



Glenellen Solar Farm

Development Manager Dave Allen

Phone: 0414 192 497

Email: dave.allen@trinasolar.com

11th February 2021
General Manager
Greater Hume Council
PO Box 99
Holbrook NSW 2644
Attention Steven Pinnuck

**RE: Glenellen SF - Local Government Contributions – Statement of Commitment
Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA)**

Confirming discussions held at your Gerogery Office on the 22nd January 2021 with our Senior Project Development Manager Dave Allen, in the presence of GHC Engineering Manager Greg Blackie.

We write to you to confirm the proposed contribution by the Glenellen Solar Farm to the Greater Hume Council. We have previously raised the concept of the local government contribution with yourselves in meetings and discussions during the early development phase and with the Greater Hume Council's Councillors and yourself, during a workshop on the 1st July 2020.

We understand the topic of development contributions for Major Projects defined by the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act (NSW) (EP&A Act) is one which the Greater Hume Council is currently discussing with the NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPE). We acknowledge in previous discussions we have presented our position that the Glenellen Solar Farm would be willing to negotiate entering into a Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA) with the Greater Hume Council, rather than being levied consistent with the Greater Hume Council's position of section 94a contributions under the EP&A Act (now section 7.11 of the renumbered EP&A Act).

Our proposal is that the Glenellen Solar Farm enter into a VPA with Greater Hume Council which:

- Would comprise an amount equal to 1% of the project's capital investment value.
- The VPA will come in to effect when the project reaches Financial Close
- Agreed initial payment will be \$500,000
- This balance will be funded over equal payments spread over nine years;
- Amounts over the initial period would be specifically set aside as a contribution to the Jindera Multi-Purpose Centre capital works (similar to a 'Town Hall' type community space); with
- The balance of funding amounts to be allocated by Council across the LGA.

We look forward to discussing this further with you and the Greater Hume Council's Councillors.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nalin Wickramasinghe".

.....
Nalin Wickramasinghe
Director Glenellen Solar Farm

Attachment
GHC correspondence dated 26th Feb 2019



simply greater

Our Ref: CK:SG

Mr E Mounsey
Chief Operating Officer
CWP Renewables Pty Ltd
PO Box 1708,
NEWCASTLE NSW 2300

Greater Hume Shire
ABN 44 970 341 134
39 Young Street (PO Box 99)
Holbrook NSW 2644
P: 02 6036 0100 or 1300 653 538
F: 02 6036 2683

Colcain Office
40 Balfour Street Colcain NSW 2860
P: 02 6029 8588 F: 02 6029 8607

Customer Service Centres
Henty RTC/Library
32 Staden Street, Henty NSW 2658
Jindera
Shops 8 & 9 Jindera Plaza
Jindera NSW 2642
Walla Walla RTC/WAN Credit Union
Commercial Street
Walla Walla NSW 2659
E: mail@greaterhume.nsw.gov.au
www.greaterhume.nsw.gov.au

Dear Mr Mounsey

REQUEST BY CWP RENEWABLES FOR COUNCIL TO ENTER INTO A VOLUNTARY PLANNING AGREEMENT FOR THE PROPOSED GLENELLEN SOLAR FARM

I refer to your letter dated 17 October 2018 which offered to enter into a Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA) with Greater Hume Council under Part 7 Subdivision 2 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.

A report on the offered VPA was considered by Council at its Ordinary Meeting held in November 2018 where Council deferred consideration until the February 2019 Ordinary Meeting wherein the following resolution of Council was made:

5186 AMENDMENT

[Meyer/Osborne]

In the event that the Glenellen Solar Farm development is approved by NSW Planning and in accordance with the provisions of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 and to respond to the CWP Renewables request for Council to enter into a Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA), Council resolves the following:

1. *Subject to negotiation of a suitable VPA with CWP Renewables, Council agrees to receive a 1% contribution of the capital investment value of the Glenellen Solar Farm under the following terms:*
 - *The agreed initial payment will be \$500,000;*
 - *The balance payable in equal proportions over nine consecutive payments, each payment indexed for CPI from the base year;*
 - *The payment of the contribution to Council under VPA is made in lieu of a contribution under the Greater Hume Council S94A Levy Development Contributions Plan 2017.*
2. *Council and CWP Renewables write to the Minister advising of the in principle VPA requesting in accordance with Section 7.7(3) of the EPA Act 1979 that the VPA be entered into as a condition of any subsequent development consent.*
3. *CWP Renewable be requested to mention the existence of the in principle VPA as a commitment in a Statement of Commitments.*
4. *It should be noted that the VPA will only come into effect should approval for the Glenellen Solar Farm be granted by the Department of Planning and Environment.*

In consideration of Council's resolution, it is requested that CWP confirm that it intends to proceed with the Voluntary Planning Agreement as outlined above so that progressing the VPA further can be coordinated.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further please do not hesitate to contact me on 6044 8928 or via ckane@greaterhume.nsw.gov.au

Yours faithfully

Colin Kane
Director Environment & Planning
GREATER HUME SHIRE COUNCIL

26 February 2019

DATED

2024

PLANNING AGREEMENT

GREATER HUME SHIRE COUNCIL

GLENELLEN SOLAR FARM NOMINEES PTY LTD ACN 644 794 758
ATF THE GLENELLEN SOLAR FARM TRUST



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THIS PLANNING AGREEMENT dated

PARTIES

GREATER HUME SHIRE COUNCIL ABN 44 970 341 154
of 39 Young Street, Holbrook NSW 2644
(Council)

GLENELLEN ASSET PTY LTD ACN 644 794 758 atf The Glenellen Solar Farm Trust of
Suite A, Level 3/73 Northbourne Ave, Canberra ACT 2601 **(Developer)**

BACKGROUND

- A. The Land is located in the local government area of Greater Hume Shire Council.
- B. The Developer proposes to carry out the Development on the Land.
- C. The Developer has lodged the Development Application seeking development consent from the Minister to carry out the Development on the Land.
- D. The Developer has offered to enter into this Agreement with Council to make the Development Contribution.

OPERATIVE PROVISIONS

1. Definitions and interpretation

1.1. Definitions

In this Agreement, unless the context requires otherwise:

Act means the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (NSW).

Agreement means this Planning Agreement, including any schedules, annexures or appendices to it.

Address for Service means the address of each party identified at Item 3 of Schedule 2 or any new address notified in writing by any party to all other parties as its new Address for Service.

Auditor means an appropriately qualified auditor appointed by Council.

Authority means any Federal, State or local government or semi-governmental, statutory, judicial or public person, instrumentality or department.

Base CPI means:

1. For the first CPI Adjustment Date it means the CPI number for the quarter ending immediately before the Commercial Operation Commencement Date; and
2. For the second and all subsequent CPI Adjustment Dates it means the CPI number adopted by the parties as the Current CPI for the previous CPI Adjustment Date in each instance.

Business Day means any day that is not a Saturday, Sunday, public holiday or bank holiday in Sydney, and excluding 27 to 31 December, and concludes at 5:00 pm on that day.

Commercial Operation Commencement Date means the date on which the Development has been fully commissioned on the electricity grid in accordance with the Development Consent and is able to export all of its rated output.

Commercial Operation End Date means the date on which the Developer notifies Council in writing that it has permanently ceased operations of the Development and commenced decommissioning in accordance with the Development Consent.

Contribution Amount means an amount of the monetary contribution to be paid by the Developer in accordance with Schedule 3.

Council means Greater Hume Council ABN 44 970 341 154.

CPI means the Sydney (All Groups) Consumer Price Index published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics, or if that index no longer exists, any similar index that the Council specifies, in its sole discretion, for the purposes of this Agreement.

CPI Adjustment Date means 1 July occurring after the Commercial Operation Commencement Date and each anniversary thereafter.

Current CPI means the CPI number for the quarter ending immediately before the relevant CPI Adjustment Date.

Developer means Glenellen Asset Pty Ltd ACN 644 794 758 atf the Glenellen Solar Farm Trust.

Development means the Glenellen Solar Farm as authorised by the Development Consent as described at Item 2 of Schedule 2.

Development Application has the same meaning as in the Act, and where relevant for the purposes of this Agreement refers to the development application identified at Item 4 of Schedule 2.

Development Consent has the same meaning as in the Act, and where relevant for the purposes of this Agreement, refers to the development consent granted to the Development Application for the Development, including any modifications of that Development Consent in accordance with the Act.

Development Contribution means the contributions identified in Schedule 3 which are to be provided by the Developer in accordance with this Agreement.

Explanatory Note means the note exhibited with a copy of this Agreement when this Agreement is made available for inspection by the public pursuant to the Act, as required by the Regulation.

GST has the same meaning as in the GST Act.

GST Act means the *A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax) Act 1999* (Cth).

Land means the land the subject of the Development Consent, including (but not limited to) the Land described in Item 1 of Schedule 2.

Real Property Act means the *Real Property Act 1900* (NSW).

Regulation means the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000* (NSW).

Security means:

- (a) an unconditional Bank Guarantee; or
- (b) an Insurance Bond from an Australian bank which is an eligible financial institution for the purposes of Treasury Circular NSW TC08/ 01 dated 21 February 2008 as amended, supplemented or substituted from time to time; or
- (c) a Parent Company Guarantee in accordance with schedule 5.

Tax means a tax, duty (including stamp duty and any other transaction duty), levy, impost, charge, fee (including a registration fee) together with all interest, penalties, fines and costs concerning them.

1.1. Interpretation

In the interpretation of this Agreement, the following rules apply, unless the context makes it clear that a rule is not intended to apply:

- (a) Headings are for convenience only, and do not affect interpretation.
- (b) A reference to:
 - (i) a legislative provision or legislation (including subordinate legislation) is to that provision or legislation as amended, re-enacted or replaced, and includes any subordinate legislation issued under it;
 - (ii) a document (including this document) or agreement, or a provision of a document (including this document) or agreement, is to that document, agreement or provision as amended, supplemented, replaced or novated;
 - (iii) a party to this document or to any other document or agreement includes a permitted substitute or a permitted assign of that party;
 - (iv) a person includes any type of entity or body of persons, whether or
 - (v) not it is incorporated or has a separate legal identity, and any executor, administrator or successor in law of the person; and
 - (vi) anything (including a right, obligation or concept) includes each part of it.
- (c) A singular word includes the plural, and vice versa.
- (d) A word which suggests one gender includes the other genders.
- (e) If a word or phrase is defined, any other grammatical form of that word or phrase has a corresponding meaning.
- (f) If an example is given of anything (including a right, obligation or concept), such as by saying it includes something else, the example does not limit the scope of that thing.
- (g) A reference to including means “including, without limitation”.
- (h) A reference to dollars or \$ is to an amount in Australian currency.
- (i) A reference to this document includes the agreement recorded by this document.
- (j) Words defined in the GST Act have the same meaning in clauses about GST.
- (k) The Schedules, Exhibits or Annexures form part of this Agreement.
- (l) This Agreement is not to be interpreted against the interests of a party merely because that party proposed this document or some provision in it or because that party relies on a provision of this document to protect itself.

2. Operation and application of this Agreement

2.1. Planning agreement under the Act

- (a) This Agreement constitutes a planning agreement within the meaning of section 7.4 of the Act and commences on the date it is executed by all parties.
- (b) The Agreement concludes on the date that the Developer’s obligation to provide to Council the Development Contribution ceases in accordance with clause 4.1(b).
- (c) Schedule 1 of this Agreement summarises the requirements for planning agreements under section 7.4 of the Act and the way this Agreement addresses those requirements.

2.2. Application

This Agreement applies to:

- (a) the Land; and
- (b) the Development.

3. Application of sections 7.11, 7.12 and 7.24 of the Act

- (a) This Agreement does not exclude the application of section 7.11 of the Act to the Development.
- (b) This Agreement does not exclude the application of section 7.12 of the Act to the Development.
- (c) This Agreement does not exclude the application of section 7.24 of the Act to the Development.

4. Development Contribution**4.1. Developer to provide Development Contribution**

- (a) The Developer undertakes to provide to Council the Development Contribution in accordance with the provisions of Schedule 3 to this Agreement.
- (b) The Developer's obligation to provide to Council the Development Contribution ceases upon the earlier of:
 - (i) the date upon which the Developer has paid in full the Development Contribution in accordance with Schedule 3 to this Agreement; or
 - (ii) the Commercial Operation End Date.
- (c) If the Commercial Operation End Date occurs prior to the date referred to in clause 4.1(b)(i) above, then the Developer remains liable under this Agreement for the payment of any Development Contribution obligation that accrued prior to that Commercial Operation End Date but is otherwise released by Council from any further obligation to make any Development Contributions under this Agreement.

4.2. Acknowledgement

The parties acknowledge and agree that, subject to section 7.3 of the Act:

- (a) Council has no obligation to use or expend the Development Contribution for a particular public purpose, subject to the provisions of this Agreement, and has no obligation to repay the Development Contribution; and
- (b) Notwithstanding clause 4.2 (a) above, Council acknowledges its obligation to use the Development Contribution for the public purpose within its Local Government Area.

5. Enforcement and Security**5.1. Developer to provide Security**

The Developer must provide security to Council for the performance of the Developer's obligations under this Agreement by providing the Security to Council in accordance with the terms and procedures set out in Schedule 4.

5.2. Dispute Resolution

Without limiting any other remedies available to the parties, this Agreement may be enforced by any party in any court of competent jurisdiction, subject to clause 7.

5.3. Proceedings

Nothing in this Agreement prevents:

- (a) a party from commencing proceedings in the Land and Environment Court to enforce any aspect of this Agreement or any matter to which this Agreement relates; and

- (b) the Council from exercising any functions under the Act or any other Act or law relating to the enforcement of any aspect of this Agreement or any matter to which this Agreement relates.

6. Dispute Resolution

6.1. Reference to dispute

If a dispute arises between the parties in relation to this Agreement, the parties must not commence any court proceedings relating to the dispute unless the parties have complied with this clause, except where a party seeks urgent interlocutory relief.

6.2. Notice of dispute

A Party wishing to commence the dispute resolution process must give written notice (**Notice of Dispute**) to the other parties of:

- (a) the nature of the dispute;
- (b) the alleged basis of the dispute; and
- (c) the position which the party issuing the Notice of Dispute believes is correct.

6.3. Representatives of parties to meet

- (a) The representatives of the parties must promptly (and in any event within 20 Business Days of the Notice of Dispute) meet in good faith to attempt to resolve the notified dispute.
- (b) The parties may, without limitation:
 - (i) resolve the dispute during the course of that meeting;
 - (ii) agree that further material or expert determination in accordance with clause 6.6 about a particular issue or consideration is needed to effectively resolve the dispute (in which event the parties will, in good faith, agree to a timetable for resolution); or
 - (iii) agree that the parties are unlikely to resolve the dispute and, in good faith, agree to a form of alternative dispute resolution (including expert determination, arbitration or mediation) which is appropriate for the resolution of the relevant dispute.

6.4. Further notice if not settled

If the dispute is not resolved within 10 Business Days after the nominated representatives have met, either party may give to the other a written notice calling for determination of the dispute (**Determination Notice**) by mediation under clause 6.5 or by expert determination under clause 6.6.

6.5. Mediation

If a party gives a Determination Notice calling for the dispute to be mediated:

- (a) the parties must agree to the terms of reference of the mediation within 15 Business Days of the receipt of the Determination Notice (the terms shall include a requirement that the mediation rules of the Institute of Arbitrators and Mediators Australia (NSW Chapter) apply);
- (b) the mediator will be agreed between the parties, or failing agreement within 15 Business Days of receipt of the Determination Notice, either party may request the President of the Institute of Arbitrators and Mediators Australia (NSW Chapter) to appoint a mediator;
- (c) the mediator appointed pursuant to this clause 6.5 must:
 - (i) have reasonable qualifications and practical experience in the area of the dispute; and
 - (ii) have no interest or duty which conflicts or may conflict with his or her function as a mediator he or she being required to fully disclose any such interest or duty before his or her appointment;
- (d) the mediator shall be required to undertake to keep confidential all matters coming to his or her knowledge by reason of his or her appointment and performance of his or her duties;

- (e) the parties must within 15 Business Days of receipt of the Determination Notice notify each other of their representatives who will be involved in the mediation (except if a resolution of the Council is required to appoint a representative, the Council must advise of the representative within 5 Business Days of the resolution);
- (f) the parties must arrange and attend mediation within 6 weeks of the receipt of the Determination Notice unless otherwise agreed by the parties in writing;
- (g) the parties agree to be bound by a mediation settlement and may only initiate judicial proceedings in respect of a dispute which is the subject of a mediation settlement for the purpose of enforcing that mediation settlement; and
- (h) in relation to costs and expenses:
 - (i) each party will bear its own professional and expert costs incurred in connection with the mediation; and
 - (ii) the costs of the mediator will be shared equally by the parties unless the mediator determines that a party has engaged in vexatious or unconscionable behaviour in which case the mediator may require the full costs of the mediation to be borne by that party.

6.6. Expert determination

If the dispute is not resolved under clause 6.3 or clause 6.5, or the parties otherwise agree that the dispute may be resolved by expert determination, the parties may refer the dispute to an expert, in which event:

- (a) the dispute must be determined by an independent expert in the relevant field:
 - (i) agreed upon and appointed jointly by the parties; provided that
 - (ii) in the event that no agreement is reached or no appointment is made within 20 Business Days of the agreement to refer the dispute to an expert; then
 - (iii) appointed on application of a party by the then President of the Law Society of New South Wales;
- (b) the expert must be appointed in writing and the terms of the appointment must not be inconsistent with this clause;
- (c) the determination of the dispute by such an expert will be made as an expert and not as an arbitrator and will be in writing and contain the reasons for the determination;
- (d) the expert will determine the rules for the conduct of the process but must conduct the process in accordance with the rules of natural justice;
- (e) each party will bear its own costs in connection with the process and the determination by the expert and will share equally the expert's fees and costs; and
- (f) any determination made by an expert pursuant to this clause is final and binding upon the parties unless:
 - (i) within 20 Business Days of receiving the determination, a party gives written notice to the other party that it does not agree with the determination and commences litigation; or
 - (ii) the determination is in respect of, or relates to, termination or purported termination of this agreement by any party, in which event the expert is deemed to be giving a non-binding appraisal.

6.7. Litigation

If the dispute is not finally resolved in accordance with this clause 6, then either party is at liberty to litigate the dispute.

6.8. No suspension of contractual obligations

Subject to any interlocutory order obtained under clause 6.7, the referral to or undertaking of a dispute resolution process under this clause 6 does not suspend the parties' obligations under this agreement.

6.9. Not use information

The parties acknowledge the purpose of any exchange of information or documents or the making of any offer of settlement under this clause 6 is to attempt to settle the dispute. No party may use any information or documents obtained through any dispute resolution process undertaken under this clause 6 for any purpose other than in an attempt to settle the dispute.

7. GST**7.1. Acknowledge and agreement of the parties**

The parties acknowledge and agree that Division 81 of the GST Act applies to the supplies made under and in respect of this Agreement such that clause 7.4 does not apply to the Development Contribution.

7.2. Reimbursement

Any payment or reimbursement required to be made under this Agreement that is calculated by reference to a cost, expense, or other amount paid or incurred must be limited to the total cost, expense or amount less the amount of any input tax credit to which any entity is entitled for the acquisition to which the cost, expense or amount relates.

7.3. Consideration GST exclusive

Unless otherwise expressly stated, all prices or other sums payable or consideration to be provided under this Agreement are exclusive of GST.

7.4. Additional Amounts for GST

Subject to clause 7.1, to the extent an amount of GST is payable on a supply made by a party (Supplier) under or in connection with this Agreement (GST Amount), subject to the receipt of a tax invoice, the recipient must pay to the Supplier the GST Amount.

7.5. Non-monetary consideration

Clause 7.4 applies to taxable supplies made for either monetary or non-monetary consideration.

7.6. No merger

This clause does not merge on completion or termination of this Agreement.

8. Assignment**8.1. Right to assign or novate**

- (a) Provided it is not in material breach of its obligations under this Agreement, the Developer or any successor to the Developer (**Assigning Party**) may assign and/or novate its rights and/or obligations under this Agreement.
- (b) The Assigning Party must procure the execution of a deed by the Incoming Party and the Assigning Party to ensure all legal rights and obligations are assigned and/or novated on materially the same terms as this Agreement such that a reference to the Developer in this Agreement is, in effect, a reference to the incoming party;
- (c) The Council acknowledges and agrees that despite clause 8.1(a), the Developer may grant the Financiers a security interest over all of its rights, title and interests in this Agreement;
- (d) Within 20 Business Days of the delivery to the Council of a deed executed by the Developer and the Incoming Party under clause 8.1(b) the Council agrees to initiate the process for exhibition of the VPA, if re-exhibition is required under the Act;
- (e) The Council agrees to countersign the deed and return it to the Developer:
 - (i) Within 14 days of the end of any exhibition period required pursuant to 8.1(d); or

- (ii) if exhibition is not required, within 14 days of receipt of the deed executed by the Developer and Incoming Party;
- (f) The Developer must pay Council's reasonable legal costs and expenses incurred under this clause 8.1.

9. Capacity

9.1. General warranties

Each party warrants to each other party that:

- (a) this Agreement creates legal, valid and binding obligations, enforceable against the relevant party in accordance with its terms; and
- (b) unless otherwise stated, it has not entered into this Agreement in the capacity of trustee of any trust.

9.2. Power of attorney

If an attorney executes this Agreement on behalf of any party, the attorney declares that it has no notice of the revocation of that power of attorney.

10. No fetter

10.1. Discretion

This Agreement is not intended to operate to fetter, in any manner, the exercise of any statutory power or discretion of Council, including but not limited to, any statutory power or discretion of Council relating to a Development Application or any other application for Development Consent (collectively, **Discretion**).

10.2. No fetter

No provision of this Agreement is intended to constitute any fetter on the exercise of any Discretion. If, contrary to the operation of this clause, any provision of this Agreement is held by a court of competent jurisdiction to constitute a fetter on any Discretion, the parties agree:

- (a) they will take all practical steps, including the execution of any further documents, to ensure the objective of this clause is suitably satisfied;
- (b) in the event that (a) cannot be achieved without giving rise to a fetter on the exercise of a Discretion, the relevant provision is to be severed and the remainder of this Agreement has full force and effect; and
- (c) to endeavour to satisfy the common objectives of the parties in relation to the provision of this Agreement which is to be held to be a fetter to the extent that is possible having regard to the relevant court judgment.

11. General Provisions

11.1. Entire Agreement

This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement between the parties regarding the subject matter of this Agreement and supersedes any prior negotiations, representations, understandings or arrangements made between the parties, whether orally or in writing.

11.2. Variation

This Agreement can only be varied by a later written document executed by or on behalf of all parties and in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

11.3. Waiver

- (a) A right or remedy created by this Agreement cannot be waived except in writing signed by the party entitled to that right. Delay by a party in exercising a right or remedy does not constitute a waiver of that right or remedy, nor does a waiver (either wholly or in part) by a party of a right operate as a subsequent waiver of the same right or of any other right of that party.
- (b) The fact that a party fails to do, or delays in doing, something the party is entitled to do under this Agreement, does not amount to a waiver of any obligation of, or breach of obligations by, another party. A waiver by a party is only effective if it is in writing. A written waiver by a party is only effective in relation to the particular obligation or breach in respect of which it is given. It is not to be taken as an implied waiver of any other obligations or breach or as an implied waiver of that obligation or breach in relation to any other occasion.

11.4. Further assurances

Each party must promptly execute all documents and do all other things reasonably necessary or desirable to give full effect to the arrangements contained in this Agreement.

11.5. Time for doing acts

- (a) If:
 - (i) the time for doing any act or thing required to be done; or
 - (ii) a notice period specified in this Agreement, expires on a day other than a Business Day, the time for doing that act or thing or the expiration of that notice period is extended until the following Business Day.
- (b) If any act or thing required to be done is done after 5:00 pm on the specified day, it is taken to have been done on the following Business Day.

11.6. Governing law and jurisdiction

- (a) The laws applicable in New South Wales govern this Agreement.
- (b) The parties submit to the non-exclusive jurisdiction of the courts of New South Wales and any courts competent to hear appeals from those courts.

11.7. Severability

If any clause or part of any clause is in any way unenforceable, invalid or illegal, it is to be read down so as to be enforceable, valid and legal. If this is not possible, the clause (or where possible, the offending part) is to be severed from this Agreement without affecting the enforceability, validity or legality of the remaining clauses (or parts of those clauses) which will continue in full force and effect.

11.8. Preservation of existing rights

The expiration or termination of this Agreement does not affect any right that has accrued to a party before the expiration or termination date.

11.9. No merger

Any right or obligation of any party that is expressed to operate or have effect on or after the completion, expiration or termination of this Agreement for any reason, does not merge on the occurrence of that event but remains in full force and effect.

11.10. Counterparts

This Agreement may be executed in any number of counterparts. All counterparts taken together constitute one instrument.

11.11. Relationship of parties

Unless otherwise stated:

- (a) nothing in this Agreement creates a joint venture, partnership, or the relationship of principal and agent, or employee and employer between the parties; and
- (b) no party has the authority to bind any other party by any representation, declaration or admission, or to make any contract or commitment on behalf of any other party or to pledge any other party's credit.

11.12. Good faith

Each party must act in good faith towards all other parties and use its best endeavours to comply with the spirit and intention of this Agreement.

11.13. Explanatory note

The Explanatory Note must not be used to assist in construing this Agreement.

11.14. Expenses and stamp duty

- (a) Subject to clause 11.14(b), the Developer must pay its own and Council's reasonable legal costs and disbursements in connection with the negotiation, preparation, execution and carrying into effect of this Agreement.
- (b) The Developer's liability under clause 11.14(a) for Council's reasonable legal costs and disbursements is capped at \$5,000.
- (c) The Developer must pay for all costs and expenses associated with the giving of public notice of this Agreement and the Explanatory Note in accordance with the Regulation.
- (d) The Developer must pay all Taxes assessed on or in respect of this Agreement and any instrument or transaction required or contemplated by or necessary to give effect to this Agreement (including stamp duty and registration fees, if applicable).
- (e) The Developer must provide Council with bank cheques in favour of Council, or an alternative method of payment if agreed with Council, in respect of Council's costs pursuant to clause 11.14(b):
 - (i) where Council has provided the Developer with written notice of the sum of such costs prior to execution, on the date of execution of this Agreement; or
 - (ii) where Council has not provided the Developer with prior written notice of the sum of such costs prior to execution, within 30 Business Days of demand by Council for payment.

11.15. Notices

- (a) Any notice, demand, consent, approval, request or other communication (**Notice**) to be given under this Agreement must be in writing and must be given to the recipient at its Address for Service by being:
 - (i) hand delivered; or
 - (ii) sent by prepaid ordinary mail within Australia; or
 - (iii) in the case of a Notice to be given by Council, sent by email.
- (b) A Notice is given if:
 - (i) hand delivered, on the date of delivery but if delivery occurs after 5:00 pm New South Wales time or a day that is not a Business Day, is taken to be given on the next Business Day;
 - (ii) sent by prepaid ordinary mail within Australia, on the date that is 2 Business Days after the date of posting; or
 - (iii) sent by email:

- A. before 5:00 pm on a Business Day, on that Day;
- B. after 5:00 pm on a Business Day, on the next Business Day after it is sent; or
- C. on a day that it is not a Business Day, on the next Business Day after it is sent, and the sender does not receive a delivery failure notice.

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Schedule 1

Table 1 - Requirements under section 7.4 of the Act

Requirement under the Act	This Agreement
<p>Planning instrument and/or development application – (section 7.4(1))</p> <p>(1) The Developer has:</p> <p>(a) sought a change to an environmental planning instrument.</p> <p>(b) made, or proposes to make, a Development Application.</p> <p>(c) entered into an agreement with, or is otherwise associated with, a person, to whom paragraph (a) or (b) applies,</p> <p>(2) The Developer is required to dedicate land free of cost, pay a monetary contribution, or provide any other material public benefit, or any combination of them, to be used for or applied towards a public purpose.</p>	<p>(1)</p> <p>(a) No</p> <p>(b) Yes</p> <p>(c) No</p> <p>(2) Yes – pay monetary contributions to be applied towards a public purpose</p>
Description of the land to which this Agreement applies – (section 7.4(3)(a))	See definition of Land in clause 1.1
Description of development to which this Agreement applies – (section 7.4(3)(b))	See definition of Development in clause 1.1
Description of change to the environmental planning instrument to which this Agreement applies – (section 7.4 (3)(b))	Not applicable
The scope, timing and manner of delivery of contribution required by this Agreement – (section 7.4 (3)(c))	See Schedule 3
Applicability of sections 7.11 and 7.12 of the Act – (section 7.4 (3)(d))	The application of sections 7.11 and 7.12 of the Act is not excluded in respect of the Development
Applicability of section 7.24 of the Act – (section 7.4 (3)(d))	The application of section 7.24 of the Act is not excluded in respect of the Development.
Consideration of benefits under this Agreement if section 7.11 applies – (section 7.4 (3)(e))	Financial contributions to Council
Mechanism for Dispute Resolution – (section 7.4 (3)(f))	See clause 6
Enforcement of this Agreement – (section 7.4 (3)(g))	See clause 5
No obligation to grant consent or exercise functions – (section 7.4 (10))	See clause 10

Table 2 – Other matters

Requirement under the Act	This Agreement
Whether the Planning Agreement specifies that certain requirements of the agreement must be complied with before a construction certificate is issued	No
Whether the Planning Agreement specifies that certain requirements of the agreement must be complied with before an Occupation Certificate is issued	No

Schedule 2
Agreement Details (clause 1.1)

1	Land	Lot	Deposited Plan
		3	411022
		3	1190444
		27	753342
		101	791421
		1004	1033823
		1	588720
2	Development	The construction, operation and decommissioning of a photovoltaic solar farm facility and associated infrastructure with an installed capacity of approximately 200 megawatts of electricity (alternating current).	
3	Address for Service	Council Name: Greater Hume Shire Council Attention: Director Environment & Planning Address: 39 Young Street, Holbrook NSW 2644 Email: CKane@greaterhume.nsw.gov.au	
		Developer Name: Glenellen Asset Pty Ltd Attention: Project Director – Juan Cobo Address: Global Power Generation, Suite A, Level 3/73 Northbourne Ave, Canberra ACT 2601 Email: jccobo@naturgy.com	
4	Development Application	DA number SSD-9550, as amended from time to time, not including any modification resulting in the installed capacity being increased by more than 10%.	

