

12 May 2021

**Jack Turner**  
**Department of Planning, Industry & Environment**

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Dear Mr Turner

**Liddell Battery and Bayswater Ancillary Works – SSD-8889679 – Muswellbrook Shire Council Comment**

I refer to the Environmental Impact Statement, prepared by Jacobs for AGL Macquarie Pty Ltd (Proponent), for the Liddell Battery and Bayswater Ancillary Works SSD-8889679. Council appreciates the opportunity for comment.

The Project generally involve:

- **The Battery:** A grid connected Battery Energy Storage System with capacity of up to 500 MW and 2 GWh;
- **Decoupling works:** Alternative network connection arrangements for the Liddell 33 kilovolt (kV) switching station that provides electricity to infrastructure required for the ongoing operation of Bayswater and associated ancillary infrastructure and potential third-party industrial energy users;
- **Bayswater Ancillary Works (BAW):** Works associated with the ongoing operation of Bayswater which includes (but is not limited to), upgrades to ancillary infrastructure such as pumps, pipelines, conveyor systems, roads and assets to enable maintenance, repairs, replacement, expansion or demolition; and
- **Consolidated consents:** A modern consolidated consent for the continued operation of Bayswater through the voluntary surrender and consolidation into this application of various existing development approvals required for the ongoing operation of AGLM assets.

Muswellbrook Shire Council is generally supportive of renewable energy initiatives and infrastructure that supports a transition to renewable energy. This Project aligns with Council's Community Strategic Plan goals and Community Strategic Plan principles

Council's submission is as follows:

**1.0 Consolidation of consents**

1.1 Council supports the consolidation of various approvals, from various dates, into a single approval/fewer approvals. The consolidation proposed in this application represents only a small number of approvals that apply to the site.

## **2.0 Site disturbance, erosion and stormwater**

2.1 The assessment appears to be based on plan-view geometry and therefore does not describe the extent of impacted areas, for example, if there are cuttings and batters, extra clearing, infrastructure relocations, supporting drainage structures and the like.

2.2 Management of erosion and rehabilitation of disturbed areas will be a critical element of the development. The development needs to satisfy the following:

- Limiting disturbance of development footprint to areas than can be reasonably managed in terms of batter slopes and extents;
- Avoiding large cut and fill on steep areas of the site;
- Avoiding clearing anywhere near established creek lines, and where existing vegetation is essential to maintaining slope stability;
- Capturing and appropriately detaining runoff from disturbed areas, prior to discharge to decrease sediment loss;
- Similarly capturing and appropriately detaining runoff from roofed structures; and
- Stabilising and re-establishing disturbed areas in a timely manner in accordance with the Landcom Blue Book guidelines.

2.3 Conditions of approval should include a requirement for a comprehensive stormwater management plan for the battery compound that addresses how stormwater will be collected, conveyed, treated and safely managed on the site due to the significant associated hardstand area. Guidance on stormwater management is provided in Council's DCP. Australian Rainfall and Runoff 2019 should be used. The plan should consider:

- stormwater management for both typical and extreme events;
- emergency spill events, and
- the impacts of any proposed bunding versus ponded stormwater.

2.4 Emergency isolation measures for the drainage systems are to be detailed including in case of a fire, as well as drainage of the hardstand areas, with all drainage infrastructure be designed for construction, operational and decommissioning traffic loading. Overflow routes and erosion management controls for stormwater should also be included, and form part of a DRAINS model.

2.5 Additional access points for buried drainage infrastructure should be included as required to ensure regular maintenance is possible. Selection of materials for drainage infrastructure should consider the potential for fire within the catchment area, and for superheated oils and hydrocarbons.

2.6 The gradient for the hardstand area, its location and integration in the wider site, should be clearly demonstrated within the plan.

2.7 This plan shall also include stormwater treatment measures such as secondary treatment systems that capture fine sediments as well as oils and hydrocarbons, and provided in the form of MUSIC model, and in accordance with Council's DCP. Sizing methodology for all systems to be provided as part of the stormwater management report, and the report shall be accompanied by a maintenance plan for all stormwater

infrastructure. All SQID units must be structurally suitable for construction, operational and decommissioning traffic loading.

2.8 Council requests a weed management plan be required, including regular monitoring and weed management activities, to ensure the Battery Compound and other works on the Bayswater site do not become a source of weeds for nearby rehabilitation areas.

2.9 Any proposed retaining walls must be designed and certified by a practising structural engineer as complying with Australian Standard AS4678 "Earth Retaining Structures" where the design includes dead and live loads expected to arise from the intended use of the retaining wall in its location, including but not limited to the installation of fencing, filling, plantings, parking of vehicles.

### **3.0 Visual Impacts**

3.1 It is noted that the Battery Compound will be operational beyond the end of life of both Liddell and Bayswater Power Stations and their associated infrastructure. As a result, the immediate land uses and landscape values will change significantly in the next 15 years.

3.2 While screen planting may not be necessary to reduce visual impacts to locations beyond the AGL site, it should be considered so that it is established ahead of incoming uses on the AGL site.

3.3 Two of the proposed environmental management measures for landscape and visual impacts are:

- *To use colour in a suitable muted palette to visually integrate the Project within the landscape where possible.*
- *Where possible, consider minimal use of reflective surfaces to avoid drawing attention to the site within views due to reflective glare.*

3.4 Both measures are supported by Council. It is noted that diagrams included in the EIS show many structures in the Battery Compound as being white. White is not considered to be a muted colour.

### **4.0 VPA - Community Enhancement Fund**

4.1 The EIS advises that no contributions are proposed to be offered.

4.2 Typically, developments of this scale would offer to enter into a VPA to make provision toward community facilities, resources engaged by Council for environmental planning input and review of ongoing management plans for the development, and to contribute to closure and transition planning in the future, amongst other things.

4.3 The Liddell and Bayswater Power Stations were approved prior to the concept of development contributions and VPAs. To date, the impacts of the Power Station on resources, services and facilities in the Muswellbrook Shire has effectively been subsidised by ratepayers and other businesses. New power generating developments

and mines in the Shire are making these types of contributions. A contribution as part of this proposal would reduce the level of subsidisation occurring.

4.4 If no VPA is offered the typical condition would be:

*Section 7.12 Contributions*

*Pursuant to section 4.17(1) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, and the Muswellbrook Shire Council Section 94A Development Contributions Plan 2010, a contribution of \$xxx shall be paid to Muswellbrook Shire Council.*

**5.0 Decommissioning**

5.1 Council requests a condition requiring preparation of a Decommissioning and Rehabilitation Plan for any part of the site disturbed and/or built upon as part of this approval.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the EIS for the Liddell Battery and Bayswater Ancillary Works.

Regards



**Sharon Pope**  
**Executive Manager Environmental and Planning Services**