

Trout Farm Properties Pty Ltd



9 September 2020

The Manager
New South Wales Planning, Industry and Environment
4 Parramatta Square, 12 Darcy Street
Parramatta NSW. 2150

Dear Natasha,

Re: Hume BESS Proposal

Your Ref: Major Project 33566

We are writing to express our displeasure and concern that a major engineering project adjacent to our property could be submitted to you to be placed on public exhibition without us being notified.

Trout Farm Property Pty Ltd's mail address is GPO Box 3334 Sydney NSW 2001. It has been that address for over 20 years.

Trout Farm Properties Pty Ltd (**TFP**) and its associated company, Fine Food Marketing Services Pty Ltd (**FFMS**) collectively hold 16 licenses and permits to operate a trout farm on land owned by TFP. Our family have invested \$4 million into the venture including \$1 million into the significantly upgrading and enhancement of the processing facility.

FFMS has a right in perpetuity to take water through the Hume Dam Wall by gravity to the property known as Hume Weir Trout Farm (**HWTF**). This water passes through two pipes, one 600 mm and the other 350 mm, and run in a north-westerly direction immediately inside the laneway from Trout Farm Road opposite the main gate into HWTF, in the direction of the Hume Dam Wall. These submerged pipes have been in that location since the late 1960s. A primary concern arising from the Hume Bess Proposal was initially that access to the Hume Bess site might be sought from this laneway. These pipes would not survive heavy machinery passing over them.

The only references to HWTF in the Environmental Impact Statement dated 31 July 2020 may be found at:

- a) Page 77 [alternate 102] - where it is referred to as Hume Farm Wastewater Treatment Works; and
- b) Page 82 [alternate 107] -where it is described as Industrial Receiver.

These descriptions are respectively manifestly wrong and, at best, seriously misleading. We are entitled to suggest these descriptions are wrong and misleading deliberately, given the lack of notification.

There are two residential houses on the HWTF property and, prior to the destruction of the pump on the Hume Dam Wall in December 2002 because of State Water negligence, HWTF employed 23 full-time employees.

The purpose of this letter is to place your Department on notice that the expensively prepared documentation provided to you in connection with the Hume Bess Proposal is seriously factually wrong and materially misleading. Apart from the two matters above, the only reference to HWTF is the mention of Trout Farm Road. One would anticipate that in objectively considering all activities within this short strip of road and possible impact upon adjacent properties, any fair-minded conscientious person would make enquiry. No enquiry was received by HWTF or FFMS.

As explained in previous correspondence, we only recently become aware of this Proposal by word-of-mouth. No leaflet or flyer was left at our letter box at the property which is 64 Trout Farm Road Wodonga VIC 3690. All of this detail is available in the records of Albury City Council and numerous other government and semi government departments – each of which communicate with us on a regular basis and to whom we pay rates and licence fees on a regular basis and have done for over the past 20 years.

The second startling omission in the Hume Bess Proposal documentation is that there appears to be no reference to fire risk from the Project. The immediate relevance of this is that in 2012 there was a large fire in the substation, which adjoins this proposed site. This fire continued out of control for almost 2 days. That is of great concern to all neighbours and the safeguards against fire for this proposed electricity storage facility should be fully and clearly explained.

It is not our intention to sabotage the Project. It is our intention to ensure that our interests and in relation to fire risk, the interest of our neighbours, are fairly represented. Jacob's report is seriously deficient in these respects.

Kindly knowledge receipt of this correspondence and in due course, please advise how you intend to address the inadequacies of the Jacob's Environmental Impact Statement dated 31 July 2020. What we are suggesting is that your Department should require the Environmental Impact Statement dated 31 July 2020 be supplemented to deal thoroughly with the issues we have raised in this letter.

It is obviously necessary for your Department in maintaining its impartial and objective standards, that your Department be in receipt of a competently researched and comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement.

Yours Faithfully

Trout Farm Properties Pty Ltd



Handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tony Gye'.

Tony Gye

Director