Schedule 3**Development Contributions (clause 4)****1. Development Contributions**

- (a) The Developer undertakes to provide the Development Contribution of \$2,500,000 to Council in the manner set out in the table below:

Development Contribution	Amount Excluding GST	Timing of Payment	Public Purpose
Development Contribution – First Instalment	\$500,000	Within 7 days of the Commercial Operation Commencement Date	Expenditure to be determined and utilised at the discretion of Council for any projects deemed to benefit the public within the Local Government Area.
Development Contributions – Second to Tenth Instalment	\$222,222.22 each instalment, plus CPI adjustment	Within 7 days of the first anniversary of the Commercial Operation Commencement Date and annually thereafter for nine (9) consecutive years	Expenditure to be determined and utilised at the discretion of Council for any projects deemed to benefit the public within the Local Government Area.

- (b) Each instalment of the Development Contribution must be paid by means of electronic funds transfer into an account specified by Council in writing.
- (c) On each CPI Adjustment Date, the next instalment of the Development Contribution payable is to be adjusted as follows:

$$ACA = \frac{CA \times \text{Current CPI}}{\text{Base CPI}}$$

Where:

ACA = the Adjusted Contribution Amount payable on the relevant CPI Adjustment Date; and

CA = the Contribution Amount applicable at the relevant Development Contribution instalment (and as previously adjusted in accordance with this clause where relevant).

2. Payment in advance

Nothing in this Agreement shall be read as to prevent the Developer from paying any of the remaining value of Development Contributions in advance.

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Schedule 4 Security Terms

1. Developer to provide Security

- (a) In order to secure the payment of the Development Contributions the Developer has agreed to provide the Security.
- (b) The Security must:
 - (i) name Council; and
 - (ii) not have an expiry date, or if it has an expiry date:
 - (ii.i) the expiry date must be on or after the date the Agreement concludes in accordance with clause 2.1(b) of the agreement; or
 - (ii.ii) the Security must be replaced by the Developer prior to expiry.

2. Security

- (a) Within 10 business days of Commercial Operation Commencement Date the Developer must provide the Security to the Council having a face value amount of \$250,000 (**Security Amount**) in order to secure the Developer's obligations under this Agreement.
- (b) Council is entitled to retain the Security from the Commercial Operation Commencement Date until the earlier of:
 - (i) the Commercial Operation End Date; or
 - (ii) the date the Developer has provided all Development Contributions under this Agreement.

3. Claims on Security

- (a) Council may:
 - (i) call upon the Security where the Developer has failed to pay a Contribution Amount on or after the date for payment under this Agreement; and
 - (ii) retain and apply such monies towards the Contribution Amount and any costs and expenses incurred by the Council in rectifying any default by the Developer under this Agreement.
- (b) Prior to calling upon the Security Council must give the Developer not less than 10 Business Days written notice of its intention to call upon the Security.
- (c) If:
 - (i) Council calls upon the Security; and
 - (ii) applies all or part of such monies towards the Contribution Amount and any costs and expenses incurred by the Council in rectifying any default by the Developer under this Agreement; and
 - (iii) has notified the Developer of the call upon the Security in accordance with clause (b) of this Item 3,

then the Developer must provide to the Council a replacement Security to ensure that at all times until the date that the Security is released in accordance with Item 4 of this Schedule, the Council is in possession of Security for a face value equivalent to the Security Amount.

4. Release of Security

If:

- (a) the Developer has satisfied all of its obligations under this Agreement; and
- (b) the whole of the monies secured has not been expended and the monies accounted for in accordance with Item 2 of this Schedule,

then Council will promptly return the security (less any costs, charges, duties and taxes payable), or the remainder of the monies secured (as the case may be), to the Developer.

Schedule 5

Parent Company Guarantee

This guarantee is granted in _____, on ___ of _____, 2024

Global Power Generation S.A., with its registered address at Avenida de San Luis 77, Madrid 28033 Spain, and C.I.F. (company tax code) A-61713301 represented by Mr. Francisco Antonio Bustio Gutierrez with D.N.I. (Spanish national ID) number 13778750-W, and with sufficient binding authority for this act bestowed by the Public Deed authorised by Madrid Public Notary, Enrique Javier de Bernardo Martfnez-Pifieiro, dated 12 September 2019 as number 1903 of his notarial protocol, hereinafter the "Guarantor",

STATES

- I. That Glenellen Asset Pty Ltd (ACN 644 794 758) as trustee for Glenellen Solar Farm Trust (ABN 69 776 543 965) (hereinafter the "Guaranteed") is a company in which the Guarantor holds a direct share percentage of 99.01% of its capital.
- II. That on ___ of _____ 2024, the Guaranteed has signed with GREATER HUME SHIRE COUNCIL (ABN 44 970 341 154), (hereinafter the "Beneficiary") the Council of the Greater Hume Shire, for the Glenellen Solar Farm, of which the Guarantor declares knowledge.
- III. That the Guarantor, on request from the Beneficiary, wishes to constitute an on demand guarantee (hereinafter the "Guarantee"), guaranteeing the obligations that fall to the Guaranteed by virtue of the Voluntary Planning Agreement, as described below.
- IV. That in accordance with the above, the Guarantor issues this

GUARANTEE

1. The Guarantor unconditionally and irrevocably guarantees in favor of the Beneficiary, and on behalf and to the order of the Guaranteed, up to a maximum amount of 250,000.00 AUD, the timely completion of the payment obligations that fall to the Guaranteed by virtue of the Voluntary Planning Agreement (hereinafter, the "Guaranteed Obligations"). The Guarantor shall not take on greater liability derived from this Guarantee than that held by the Guaranteed under the Voluntary Planning Agreement.

The Guarantor's Guarantee is set up as a surety bond with respect to the Guaranteed.

2. This guarantee is irrevocable and shall remain fully in force for a period of 24 months from the date of signing of the Voluntary Planning Agreement, or until the Solar Farm Reaches COD (Commercial Operation Date), providing that all the Guaranteed Obligations arising before that expiry date have been duly paid in full and therefore there are no outstanding amounts to be paid as per this Guarantee, whichever comes first.
3. The Guarantor shall meet the Guaranteed Obligations that have not been duly met by the Guaranteed, on first written demand during the Guarantee period sent by the Beneficiary in accordance with the following procedure.

The Beneficiary must request payment from the Guarantor in writing, stating (i) the amount of the Guaranteed Obligations claimed and (ii) the current account of the Beneficiary to which the Guarantor should make the payment.

Once the demand has been received, the payment shall be made within the ten (10) calendar days following the date of receipt of the demand into the current account indicated therein, provided that the sum total does not exceed the maximum amount established in this Guarantee.

4. All the amounts that the Guarantor must pay under this Guarantee shall be made without any deductions whatsoever. If at any time the Guarantor should need to make any deduction or retention on behalf of the Beneficiary in relation to taxes levied by applicable law, with regard to any payment owed under this Guarantee, the amount owed by the Guarantor shall be increased as necessary to ensure that, after the application of the deduction or retention, the Beneficiary receives on the date on which such payment is to be made, a net amount equal to

the sum that the Beneficiary would have received if said deduction or reduction had not been necessary.

If the Beneficiary recoups the amount deducted or retained, the Guarantor shall have the right to claim its payment back from the Beneficiary.

For the purposes of the application of this clause the Beneficiary shall provide a Certificate of Residence for Tax Purposes issued by the appropriate Fiscal Authority according to applicable legislation or a Treaty to avoid Double Taxation, if applicable.

5. Neither the Guarantor nor the Beneficiary may, without the prior agreement of the other party, cede or transfer their contractual position under this Guarantee.
6. For the purposes of this contract, notifications, demands and communications of any kind arising from this Guarantee shall be made in writing and delivered personally or by registered mail, to the Guarantor's and/or Beneficiary's addresses shown below. Any changes to them must be notified fifteen (15) days in advance using the same methods to the other party.

GUARANTOR'S ADDRESS:	BENEFICIARY'S ADDRESS:
Global Power Generation S.A. C.I.F. (company tax code) A-61713301 Acanto, 11-13 28045 Madrid (Spain) Att: Alfonso M. Egana Ph: +34 91 257 72 16 Mail: aeganah@naturgy.com	GREATER HUME SHIRE COUNCIL ABN 44 970 341 154 39 Young Street, Holbrook NSW 2644 Att: Colin Kane Ph: +61 428 667 071 Mail: ckane@greaterhume.nsw.gov.au

A notification shall be deemed to have been received:

- a. If delivered in person, at the moment of delivery
 - b. If sent by registered mail, on receipt by the addressee.
7. This Guarantee is governed by the laws of the State of New South Wales, and the Guarantor, expressly and completely renouncing any other legal code that might apply by Law, subjects itself, irrevocably and exclusively, to the jurisdiction of the Courts and Tribunals of the State of Victoria with regard to any disagreements that may arise from the validity, compliance, contents and effects of this guarantee.

In witness whereof, this document is signed at the time and place shown in the heading.

Global Power Generation S.A.
 A-61713301

Francisco Antonio Bustio Gutierrez
 Chief Executive Officer

EXECUTION PAGE

Executed as an Agreement

THE SEAL of GREATER HUME SHIRE COUNCIL
 was affixed in accordance with Reg 400 *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005* (NSW)
 pursuant to a resolution:

.....
Councillor/Mayor	General Manager/Councillor

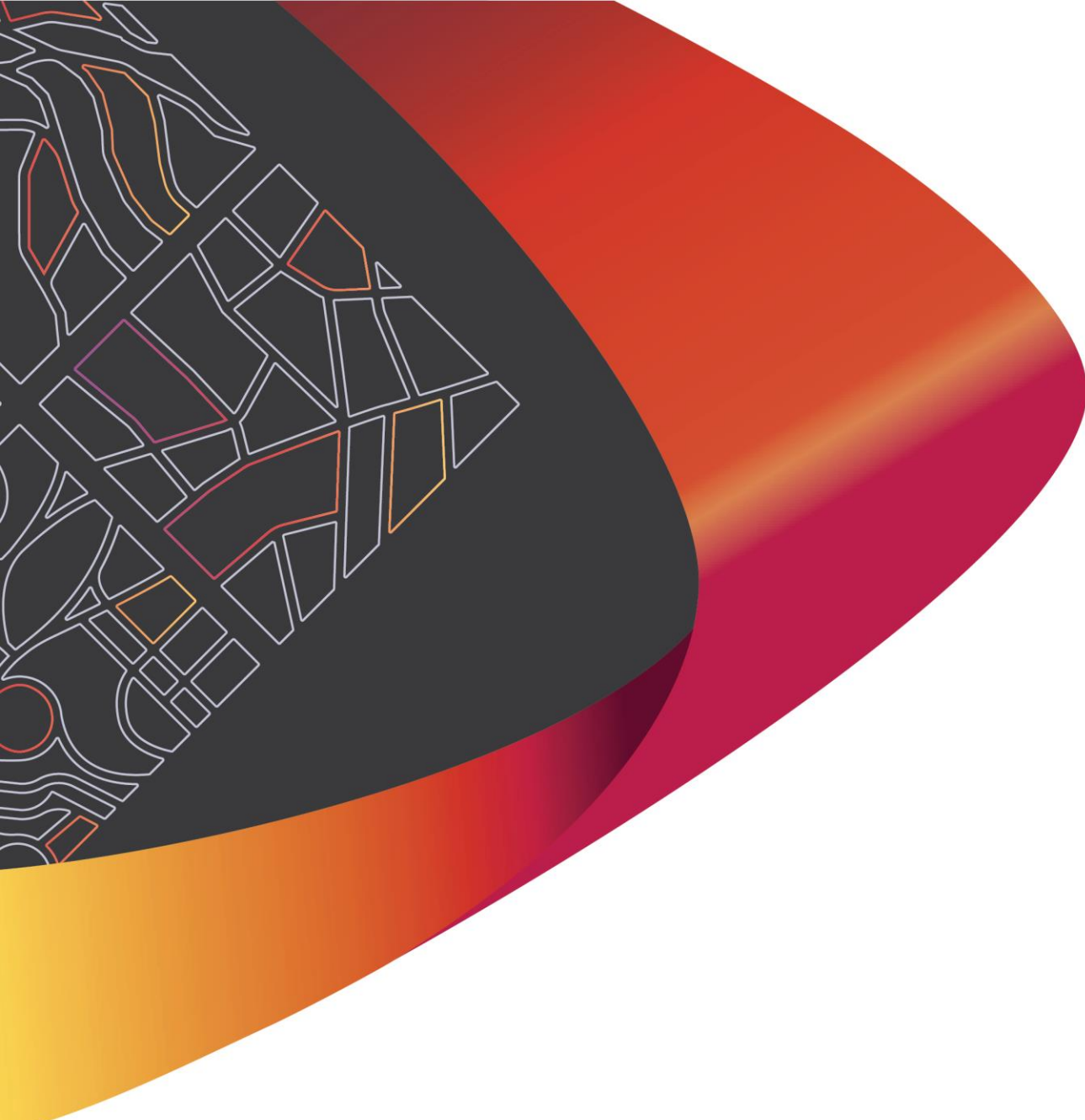
EXECUTED by GLENELLEN ASSET PTY LTD ACN 644 794 758 in accordance with section 127 of the *Corporations Act 2001* (Cth):

.....
Signature of Director	Signature of Director/Secretary

.....
Name of Director	Name of Director/Secretary

.....
Signature of Director	Signature of Director/Secretary

.....
Name of Director	Name of Director/Secretary



ACENERGY PTY LTD

Holbrook Distribution Battery Energy Storage System

STATEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS






Report No: P000683_SEE

Rev: 001B

8 April 2024

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This report has been prepared by Premise Australia for ACEnergy Pty Ltd; may only be used and relied on by ACEnergy Pty Ltd; must not be copied to, used by, or relied on by any persons other than ACEnergy Pty Ltd without the prior written consent of Premise. If ACEnergy Pty Ltd wishes to provide this Report to a third party recipient to use and rely upon, the recipient agrees: to acknowledge that the basis on which this Report may be relied upon is consistent with the principles in this section of the Report; and to the maximum extent permitted by law, Premise shall not have, and the recipient forever releases Premise from, any liability to recipient for loss or damage howsoever in connection with, arising from or in the respect of this Report whether such liability arises in contract, tort including negligence.

DOCUMENT AUTHORISATION					
Revision	Revision Date	Proposal Details			
A	28/03/24	Draft for review			
B	08/04/24	Final			
Prepared By		Reviewed By		Authorised By	
Hugh Shackcloth-Bertinetti		David Walker		David Walker	

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1. INTRODUCTION

Premise Australia Pty Ltd (Premise) has been commissioned by ACEnergy Pty Ltd to prepare a Statement of Environmental Effects (SEE) to accompany a Development Application (DA) for the development of a Distribution Battery Energy Storage System (DBESS) on land near Bendemeer Lane, Holbrook, NSW. The site of the proposed DBESS is located within a land parcel legally described as Lot 22 DP809338 (otherwise referred to as the 'host lot').

The site is located in the Greater Hume Shire Council (GHSC) Local Government Area (LGA) and is situated within land zoned as RU1 – Primary Production via the *Greater Hume Local Environment Plan 2012* (LEP). The proposed development is consistent with the definition of 'electricity generating works' pursuant to the LEP and is to be located in the northeastern extent of Lot 22 DP809338. The DBESS is to have an approximate capacity of 5 megawatts (MW).

This SEE has been prepared pursuant to the relevant provisions of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act) and *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021* (EP&A Regulation).

The proposed development:

- > Is not designated development by reference to Section 24 of Schedule 3 of the EP&A Regulation as it does not supply (nor is it capable of supplying) 30 MW of electrical power;
- > Is not State significant development (SSD) by reference to Section 20 of Schedule 1 of the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Planning Systems) 2021* (the Systems SEPP) as it does not have a capital investment value (CIV) of more than \$30 million, nor is it located within an environmentally sensitive area of State significance; and
- > Is not regionally significant development (RSD) by reference to Section 5 of Schedule 6 of the Systems SEPP as it does not have a CIV of more than \$5 million.

This SEE is provided in the following format:

- > **Section 2** of this report provides a description of the subject site and its locality.
- > **Section 3** outlines the proposed development.
- > **Section 4** details the planning framework applicable to the subject site and proposed development.
- > **Section 5** identifies the impacts of the proposed development.
- > **Section 6** provides a conclusion to the SEE.

2. THE SITE & ITS LOCALITY

2.1 The locality

The site of the proposed development is Lot 22 DP809338, located approximately 5.1 km south of the centre of Holbrook. There are a number of surrounding population centres, including Walbundrie, approximately 50 km to the west, Albury, approximately 55 km to the south, Wagga Wagga, approximately 66 km to the north and Tumbarumba, approximately 66 km to the east. The locality of the site is depicted in **Figure 1**.

The site is located alongside and will be accessible via a new driveway connected to Bendemeer Lane. Bendemeer Lane extends in a general east to west alignment to the north of the site and features several driveways providing access for properties to the west and north of the site. Bendemeer Lane terminates approximately 660 m to west of the site and provides a connection to the Hume Highway approximately 190 m to the east of the proposed access arrangement. The Hume Highway extends in a general north to south alignment approximately 100 m to the east of the site and is adjacent to the eastern boundary of Lot 22 DP809338.

The town of Holbrook consists of a mixture of rural, residential commercial and industrial land uses. It accommodates a collection of commercial and industrial businesses, a full range of housing options, a hospital, a primary education facility and a network of recreational spaces and sporting facilities. Holbrook is located along major transportation routes and is situated at the junction of several main roadways including:

- > The Hume Highway (SCR No. 0000002), extending south to connect Holbrook with Albury and northeast to connect with Sydney.
- > Holbrook Wagga Road (SCR No. 0000211), extending north to connect Holbrook with Wagga Wagga.
- > Culcairn Holbrook Road (SCR No. 0000331), extending west to connect Holbrook with Culcairn.
- > Young Street (SCR No. 0000331), passing through Holbrook to connect Culcairn Holbrook Road to Jingellic Road.
- > Jingellic Road (SCR No. 0000331), extending east prior to separating to extend north to connect with Tumbarumba Road and south to connect with Jingellic near the Murray River.

The locality surrounding the project site is predominantly characterised by rural land uses and living, including several dwellings, scattered vegetation and a mixture of cropping and grazing activities.

The site is located in the northeastern corner of Lot 22 DP809338 (the 'host lot'). The host lot occupies a total area of approximately 58.5 hectares and currently features a single residential dwelling with development ancillary to the existing agricultural land use including farm dams, fences, scattered paddock trees, sheds and driveways.

While the locality is predominantly rural, and land in the immediate proximity of the proposal is generally vacant, there are 13 receivers within a 2 km radius of the land holding hosting the development site (refer to **Figure 4**). As shown in the project drawings at **Appendix A**, the closest residential receiver is R1, which is an associated receiver located approximately 300 m to the southwest of the development site and within

the host lot. The next two closest receivers (R02 and R03) are situated further to the west approximately 600 m and 960 m respectively from the development site. Remaining receivers and residential land uses are scattered throughout the locality and located on land zoned via the LEP as RU1 - Primary Production.

One (1) overhead 22 kV Essential Energy distribution line traverses land to the east of the site in a general north to south alignment (refer **Figure 1**). This 22 kV distribution line extends northwards along the western side of the Hume Highway before connecting to an existing substation located approximately 4.2 km northeast of the site, along Jingellic Road. A separate overhead 22 kV Essential Energy distribution line extends in an east to west alignment, from a node with the eastern distribution line, transecting land to the north of the site along Bendemeer Lane. This distribution line transects the proposed access arrangement and facilitates connections for surrounding receivers located to the north and west.

An existing Telstra copper cable connection extends westward from the Hume Highway passing through the host lot in a general east to west alignment. The Telstra cable passes along the northern boundary of the development site and transects the proposed access arrangement.

No national parks and reserves are identified in the immediate vicinity of the site. Land mapped as containing biodiversity value, however, is located within the host lot approximately 400 m west of the site, along Sandy Creek.

A Crown land reserve (R62926) is mapped over Lot 73 DP753349, an adjacent land parcel situated approximately 530 m to the south of the site. The locality features one other Crown land parcel located along the Hume Highway, approximately 826 m south of the development.

2021 Census data for the suburbs and locality of Holbrook identifies an estimated population of approximately 1650 people. The economic production of the town is predominately characterised by agricultural activities with major industries of employment including beef cattle farming (specialised), road freight transport, local government administration, sheep farming (specialised) and aged care residential services (ABS, 2021).

2.2 The development site

The development site is situated at Hume Highway, Holbrook and is confined to the northeastern corner of the host lot. The entirety of the development site is zoned RU1 - Primary Production, pursuant to the LEP, and occupies an area of approximately 0.5 ha. The site is depicted in **Figure 2**.

The site is generally level and no distinct drainage lines are mapped as impacting the footprint of the development. There are no waterbodies located within the site, with surrounding water sources limited to Sandy Creek approximately 400 m to the west and several farm dams scattered throughout the locality. The closest farm dam is situated within the host lot approximately 40 m to the east of the development site and occupies an area of approximately 2600 m².

The development site is currently used for agricultural activities, particularly grazing, and is located within a farming paddock cleared of trees. Established vegetation is located to the north of the site, on the northern side of Bendemeer Lane. No tree removal is necessary to enable the development as proposed.

Access to the development site is to be provided via a new driveway connection to Bendemeer Lane. The new driveway would provide exclusive access to the DBESS development. The proposed security gate for the site is to be setback approximately 25 m for the edge of Bendemeer Lane.

As detailed above, two sets of existing overhead power lines and a Telstra copper cable are located in the immediate vicinity of the project site. An electrical connection between the site and existing overhead powerlines would be provided to facilitate the operation of the DBESS.



