts or limitations to the current and future operations and maintenance of the WaterNSW site

4. Water quality risks should be mitigated throughout the construction and operational phases as outlined in the Jacobs Scoping Report; furthermore, these mitigations should also be specifically detailed in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

Should you have any further queries, please direct them to RiverMurrayHealth@mdba.gov.au.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Janet Pritchard', written in a cursive style.

Dr Janet Pritchard
Senior Director
Environmental Management Program
River Management Portfolio