



Meridian Energy Australia Pty Ltd
Level 15, 357 Collins Street
Melbourne VIC 3000

19 November 2020

Rob Beckett
Environmental Assessment Officer
Energy, Industry and Compliance
Department of Planning, Industry & Environment

RE: Hume BESS – Further information required

Dear Mr Beckett,

I refer to the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment's Request for Additional Information in relation to the Hume Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) (SSD-10460) received via email on Tuesday 17 November 2020. The matters raised in the Department's information request are addressed in this letter.

Noise

Clarification sought by DPIE

I understand that Jacobs have indicated that the project's contribution at the nearest receiver (RR01) would be 20 dB(A), but the Department requires confirmation that the project would not exceed the project intrusive noise level outlined in the Noise Policy for Industry. This means we require confirmation that the noise contribution from the project at the nearest receiver (RR01) would not exceed the background noise level (30 dB(A)) by more than 5 dB(A) over a 15 minute period during night time (ie. A total of 35dB(A), including predicted background noise).

Meridian response

It can be confirmed that the noise contribution from the project at the nearest receiver (RR01) would not exceed the background noise level (30 dB(A)) by more than 5 dB(A) over a 15 minute period during night time (ie. A total of 35dB(A), including predicted background noise).

While not presented in table form, the Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment included a Predicted noise level $L_{Aeq\ 15\ minute}$ dB(A) for operational phase figure representing worst case meteorological conditions. This was followed by a summary that states "As shown, the highest predicted noise contribution at a nearby residential receiver was less than 20 dB(A)". At this level, the maximum noise contribution from the project at RR01 would be a 1 dB(A) increase on background levels.

The altered layout did not change the noise modelling as the changes did not bring operational noise sources closer to sensitive receivers than what was modelled.

Project Area

Clarification sought by DPIE

I understand that the development footprint is 1.2 ha, but please also confirm the size of the project site.

Meridian response

Total size of Project area, interpreted as the two affected lots, is 56.850902 hectares.

Constraints Map

Clarification sought by DPIE

Please update the primary constraints map/site layout to include the following changes:

- *zoom in scale of figure, and consider changing orientation to portrait*
- *Aboriginal Heritage constraints and Historic Heritage items*
- *Native vegetation that would be impacted*
- *The location of the nearest receiver (RR01)*
- *Existing transmission lines and the existing substation*
- *The entire cable trench to the existing substation.*
- *Location of power inverters and transformers*
- *Location of relay room building and switch room building.*

Meridian response

Please refer to the document titled “*IA213400_GIS_F007_Constraints_r1v1.pdf*” accompanying this letter regarding the clarifications sought.

Closing

I trust that the additional information provided in response to the Request for Additional Information will enable the Department to finalise its assessment of the application. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you wish to discuss any aspect of this project further.

Yours sincerely



Alex Park
Asset Development Manager
Meridian Energy Australia