Figure 1 – The Locality

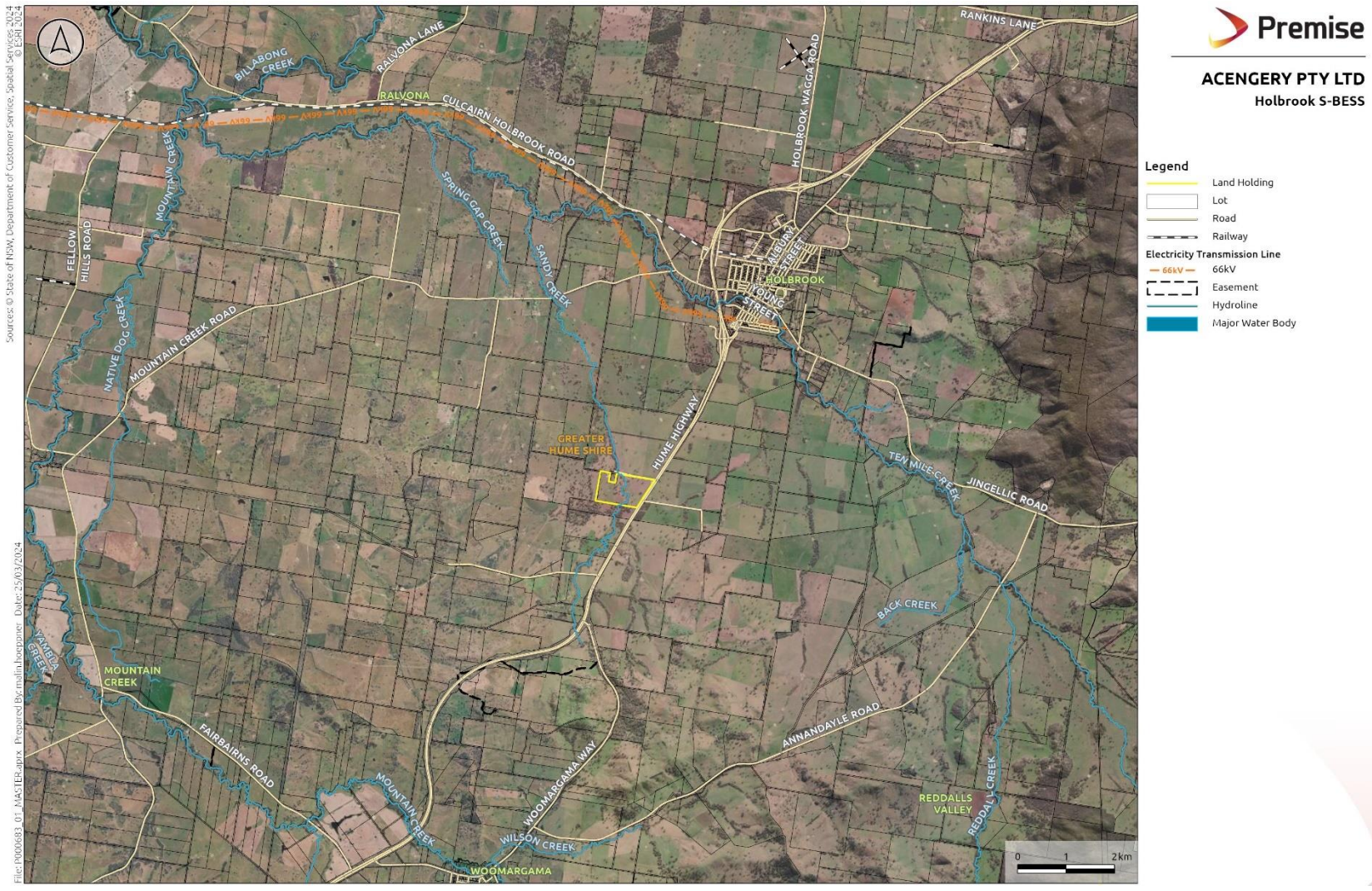


Figure 2 – The Site



Figure 3 – Land Zoning

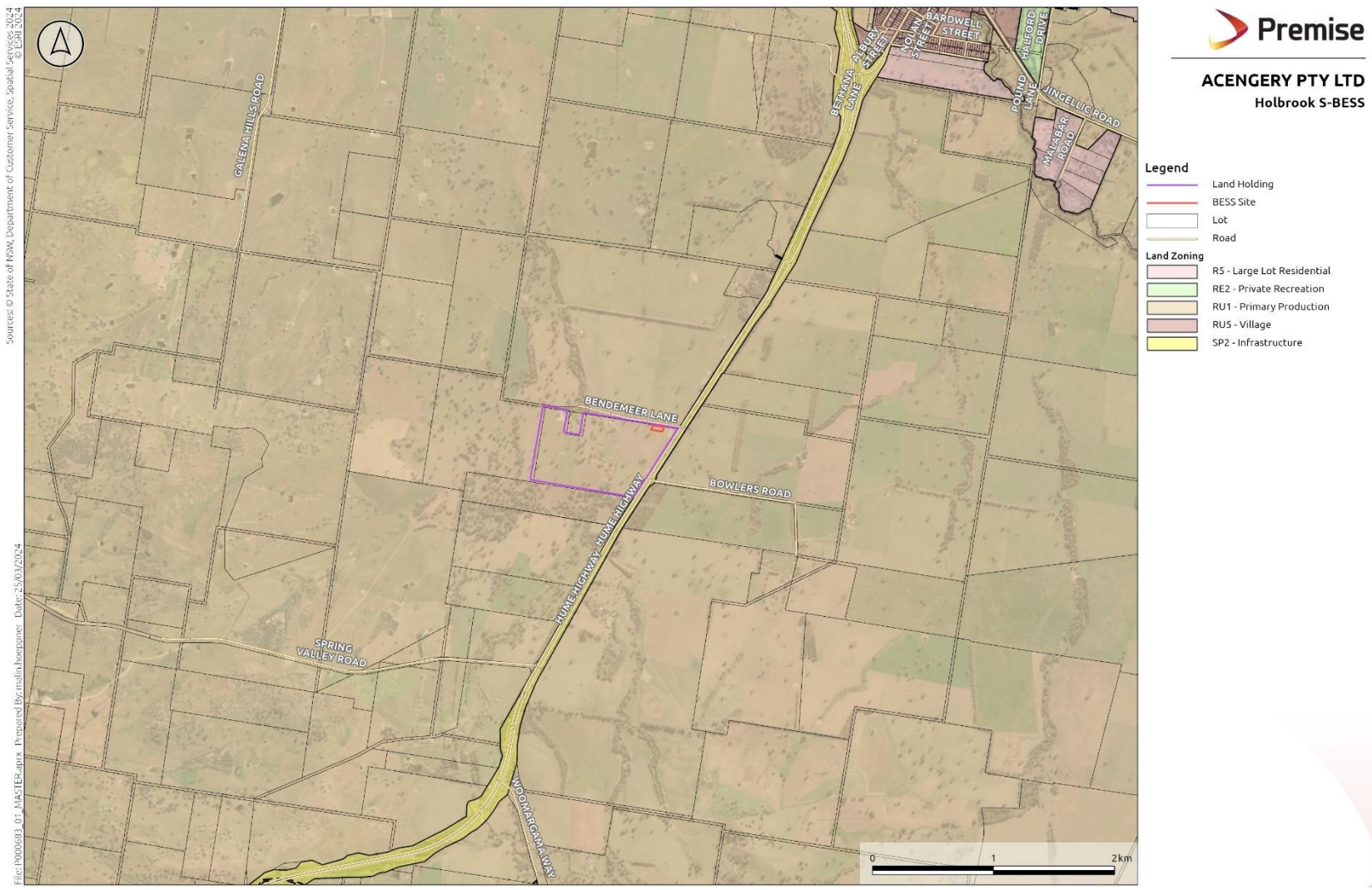


Figure 4 – Receivers

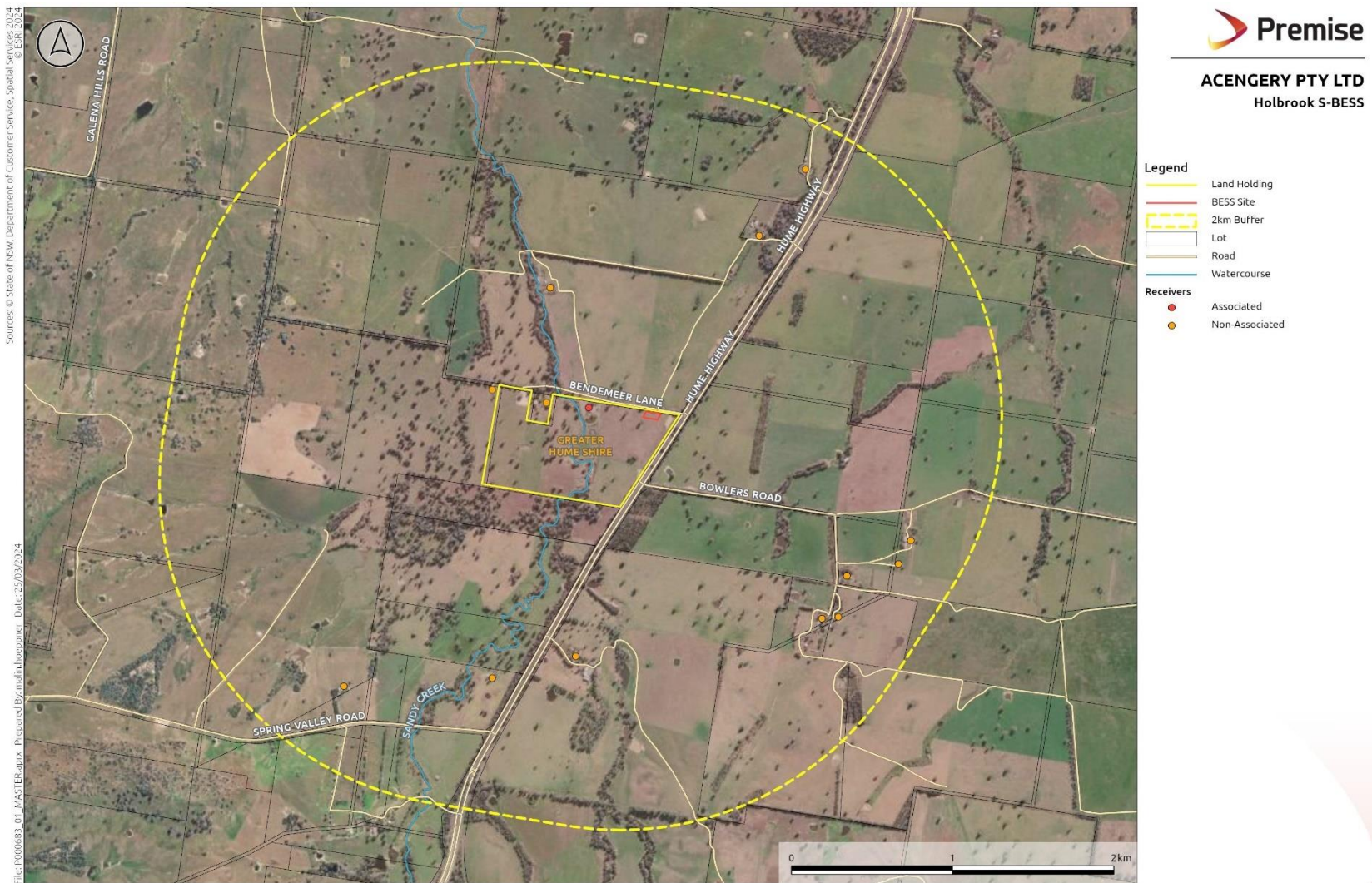
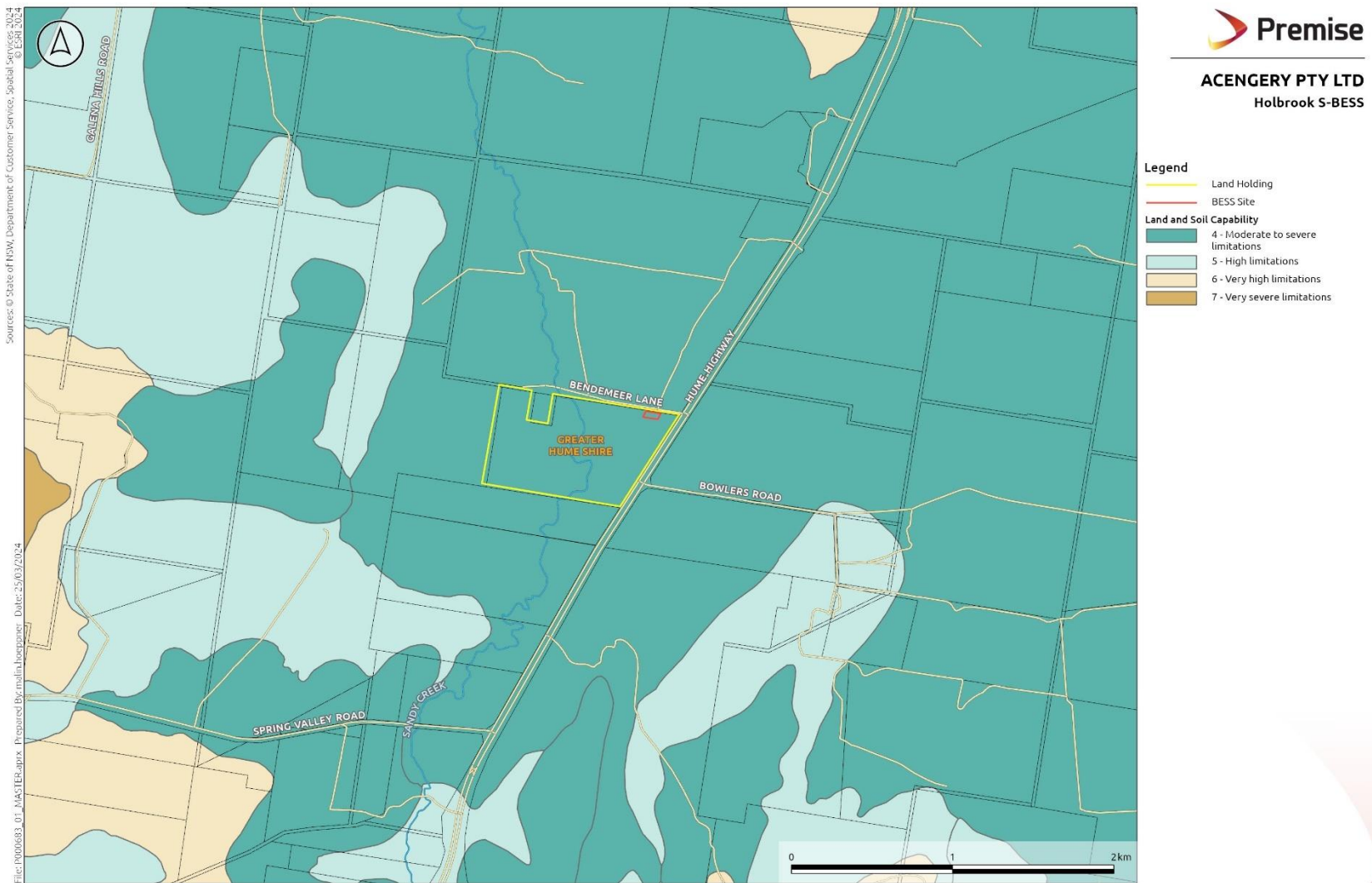


Figure 5 – Land Capability



3. THE DEVELOPMENT

3.1 Development description

The project comprises a DBESS and associated infrastructure that will occupy a footprint of approximately 0.5 hectares. The proposed DBESS is situated in the northeastern corner of the host lot and will have a capacity of approximately 5 MW. The proposed DBESS, associated infrastructure and development footprint will largely align with, and be contained within, the development area shown in **Figure 2**.

The project will be designed to provide grid flexibility services. It will support the efficiency of the electrical network by charging from the grid during periods of low demand and discharging back to the grid during periods of higher demand. It would also have the capacity to charge or discharge when power system services are required, assisting to maintain the stability of the broader electricity grid by making stored energy available during high demand periods.

Power would transition to and from the DBESS switching station via a new 22 kV line connected to the existing 22 kV distribution lines to the east. The power conversion systems rectify the power into a form that is suitable for storage in the facility's batteries. The DBESS strengthens the power network by providing greater flexibility in grid management.

The key project infrastructure includes:

- > The installation of a new driveway from Bendemeer Lane leading to a gated entry to the DBESS.
- > Security fencing and landscaping around the DBESS.
- > Electrical components of the DBESS, including 10 battery containers (separated into blocks); a medium voltage power station (MVPS) and high voltage switchgear; and
- > Ancillary electrical sub-transmission lines to connect the DBESS to the existing powerlines to the east.

The project would include the implementation of mitigation measures considered necessary to minimise risks posed by and to the proposed development.

4. STATUTORY PLANNING

4.1 Biodiversity

Section 1.7 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (the EP&A Act) provides that the EP&A Act has effect subject to the provisions of Part 7 of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (the BC Act) and Part 7A of the *Fisheries Management Act 1994* (the Fisheries Act).

Subsection 7.2(1) in Part 7 of the BC Act provides the three triggers for development or activities to be considered as "likely to significantly affect threatened species". Under subsection 7.7(2) of the BC Act, the development application is required to be accompanied by a development assessment report (BDAR) if it meets one or more of conditions for "likely to significantly affect threatened species".

The proposed development is considered against the three triggers in **Table 1**.

Table 1 – Section 7.2 of the BC Act

Test		Assessment
(a)	it is likely to significantly affect threatened species or ecological communities, or their habitats, according to the test in section 7.3, or	The site is disturbed as a result of previous land clearing and agricultural development. Accordingly, vegetation within the site is generally limited to non-native species planted in conjunction with the current agricultural land use. An assessment of potential impacts to biodiversity is provided in Section 5.7 together with a Flora and Fauna Assessment Report (FFAR) in Appendix C . No significant impacts to threatened species or ecological communities, or their habitats are anticipated.
(b)	the development exceeds the biodiversity offsets scheme threshold if the biodiversity offsets scheme applies to the impacts of the development on biodiversity values, or	As per Section 7.4 of the BC Act, development exceeds the biodiversity offsets scheme threshold if it is: (a) Of an area declared by clause 7.2 of the BC Regulation as exceeding the threshold, or (b) On land included on the Biodiversity Values Map published under clause 7.3. As the site has a mapped minimum lot size of 100 hectares, the relevant clearing threshold for the site is 1 hectare. The development does not propose to clear more than 1 hectare of native vegetation. The site does not contain land mapped via the Biodiversity Values Map. A BDAR is not required.
(c)	it is carried out in a declared area of outstanding biodiversity value.	The site is not located within a declared area of outstanding biodiversity value under Part 3 of the BC Regulation.

4.2 Designated development

Section 4.10 of the EP&A Act and Schedule 3 of the EP&A Regulation provide outline that certain types of development are classified as designated development. Designated development requires the preparation of an Environmental Impact Assessment to support a development application.

The proposed DBESS represents a 'battery storage facility' for the purposes of Section 7 of Schedule 3 of the EP&A Regulation.

The approximate capacity of the proposed DBESS of approximately 5 MW is below the threshold of 30 MW provided by the EP&A Regulation such that the development is not classified as designated development.

4.3 Bush fire prone land

Section 4.14 of the EP&A Act provides that development consent cannot be granted for any development for any propose if located on bush fire prone land unless the consent authority.

(a) is satisfied that the development conforms to the specifications and requirements of the version (as prescribed by the regulations) of the document entitled Planning for Bush Fire Protection prepared by the NSW Rural Fire Service in co-operation with the Department (or, if another document is prescribed by the regulations for the purposes of this paragraph, that document) that are relevant to the development (the relevant specifications and requirements), or

(b) has been provided with a certificate by a person who is recognised by the NSW Rural Fire Service as a qualified consultant in bush fire risk assessment stating that the development conforms to the relevant specifications and requirements.

The project is not identified as a subdivision of land that could be used for residential purposes or rural residential purposes or development for a special fire protection purposes under 4.14(1) of the EP&A Act and it is not considered integrated development under Section 4.46 as no approval under section 100B of the *Rural Fires Act 1997* (RF Act) is required (refer to **Section 4.4**)

The site of the proposed development is not mapped as containing bush fire prone land.

Notwithstanding, an assessment of potential bush fire impacts associated with the proposed development is provided within **Section 5.14.2**.

4.4 Integrated development

Section 4.46 of the EP&A Act states that development requiring consent and another activity approval is defined as Integrated Development. The proposed development is not classified as Integrated Development as it does not require any approvals identified via Section 4.46 of the EP&A Act.

Bendemeer Lane is not identified as a state classified road under section 2.118 of the Infrastructure SEPP. The proposed development therefore does not require consent to connect to a classified road. Notwithstanding the requirement to obtain a consent under section 138 of the *Roads Act 1993*, the proposed development is not classified as integrated development where the consent authority is also the roads authority, pursuant to section 4.46(3) of the EP&A Act.

4.5 Environmental Planning Instruments

The EP&A Act facilitates the preparation of Environmental Planning Instruments (EPIs), including State Environmental Planning Policies (SEPP) and Local Environmental Plans (LEP).

In relation to the site and proposed development, the relevant EPIs include:

- > *Greater Hume Local Environmental Plan 2012*: Refer to **Section 4.5.1**.
- > *State Environmental Planning Policy (Biodiversity and Conservation) 2021*: Refer to **Section 4.5.2**.
- > *State Environmental Planning Policy (Resilience and Hazards) 2021*: Refer to **Section 4.5.3**.
- > *State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021*: Refer to **Section 4.5.4**.

4.5.1 GREATER HUME LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN 2012

The following relevant provisions of the *Greater Hume Local Environmental Plan 2012* (LEP) are addressed in the following subsections:

- > Clause 2.3 Land Use Zoning: Refer to **Section 4.5.1.1**.
- > Clause 6.1 Earthworks: Refer to **Section 4.5.1.2**.
- > Clause 6.7 Essential Services: Refer to **Section 4.5.1.3**.

4.5.1.1 Clause 2.3 Land Use Zoning

The site is located on land zoned, RU1 – Primary Production (refer to **Figure 3**). The proposed development consists of a DBESS, which is most appropriately defined as (emphasis added):

electricity generating works means a building or place used for the purpose of:

- a) *making or generating electricity,*
- b) *or **electricity storage.***

Development for the purposes of electricity generating works is prohibited within the RU1 land use zone applying to the site under clause 2.3.

Notwithstanding this, Division 4 of *State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021* (Infrastructure SEPP) provides that development for the purposes of electricity generating works including electricity storage, is permitted with consent in a prescribed non-residential zone (refer to **Section 4.5.4**). The Infrastructure SEPP prevails to the extent of any inconsistency with another planning instrument. The RU1 zone is a prescribed non-residential zone and therefore the development is permitted with consent.

The proposed DBESS is not unsympathetic to the objectives of the RU1 land zone. The implementation of appropriate mitigation measures as part of the design of the project and during the construction and operational phases would seek to minimise significant impacts to the objectives of the land zone and surrounding land uses.

4.5.1.2 Clause 6.1 Earthworks

Section 6.1 of the LEP requires consideration of a range of factors prior to granting consent for earthworks. It provides that development involving earthworks must not have a detrimental impact on environmental functions and processes, neighbouring uses, cultural or heritage items or features of the surrounding landscape.

Subclause 6.1(2) of the LEP provides that development consent is required for earthworks unless they are exempt development under the LEP or another applicable EPI, or ancillary to other development for which consent has been given. Where consent is required, the consent authority is required to consider the matters in subclause 6.1(3) before granting development consent.

The proposed works are considered in the context of the matters in subclause 6.1 (3) in **Table 2**.

Table 2 – Earthworks Considerations

Matters for Consideration		Comment	
(a)	The likely disruption of, or any detrimental effect on, drainage patterns and soil stability in the locality of the development	The proposed earthworks are limited to minor volumes associated with the installation of a 5 MW DBESS and therefore will not result in any impacts on drainage patterns and soil stability in the locality. Ground would be remediated post work to ensure a stable environment, with no additional run-off.	✓
(b)	The effect of the development on the likely future use or redevelopment of the land	The proposed earthworks are associated with the installation and operation of a sub 5 MW DBESS. Earthworks are minor and unlikely to result in any demonstrable changes in land levels.	✓
(c)	The quality of the fill or the soil to be excavated	Excavation works will be limited to establishing footings/slabs for the proposed development and trenching for cables, with only minor amounts of soil excavated. In the event that excavated soil requires removal from the site it will be transferred as required to an appropriately licenced facility. Standard checking and tracking requirements will be applied.	✓
(d)	The effect of the development on the existing and likely amenity of adjoining properties	Levels near the site boundaries would be maintained, ensuring that the earthworks would not impact on the amenity of adjoining properties.	✓
(e)	The source of the fill material and the destination of the excavated material	The source any fill material and destination of any excavated material is to comply with Council's requirements.	✓
(f)	The likelihood of disturbing relics	The likelihood of disturbing relics is low as the site is located within a pre-disturbed rural setting. The development footprint is considered unlikely to contain any of the natural features	✓

Matters for Consideration		Comment	
		typically associated with Aboriginal sites or places.	
(g)	The proximity to, and potential for adverse impacts on, a waterway, drinking water catchment or environmentally sensitive area	<p>The site is not located within a mapped environmentally sensitive area.</p> <p>The closest watercourse to the site Sandy Creek, is located approximately 400 m to the west of the site. A farm dam is additionally situated in the northeastern corner of the host lot approximately 40 m west of the site.</p> <p>Due to the distance between the development and surrounding watercourses, and subject to the implementation of appropriate mitigation measures, no adverse impacts to watercourses are anticipated to result from the proposed development.</p>	✓
(h)	Appropriate measures proposed to avoid, minimise or mitigate the impacts of the development	No additional measures are required to minimise or mitigate the impacts referred in paragraph (g).	N/A

4.5.1.3 Clause 6.7 Essential Services

Clause 6.7 of the LEP prevents the consent authority from granting consent unless it is satisfied that essential services are available or that adequate arrangements have been made to make them available when required. These include the supply of water and electricity, disposal and management of sewage, stormwater drainage or on-site conservation and suitable vehicular access.

The following is noted in the context of Clause 6.7:

- a. No reticulated water network is available for the proposed development. It is anticipated that water for the construction activities would be sourced and transported to the site via water trucks. Water supply arrangements would be confirmed in consultation with Council, Regulatory Authorities, and the existing landowner prior to construction and during the refinement of detailed design, ensuring a sufficient supply of water is available for the operation of the project – refer to **Section 5.6**.
- b. The development would include the installation of ancillary electrical infrastructure. The proposed electrical connection would extend northeast from the proposed DBESS, connecting to an existing 22 kV essential energy overhead transmission line located adjacent to the host lot. This 22 kV line extends northwards along the western side of the Hume Highway before turning to connect to an existing substation located approximately 4.2 km northeast of the site, along Jingellic Road – Refer to **Figure 1**.
- c. No permanent connection to a reticulated sewer network is proposed. Portable ablution facilities would be temporarily installed on site during the construction phase of the project. It is anticipated that chemical port-a-loo's, as temporary portable ablution facilities, will be provided at strategic locations

around the site for use by personnel during the construction and decommissioning phases of the project. Where possible these port-a-loo's will be located on a trailer to allow for easy redistribution. Waste from port-a-loo's will be disposed of offsite at a licensed treatment facility. The site is generally unmanned, and as such, there is no requirement to provide permanent ablution facilities.

- d. The proposed development is not anticipated to result in significant impacts to surrounding water courses. Stormwater management measures would be provided as appropriate to minimise the potential for adverse impacts - refer to **Section 5.6** and Drawings provided in **Appendix A**.
- e. The development includes the installation a new driveway and access arrangement connected to Bendemeer Lane. The access arrangement would be designed to provide safe ingress and egress for vehicles associated with the project – refer to **Section 5.9** and Drawings provided in **Appendix A**.

On the basis of the above, the development is considered to be acceptable in the context of clause 6.7 of the LEP.

4.5.2 STATE ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING POLICY (BIODIVERSITY AND CONSERVATION) 2021

4.5.2.1 Chapter 2 Vegetation in non-rural areas

Chapter 2 of the Biodiversity SEPP relates to vegetation in “non-rural areas of the State”, defined in section 2.3 as land with any non-rural zoning. This includes the RU1 – Primary Production land zone applying to the site under the LEP.

Section 2.6 of the SEPP provides that a person must not clear native vegetation in a non-rural area of the State:

1. To which Part 2.3 of the Biodiversity SEPP applies without the authority conferred by a permit granted by Council under that Part; or
2. That exceeds the biodiversity offsets scheme threshold without the authority conferred by an approval granted by the Native Vegetation Panel under Part 2.4.

Section 2.9 of the SEPP provides that Part 2.3 applies to any vegetation in a non-rural area of the State that is declared by a development control plan (DCP) by reference to the species, size or location of vegetation or the presence of vegetation in an ecological community or in the habitat of a threatened species. A review of the Greater Hume DCP did not identify any controls relevant to the removal of vegetation within the RU1 Land Zone (Refer to **Section 4.5.6**).

An assessment of potential biodiversity impacts resulting from the proposed project is provided in **Section 5.7**. The assessment has concluded that the proposed development is unlikely to result in significant impacts to biodiversity. A BDAR is therefore not required.

For the avoidance of doubt the proposed project is not anticipated to require the removal of native vegetation and does not exceed the clearing threshold applying under Section 7.4 of the BC Act and Section 7.1(1) of the BC Regulation (Refer to **Section 4.1**).



4.5.2.2 Chapter 3 Koala habitat protection 2020

Under Section 3.3(1) of the Biodiversity SEPP, this Chapter applies to land within the RU1 Primary Production, RU2 Rural Landscape and RU3 Forestry and equivalent zones in an LGA not marked with a '*' in Schedule 2 of the SEPP. A three-step process applies where the SEPP applies and the site (including adjoining land in the same ownership) has an area of more than one hectare.

The site includes land within the RU1 zone and therefore, Chapter 3 applies to the proposed development.

As detailed in **Section 5.7**, the proposed activity is on land previously disturbed by agricultural operations.

Given existing disturbance and the minimal extent of vegetation impacted no significant impacts to koalas or koala habitat are expected. This is further discussed in **Appendix C**.

4.5.2.3 Chapter 4 Koala habitat protection 2021

Under Section 4.4(1) of the Biodiversity SEPP, the Chapter applies to the LGAs listed in Schedule 2 of the SEPP, unless the site is located within the RU1 Primary Production, RU2 Rural Landscape or RU3 Forestry zone in an LGA that isn't marked with a '*' in Schedule 1.

The site is located within the RU1 zone. Chapter 4 therefore does not apply.

4.5.3 STATE ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING POLICY (RESILIENCE AND HAZARDS) 2021

4.5.3.1 Chapter 3 Hazardous and Offensive Development

Section 3.7 of the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Resilience and Hazards) 2021* (The Hazards SEPP) requires the consideration of current circulars or guidelines prepared by the Department of Planning in determining whether a development is:

- > hazardous storage establishment, hazardous industry or other potentially hazardous industry; or
- > offensive storage establishment, offensive industry or other potentially offensive industry.

The current and most recent guidelines prepared by the Department of Planning, the *Hazardous and Offensive Development Application Guidelines – Applying SEPP 33* (Applying SEPP 33 Guideline; Department of Planning 2011), includes the screening tests to be used to determine whether a development is potentially hazardous development. If the screening tests indicate that a development is potentially hazardous development, a preliminary hazard analysis (PHA) is required to be provided as part of the DA. The type of screening test to be used is dependent upon the class, as categorised under the Australian Dangerous Goods Code (the ADG code; National Transport Commission 2020) of dangerous goods proposed to be accommodated on-site.

The project includes delivery of a DBESS. The dangerous good associated with DBESS are lithium batteries which are a class 9 dangerous good under the ADG Code. Class 9 goods do not exceed the screening thresholds under the guidelines under the Applying SEPP 33 Guideline as they "pose little threat to people

or property” (Department of Planning 2011, p. 33). The proposed development is therefore considered unlikely to pose a significant hazard or risk associated with the use of lithium batteries.

4.5.3.2 Chapter 4 Remediation of Land

Section 4.6(1) of the Hazards SEPP states that a consent authority must not consent to the carrying out of development unless it has considered whether the land is contaminated. If the land is contaminated, the consent authority must not consent to the carrying out of development unless it is suitable for the proposed use in its contaminated state or will be suitably remediated before the land is used for that purpose.

A search of the NSW EPA Contaminated land record was completed on 21 March 2024 for contaminated land within the Greater Hume Shire LGA. No records were identified within the LGA.

The EPA’s list of notified sites dated 11 March 2024 was reviewed for suburbs within the Greater Hume Shire LGA. The search did not identify any sites at or within the vicinity of the project site. The closest site identified, a Caltex truck stop, is located approximately 5.1 km north of the site in Holbrook.

Notwithstanding the above, the proposed activity is located on a site historically used for agricultural purposes and there is therefore the potential for contamination on site.

Through the discussions with the landowner, and a review of available historical aerial photography (refer **Section 5.1**), there is no indications of historic use of the land for a potentially contaminating purpose. Whilst no known contamination risks have been identified, appropriate safeguards and mitigation measures are recommended for implementation during the completion of site works and operation of the proposed activity to minimise any residual risks associated with the project (refer **Section 5.3**). The land is considered to be appropriate for the proposed purpose and remediation is not required.

The implementation of waste management measures (refer **Section 5.13**) together with appropriate soil and water management measures (refer **Section 5.2** and **5.6**) would assist to reduce the risk of site contamination occurring as a result of the proposed activity.

Accordingly, the development is considered to satisfy the requirements of Chapter 4 of the Hazards SEPP.

4.5.4 STATE ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING POLICY (TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE) 2021

Division 4 of *State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021* (The Infrastructure SEPP) provides that development for the purposes of electricity generating works is permitted with consent in a prescribed non-residential zone. The RU1 zone applying to the site is a prescribed zone under Section 2.35 of Division 4.

The Infrastructure SEPP prevails over the LEP to the extent of an inconsistency pursuant to Part 2.1 Section 2.7, permitting the proposed development of electricity generating works to be undertaken with development consent on land within the RU1 Primary Production zone. The proposed activity therefore is permissible with development consent on the basis that it is development permitted with consent via an EPI, the Infrastructure SEPP.

Other provisions of the Infrastructure SEPP are discussed in **Table 3**.

Table 3 – Infrastructure SEPP

Relevant Infrastructure SEPP provisions		Assessment
Section 2.36	Development for the purpose of electricity generating works permitted with consent.	<p>The project is for the purpose of electricity generating works.</p> <p>Development for the purpose of electricity generating works may be carried out by any person with consent on land in a prescribed non-residential zone via Section 2.36(1)(b).</p> <p>The subject site is zoned RU1 land, which is a prescribed non-residential zone. As such the project is permitted with consent.</p>
Section 2.118 and Section 2.119	Development on a proposed classified road and development with a frontage to a classified road	<p>The proposed project does not include development on a proposed classified road such that Section 2.119 does not apply.</p> <p>The site of the development is situated adjacent to the Hume Highway which is a state classified road. No frontage or direct connection from the site to the road reserve of the Hume Highway is proposed and therefore Section 2.119 does not apply.</p> <p>Notwithstanding the above an approval under Section 138 of the <i>Roads Act 1993</i> is required for road works associated with the project including the connection to Bendemeer Lane.</p> <p>An assessment of potential traffic related impacts is provided in Section 5.9.</p>
Section 2.122	Traffic generating development	<p>The project is not identified as traffic generating development under Schedule 3 of the Infrastructure SEPP.</p> <p>An assessment of potential traffic related impacts is provided in Section 5.9.</p>

4.5.5 DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING INSTRUMENTS

A review of the NSW Government LEP planning proposal tracking website did not identify any draft planning instrument currently under assessment in the Greater Hume Shire LGA.

4.5.6 DEVELOPMENT CONTROL PLAN

The *Greater Hume Council Development Control Plan 2013* (DCP) currently applies to the proposed development site.

The existing DCP, available via the Greater Hume Council website, contains a number of development controls specific to Residential Industrial and Commercial development together with other controls specific to vegetation removal, flood liable land, heritage conservation areas, notification policy and site-specific controls related to Holbrook Air Park.

A review of the DCP, however, did not identify any development controls which need to be address in relation to the development type proposed.

Notwithstanding this, the *Greater Hume Council Local Strategic Planning Statement* (LSPS) (GHSC, 2018) provides a 20 year plan for the LGA and is intended to inform ongoing reviews on the implementation of the DCP. The LSPS provides a commitment for Greater Hume Council to undertake reviews of planning controls implemented as part of the DCP and LEP every five years. While no specific requirements for battery developments are currently provided, the LSPS identifies, in reference to 'planning priority seven - resources', that the LGA is 'a desirable location for large scale solar, energy storage, and associated renewable energy generation technologies' and that there are benefits from these projects that the LGA 'could leverage to provide necessary infrastructure, energy security, employment, education and community investments that can benefit both the economy and local residents'.

4.5.7 DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTIONS PLAN

The *Greater Hume Council Section 7.12 Development Contributions Plan 2023* (GHSC, 2024) applies to the project site. The contribution plan outlines the application of levies to applications for development consent and applications for complying development certificates under Part 4 of the EP&A Act, except where exempt under section 1.6 of the plan.

Subject to the proposed cost of development in reference to section 1.5 of the plan, section 1.7 of the contributions plan stipulates that council will not impose a levy in respect of development :

- *where the proposed cost of carrying out the development is \$100,000 or less; or*
- *for the purpose of disabled access; or*
- *for the sole purpose of providing affordable housing; or*
- *for the purpose of reducing a building's use of potable water (where supplied from water mains) or energy; or*
- *for the sole purpose of the adaptive reuse of an item of environmental heritage; or*
- *other than the subdivision of land, where a condition under section 7.11 of the EP&A Act has been imposed under a previous development consent relating to the subdivision of the land on which the development is proposed to be carried out.*

The proposed development comprises the installation of a DBESS consistent with a battery storage facility and does not satisfy any of the exemption conditions listed above. Contributions will therefore apply to the proposed development (subject to confirmation from GHSC). A cost estimate of the project costs has been provided with the application prepared in accordance with Section 208 of the EP&A Regulations.

5. LIKELY IMPACTS OF THE DEVELOPMENT

The impacts have been identified through an assessment of the proposed development against the provisions of section 4.15(1)(b). This section also addresses the consideration at Section 4.15(c) and Section 4.15(e) of the Act that relate to the suitability of the site for the development and the public interest.

The assessment is constrained to the proposed development as described in Section 3 of this report. Impacts resulting from previously approved land uses and development within the site are not required to be considered as part of this report.

5.1 Context and Setting

The site is located in an area zoned for the purpose of primary production and is characterised by agricultural land uses.

The proposed DBESS is permissible within the RU1 zone and has minimal ongoing impacts associated with its operation. The proposed electricity storage works would be generally low scale and are capable of being designed with minimal impact to the existing character of the locality.

A review of the site via the NSW Historical Imagery Viewer has been undertaken to assess the sites context and previous land uses. Historical imagery between 1959 and 1998 portrays that the site and surrounding locality have historically been used for agricultural production. The historical imagery of the site identifies that vegetation in the immediate vicinity of the site has remained generally consistent with what currently exists onsite. The dwelling within the host lot appears to have been developed during the 1960s with the dam to the east of the site installed by 1983. No significant contamination is anticipated to have resulted from the previous agricultural land use of the site.

5.2 Soils

The extent of the activity is mapped via the Land and Soil Capability Mapping for NSW (DPIE 2021) as having a land capability of Class 4 (moderate to severe limitations) – refer **Figure 5**.

The site of the proposed activity is not mapped as containing Biophysical Strategic Agricultural Land (BSAL) and does not include any land mapped on the draft State Significant Agricultural (SSA) Land Map.

The site is located within the Mountain Creek soil landscape area (8326mc) which is identified with the following soil limitations: moderate erosion hazard, localised acidity, localised waterlogging and poor drainage, localised sodicity, locally hard setting and foundation hazard where sodic. Minor excavation and trenching is required to prepare the site for installation of the DBESS unit, with the potential for minor changes to access treatments and internal roads/driveways.

Soil impacts are anticipated to be limited to the construction phase of the project with no significant impact anticipated to result from the DBESS operation. Potential impacts on soil resulting from the proposed development include:

- > Soil erosion and sedimentation.
- > Soil contamination via spills from vehicles and vehicles during the construction phase.
- > Potential disturbance of unknown contaminated soil.
- > Encountering rock units with the capacity to accommodate naturally occurring asbestos.

Subject to the implementation of appropriate mitigation measures, including standard erosion and sediment controls during construction, the proposed development is not expected to result in significant impacts.

5.3 Contamination

A review of contamination records on 21 March 2024 did not identify any contaminated land within or in vicinity of the project site.

The site is substantially separated from recorded contaminated sites such that no significant impacts from previous contamination are anticipated. In the unlikely event that contaminated soils are located within the site, these are unlikely to be substantially disturbed due to the extent of works proposed. No substantial soil movement or sub-surface works are expected to form part of the proposed DBESS development.

A review of historical imagery has determined that the site has historically been used for agricultural land use (refer **Section 5.1**). No significant contamination is anticipated to have resulted from the previous agricultural use of the site.

5.4 Heritage

5.4.1 ABORIGINAL HERITAGE

A basic search of the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) online database was undertaken on 26 March 2024 to determine the potential for adverse impacts to aboriginal heritage. The search did not identify any known Aboriginal sites or places of heritage significance occurring at or near the project site (refer to **Appendix B**).

A review of Native Title Vision mapping was undertaken on 26 March 2024 and did not identify any Native Title Determination Areas located at or near the project site.

Given the existing use of the project site and the absence of known sites or places of Aboriginal heritage significance heritage, the proposed activity is considered unlikely to result in significant impacts to Aboriginal heritage.

Notwithstanding the above there is potential for unknown archaeological remains to be discovered and encountered during the construction of the proposed activity. While the potential to discover items of heritage significance is considered low, a precautionary principle applies. Appropriate mitigation measures would be implemented during the construction phase of the project to minimise the potential for adverse impacts.



5.4.2 NON-INDIGENOUS HERITAGE

A review of the State Heritage Inventory (SHI) online database for the LGA and Schedule 5 of the LEP 2012 was undertaken on 26 March 2024. No items of local or state heritage significance were identified at the subject site. The closest listed heritage item, a former Masonic Hall (I105) is of local heritage significance and is located approximately 4 km north of the project site within Holbrook.

Given the separation distance the proposed development is considered unlikely to result in any adverse impact to these heritage items.

Notwithstanding the above there is potential for unknown archaeological remains to be discovered and encountered during the construction of the proposed activity. While the potential to discover items of heritage significance is considered low, a precautionary principle applies. Appropriate mitigation measures would be implemented during the construction phase of the project to minimise the potential for adverse impacts.

5.5 Other Land Resources

The construction of the proposed development may result in some temporary disturbance to the existing agricultural use of the site, including through impacts associated with traffic, air and microclimate, waste and noise and vibration during the construction phase.

As detailed in **Section 5.2**, the proposed development is to occur with land mapped as Class 4 on the Land and Soil Capability Mapping for NSW (DPIE 2021). Class 4 land is described by the Land and Soil Capability Assessment Scheme (OEH, 2012) as:

Moderate capability land: Land has moderate to high limitations for high-impact land uses. Will restrict land management options for regular high-impact land uses such as cropping, high-intensity grazing and horticulture. These limitations can only be managed by specialised management practices with a high level of knowledge, expertise, inputs, investment and technology.

The proposal occupies a very small portion of the available area and retains the vast majority of the site for agricultural purposes.

Accordingly, the proposed development is considered unlikely to result in any significant impacts to agricultural land resources. Mitigation measures implemented throughout the construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the proposed development would be designed to minimise the potential for adverse impacts to the land and soil capability. During decommissioning the site would be returned (as far as reasonably practical) to its existing state, ensuring that the land remains suitable for future agricultural activities.

A review of Minview mapping has identified that a mining exploration licence EL9556, owned by Jamieson Minerals Pty Ltd, currently applies to the entirety of the lot and surrounding area, including the proposed

development site. This exploration licence was granted on 20 April 2022 for the exploration of Group 1 minerals and has an expiry date of 20 April 2025.

The site is not located within a Mine Subsidence District and no mining or drilling approvals are known to have been granted in relation to the site. Given the proximity of the site to the Hume Highway it is considered unlikely that the area of the DBESS would be utilised for future mining activities. It is also noted that the project is of a limited duration (approximately 30 years) and thus the future use of the land for mining purposes is not precluded.

Consultation between the applicant and Jamieson Minerals Pty Ltd would occur prior to commencement of construction to identify any potential conflicts and intentions to drill or explore in the area of the proposed DBESS.

No disruption to other land resources is considered likely to result from the proposed development.

5.6 Water

5.6.1 SURFACE WATER

There are no surface water features located within the confines of the site.

Water sources in proximity to the site are limited to Sandy Creek approximately 400 m to the west and several farm dams scattered throughout the locality. The closest farm dam is situated within the host lot approximately 40 m to the east of the development site and occupies an area of approximately 2600 m².

The proposed development is considered unlikely to result in any significant impact to any surrounding watercourses. Subject to the implementation of appropriate mitigation measures the proposed project is not anticipated to result in any significant adverse impacts.

The implementation of a soil and erosion management plan and other standard construction measures would limit the potential for the proposed development to result in adverse impacts to the surrounding water environment during the construction phase. The following mitigation measures are recommended to minimise the potential for adverse impacts:

- > Minimise the extent of ground disturbance and associated loss of groundcover as far as practical to reduce the potential sediment movement.
- > Implement rehabilitation with a capacity to best utilise seasonally opportunities and needs;
- > Activities with the potential for spills (refuelling) would not be undertaken within 50 m of any watercourse and a suitable spill response and containment kit available on site whenever and wherever these type of higher risk activities are undertaken.
- > Ensure that the DBESS is appropriately designed and maintained during operation to minimise the potential for spills and soil contamination.

5.6.2 GROUNDWATER

The site is not mapped as containing groundwater vulnerability via the ePlanning spatial viewer or LEP.

A review of the WaterNSW All Groundwater Map did not identify any registered groundwater bores within the boundaries of the site or the host lot. The closest registered bore GW007572 is situated approximately 1.3 km southeast of the project site and is recorded with a drill depth of 38.1 m.

A review of the Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems Atlas (BoM, 2024) and NSW SEED Portal (2024) did not identify any aquatic or subterranean Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems (GDE) occurring within the development site. Low potential terrestrial GDEs are mapped approximately 100 m east of the site along the alignment of the Hume Highway, and approximately 650 m to the west and 520 m to the south of the development site within the host lot. A very low potential GDE is mapped within the host lot approximately 400m west of the site near Sandy Creek.

Given the relatively shallow depth of excavation for installation the DBESS and associated electrical connection infrastructure (i.e. footings and power poles), interaction with groundwater resources is not anticipated. No groundwater extraction is proposed to facilitate the construction or operation of the project.

No significant volumes of potential contaminants are expected to be stored on the subject site during the construction and operational phases of the project. The battery units utilised are self-contained, minimising the potential for leaks and preventing the leaching of metals and contaminants into the soil and groundwater. Should significant volumes of fuels or other potential contaminants required storage on-site appropriate bunding and maintenance activities would limit the potential for any significant impact. It is anticipated that management plans would be implemented, detailing appropriate procedures to prevent and manage any spills occurring during the construction phase of the project. The self-contained design of the batteries and ongoing maintenance activities during the operation of the site, would further limit the potential for any significant impacts to groundwater resources.

The proposed development is therefore considered unlikely to result in any significant impact to surrounding groundwater resources. The implementation of surface water management measures, as detailed in **Section 7.4.6.1**, including a soil and erosion management plan, would assist to further minimise the potential for adverse impacts to groundwater.

5.7 Flora and Fauna

The site is not mapped as containing terrestrial biodiversity via the LEP and does not contain any land mapped with biodiversity values via the Biodiversity Values Map. The closest land mapped as containing terrestrial biodiversity is located at the southwestern corner of the host lot approximately 980 m from the development site. The closest land mapped as containing biodiversity value is located approximately 400 m west of the development site, within the host lot along Sandy Creek.

A review of the NSW State Vegetation Type Map via the NSW SEED Portal (2024) did not identify any Plant Community Types (PCTs) mapped within the site.

A Flora and Fauna Assessment Report (FFAR) prepared by Habitat Planning (2024) forms part of this application and is provided in **Appendix C**.

The FFAR included a desktop assessment of existing flora and fauna together with the completion of a site visit to assess the condition and extent of vegetation in January 2024. The FFAR details that most of the vegetation present is consistent with non-native agricultural cropland and that the majority of the study area does not contain an assemblage of native plant species that is representative of a native Plant Community Type (PCT). The following PCTs, however, were identified within the Study Area of the FFAR.

- > PCT 277 - Blakelys Red Gum - Yellow Box grassy tall woodland of the NSW South Western Slopes Bioregion.

PCT 277 is situated approximately 20 m to the south of the development site as well as along the northern and eastern boundary to the south and north of the development site. The FFAR concludes that vegetation impacts arising from the proposed development is limited to 0.47 ha of non-native agricultural land with no direct impacts to vegetation forming part of PCT 277.

With respect to fauna, it is determined in the FFAR that the site does not represent important habitat for locally occurring species and that the development will not impact on potential foraging or breeding habitats. An assessment of significance, pursuant to Section 7.3 of the BC Act is provided as part of the FFAR and has concluded that impacts of the proposed development on threatened biota are unlikely given no areas of Critically Endangered Ecological Community's (CEEC) will be directly impacted.

Overall, the development is considered unlikely to cause a significant impact to any threatened species, populations, or ecological communities listed under the NSW BC Act or the EPBC Act.

Subject to compliance with mitigation measures, the proposed development is considered unlikely to generate any significant adverse impacts on the life cycle or habitat of any of threatened species or threatened ecological communities.

5.8 Visual Amenity

The visual landscape of the locality is characterised by a range of rural land uses, consisting of large agricultural lots with pastures and scattered rural residential dwellings.

Construction activities would involve the operation of plant and equipment in visible locations. These works, however, would be temporary and short lived, unlikely to result in any significant visual impacts.

The proposed development would represent a change in the appearance of the land compared to the current visual landscapes. Given the limited extent of works and proximity of the Hume Highway, no significant adverse impacts to visual amenity are anticipated. The topography of the site, together with the separation distance from non-associated receivers and vegetation surrounding the site further assists to obscure direct views of the site minimising the potential for ongoing visual impacts.

A landscaping plan is provided in **Appendix H** and details the inclusion of a landscaping area exterior to the fenced area of the DBESS. The provision of a 5 m wide vegetation buffer consisting of 381 individual plants surrounding the development will effectively minimise any residual visual impacts.



5.9 Access, Transport and Traffic

The proposed site is located within a rural agricultural setting with vehicular access to be provided to the site via a new driveway connected to Bendemeer Lane.

The proposed access arrangement is situated to the east of an existing intersection between Bendemeer Lane and the Hume Highway. The Hume Highway is a state classified road (Gazetted Road Number 2) and is located approximately 100 m east of the site and 200 m east of the site access arrangement.

The access arrangement has been designed to satisfy a minimum entering sight distance of 160 m with a security gate setback approximately 25 m from the edge of Bendemeer Lane, capable of accommodating the storage of a 19 metre semi-trailer clear of the traffic lane. Bendemeer Lane is relatively straight and flat allowing for good sightlines in both directions and minimising the potential for adverse traffic impacts.

The proposed development has the potential to generate some minimal traffic impacts during the construction phase associated with staff and equipment coming to and from the site consisting of a mix of light and heavy vehicles, as well as construction waste being removed from site via heavy vehicles. Impacts of additional movements would be predominantly restricted to the construction phase, including:

- > Short term delays for travelling public; and
- > Reduced road safety.

Potential impacts associated with changes to existing traffic conditions would be managed through a construction management plan, to be prepared through the detailed design phase. The construction management plan would minimise the potential for adverse traffic impacts and is expected to include the implementation of a traffic management plan during construction to control access to the site, provide appropriate traffic controls, and to ensure all construction vehicles and materials are contained within the site at all times.

Following the completion of construction works and installation of the DBESS, no significant traffic impacts are anticipated. No significant change to existing traffic conditions during operation, in comparison to what is already experienced along Bendemeer Lane, is expected to occur as a result of the proposed development. Traffic during the operational phase would be limited to occasional maintenance activities.

A Traffic Impact Assessment (TIA) prepared by Traffic Works (2024) forms part of this application and is provided in **Appendix D**. The TIA concludes that there are no traffic engineering reasons that would prevent the development from proceeding. The following conclusions are provided in respect of potential traffic impacts associated with the proposed development:

- > *The peak hour traffic generation is likely to occur during the construction phase of the development, where the peak hour traffic volumes are expected to be:*
 - 3 light vehicles
 - 1 heavy vehicle
- > *The construction phase is expected to take 4 weeks.*

- > *The subject site will generate a peak car parking demand of 3 spaces during the construction period and 2 spaces post-opening.*
- > *The development plan includes a designated parking area that will satisfy the parking demand.*
- > *Adequate sight distance can be achieved at the intersection of Bendemeer Lane and the Hume Highway; no further treatment is required.*
- > *The proposed site access driveway along Bendemeer Lane satisfies the minimum entering sight distance of 160 m, as specified in AS/NZS 2890.1.*
- > *The setback of the proposed security gate is about 25 m from the edge of Bendemeer Lane and will accommodate the storage of a 19 m semi-trailer clear of the traffic lane.*
- > *No turn lane treatments are required at the Bendemeer Lane/site access intersection for the construction phase of the development.*

The following recommendation is provided as a conclusion to the TIA:

- > **Recommendation 1:** *the subject site access driveway should be construction per Figure 7.4 in Austroads Guide to Road Design Part 4 requirements and to the council's satisfaction.*

Subject to compliance with mitigation measures provided in the TIA, the proposed development is considered unlikely to generate any significant adverse impacts to existing access and traffic conditions.

5.10 Noise and Vibration

As shown in **Figure 4**, the closest non-associated receiver is located approximately 560 m to the west of the development site.

The proposed development will generate minimal noise and vibration impacts during the construction and operational phase. Construction impacts are expected to be limited to site development works and traffic movements and will be managed through a construction management plan, to be provided following DA approval.

Following the completion of construction works, no significant noise and vibration impacts are anticipated. Noise during operation would be limited to that generated by the battery infrastructure and maintenance traffic movements. Surrounding receivers are substantially separated from the extent of the battery such that no significant noise and vibration impacts during the operation of the development are anticipated. Accordingly, the proposed development is considered unlikely to significantly affect surrounding receivers through noise and vibration impacts.

An Acoustic Report (AR) prepared by Watson Moss Growcott Acoustics (2024) forms part of this application and is provided in **Appendix G**. The findings of the assessment have concluded that operational noise and vibration emissions associated with the proposal will comply with relevant criteria at sensitive receptors in the absence of any noise mitigations strategies. The following conclusions are provided in respect of noise generated by construction activities and road traffic associated with the proposed development:

- > Noise due to construction vehicle movements is predicted to be below noise level criteria nominated within the Road Noise Policy.

- > Noise emissions due to some construction activities have been predicted to exceed NMLs at receptors. In these instances, WMG has provided suitable noise mitigation strategies to minimise the potential for adverse impacts on the relevant sensitive receptors.
- > The client has advised that vibration intense activities will not form part of the project construction or operational phase and have therefore not been considered within the assessment.

The following recommendation is provided as a conclusion to the AR:

- > Given the preliminary nature of the assessment, WMG would recommend that the finalised detailed design is reviewed by an acoustic consultant to ensure that the outcomes comply with relevant criteria.

Subject to compliance with mitigation measures provided in the AR, the proposed development is considered unlikely to generate any significant adverse noise and vibration impacts.

5.11 Air and Microclimate

The proposed development would result in minimal impacts to the air and/or microclimate during the construction of the DBESS. These impacts would be managed through a construction environmental management plan (CEMP), to be provided following DA approval. The CEMP is expected to include the following measures to minimise the potential for adverse impacts to air quality:

- > Stockpiled topsoil and other materials that exhibit significant dust lift off would be wet down routinely and as appropriate.
- > Stabilising techniques and/or environmentally acceptable dust palliatives will be utilised if the wetting down of surfaces prove to be ineffective.
- > All equipment is maintained accordance with the manufacturers specifications.

Once the DBESS is operational, no adverse impacts to the air or microclimate are anticipated.

5.12 Servicing

All in-ground and above-ground services that are to be retained on site would be identified prior to works commencing. Subject to the identification of all in-ground and above-ground services for retention prior to works commencing and carrying out works in accordance with relevant standards and safe work practices, the proposed DBESS is not anticipated to generate any significant risks to existing services.

Servicing arrangements for the proposed DBESS would be refined during detailed design and confirmed in consultation with Council and relevant regulatory authorities prior to construction. The following is noted with respect to servicing requirements:

- > Electrical services associated with installing the DBESS would be limited to the augmentation and provision of sufficient electrical connections to connect the development with the local electrical network.

- > Water use for the construction of the DBESS would be minimal and likely limited to that required for dust suppression during the construction phase. Water for construction activities is expected to be sourced and transported to the site via water trucks.
- > It is anticipated that chemical port-a-loo's, as temporary portable ablution facilities, will be provided at strategic locations around the site for use by personnel during the construction and decommissioning phases of the project. Where possible these port-a-loo's will be located on a trailer to allow for easy redistribution. Waste from port-a-loo's will be disposed of offsite at an appropriately licensed treatment facility. No ablution facilities are proposed for the operational phase of the project. During Operation visitors to the site would be limited to occasional maintenance staff.
- > In accordance with the measures to minimise bush fire risks (refer **Section 5.14.2**) a minimum 10,000 litres static water supply is to be provided to ensure adequate water is available for firefighting activities.

5.13 Waste

The proposed development will generate waste during the construction phase. The following waste types are likely to be generated by construction activities.

- > Packaging materials
- > Excess building materials
- > Cabling
- > Metal off-cuts
- > Plastic and masonry products
- > General refuse and other non-putrescible general solid wastes.

Waste generated through the construction phase would be stored temporarily on-site in skips prior to removal and delivery to an approved waste facility in accordance with a construction management plan, to be provided following DA approval. Following the completion of construction works, no significant waste impacts are anticipated.

During the operational phase of the DBESS, waste generation would be limited to maintenance activities. This has the potential to include the replacement of site infrastructure and components of the DBESS. Waste if generated during the operational phase of the development, would be removed from the site and either recycled or disposed of at an appropriate waste disposal facility.

5.14 Hazards

5.14.1 FLOODING

The proposed development is not considered likely to be significantly impacted by flooding hazards.

A Flood and Groundwater Assessment Report prepared by Water Technology (2024) forms part of this application and is provided in **Appendix I**. The assessment concludes that there are no significant overland flow paths across the site. Modelling for the 1% Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP) flood event identified

that the maximum flood depth within the site as less than 100 mm with maximum velocities less than 0.05 m/s. On this basis the site is classified as flood hazard H1 and is considered generally safe for people, vehicles and buildings.

The following recommendation is provided in the conclusion of the Flood and Groundwater assessment with respect to surface water and flooding hazards:

- > *Based on the findings of the flood modelling it is recommended to set any batteries and critical infrastructure at least 200 mm above the ground level, and if available detailed topographic data should be used as the basis for additional modelling*

Subject to the implementation of appropriate mitigation measures, including standard erosion and sediment controls during construction and compliance with the recommendations of the flood and groundwater assessment report, the proposed project is not anticipated to result in any significant adverse impacts to surrounding watercourses or flooding behaviour.

5.14.2 BUSHFIRE

A review bushfire mapping provided via the ePlanning Spatial Viewer, SEED Portal and the Greater Hume Shire Council's Bushfire Map available via the council's website did not identify any bush fire prone land (BFPL) at or within the immediate vicinity of the development site. The current LEP does not contain any mapping identifying BFPL.

The development footprint is substantially separated from land identified via the Bush Fire Prone Land Map. The closest BFPL is located approximately 3.6 km to the northeast of the development near Holbrook.

While the site is not located within BFPL, it has been identified that the development type and vegetation located within and surrounding the site would benefit from a bush fire assessment. A Bush Fire Assessment Report (BFAR) prepared by Bushfire Environmental Management Consultancy (BEMC) (2024) forms part of this application and is provided in **Appendix E**.

The BFAR has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of *Planning for Bushfire Protection 2019*. To determine the planning and construction requirements for the development the BFAR has undertaken a review of vegetation, slope and other relevant bushfire characteristics within and surrounding the development site. To ensure compliance with the requirements of PBP 2019 the BFAR includes mitigation measures to ensure bushfire risks are appropriately managed. The proposed development will be managed in accordance with recommendations and measure identified in the BFAR.

A Bush Fire Emergency Management and Operations Plan (BFEMOP) prepared by BEMC (2024) also forms part of this application and is provided in **Appendix E**. The BFEMOP details bush fire risks applicable to the development and provides a number of strategies to protect the facility and neighbouring landowners from bushfire risks together with management procedures for the ongoing operation of the site and during emergency events.

The BFAP and BFEMOP collectively provide measures to minimise the potential for adverse bushfire hazards, including measures to:

- > Prevent or mitigate fire ignition, including maintenance of the DBESS and an Asset Protection Zone to create a buffer from bush fire prone vegetation and a defensible space for fire fighting operations.
- > Ensure that landscaping of the DBESS is implemented and managed in a manner that minimises bushfire risks.
- > Ensure that the DBESS is designed and built in accordance with relevant construction standards including the implementation of non-combustible materials and requirements for support equipment.
- > Ensure that appropriate access is provided for the DBESS including a perimeter road located within the 10m internal APZ designed to accommodate bushfire fighting activities.
- > Ensure the availability of fire-suppression equipment, access and water, including the provision of a static water supply with a minimum capacity of 10,000-litres. The water supply should be constructed of suitable materials and to appropriate standards, ensuring water is accessible for firefighting activities as per the requirements of the BFAR
- > Prioritise the placement of electrical connections underground where practical and ensure compliance with appropriate vegetation management standards where overhead power supply is implemented.
- > Ensure the appropriate storage and maintenance of fuels and other flammable materials.
- > Ensure notification is provided to the local NSW RFS Fire Control Centre for any works that have the potential to ignite surrounding vegetation or that are proposed to be carried out during a bush-fire fire danger period in order to ensure weather conditions are appropriate.
- > Ensure appropriate bush fire emergency management planning and responses.

It should be noted that development for the purposes of electricity generating works (BESS) is not categorised as “special fire protection purposes” and therefore the development does not require a 100B Certificate under the *Rural Fires Act 1997* (refer to **Section 4.3**).

Subject to compliance with mitigation measures, the proposed development is considered unlikely to generate any significant adverse impacts associated with bush fire risks.

5.14.3 TECHNOLOGICAL HAZARDS

The proposed development is not anticipated to generate any technological hazards, subject to:

- > The identification of all in-ground and above-ground services for retention prior to works commencing,
- > The completion of any removal, relocation and or replacement of existing services where required within impacted areas,
- > The capping of any adjacent services, where required and
- > The carrying out of works in accordance with relevant standards and safe work practices.

The portion of the site on which the DBESS is proposed to be installed is considered unlikely to be contaminated (refer to **Section 5.3**).

Electric and magnetic fields (EMF) are produced naturally as well as by human activity. The earth has both a magnetic field, produced in the earth’s core, and an electric field, produced by electrical activity like storms

in the atmosphere. Electrical equipment of all sizes and voltages produces EMF. Both fields drop away rapidly with distance from the source, or due to shielding by insulation or earth (in the case of buried installations).

The International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) has issued Guidelines for Limiting Exposure to Time-Varying Electric and Magnetic Fields. The relevant authority in Australia is the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPNSA) and they refer to the ICNIRP guidelines. These supersede earlier guidelines published by National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC).

The ICNIRP EMF guidelines provide relevant limits for the general public for 50 Hz sources as follows:

- > Electrical Field Strength (E): 5 kilo Volts per metre (kV/m)
- > Magnetic Flux Density (B): 200 micro Teslas (μT)

EMF increases with voltage and proximity to the apparatus producing, transmitting or consuming electricity. EMF varies according to specific design and construction parameters such as conductor height, electrical load and phasing, and most importantly, whether the conductors are overhead or buried.

The DBESS is located within a secure site and will not be open to the general public. The closest dwelling is located in excess of 150 metres from the DBESS, and at that distance EMF emission levels are not anticipated to be any higher than what currently exists. No significant impacts associated with technological hazards are therefore anticipated.

5.15 Safety Security and Crime Prevention

The guidelines prepared by the NSW Department of Urban Affairs and Planning (DUAP 2001) identify four (4) Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles to be considered in a Development Application to ensure developments do not create or exacerbate crime risk. The four key principles of the guidelines include surveillance, access control, territorial reinforcement, and space management.

The proposed development has been designed with consideration of safety, security and crime prevention. Fencing of the DBESS site and periodic maintenance activities are anticipated to have a positive impact on surveillance, access control, territorial reinforcement and space management, enabling the continued use of the site for electrical storage alongside surrounding agricultural activities.

5.16 Public Domain

The proposed development will generate minimal impacts on the public domain during the construction phase predominately associated with the increased of traffic to the site (refer **Section 7.4.8**).

Any necessary approvals for works within the public domain would be secured following DA approval. The impacts of these activities would be managed through a construction management plan, also to be provided following DA approval.

Following the completion of construction works, no significant impacts to the public domain are anticipated.

5.17 Social Impact

As defined by the NSW Government Office on Social Policy, social impacts are significant events experienced by people as changes in one or more of the following are experienced:

- > peoples' way of life (how they live, work or play and interact with one another on a day-to-day basis);
- > their culture (shared beliefs, customs and values); or
- > their community (its cohesion, stability, character, services and facilities).

The proposed development will have a minimal social impact predominantly through the increase of traffic, air and microclimate impacts, waste generation and an increase in noise and vibration during the construction phase. These impacts are capable of being managed through a construction management plan, to be provided following DA approval. The impacts are also overcome by the benefits of the works, providing greater flexibility for the electrical network

5.18 Economic Impact

The proposed development would have minimal economic impact associated with impacts to surrounding businesses during the construction phase. These impacts are capable of being managed through a construction management plan, to be provided following DA approval.

The potential for adverse impacts is offset by the creation of economic benefits as a result of the development. Short term economic benefits are expected during the construction phase of the project with expenditure on local goods accommodation and materials together with the generation of employment opportunities for local contractors. The operation of the project will continue to enable ongoing employment opportunities for operation and maintenance activities together with follow on economic benefits associated with improving the reliability and flexibility of the electrical network.

5.19 Construction Impacts

Construction impacts would be short-lived and manageable. The following standard construction management measures would be implemented to ensure impacts to the locality are minimised:

- > Standard construction hours (7 am to 6 pm Monday to Friday and 8 am to 1 pm Saturday and at no times on Public holidays) would be implemented;
- > Avoiding dust generating activities during windy and dry conditions; and
- > Maintaining all equipment in good working condition such that the construction contractor and site manager ensure the prevention of the release of smoke by construction equipment, which would be in contravention of Section 124 of the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* and Clause 16 of the *Protection of the Environment Operations (Clean Air) Regulation 2010*.



5.20 Cumulative Impacts

It is not anticipated that the development would result in any cumulative impacts including:

- > individual impacts so close in time that the effects of one are not dissipated before the next (time crowded effects);
- > individual impacts so close in space that the effects overlap (space crowded effects);
- > repetitive, often minor impacts eroding environmental conditions (nibbling effects); or
- > different types of disturbances interacting to produce an effect which is greater or different than the sum of the separate effects (synergistic effects).

5.21 Suitability of the Site for Development

The site is considered suitable for the proposed development based on the following:

- > It is generally level and located within an environment historically disturbed by agricultural activities.
- > It is unlikely to be contaminated given existing records from the NSW EPA list of Notified Sites and The EPA Contaminated Land Record.
- > It is unlikely to contain Aboriginal sites or places and is not mapped as being within a heritage conservation area under the LEP 2012.
- > It is not mapped as containing or being within 40 metres of a watercourse and is considered unlikely to be significantly impacted by flooding.
- > A FFAR has determined that the proposed development is unlikely to result in any to threatened biota including any significant impacts on the life cycle or habitat of any of threatened species or threatened ecological communities.
- > The site is not mapped as bush fire prone land and the development is capable of implementing appropriate measures to minimise fire risks as identified via a BFAR and BFEMOP.
- > It is not anticipated to significantly increase the demand for essential services and is located in close proximity to existing electrical transmission infrastructure minimising the disturbance for providing appropriate electrical connections.

5.22 The Public Interest

The proposed development is in the public interest on the following grounds:

- > Is consistent with applicable EPIs including all relevant SEPPs and the LEP 2012. With respect to the latter, it is permitted with consent and enables future development for permissible uses that are consistent with the objectives of the zone.
- > Will have minimal impacts limited to traffic, public domain, air and microclimate, waste and noise and vibration impacts during the construction phase. These impacts are capable of being managed through a construction management plan, to be provided following DA approval.

- > Is within a suitable site for the proposed works, which is generally level, located within a rural environment unconstrained in terms of soils, heritage, watercourses, vegetation or hazards such as bushfires or flood events.

Therefore, the proposed development is recommended for approval subject to the council's standard conditions of consent.

6. CONCLUSION

This SEE has been prepared by Premise to assess impacts associated with the proposed development of electricity generating works (DBESS) in a site located near Hume Highway, Holbrook and considers the development in the context of Section 4.15(1) of the EP&A Act. This includes a consideration of the relevant environmental planning instruments, the likely impacts of the development, the suitability of the site and the public interest.

In terms of environmental planning instruments, the proposed development is permitted with consent on RU1 land use zone by reference to Section 2.36 of the Transport and Infrastructure SEPP and is compliant with all other relevant provisions under the LEP.

With respect to impacts, the assessment in this SEE and supporting documentation has determined that the proposed development will have minimal or acceptable impacts on the environment and public. This includes the local context, soils, heritage, other land resources (i.e. agriculture and mining), water, flora and fauna, visual amenity, access, transport and traffic, noise and vibration, air and microclimate, servicing, wastes, hazards, social and economic impacts.

The site is suitable for the development as it is unlikely to be contaminated or contain Aboriginal sites or places in the vicinity of the proposed development. It isn't mapped under the LEP as being or adjoining an item of heritage significance, within a heritage conservation area or within an area identified with wetlands. The site is mapped as having severe limitations for agricultural uses, is considered unlikely to contain significant native vegetation and doesn't have any flood or bush fire prone land identified in the immediate vicinity of the proposed development. Finally, the site is considered suitable for the proposed development by facilitating an opportunity for electrical storage in close proximity to existing electrical distribution and generating infrastructure, with accessible transportation routes supporting the transport of staff and equipment and local population centres for sourcing labour.

The proposed development will provide a benefit to the public, improving the reliability and flexibility of the electrical network by facilitating the storage of electricity. For the reasons set out above, the proposed development is in the public interest and is recommended for approval subject to council's standard conditions of consent.



APPENDIX A

PROJECT DRAWINGS



APPENDIX B

AHIMS SEARCH RESULT



APPENDIX C

FLORA AND FAUNA ASSESSMENT REPORT



APPENDIX D

TRAFFIC IMPACT ASSESSMENT



APPENDIX E

BUSH FIRE ASSESSMENT REPORT



APPENDIX F

BUSH FIRE MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS PLAN



APPENDIX G

ACOUSTIC REPORT



APPENDIX H

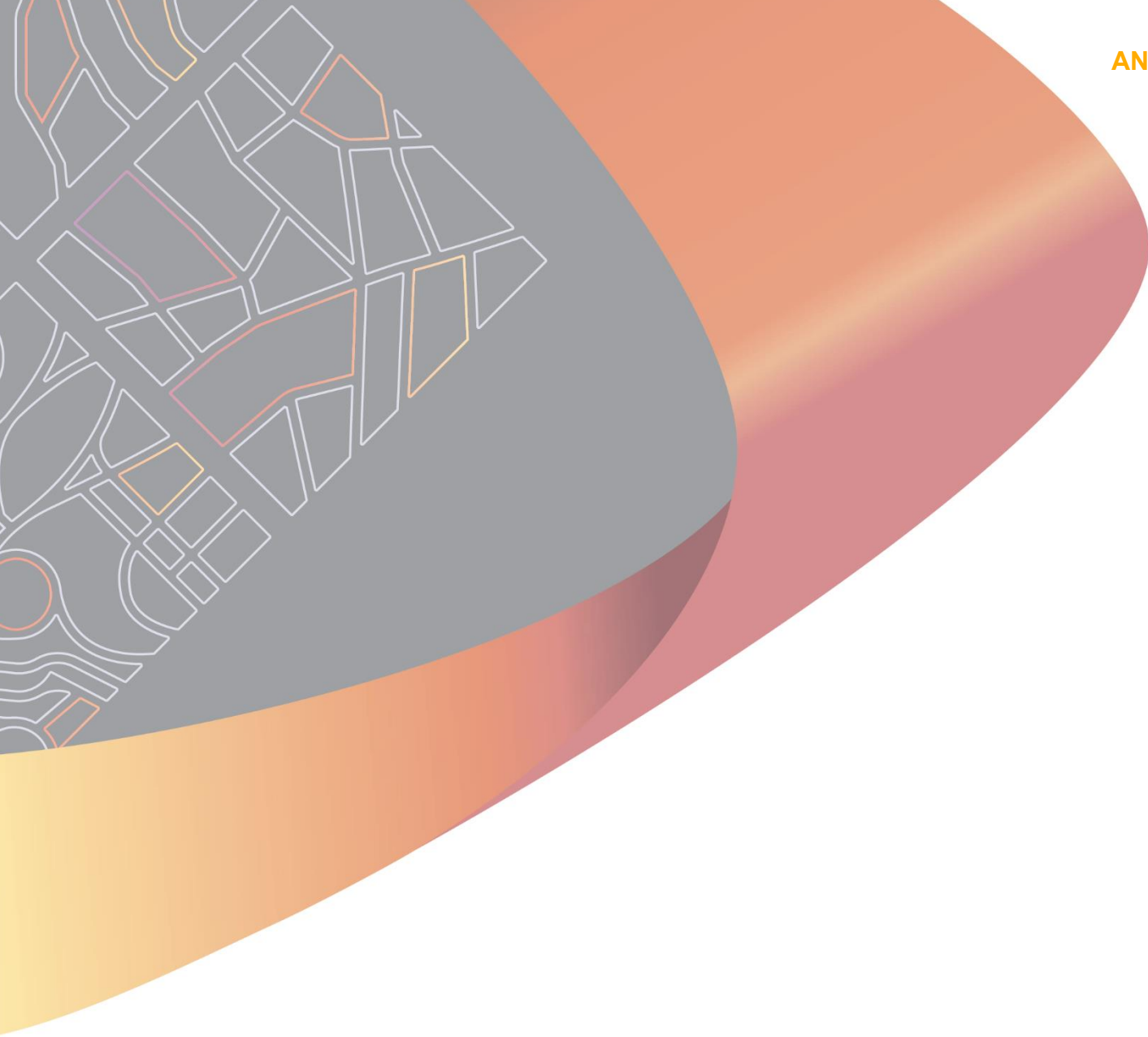
LANDSCAPING PLAN



APPENDIX I

FLOOD RISK ASSESSMENT







Notes
IMPORTANT NOTE RE CLARIFICATION:
 Tenderers/Contractors are advised to contact this office to confirm/clarify any aspect of the works, incl. any details of the contract documents (incl. this plan) of which they are uncertain. No claim will be accepted on account of failure to do so. IF IN DOUBT ... ASK.

This plan shall be read in conjunction with the ACEnergy Pty Ltd Hume Highway, Holbrook Distribution BESS drawings.

This plan shall be read in conjunction with the 'Bushfire Assessment Report: Holbrook D-BESS 5MW' prepared by Bushfire Environmental Management Consultancy (BEMC) v3 dated 6 March 2024.

Rev	Date	Revision Note	By
A	14/3/2024	Design updated to revised ACEnergy layout; Plant spacing revised to 1.50 m, plant schedule updated; Reference added re BEMC Bushfire Assessment Report; BEMC report compliance matrix added to Specification Notes sheet.	CW

Issue	Date	Issue Note	By
2	14/3/2024	REVISED APPROVAL ISSUE	CW
1	30/11/2023	APPROVAL ISSUE	CW

Surveyors
 Tel: _____ eMail: _____
 Structural Engineer:
 Tel: _____ eMail: _____
 Consulting Engineer
 Tel: _____ eMail: _____
 Project Managers
ACEnergy Pty Ltd
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 Other:
 Tel: _____ eMail: _____
 Proprietor

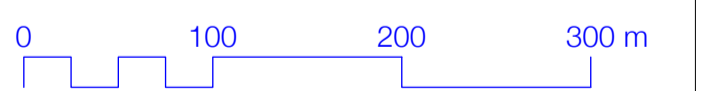


Project
HOLBROOK Distribution BESS
 Hume Highway Holbrook NSW

Drawing
Overview/Context Plan

Sheet 1 of 4

Local Authority **Hilltops Council, NSW**



Scale **1:4,000 @ A1; 1:8,000 @ A3**

Drawn **CW** Date **30 Nov 2023**

Project # **23647** Drawing # **01** Rev **A**



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REVISED APPROVAL ISSUE - 14 March 2024

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 This plan shall be read in conjunction with the ACenergy Pty Ltd Hume Highway, Holbrook Distribution BESS drawings.
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Rev	Date	Revision Note	By
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Issue	Date	Issue Note	By
2	14/3/2024	REVISED APPROVAL ISSUE	CW
1	30/11/2023	APPROVAL ISSUE	CW

Surveyors
 Tel: _____ eMail: _____
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 Other:
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 Proprietor



Project
HOLBROOK Distribution BESS
 Hume Highway Holbrook NSW

Drawing
Landscape Screening Plan

Sheet 2 of 4

Local Authority **Hilltops Council, NSW**



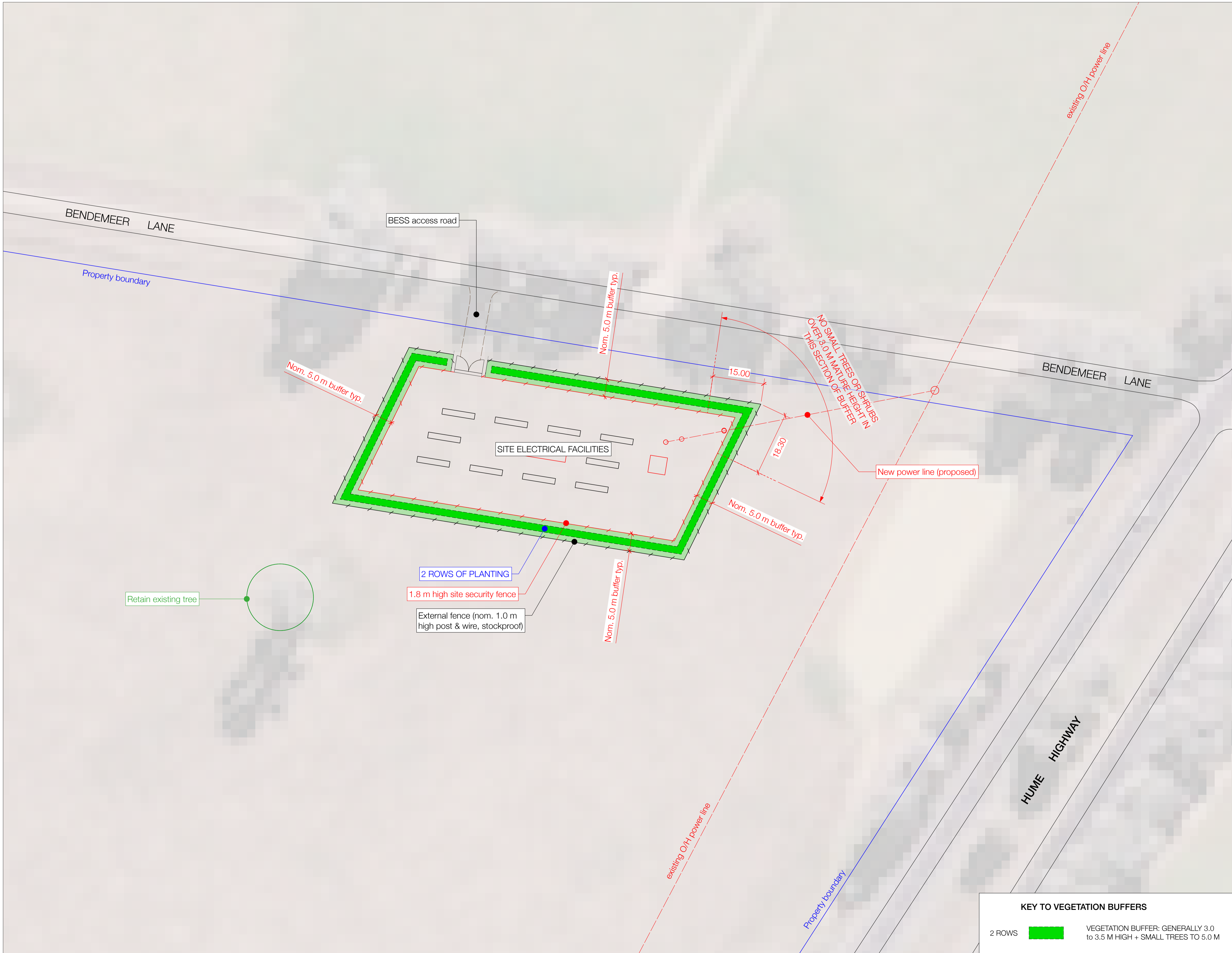
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Drawn **CW** Date **30 Nov 2023**

Project #	Drawing #	Rev
23647	02	A



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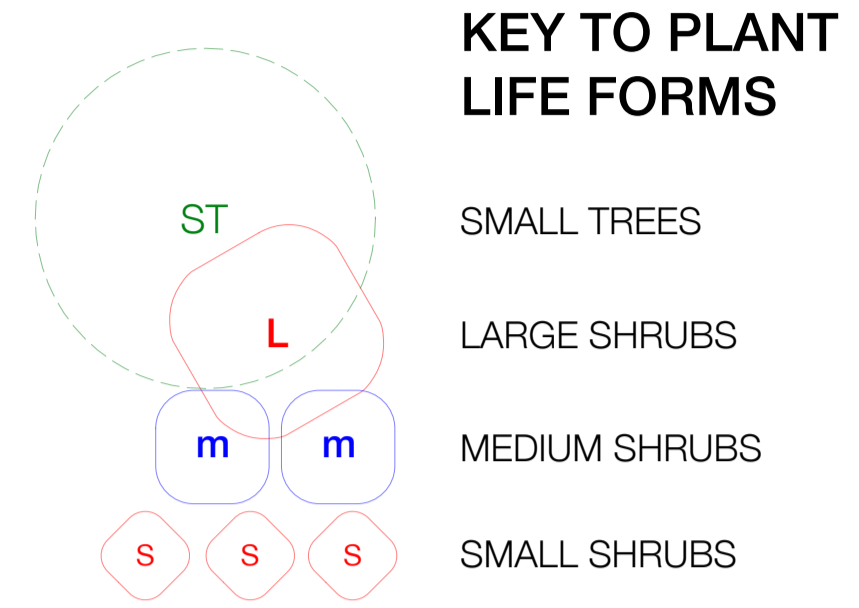
KEY TO VEGETATION BUFFERS

2 ROWS		VEGETATION BUFFER: GENERALLY 3.0 to 3.5 M HIGH + SMALL TREES TO 5.0 M
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REVISED APPROVAL ISSUE - 14 March 2024

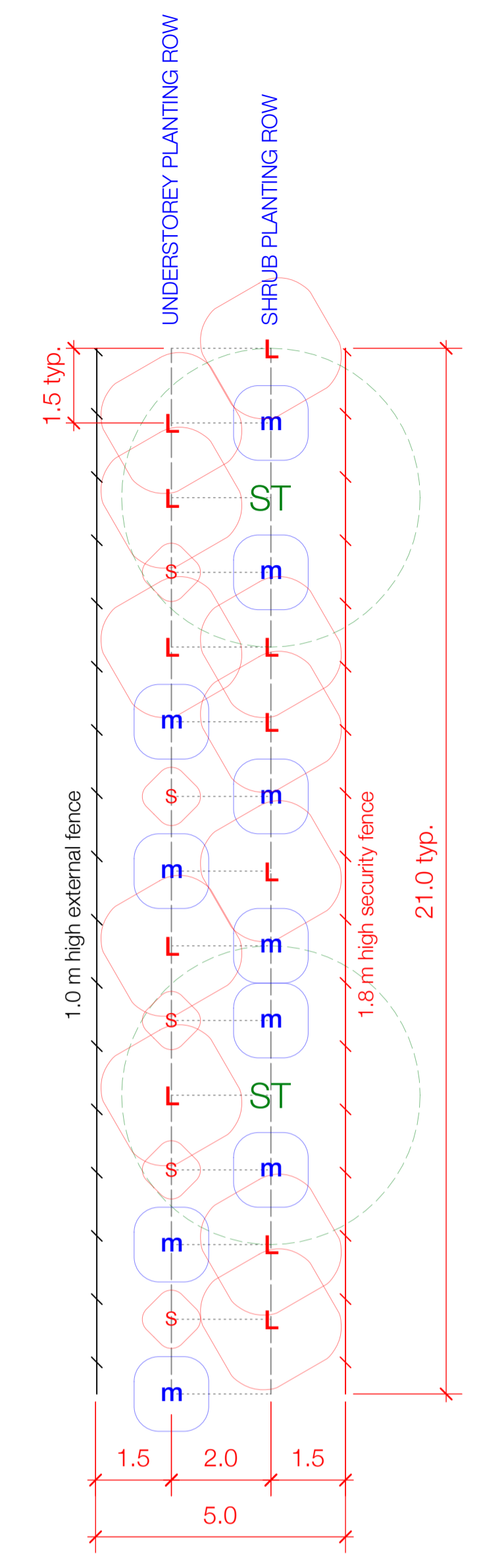
LIFE FORM	INDIGENOUS	SPECIES NAME	COMMON NAME	EST. MATURE HEIGHT	EST. MATURE SPREAD	POT SIZE	QUANTITY
SMALL TREES							
ST	●	<i>Acacia pycnantha</i>	Golden Wattle	5.0	3.0	Hiko	9
ST	●	<i>Eremophila longifolia</i>	Berrigan	5.0	5.0	Hiko	9
ST	●	<i>Kunzea ericoides</i>	Burgan	4.0	4.0	Hiko	9
LARGE SHRUBS							
L	●	<i>Acacia decora</i>	Western Silver Wattle	2.5	3.0	Hiko	25
L	●	<i>Acacia paradoxa</i>	Hedge Wattle	2.5	3.0	Hiko	25
L	●	<i>Acacia verniciflua</i>	Varnish Wattle	3.5	3.0	Hiko	25
L	●	<i>Callistemon citrinus 'Kings Park Special'</i>	Kings Park Bottlebrush	3.5	3.0	Hiko	25
L	●	<i>Callistemon sieberi</i>	River Bottlebrush	3.0	2.0	Hiko	25
L	●	<i>Dodonaea viscosa ssp. angustissima</i>	Narrow-leaf Hop-bush	3.0	2.5	Hiko	25
MEDIUM SHRUBS							
M	●	<i>Acacia buxifolia</i>	Box-leaf Wattle	2.5	2.0	Hiko	25
M	●	<i>Acacia genistifolia</i>	Early Wattle	2.0	2.0	Hiko	25
M	●	<i>Bursaria spinosa</i>	Sweet Bursaria	2.5	2.0	Hiko	25
M	●	<i>Indigofera australis</i>	Australian Indigo	2.0	2.0	Hiko	18
M	●	<i>Leptospermum continentale</i>	Prickly Tea-tree	2.5	2.0	Hiko	18
M	●	<i>Senna artemisioides</i>	Silver Cassia	2.0	2.0	Hiko	25
SMALL SHRUBS							
S	●	<i>Acacia acinacea</i>	Gold-dust Wattle	1.5	2.0	Hiko	25
S	●	<i>Acacia gunnii</i>	Ploughshare Wattle	1.5	1.5	Hiko	25
S	●	<i>Kunzea parvifolia</i>	Violet Kunzea	1.0	2.0	Hiko	18

BUSHFIRE ASSESSMENT COMPLIANCE:
 Refer Sheet 4 for proposed screening vegetation compliance matrix in response to Bushfire Assessment Report prepared by Bushfire Environmental Management Consultancy (BEMC) dated 6 March 2024.

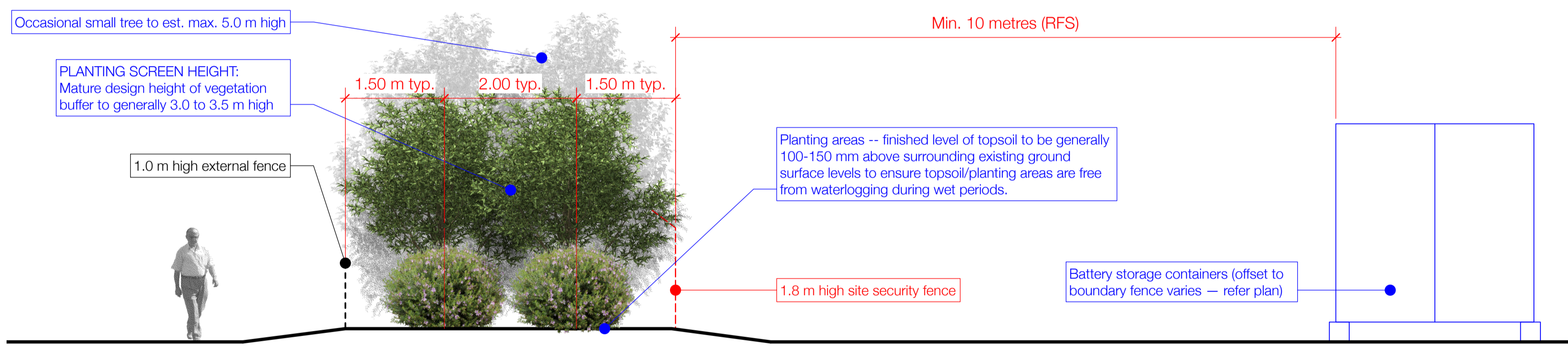


Unless otherwise noted, all plants to be planted with Arborgreen 'Greenguard POP' or similar approved tree guards and biodegradable jute weed mats

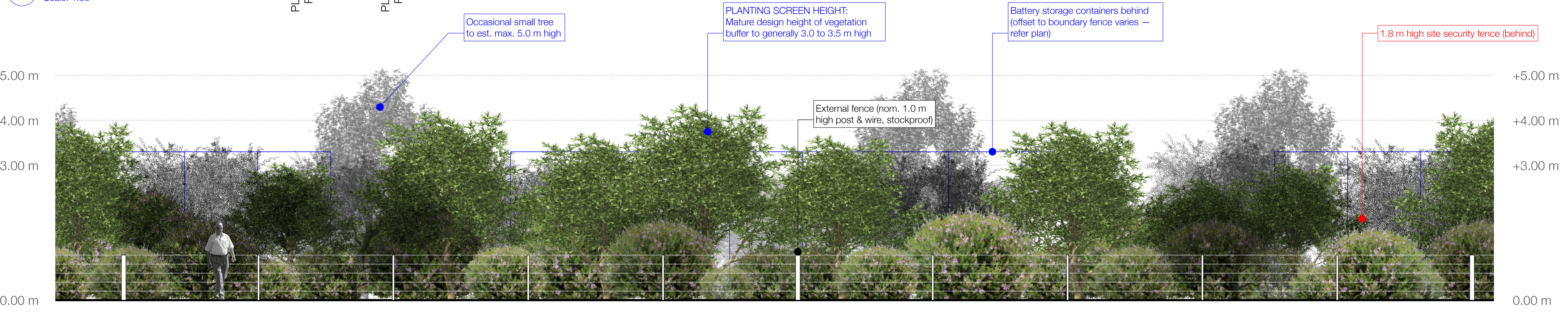
PLANT SET-OUT
 Plant species shall be distributed in natural groupings to all planting areas, generally in accordance with plant life-form planting layouts as described in the Vegetation Buffer Detail Sheets as part of this drawing set.
 Avoid concentrations of one species in any one area.
 Avoid planting more than 5 no. of the same species in any one 20 m long typical planting row.
 Maximise plant diversity at plant set-out.



TOTAL PLANTS QUANTITY 381



2 TYPICAL VEGETATION BUFFER (SECTION)
 Scale: 1:50



3 TYPICAL VEGETATION BUFFER (EXTERNAL ELEVATION)
 Scale: 1:50

1 TYP. VEGETATION BUFFER
 Scale: 1:100

Notes
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 This plan shall be read in conjunction with the 'Bushfire Assessment Report: Holbrook D-BESS 5MW' prepared by Bushfire Environmental Management Consultancy (BEMC) v3 dated 6 March 2024.

Rev	Date	Revision Note	By
A	14/3/2024	Design updated to revised ACEnergy layout; Plant spacing revised to 1.50 m, plant schedule updated; Reference added re BEMC Bushfire Assessment Report; BEMC report compliance matrix added to Specification Notes sheet.	CW
2	14/3/2024	REVISED APPROVAL ISSUE	CW
1	30/11/2023	APPROVAL ISSUE	CW

Issue Date Issue Note By

Surveyors
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 Structural Engineer:
 Tel: eMail:
 Consulting Engineer:
 Tel: eMail:
 Project Managers
 ACEnergy Pty Ltd
 M: 0437 514 953 eMail: danny.w@acenergy.com.au
 Other:
 M: eMail:
 Proprietor



Project
HOLBROOK Distribution BESS
 Hume Highway Holbrook NSW

Drawing
Landscape Screening

Sheet **3 of 4**

Local Authority **Hilltops Council, NSW**

Scale **As shown @ A1**
 Drawn **CW** Date **30 Nov 2023**

Project # **23647** Drawing # **03** Rev **A**



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REVISED APPROVAL ISSUE - 14 March 2024

LANDSCAPE WORKS CONSTRUCTION NOTES:

1 WORKS BY CIVIL/OTHERS

All construction & civil works incl. demolition, building works, bulk earthworks, drainage infrastructure, road pavements, site electrical & battery facilities & associated infrastructure, fencing and other related works.

The civil contractor will ensure the following minimum depths of site topsoil are provided for the landscape works:

- Planting areas -- min. 150 mm depth site topsoil.
- Finished level of topsoil to be generally 100-150 mm above surrounding existing ground surface levels to ensure topsoil/planting areas are free from waterlogging during wet periods.

2 INSURANCES

Provide certificates of currency for Public Liability Insurance (min. \$20M) and Workcover insurance (min. \$20M) to the Superintendent prior to commencing works. Each certificate of currency shall note the Proprietor as an interested party.

3 ROAD OPENING PERMIT

Apply to the responsible authority for a road opening permit (if required), incl. the payment of all fees and charges re same. An approved copy of the approved road opening permit shall also be provided to the Superintendent prior to works commencing on site.

4 LANDSCAPE PRE-COMMENCEMENT MEETING

The Contractor shall Initiate, coordinate and attend a pre-commencement meeting with Council, Proprietor & Superintendent, incl. achieving compliance with all Council & specified requirements, checklists, insurances, approvals, etc.

5 TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

If required, prepare and submit to the responsible authority a traffic management plan to their satisfaction, incl. the payment of all fees and charges re same. An approved copy of this plan shall also be provided to the Superintendent prior to works commencing on site. Implement approved traffic management plan during the duration of the Works on site.

6 LOCATE EXISTING SERVICES

Locate all existing services prior to commencing works, contacting Dial Before You Dig, the project civil engineers/contractor and/or the relevant authorities re same as required. Identify all overhead services prior to commencing works.

7 SET OUT THE WORKS

Accurately set the works out as per the documentation set.

8 SOIL TESTING

Undertake soil sampling & testing from an approved ag. soil testing laboratory, incl. seeking recommendations for fertilising planting zone to improve soil NPK balance, trace elements, etc. Any recommended adjustments must be made to improve the soil conditions for native tree & shrub planting.

9 PLANTING AREAS PREPARATION -- INITIAL

These works to be done ideally in LATE FEBRUARY/MARCH of the planting year:

- Eradicate broadleaf, woody and noxious weeds from all planting areas using selective, non-residual herbicides. Manual removal of larger woody weeds may be required -- inspect site to confirm extent.
- Rip along planting line to 2.0 m wide to min. 300 mm depth with a Yeomans/Keyline plough with tynes at max. 750 mm centres to break up/aerate natural subgrade and to relieve compaction, grade & level.
- Apply fertilisers and additives at rates recommended by soil test results.
- Cultivate planting lines to break up soil clods and provide an appropriate planting medium.
- DO NOT WORK WET SOIL. Remove any deleterious material brought to the surface, consolidate soil and grade surface to even grades, free of any depressions or undulations.

10 PLANTING AREAS PREPARATION -- SECONDARY

These works to be done ideally in APRIL/MAY of the planting year:

- Eradicate broadleaf, woody and noxious weeds from all planting areas using selective, non-residual herbicides. Manual removal of larger woody weeds may be required.
- Re-cultivate planting lines to break up soil clods and provide an appropriate planting medium.
- DO NOT WORK WET SOIL. Remove any deleterious material brought to the surface, consolidate soil and grade surface to even grades, free of any depressions or undulations.

11 PLANT SUPPLY

All plants shall be healthy, free from any pests or diseases, be attractive, well grown and well formed plant specimens and shall have a healthy, well formed root system commensurate in size with the foliage mass (root systems must not be pot bound). Plant container sizes shall be as listed in the detail planting schedule, but shall be min. hiko, ViroTube or 50 mm round/square pot size.

The planting contractor shall inspect all plants on delivery to site and shall certify in writing to the Superintendent that all plants supplied are as described above and are accepted by the planting contractor for planting in this project.

12 PLANTING

Set out plants as documented. Individual holes are to be dug (tree planter, mini-auger, etc.) in the prepared planting areas of sufficient size to easily accommodate the plant's root system and relieve any polishing. Create broad, shallow watering bowl to ALL plants to facilitate effective watering (min. 5 litre capacity). All plants shall be watered-in immediately after planting and at such times during the Contract period as is required to maintain growth free of water stress. Planting medium must be moist - do not plant into dry soil. Handle and plant all plants at all times in accordance with best horticultural practice.

13 FERTILISING

Refer maintenance section.

14 WEED MATS

Supply & install to each plant a 600 x 600 mm TreeMax or similar approved jute weed mat. Installation strictly to manufacturer's recommendations.

15 TREE/PLANT GUARDS

Supply & install to each plant Arborgreen 'Greenguard POP' 450 x 200 mm (sides): Code: 'GRGRDPOP-TRI' or similar approved 100% biodegradable tree guard, incl. 1 no. x 25 x 25 x 750 mm HWD stake per guard to all plants. Ensure stake extends min. 300 mm into ground. Installation strictly to manufacturer's recommendations.

16 GRASSING (IF REQUIRED)

Some areas of grass seeding may be required and will be directed and quantified by the Superintendent.

Do not sow seed in periods of extreme heat, cold or wet, or where wind velocities are excessive unless otherwise approved. Seed mix shall be as follows:

- TURF-TYPE REGENERATING PERENNIAL RYEGRASS 95% by count
- TURF-TYPE TALL FESCUE 3% by count
- SUB CLOVER 1% by count
- WHITE CLOVER 1% by count

Seeding rate shall be min. 30 gms per m². Apply seed evenly – seed application shall be via direct drilling or by other approved methods. Seeding shall be programmed when there is a period of anticipated weather conditions (i.e. rain) that will provide the best chance for germination of grass seed. Any areas affected by heavy rain, wind removing seed or other cause shall be re-seeded as specified to achieve an even cover of grass.

Slash grass when growth height has reached 100 mm or otherwise as directed by Superintendent. Should all the areas not require cutting at one time, complete all further cuts as necessary until 100% of the area has achieved successful coverage and all areas have received at least first cut.

17 PRACTICAL COMPLETION COORDINATION

The Contractor shall Initiate, coordinate and attend a Practical Completion meeting with Council, Proprietor & Superintendent, incl. achieving compliance with all Council & specified requirements, checklists, insurances, approvals, etc. NOTE: Min. 3 no. working days notice is required for a Practical Completion meeting.

18 LANDSCAPE ESTABLISHMENT MAINTENANCE PERIOD

Maintain the contract works from the Date of Practical Completion to the Date of Final Completion/hand-over.

Maintenance shall include care of the contract area by accepted horticultural practices, and rectification of any defects that become apparent during this period. Maintenance tasks to be carried out during the maintenance period shall include, but shall not be limited to, slashing, watering as required, weed control, pest & disease control & management, tree/plant guard adjustment/replacement as required, rubbish removal.

WEED CONTROL – PLANTED AREAS:

In planted areas, poison all broadleaf, noxious & woody weeds as they appear. Slashable grasses are to be retained generally between planting rows. Selective herbicides shall be nominated by the Contractor and approved by the Superintendent prior to use. Non-selective herbicide shall be Monsanto 'Roundup BACTIVE' glyphosate-based herbicide -- standard 'Roundup' is NOT to be used. NO OTHER HERBICIDE SHALL BE USED WITHOUT PRIOR APPROVAL. All herbicide applications shall use NuFarm 'Spraymate or similar approved marker dye admixture and shall be handled and applied strictly according to manufacturer's recommendations, recommended rates and directions.

GRASS MANAGEMENT – PLANTED AREAS:

Slash all areas between plants in rows and min. 1.5 m along all outside edges of all planting zones on a regular basis to maintain grass height to max. 100 mm. Slashing shall comply with all local Council and RFS guidelines re grass heights.

JUTE MAT & TREE/PLANT GUARDS:

Maintain jute mat and tree/plant tree guards for first two summers minimum, repair and replace as required during this period.

PLANT REPLACEMENT:

Replace any falling, failed or dead plants during the maintenance period. The Superintendent and the Contractor will inspect the full planting areas at the end of each summer and will identify the number and species of plants that are falling, have failed/died. The Contractor shall replace all such plants identified.

WATERING:

The Contractor shall ensure all plants planted/maintained under this contract receive adequate (but not excessive) watering to maintain optimum growth and health. Watering shall be localised to each plant, not broad spraying across the entire planting area, to limit weed/grass growth between planting rows.

Watering shall be either manually via watercart/hose as required OR via a drip irrigation system, using Netafim 'UniRAM AS' inline dripline @ 1.6 LPH with emitter spacing of 400 mm -- one surface dripline per planting row. Drip irrigation system to be designed by an accredited irrigation designer and connect to an available clean water source, incl. filtration at source.

All plants shall be watered as required for at least the FIRST TWO SUMMERS to aid in establishment of healthy root systems and foliage growth, with further waterings if required during late spring and/or early autumn or at any other time of the year based on prevailing climatic conditions. Further waterings may be needed beyond this minimum establishment watering should prevailing climatic conditions deteriorate with potential to lead to deterioration of plant growth, health or plant deaths (e.g. severe drought, El Niño conditions, etc.).

FERTILISING:

All plants (excluding Proteacea family) shall be fertilised with Scotts 'Osmocote® Plus Trace Elements: Native Gardens' (NPK 21.8 : 0.7 : 7.2) or similar approved at the manufacturer's recommended rates. Fertiliser shall be locally spread on soil surface around plants during planting operations. If unsure which plants are in the Proteacea family – ASK.

Allow for one fertiliser application in Year 1 and second application in Year 2.

PESTS & DISEASES:

Regularly monitor all plants grasses planted/maintained under this contract for evidence of pest and/or disease attack -- identify and treat any/all problems arising.

RABBITS, HARES, KANGAROOS, ETC.:

Identify any predation by rabbits, hares and other pests with potential to damage or destroy the landscape works under this contract. Take all necessary steps, within local authority regulations and/or guidelines, to limit or eradicate predation. Maintain all tree guards in good condition to limit rabbit/hare/kangaroo/other damage to plants with installed guards.

COMPLIANCE WITH BUSHFIRE ASSESSMENT REPORT:

Bushfire Environmental Management Consultancy (BEMC) report dated 6 March 2024.

Recommendation 2 - Landscaping

A Landscaping plan is required to illustrate:

- 10m APZ internal to the perimeter vegetation screening and perimeter fencing.
- No infrastructure except for the fire trail within the 10m APZ.
- Fire trail established within APZ internal to the perimeter fencing around the compound.
- The following landscaping maintenance of the perimeter vegetation screening:
 - No shrub vegetation proposed (refer note # 1 below)
 - Grasses maintained to 10cm height.
 - All branches <2m above surface level removed. (refer note # 2 below)

The following principles shall be applied to the landscaping features:

- Planting does not provide a continuous canopy in a line towards the facility.
- Avoid species with rough fibrous bark, or which retain/shed bark in long strips or retain dead material in their canopies.
- Use smooth bark species of trees species which generally do not carry a fire up the bark into the crown.
- Avoid planting of deciduous species that may increase fuel at surface/ ground level (i.e., leaf litter).
- Avoid climbing species.
- Low flammability vegetation species are [to be] used. (refer note # 3 below)

DESIGN	MAINTENANCE	COMPLIANT	PART-COMPLIANT	NON-COMPLIANT
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Notes

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A	14/3/2024	Design updated to revised ACEnergy layout; Plant spacing revised to 1.50 m, plant schedule updated; Reference added re BEMC Bushfire Assessment Report; BEMC report compliance matrix added to Specification Notes sheet.	CW

Issue	Date	Issue Note	By
2	14/3/2024	REVISED APPROVAL ISSUE	CW
1	30/11/2023	APPROVAL ISSUE	CW

Surveyors	

Tel:	eMail
Structural Engineer:	

Tel:	eMail
Consulting Engineer	

M:	eMail
Project Managers ACEnergy Pty Ltd	
M:	eMail
Other:	

M:	eMail
Proprietor	



Project

HOLBROOK
Distribution BESS
Hume Highway Holbrook NSW

Drawing

Landscape Specification
Notes

Sheet **4** of **4**

Local Authority **Hilltops Council, NSW**

Scale **N.T.S.**

Drawn **CW** Date **30 Nov 2023**

Project # **23647** Drawing # **04** Rev **A**

North



groundcontrol

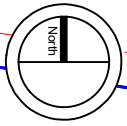
Ground Control
Landscape Architecture Pty Ltd
ABN 53 776 078 327

PO Box 757 Mansfield Victoria Australia 3724

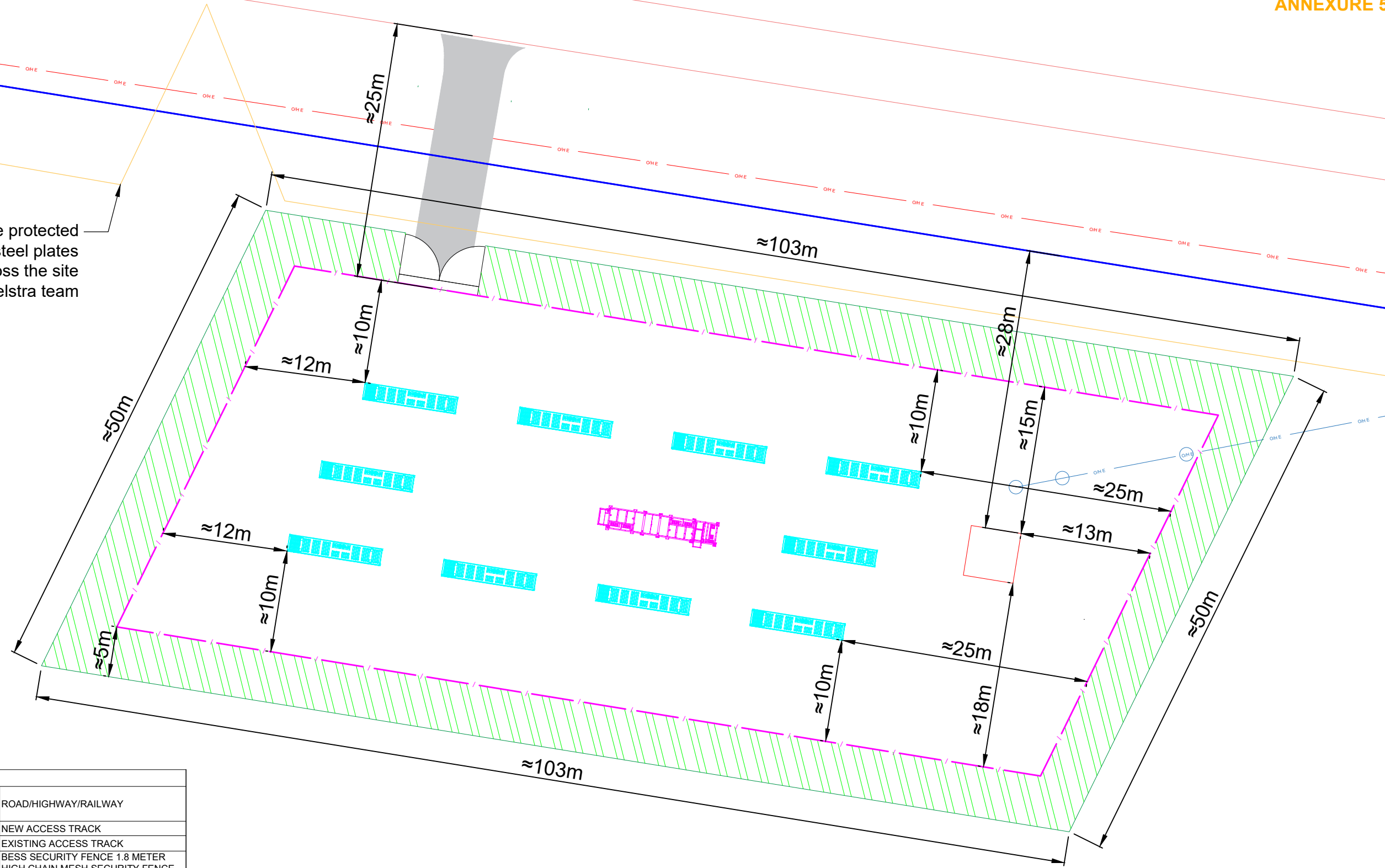
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Existing Telstra copper cable will be protected during construction by using temporary steel plates 2400mm x 1200mm x 20mm across the site access as per the consultation with Telstra team



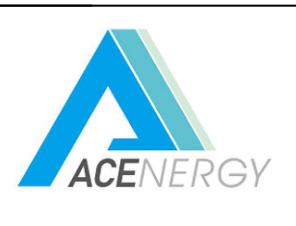
LEGEND			
	SITE ACCESS GATE AND ROAD		ROAD/HIGHWAY/RAILWAY
	BATTERY		NEW ACCESS TRACK
	MVPS		EXISTING ACCESS TRACK
	HV SWITCHGEAR		BESS SECURITY FENCE 1.8 METER HIGH CHAIN MESH SECURITY FENCE GALVANISED STEEL
	EXISTING O/H LINE		TITLE BOUNDARY
	EXISTING LINE EASEMENT		NEIGHBORING BOUNDARIES
	EXISTING HV POLE/TOWER		ONE ROW LANDSCAPE
	NEW O/H LINE		TWO ROWS LANDSCAPE
	NEW LINE EASEMENT		RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY
	NEW HV POLE/TOWER		CAR PARK AREA
	EXISTING ACCESS ROUTE TO BE UPGRADED (TBC)		TREES TO BE REMOVED (ALL TREES IN THE MARKED AREA)
	EXISTING TREES		EXISTING DAM
	TREE TO BE REMOVED (MARKED)		EXISTING TELSTRA COPPER CABLE
	FARM FENCE		72,000 LITERS WATER TANK

REVISIONS					
REV	STATUS	DESCRIPTION	DATE	D.B.	C.B.
A	FA	CONCEPT SITE PLAN	13/12/23	XZ	AJ

PROJECT DETAILS:	HOLBROOK DISTRIBUTION BESS HUME HIGHWAY, HOLBROOK NSW 2644 -35.75903, 147.28859
CLIENT DETAILS:	ACENERGY PTY LTD
DRAWING TITLE:	SITE PLAN 2 OF 2

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DRAWING NR:	G-1.2_023132	
DRAWN BY :	XZ	APPROVED BY : AJ
SCALE :	AS INDICATED	PROJECT MGR : LZ
SHEET SIZE:	A3	ISSUE DATE : 13/12/2023
		FOR APPROVAL
		ISSUE DATE :
		PROJECT NO: 23132
		REV. NO: A





**PROPOSED PoCC LOCATION
POLE NUMBER 303031**

ANNEXURE 5

**EXISTING TREES LOCATED ON THE
OPPOSITE ROAD WAY TO PROJECT SITE**

R03

MULLERS RD

R02

BENDEMEER LN

R01

HUME HWY

HUME HWY

LEGEND			
	SITE ACCESS GATE AND ROAD		ROAD/HIGHWAY/RAILWAY
	BATTERY		NEW ACCESS TRACK
	MVPS		EXISTING ACCESS TRACK
	HV SWITCHGEAR		BESS SECURITY FENCE 1.8 METER HIGH CHAIN MESH SECURITY FENCE GALVANISED STEEL
	EXISTING O/H LINE		TITLE BOUNDARY
	EXISTING LINE EASEMENT		NEIGHBORING BOUNDARIES
	EXISTING HV POLE/TOWER		ONE ROW LANDSCAPE
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	EXISTING TREES		EXISTING DAM
	TREE TO BE REMOVED (MARKED)		EXISTING TELSTRA COPPER CABLE
	FARM FENCE		72,000 LITERS WATER TANK

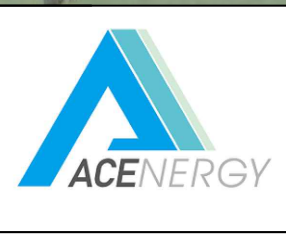
REVISIONS					
REV	STATUS	DESCRIPTION	DATE	D.B.	C.B.
A	FA	CONCEPT SITE PLAN	13/12/23	XZ	AJ

PROJECT DETAILS:	HOLBROOK DISTRIBUTION BESS <small>HUME HIGHWAY, HOLBROOK NSW 2644 -35.75903, 147.28859</small>
CLIENT DETAILS:	ACENERGY PTY LTD
DRAWING TITLE:	LOCALITY DIAGRAM 1 OF 2

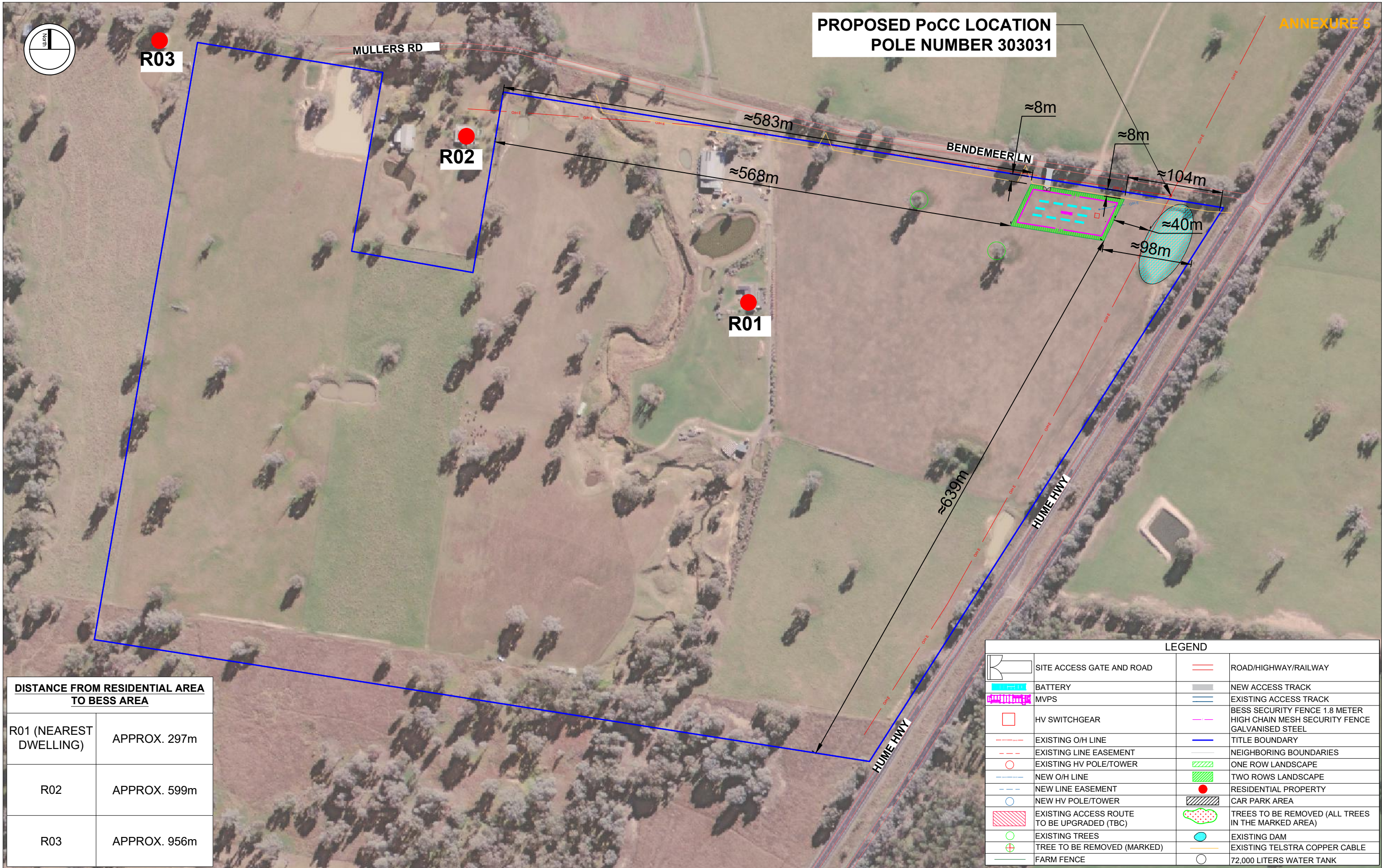
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DRAWING NR:	G-2.1_023132		
DRAWN BY :	XZ	APPROVED BY :	AJ
SCALE :	AS INDICATED	PROJECT MGR :	LZ
ISSUE :	FOR APPROVAL	ISSUE DATE :	13/12/2023
SHEET SIZE:	A3	PROJECT NO:	23132
		REV. NO:	A

DRAWING NR:	G-2.1_023132		
DRAWN BY :	XZ	APPROVED BY :	AJ
SCALE :	AS INDICATED	PROJECT MGR :	LZ
ISSUE :	FOR APPROVAL	ISSUE DATE :	13/12/2023
SHEET SIZE:	A3	PROJECT NO:	23132
		REV. NO:	A



**PROPOSED PoCC LOCATION
POLE NUMBER 303031**



DISTANCE FROM RESIDENTIAL AREA TO BESS AREA	
R01 (NEAREST DWELLING)	APPROX. 297m
R02	APPROX. 599m
R03	APPROX. 956m

LEGEND			
	SITE ACCESS GATE AND ROAD		ROAD/HIGHWAY/RAILWAY
	BATTERY		NEW ACCESS TRACK
	MVPS		EXISTING ACCESS TRACK
	HV SWITCHGEAR		BESS SECURITY FENCE 1.8 METER HIGH CHAIN MESH SECURITY FENCE GALVANISED STEEL
	EXISTING O/H LINE		TITLE BOUNDARY
	EXISTING LINE EASEMENT		NEIGHBORING BOUNDARIES
	EXISTING HV POLE/TOWER		ONE ROW LANDSCAPE
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	EXISTING TREES		EXISTING DAM
	TREE TO BE REMOVED (MARKED)		EXISTING TELSTRA COPPER CABLE
	FARM FENCE		72,000 LITERS WATER TANK

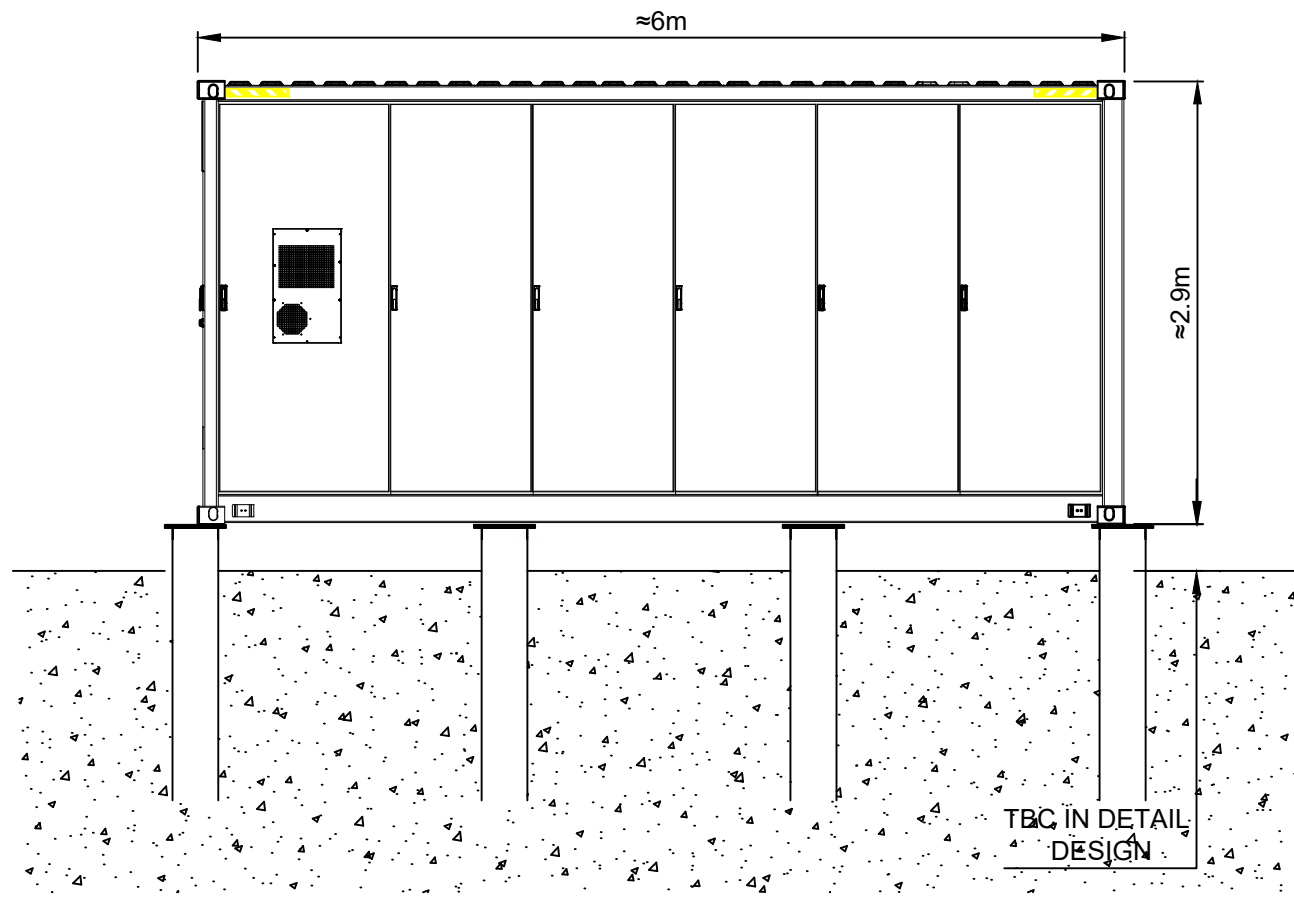
REVISIONS					
REV	STATUS	DESCRIPTION	DATE	D.B.	C.B.
A	FA	CONCEPT SITE PLAN	13/12/23	XZ	AJ

PROJECT DETAILS:	HOLBROOK DISTRIBUTION BESS <small>HUME HIGHWAY, HOLBROOK NSW 2644 -35.75903, 147.28859</small>
CLIENT DETAILS:	ACENERGY PTY LTD
DRAWING TITLE:	LOCALITY DIAGRAM 2 OF 2

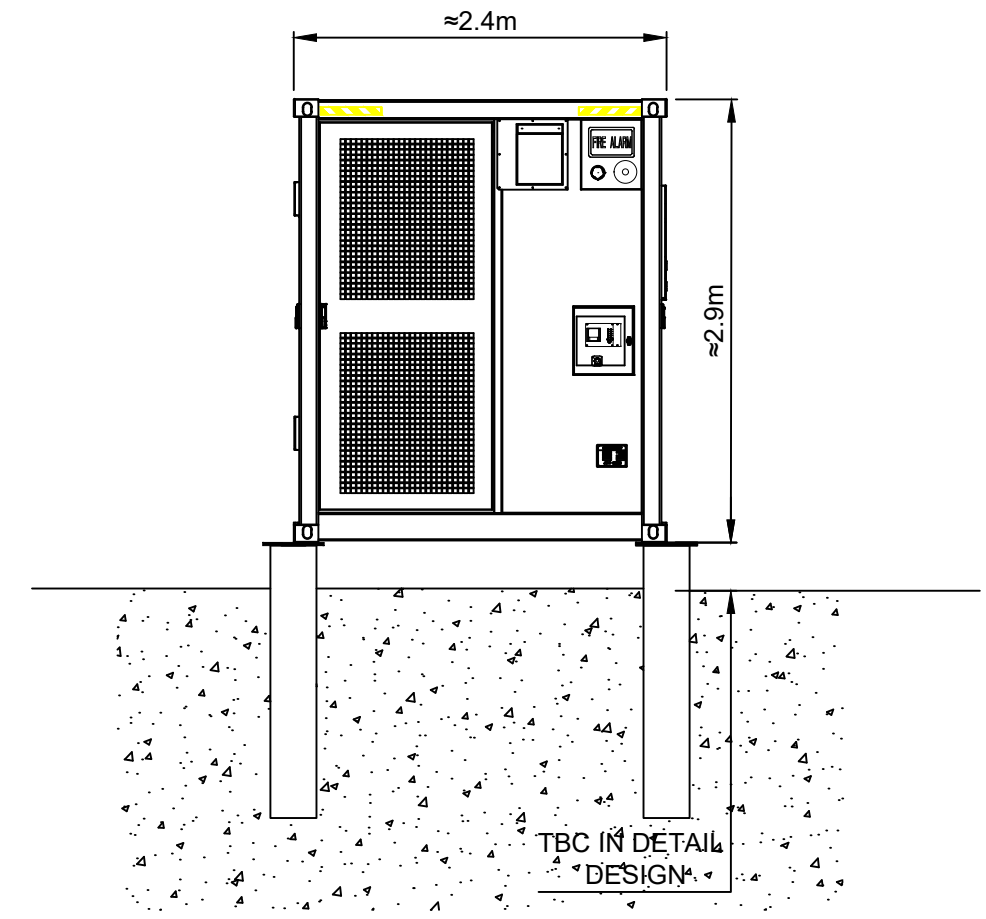
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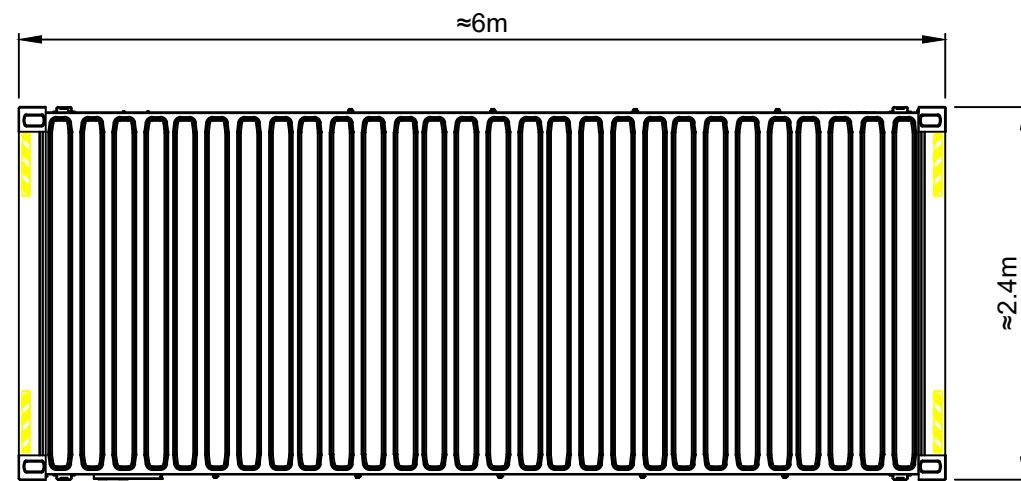




FRONT VIEW



SIDE VIEW



TOP VIEW



TYPICAL ENERGY STORAGE CONTAINER

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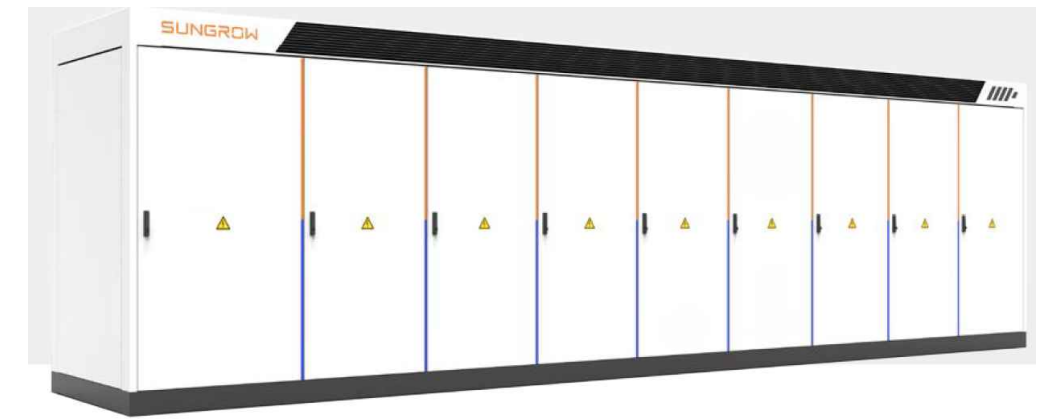
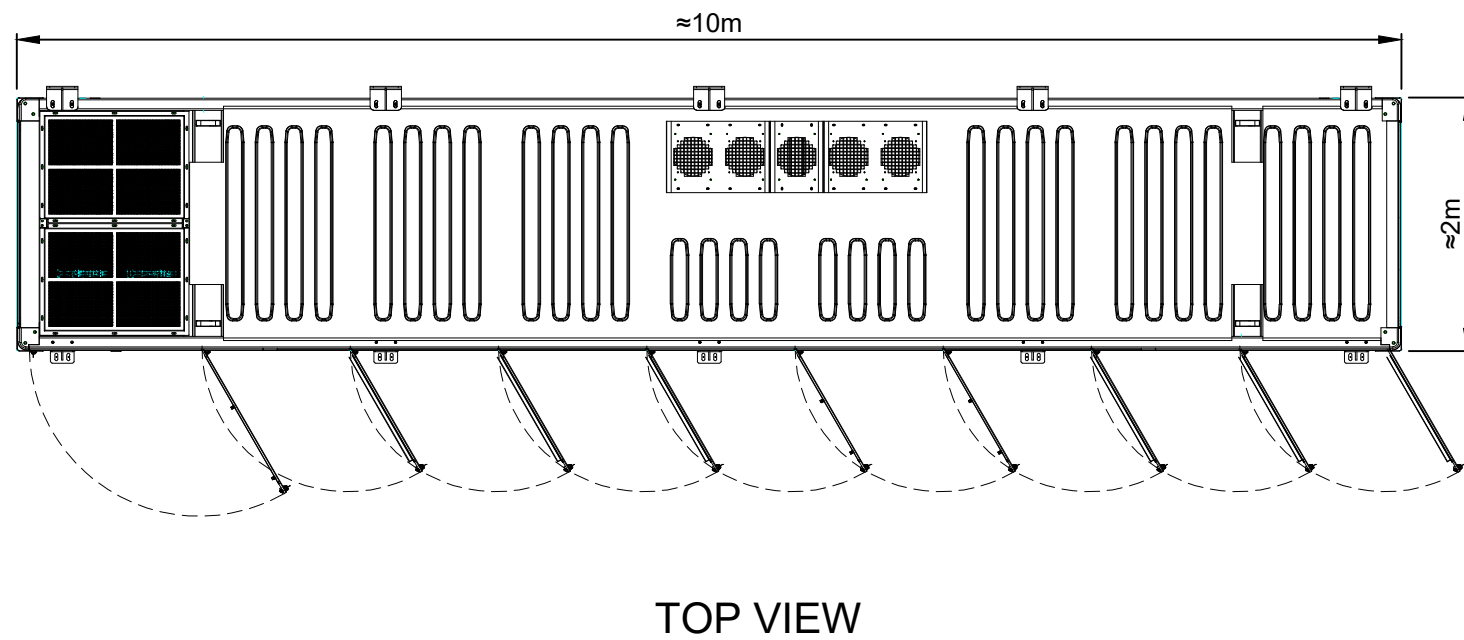
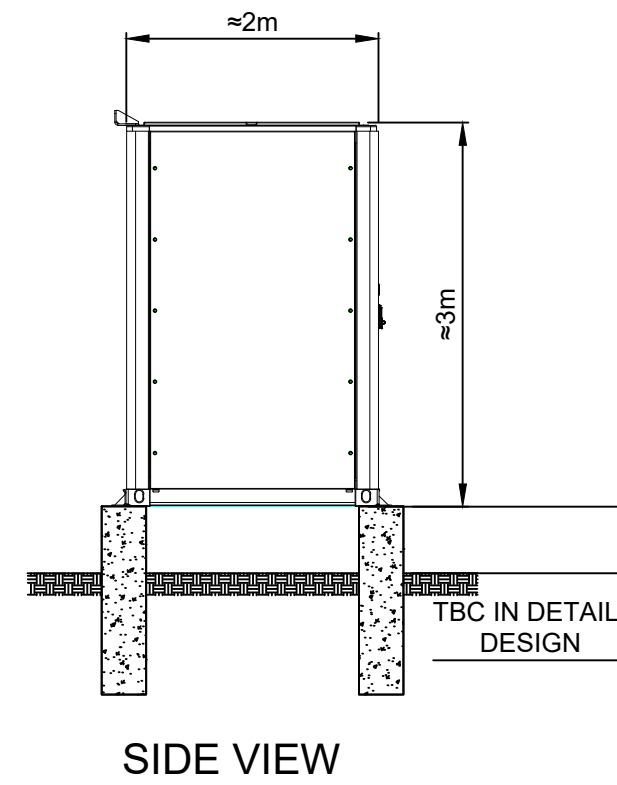
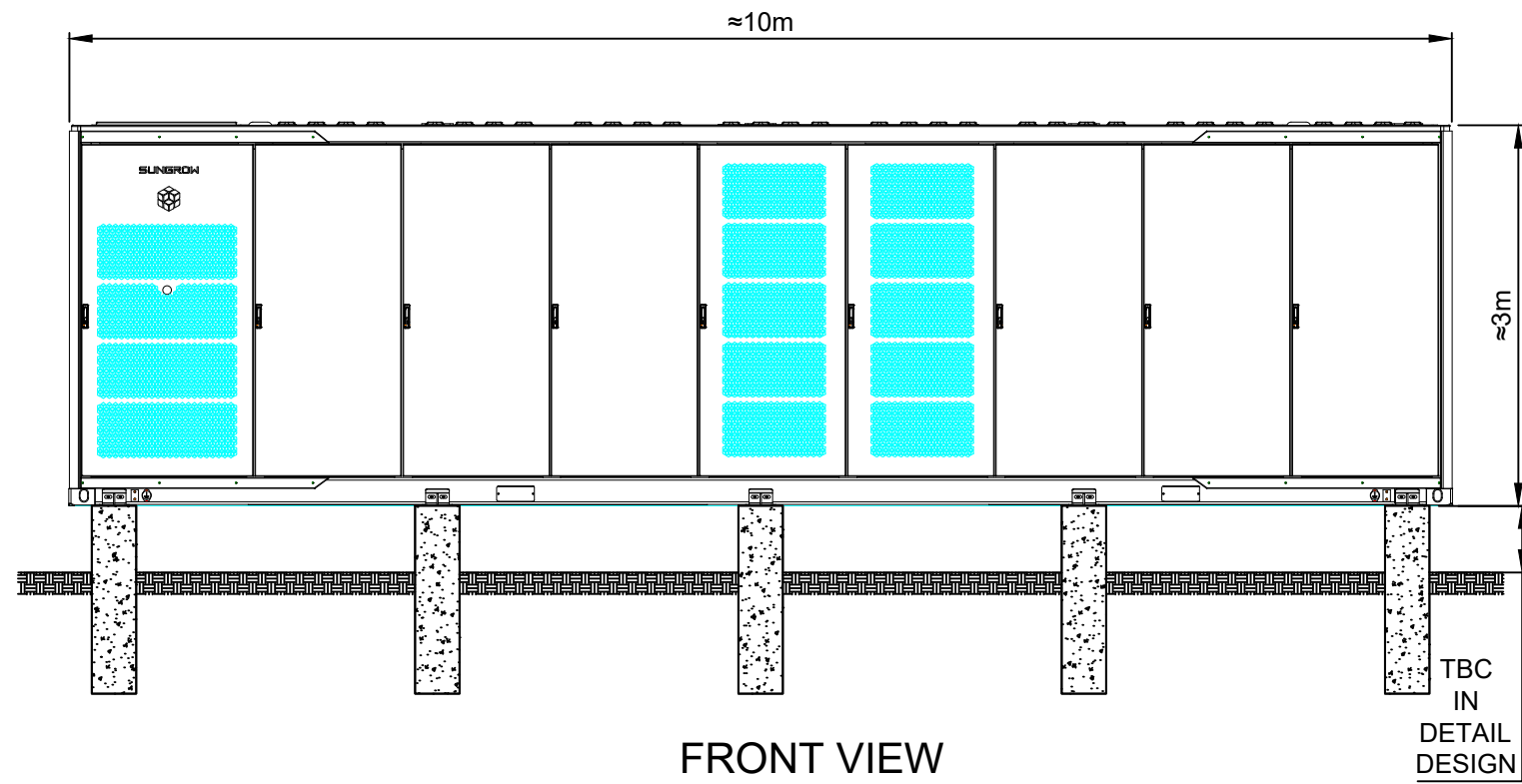
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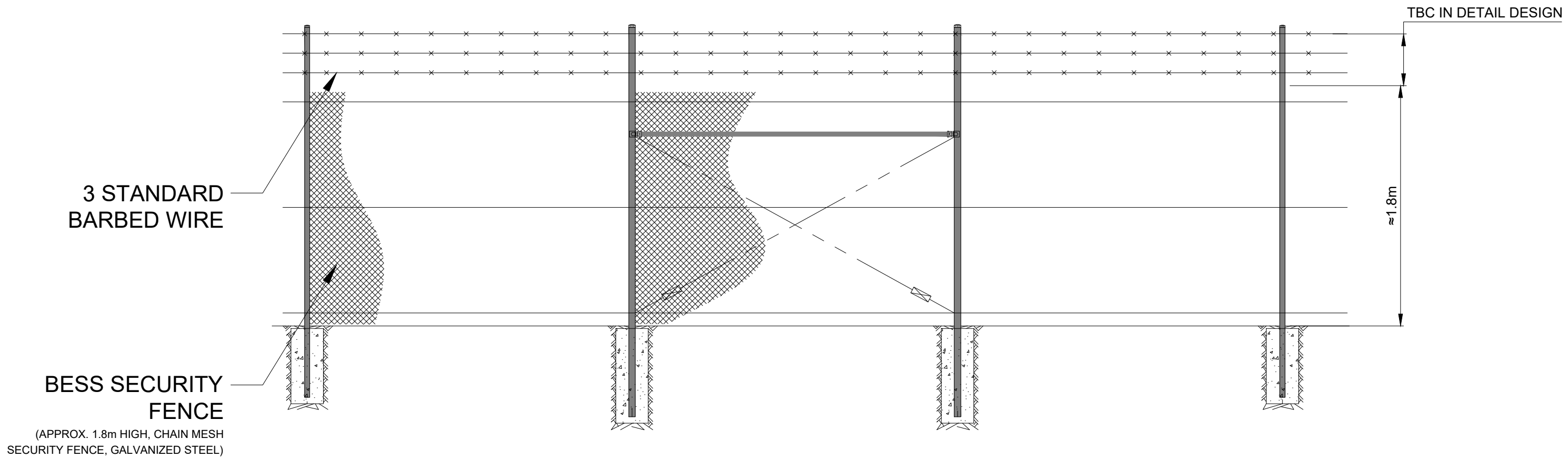
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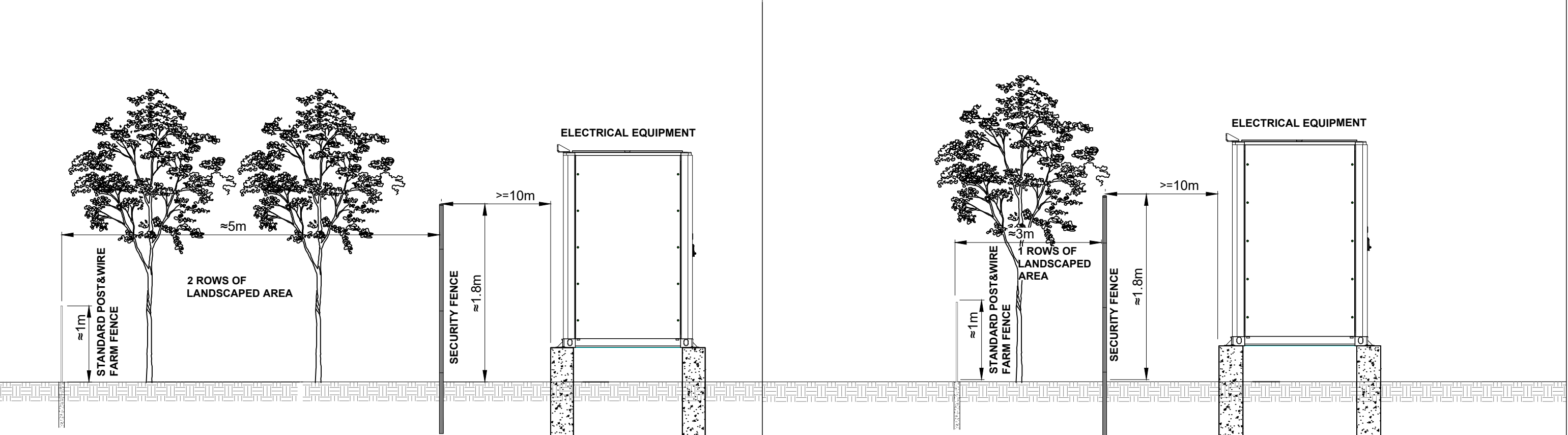
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SECURITY FENCE FRONT VIEW



SECURITY FENCE AND LANDSCAPE SIDE VIEW



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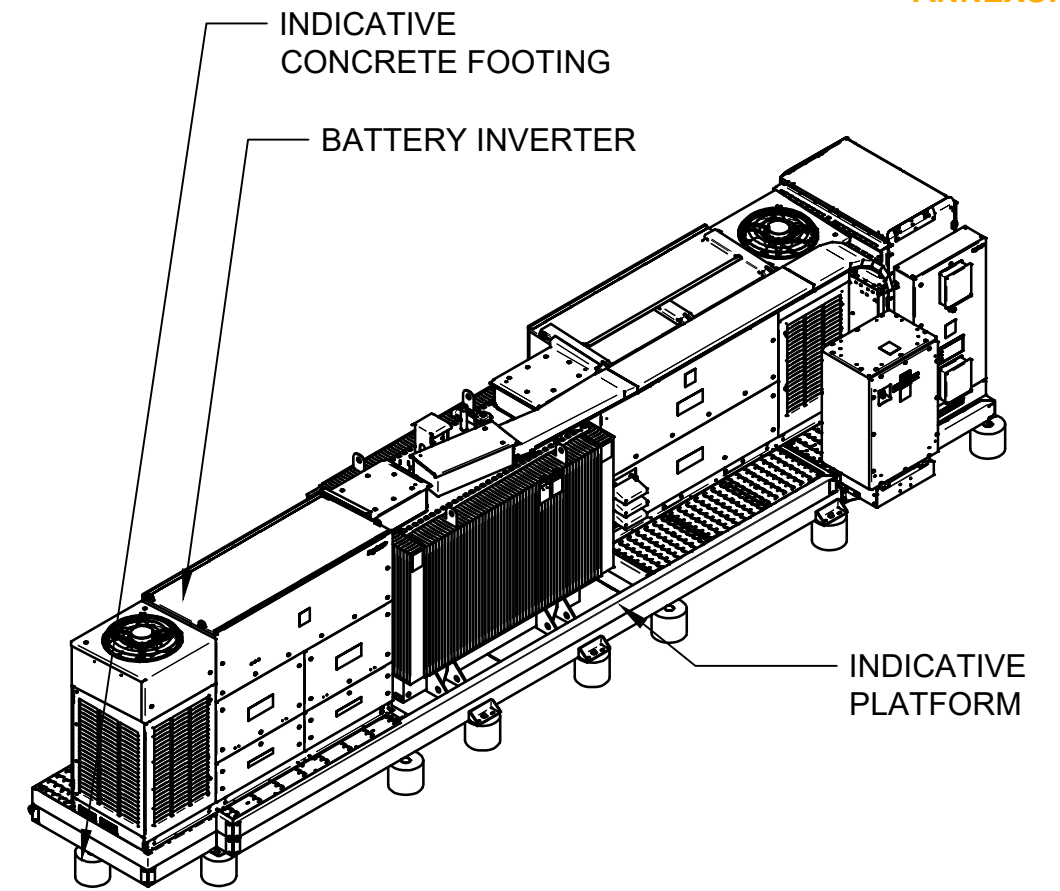
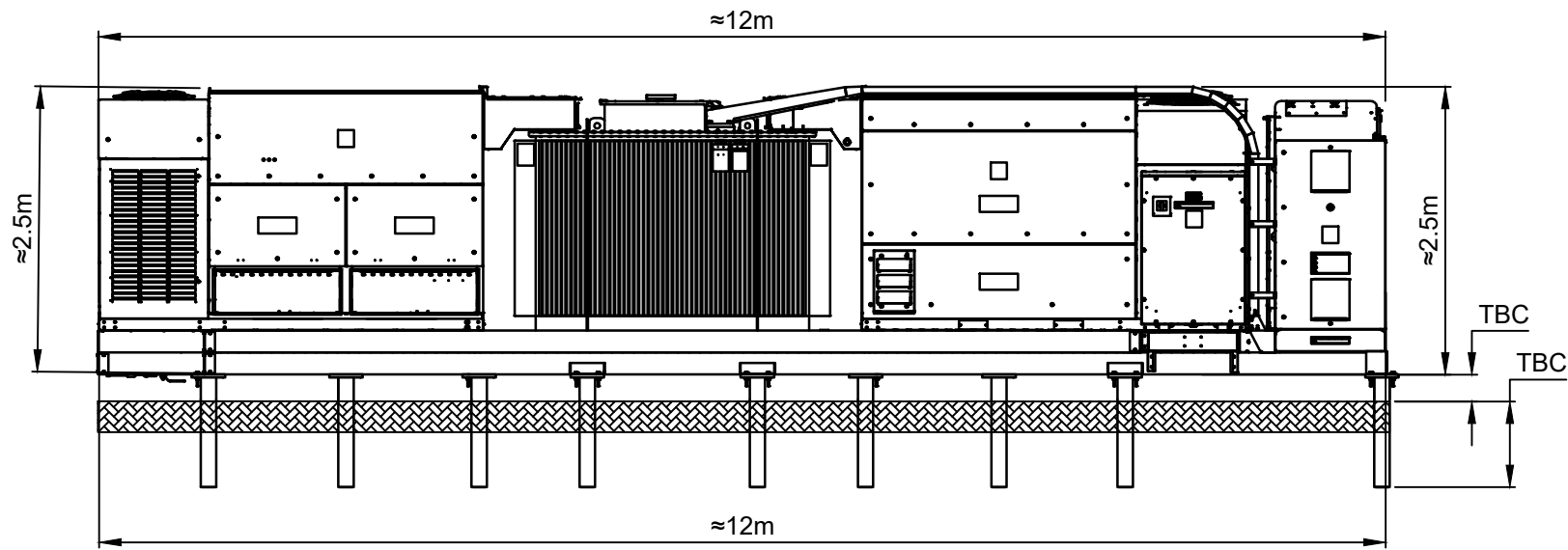
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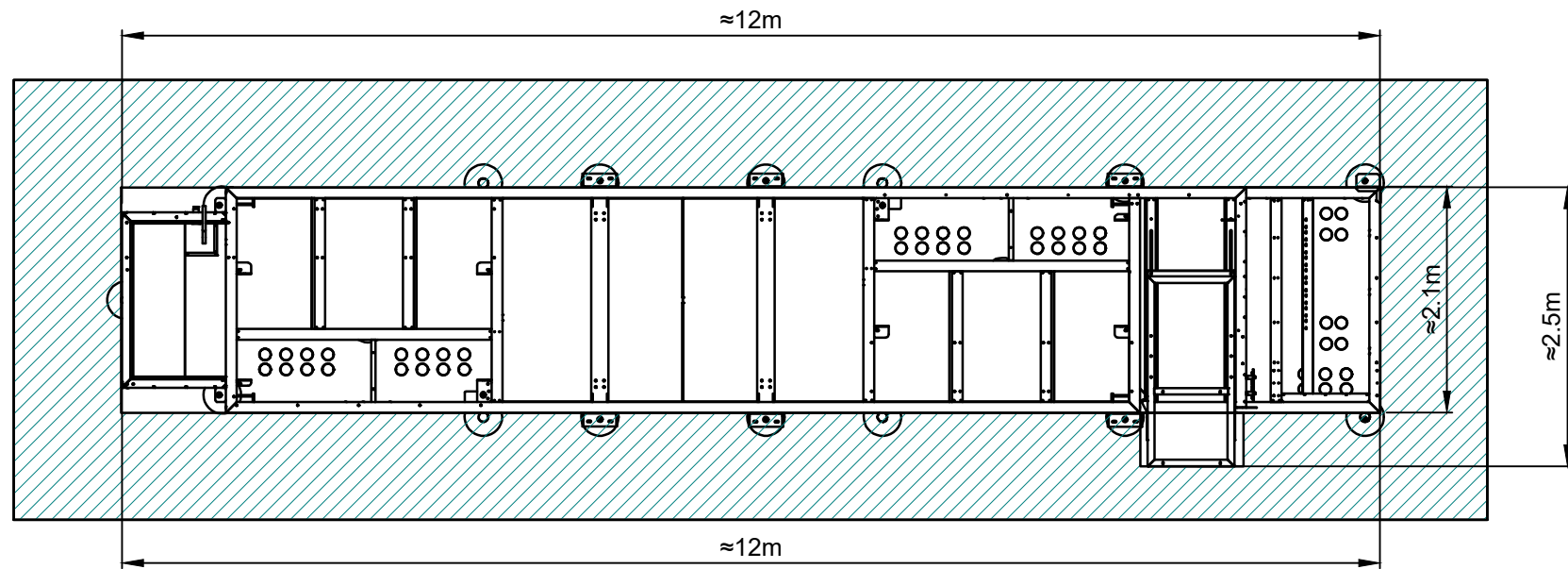
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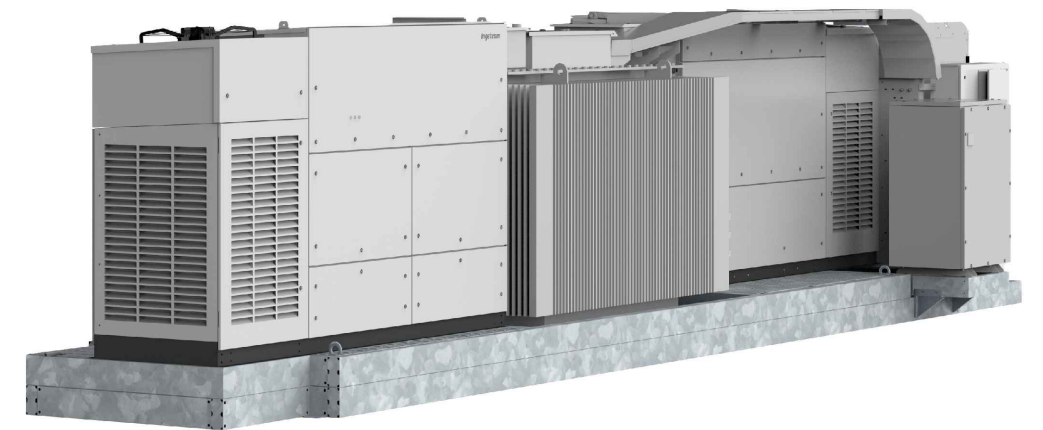
MVPS FRONT VIEW



MVPS TOP VIEW



TYPICAL MVPS



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A	FA	INITIAL ISSUE	13/12/23	XZ	AJ

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BUSH FIRE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS PLAN

Hume Highway, Holbrook, 2644

RING

'000'

for all emergencies



**BRONZE
MEMBER**
Fire Protection
Association Australia



BPAD
Bushfire
Planning & Design
Accredited Practitioner
Level 3

Disclaimer

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Title	Bush Fire Emergency Management and Evacuation Plan			
Description	Distribution Battery Energy Storage System-BESS Hume Highway, Holbrook, 2644			
Created By	Duncan Scott-Lawson 0408 667 137 duncan@emconsultancy.com.au			
Prepared For	ACEnergy C/o Daniel Wilkinson Ahmed.A@acenergy.com.au 0450 995 451			
Version Number	Modified By	Modifications Made	Date Modified	Status
1	SJ	Draft	19/02/2023	Completed
2	DSL	Final	23/02/2023	Completed
3	DSL	Update final plans	06/03/2024	Completed

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GLOSSARY AND ACRONYMS

Table 1 Glossary and Acronyms

Term	Meaning
Assembly Area / Point	The designated place or places where people assemble during an evacuation.
Asset Protection Zone (APZ)	Area between the bush fire threat (vegetation) and the asset (humans or buildings) that is managed to reduce vegetation, bush fire ignition and propagation.
Bush Fire	A general term used to describe fire in vegetation, includes grass fire.
District Emergency Management Officer (DEMO)	For emergency management purposes, NSW is divided into emergency management districts. Each Emergency Management District has a District Emergency Management Committee. The Committee is chaired by the District Emergency Operations Controller (DEOCON), supported by the District Emergency Management Officer (DEMO). The DEMO is also responsible for assisting local committees and communities within the relevant District on emergency management matters.
Emergency	An event that arises internally, or from external sources, which may adversely affect the occupants or visitors in a facility, and which requires an immediate response.
Emergency Planning Committee (EPC)	Persons responsible for the documentation and maintenance of an emergency plan.
Emergency Control Organisation (ECO)	Group of people responsible for planning and implementation of emergency management arrangements.
Emergency Management Plan (EMP)	Planning document that sets out the procedural elements of emergency management for a site.
Emergency Warning System (EWS)	A system of alarms and alerts to trigger emergency response.
Emergency warning and intercommunication system (EWI)	A combined emergency warning and intercommunication system that facilitates both way communications and control during an emergency.
Evacuation	The orderly movement of people from a place of danger.
FDI	A quantitative number (zero to 100) that predicts the chance of a fire starting, its rate of spread, its intensity, and the difficulty of its suppression. Higher the number the more intense and speed of the wildfire.
Local Emergency Management Officer (LEMO)	The State is divided into Local Government areas with a Local Emergency Management Committee for each area. This Committee is chaired by a senior representative of the council and is supported by a Council appointed Local Emergency Management Officer (LEMO).
Neighbourhood Safer Place (NSP)	A location of last resort providing a greater chance of survival for human life during the onset and passage of a bush fire.
Occupant	A person attending a facility on a permanent or temporary basis, such as an employee, contractor, student or resident, but not a visitor.
On-site refuge	A building within the premises that can accommodate the people that will shelter. The place is not under threat from a bush fire.
Off-site refuge	A venue at another location some distance away that can accommodate all the people being evacuated. The place is not under threat from a bush fire.
Off-site evacuation point	A venue at another location some distance away that can accommodate all the people being evacuated. The place is not under threat from a bushfire.
Relocation	Movement of persons and/or organisations to an alternate area.
Sheltering	Procedures for a relevant situation where the safest course of action is to remain in a building or location.
Support needs	People with physical, intellectual, visual, or auditory disabilities or impairments, either temporary or permanent who require support. It also includes aged persons and juveniles who are dependent on others for their care and wellbeing.

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

The facilities Emergency Management Plan identified the Incident management team, wardens and chief wardens as well as other key stakeholders for emergency management response.

This list forms a sub list to the key stakeholder contacts within the facilities Emergency Management Plan and is specific to bush fire emergency management and evacuation.

Table 2 Site Contacts

Name / Organisation	Position / Office	Contact	Responsibility
Emergency	General emergency number	000	General emergency
NSW Rural Fire Service	Head Office	1800 679 737 1800 NSW RFS	Emergency Management
Site manager			
Albury Lakes Police Station	Duty Officer	02 6023 9299	Facility evacuation, post incident security
Local Rural Fire Control Centre (Albury)	Operations Officer	02 6033 4550	Facility evacuation, wildfire suppression, post incident recovery
Albury NSW Fire and Rescue	Duty Officer	02 6043 8603	Facility evacuation, wildfire suppression, post incident recovery
NSW SES	Operations Officer	132 500	Post incident recovery
Ambulance	Operations Officer	000	Treatment of Vulnerable people
Health Direct	Nurse	1800 022 222	Treatment of Vulnerable people
Department of Community Services	Case worker	02 4983 4300	Post incident recovery
Lifeline	Operations Officer	13 11 14	Post incident recovery
Energy industry contacts			
Contractors			

1 PLAN AUTHORISATION AND REVIEW

Responsibility for enacting, testing and implementing the document rests with Chief warden. This document does not include evacuation arrangements for specific hazards (e.g., floods, storm, active shooter, internal structure fire etc) which are contained within individual plans and site specific policies.

This document is to be reviewed through consultation with stakeholders affected by this document:

- No less than every three years.
- Following an emergency resulting in significant evacuations.

The Chief warden is responsible for authorisation of the plan and review as per **Table 1**. The Plan is to be reviewed and signed by 1 August in each year, prior to the start of the Bushfire Danger Period on 1 October.

Table 3 Plan Authorisation and Review

	Name	Signature	Date
2021 Authorised by			

The Chief warden is responsible to ensure a copy is available to visitors and for distributing a current 'Evacuation Plan' in August each year to:

- Staff at the facility.
- Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC through Council).
- Other appropriate authorities. (e.g., NSW Rural Fire Services, NSW Police, Fire and Rescue NSW).

2 THE SUBJECT SITE

BEMC Pty Ltd was engaged by ACEnergy to complete a Bush Fire Emergency Management and Operations Plan for the Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facility at Hume Highway, Holbrook. The Bushfire Emergency Management and Operations Plan has been designed to assist facility management to protect life in the event of a bushfire.

At risk developments, such as this lifestyle parks require a greater degree of planning and coordination to ensure the facility is protected from a wildfire event and does not contribute to wildfire ignition and spread.

This Bush Fire Emergency Management and Evacuation Plan has been prepared in accordance with:

- NSW RFS document: *A Guide to Developing a Bush Fire Emergency Management and Evacuation Plan.*
- *Australian Standard AS 3745:2010 Planning for emergencies in facilities.*
- *NSW RFS Facility Program Guide*
- *FM Global Data sheets*

The structure of this report is divided into three parts:

1. Bush fire introductory (awareness).
2. Bush fire emergency management (planning and preparation).
3. Bush fire evacuation and operation plan (response and recovery).

The plan is concise and succinct to allow the reader to absorb the salient elements and focus on the operational practicality of the emergency arrangements.

2.1 OBJECTIVES OF BUSHFIRE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND EVACUATION PLAN

The aim of this document is to inform and enhance emergency management arrangements during forecast bad fire weather and provide for evacuations during actual and or forecast bushfires. This document will also identify the operations that may be carried out on days of Total Fire Ban and any prohibited activities or exemptions that are notified by the Commissioner of the NSW RFS under the *Rural Fires Act s.99.* and requirements to notification of the local NSW RFS Fire Control.

This Bush Fire Emergency Management and Operations Plan is developed to meet the bushfire planning requirements NSW Rural Fire Service, Planning for Bushfire Protection 2019 with two elements.

1. In detailing the measures to prevent and mitigate, a series of strategies will be established to protect the facility and neighbouring landowners from a bushfire ignition off and on the site. This includes:
 - Igniting management and prevention.
 - Strategies to reduce ignition.
 - Strategies to suppress unplanned fires.
 - Strategies to minimise potential spread of bushfires.
 - Bushfire Mitigation treatments.
 - Appropriate works programming on fire danger days.
2. To establish Bush fire ongoing operations and emergency management procedures in the event of a bush fire, the following objectives are determined:
 - Ongoing operational requirements to maintain bushfire protection measures.
 - Notification procedures and Key Stakeholders.
 - Decision triggers for shelter-in-place and evacuation.

Specific building evacuations for internal structure fires are not within the scope of this Plan. A separate Fire Engineering Report sets out the evacuation procedure from an internal fire which complies with the NCC & BCA requirements.

2.2 SITE CHARACTERISTICS

This plan is for electrical components include 10 battery containers <5MW; an MPVS and high voltage switchgear and Ancillary electrical sub-transmission lines to connect the BESS to the existing powerlines. The key project infrastructure includes new driveway to a gated entry to the BESS, Security fencing and landscaping around the BESS.

The project will be designed to provide grid flexibility services and will support the efficiency of the electrical network by charging from the grid during periods of low demand and discharging back to the grid during periods of higher demand. It would also have the capacity to charge or discharge when power system services are required to maintain the stability of the broader electricity grid. The BESS strengthens the power network by providing greater flexibility in grid management.

Table 4 Site Characteristics

Element	Comment
Name of Facility	Holbrook BESS
Address	Hume Highway, Holbrook
Latitude / Longitude (oval)	-35.75 / 147.29
Location Description	Approximately 5km south by road from Holbrook Village
Hours of Operation	24 hours
Number of staff	Maximum number 6
Overnight accommodation	No
Year of Construction	Current
Size of Land	0.5ha
Wildfire perimeter	300m

2.3 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The site has not developed site emergency management systems.

2.4 TRAFFIC ISSUES

Facilities are particularly prone to traffic-generated congestion on roads at start and finish times. This facility will not have high occupation (maybe 2 or 3 vehicles) and traffic congestion will not be an issue for this site.

Research completed by Aaron Tomlins *The Traffic Impacts of Short Notice Bushfire Evacuations in Australia* (UNSW, 2019) illustrated the use of microsimulation methodology when identifying bushfire behaviour, evacuation zones, do-nothing approach, pinch-points, give-way intersections, traffic light signalling, driver behaviour, theoretical traffic demand, departure profile, route choice and performance metrics. This research illustrated that without human intervention to support traffic management during short notice evacuation (Police or Road services managing traffic) the most effective mechanism to facilitate traffic evacuation is the increase in signalling time at near-by traffic lights. It is beyond the scope of the report, although, site management should approach the NSW Roads and Waterways to discuss the mechanisms they will apply during an emergency to facilitate evacuation of the facility/precinct during a bushfire.

2.5 ADDITIONAL USES

Land management contractors, such as vegetation, fencing and trail maintenance contractors are considered external operators and additional uses. This Bushfire Management and Emergency Evacuation Plan extends to the approved additional users.

The person with authority relating to the additional uses within the facility is ultimately responsible for enacting the Evacuation Plan. The person with authority will perform the role as designated throughout this document as the *Chief Warden*. The “facility” definition includes all associated uses including additional users.

Where the *Chief Warden* has decided to enact aspects of this Plan, it shall apply to all uses, both internal and external for the day that the action is implemented. If the facility is temporarily closed due to bushfire considerations, all ancillary operations will be cancelled.

2.6 VULNERABLE PEOPLE

This section identifies the vulnerable people within the facility that will require specific attention during a wildfire event. Operational planning is required to consider worst-case scenario and what primary actions will be undertaken in the event of a wildfire to support vulnerable people. Occupants can be considered vulnerable through age, health, and limited awareness of these surroundings.

Due to the type of facility, it is unlikely any staff/visitors will be considered vulnerable.

Table 5 Vulnerable people list

Name and contact	Organisation	Condition and assistance required

3 BUSH FIRE ANALYSIS

3.1 BUSHFIRE RISK

Bushfire is a normal part of Australia's natural environment, particularly in eucalypt forests. However, the frequency and intensity of bushfires varies throughout the landscape and seasons. Bushfires are a common occurrence during drier parts of the year.

Climate change is expected to bring longer bushfire seasons to parts of Australia, an increasing number of extreme fire weather days, and increasing fire intensity.

Bushfires of low or moderate intensity often pose little threat to life, property, and community assets, but the potential for changes in wind direction can be a significant hazard. However, bushfires that burn in heavy fuels, steep terrain or on hot, dry, and windy days often spread rapidly, crown in forests, produce powerful convection columns and create extensive spot fires ahead of the fire front, often making their control impossible until weather conditions moderate.

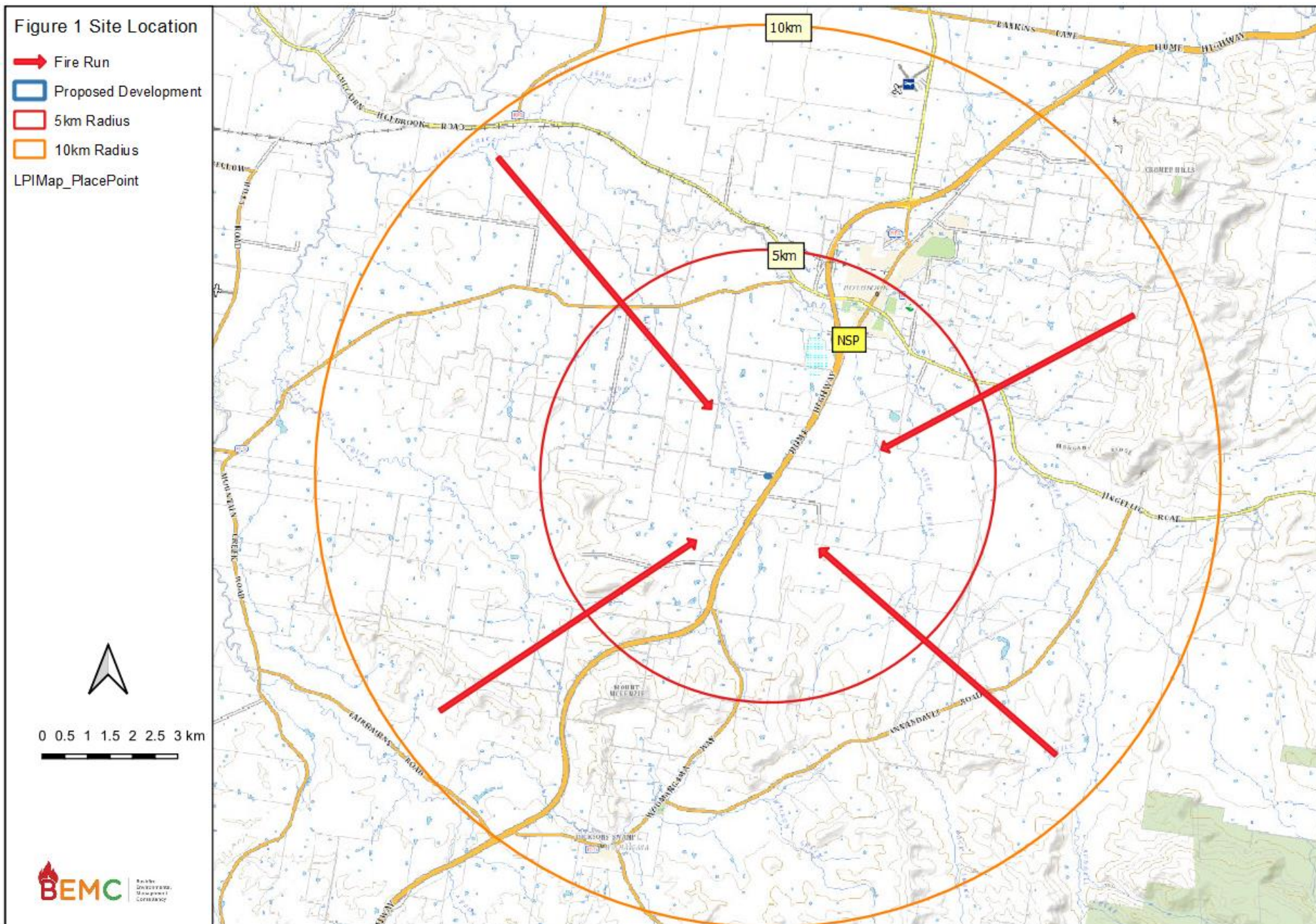
As the fire danger reaches "extreme", bushfires are often described as firestorms and become impossible to control. When the fire danger reaches "Catastrophic", the risk of serious injury or death to people in the path of a bushfire increases significantly, and many properties and other community infrastructure can become difficult or impossible to defend.

The intensity of a bushfire, which largely determines how much damage it will do, is a product of the fuels burning (quantity, arrangement, size, moisture content), the weather at the time (temperature, wind speed and direction, relative humidity, atmospheric stability) and the topography of the land where the fire is burning (slope and aspect).

Vulnerability to bushfire risk is a combination of the physical location of the persons under threat and the understanding and ability that person has that enables them to deal with the risk. It is the position of Australian fire agencies that the safest action to protect life is for people to be away from the bushfire or threat of bushfire as early as possible.

The risk of wildfires was assessed and considers bush fire threat from all direction surrounding the site which determined a moderate risk of wildfires impacting on the site, with the most likely being a fast-moving grass fire during extended periods of drought, with the principal bush fire attack mechanisms being radiant heat and short-range ember attack.

Figure 1 illustrates the potential wildfire runs towards the site.



3.2 FIRE DANGER RATINGS

The chief warden objective of the new Australian Fire Danger Rating System (AFDRS) is to implement a more accurate and nationally consistent system that will enable improved decision-making by response agencies and industry and provoke the desired community response to messaging in order to improve public safety. More information at <https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/news-and-media/newfdr> and eLearning at <https://www.afac.com.au/initiative/afdrs/afdrs-training>.

The AFDRS uses the latest scientific understanding about weather, fuel and how fire behaves in different types of vegetation to improve the reliability of fire danger forecasts. This strengthens the ability of those working in emergency services to be better prepared, make improved decisions, and provide better advice to the community.

It is aimed at a simplified, action-oriented Fire Danger Rating System.

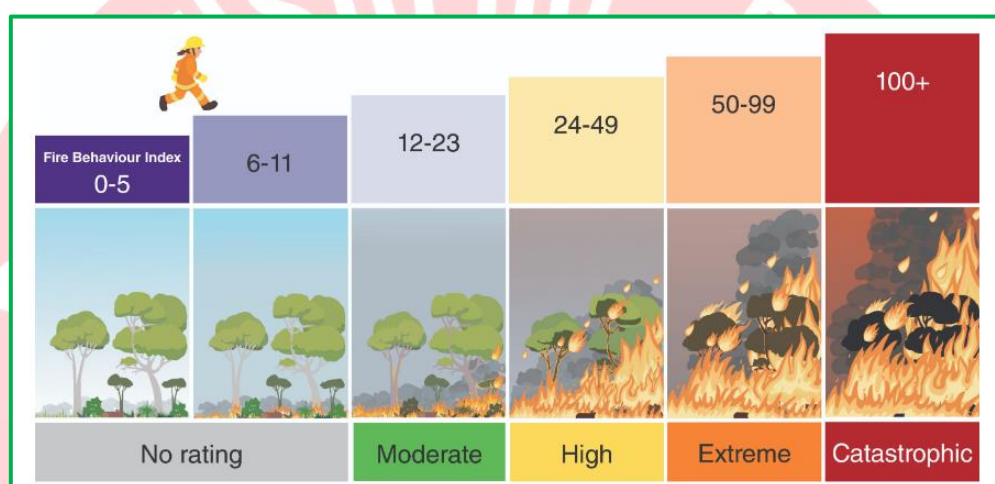


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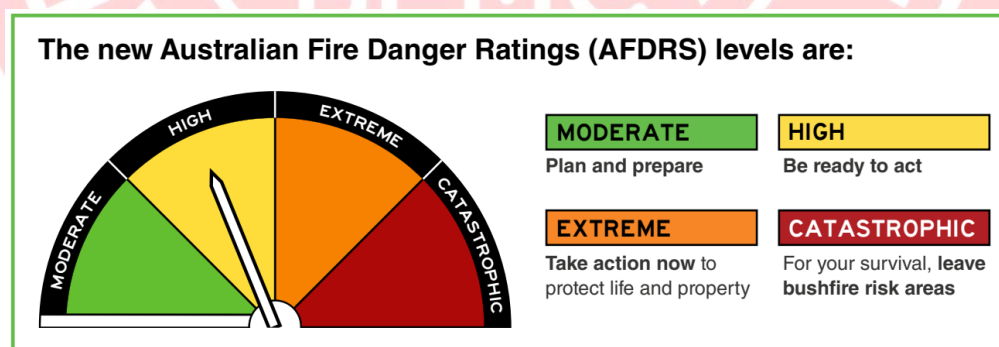


Figure 3 Accessed from AFAC: <https://www.afac.com.au/initiative/afdrs/afdrs-faqs>

MODERATE: *Plan and Prepare* - Have a plan and be ready to act if a fire starts.

HIGH: *Be ready to act* - Be alert for fires in your area and be ready to leave or be ready to defend.

EXTREME: *Take action* - Act before a fire starts

CATASTROPHIC: *Leave high risk areas* - Protect your life, leave early.

3.3 TOTAL FIRE BAN AND EXTREME FIRE WEATHER

A Total Fire Ban (TOBAN) is:

- A day of elevated bushfire danger potential.
- Declared by the RFS on days when fires are likely to spread rapidly and will be difficult to control.
- Fire Danger Ratings are updated twice daily by the RFS at 6.00am and 4pm.

Total Fire Bans are normally declared by 5pm on the day before a ban but can be declared or revoked at any time. Always check the RFS web page for latest information at:

<http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/fire-information/fdr-and-tobans>

Given the remote location of the facility and the single accessway into and out, the facility may consider closing when a Total Fire Ban has been declared by the Commissioner of the NSW Rural Fire Service.

The *Chief Warden* may choose to temporarily cease on-site operations (see section 6 of this report) due to an emergency or potential emergency or based on advice issued by fire agencies.

3.4 BUSHFIRE ALERT LEVELS

During a bush fire, Alert Levels are used to give an indication of the level of threat from a fire.

Don't wait for a warning. Some fires start and spread so quickly there may not be any time for a warning. If you get a Bush Fire Alert, you must take it seriously. Failure to take action can result in death or injury.

It is noted that in response to Recommendation 3, in October 2017, the Commissioner's and Chief Officers' Strategic Committee (CCOSC) committed to a consistent 3-level national warnings framework across all states and territories and multiple hazards. In February 2018, the Warnings Group established a project plan, *'Towards a National Warning Framework'*. Following consultation with the states and territories, the project plan was endorsed by CCOSC in May 2018. New hazard icons for bushfire were implemented in December 2020 for all states and territories except Western Australia and the Northern Territory. There are three levels of Bush Fire Alerts as illustrated within A. Clark (2021) Australian Warning System, *Australian Journal of Emergency Management*. pp 11-12.

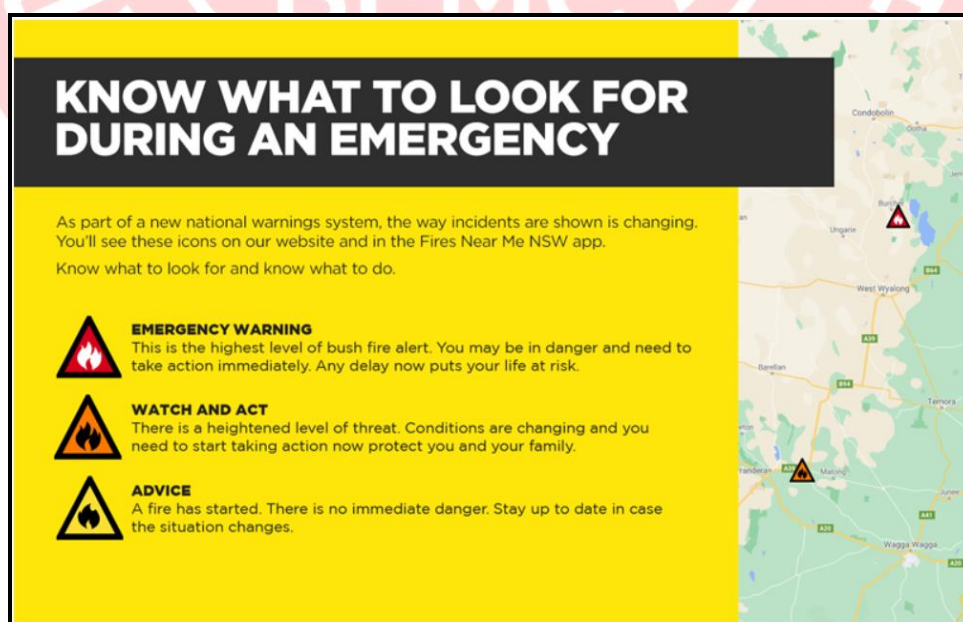


Figure 4 Bushfire Alert Levels (Clark 2021)

3.5 CATASTROPHIC FIRE DANGER RATING

Accessing the weather forecasts provided below, enables the facility to undertake initial preparation should a Catastrophic Fire Danger Rating be issued, requiring them to modify operations on relevant days. The type of operational modifications is provided in **Table 7, page 23** of this report.

<http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/fire-information/fdr-and-tobans>

3.6 VULNERABLE DEVELOPMENTS

In NSW, facilities are identified as Special Fire Protection Purpose (SFPP) development under *section 100B of the Rural Fires Act, 1997*. Occupants of SFPP developments require special care and are considered vulnerable uses.

The nature of SFPPs means that occupants may be more vulnerable to bushfire attack for one or more of the following reasons (Planning for Bushfire Protection 2019 p. 50):

- They may be less aware in relation to bush fire impacts.
- They may have reduced capacity to evaluate risk and respond adequately to the bush fire threat.
- They may present operational difficulties for evacuation and or management.
- They may be more vulnerable to stress and anxiety arising from bush fire threat and smoke.
- There may be significant communication barriers.
- Supervision during a bush fire may be difficult; and
- They may be unfamiliar with the area.

Vulnerable occupants within facilities and those who care for them, are likely to need more time, resources, support, and assistance to take the appropriate actions and or to evacuate safely.

3.7 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLANNING

3.7.1 Emergency Control Organisation

In accordance with *Australian Standard AS 3745-2010*, an Emergency Control Organisation (ECO) is to be established for the planning, preparation and implementation of the on-site evacuation and emergency procedures and may consist of specialist providers with the following skills:

- Physical capability to perform the duties required.
- Strong leadership qualities.
- Maturity of judgement, good decision-making skills and capability to remain calm under pressure.
- Sound knowledge of the local area.
- Ability to be on site during the fire danger period; and
- Ability to complete the required training.

The ECO does not have a 'statutory standing'. It is to follow any instructions or advice from authorised Emergency Service personnel related to evacuation. Each person in the ECO shall have clearly defined duties and responsibilities. The Emergency Control Organisation (ECO) is a group of personnel who have been delegated the authority as 'Wardens' to make decisions regarding the management of a response to an emergency.

The structure, activation, membership of the ECO is outlined below. During a wildfire event the ECO should establish an Incident Management Team (IMT) implementing an Incident Control System (ICS). Activation of an IMT for every emergency such be undertaken. It will be easier to establish your IMT and

scale down as required, rather than have too few people involved which may impact on your facility's ability to respond.

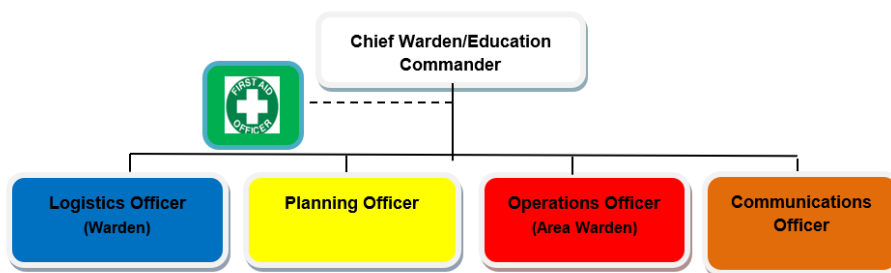


Figure 5 Simplified example of a IMS structure suitable to manage an wildfire incident

3.7.2 Planning Committee

The Emergency Planning Committee (EPC) is a consultative group comprised of a representation of those who may work, live or are occupants at the facility. The group normally consists of site and senior management that act as *Chief Wardens* and *Deputy Chief Wardens*.

3.7.3 Membership, Roles and Responsibilities of the Emergency Planning Committee

The EPC is responsible for the development, implementation, and maintenance of the EMP, emergency procedures and related training and exercise. The membership, roles and responsibilities of the EPC are detailed below.

3.7.4 Planning Committee Roles and Responsibilities

Implementation of the Evacuation Plan is the responsibility of the *Chief Warden* and ECO with assistance and support from staff, NSW RFS and Emergency Services when required.

The appointment of the *Deputy Chief Warden* is to ensure continuity of the *Chief Warden's* functions during absences. The selection of the Deputy should be consistent with the selection criteria for the *Chief Warden*. The deputy should be fully trained and prepared to take over the primary role of the *Deputy Chief Warden*.

The Chief Warden will ensure that:

- The evacuation plan is updated annually.
- All staff are made aware of the existence of the Evacuation and Operations Plan and the Evacuation procedures to be adopted in the event of an emergency. Yearly training is to be provided for all staff in the implementation of the Evacuation Plan.
- The 'Evacuation Procedure' and map are displayed in strategic locations (support building) throughout facility.
- Evacuation procedures are tested regularly. Evacuation Drills conducted once a year and recorded.
- Deficiencies in the Evacuation Plan/evacuation management systems are reviewed, and changes implemented to address these deficiencies.
- A copy of the current plan is distributed to the local emergency management committee and emergency services.

The Chief Warden is responsible for the following:

- Implementation of evacuation preparedness procedures.

- Management and overseeing of any evacuation; until relieved of this responsibility by the attending commanding officer of Emergency Services, or the Police.
- Notification emergency service when decisions are made to temporarily cease operations, evacuate, or shelter in place.
- Supervision of the ECO.
- Ensuring the ECO achieves its responsibilities.
- Liaising with Emergency Services and maintaining the Emergency Service contact lists.
- Maintaining and displaying a current list of contact telephone numbers (**Table 2, page 5**).
- Distributing a current 'Evacuation Plan' in August each year to the Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC), the Local Emergency Management Officer (LEMO) and other appropriate authorities. (e.g., NSW Rural Fire Services, NSW Fire Brigade).
- Maintaining *Chief Warden* and *Deputy Chief Wardens* rosters.

The *Deputy Chief Warden* is responsible for the following:

- Assisting with the notification and implementation of the evacuation.
- Assisting the Emergency Service personnel on their arrival, unless otherwise directed.
- The *Deputy Chief Warden* will also be responsible for onsite evacuation and assembly areas, including setting up evacuee's registration system to check people into and out from Evacuation Areas.

3.8 TRAINING, ANNUAL REVIEWS, EXERCISE SCHEDULES

This bush fire emergency plan forms a sub plan to the facilities existing Emergency Management Plans. All training and exercise schedules identified in the EMP are followed within this plan.

Evacuation procedures are tested regularly. Evacuation Drills conducted once a year and recorded.

Consider adding into staff induction packages the completion of the free online e-learning platforms available providing a well-rounded introduction to bushfire emergency management. At a minimum, each member of the EPC should undertake the training/refresher annually.

<https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/your-local-area-info-and-advice/e-learning>

<https://elearning.mla.com.au/courses/bushfire-preparation/>

<https://elearning.mla.com.au/courses/bushfire-recovery/>

<http://elearning.aidr.org.au/>

3.9 POST FIRE ACTIVITIES AND DEBRIEFINGS

The *Chief Warden* decides when to re-open the facility (or part thereof, if closed) in consultation with local emergency services, based on review and confirmation of the safety of the facility including:

- Confirm with NSW Fire and Rescue and associated energy providers/industry those utilities (water, electricity) are safe to use.
- The air quality is safe and does not trigger health issues in occupants.
- A qualified arborist should check impacted (burnt) trees within the facility to certify structural integrity and that they will not fail because of being impacted by fire. In some instances, areas can be marked as unsafe until specialist felling trees have made the area safe.
- All burnt areas and structures should be avoided until they have been checked for safety issues by a qualified person.

General housekeeping should include:

- Review buildings/structure integrity.

- Review tree integrity.
- Telecommunications/IT/equipment checks.
- Advise the facility and surrounding community of plans to recommence operations.
- Implement procedures to resume workplace activities including providing counselling and support to those affected by the incident.
- Review Emergency Management and replenish First Aid stocks.

Debriefing after the event is critical to identify lessons learnt and to tighten procedures that will facilitate a better activation in future. The aim of debriefing is to ensure that lessons learnt (both positive and negative) are applied for future bushfire events, not to lay blame on people for mistakes. Debriefing should be conducted by an independent third party and should include key stakeholders activated during the event.

- The debrief should consider (at minimum).
 - Fire behaviour and impact on the facility and evacuation pathways.
 - Activation procedures and trigger points.
 - Communications.
 - Implementation of the Evacuation Plan.
 - Logistics.
 - Performance of fire systems.
 - Identification of training needs.
 - Information that can enhance the lessons learnt.

Debriefings should include a discussion of:

1. What you set out to do.
2. What actually happened.
3. Why things happened the way they did.
4. What could be done better next time.
5. What lessons can be applied.

If the fire involved a critical incident, arrange for critical incident counselling through the NSW RFS.

Ensure injuries are recorded and reported.

4 BUSH FIRE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The Bushfire Operations Plan (BOP) sets out the work and activities that will be undertaken within the site to prevent and mitigate bush fire events. Implementing the bushfire management works and activities listed in this plan is dependent upon the financial, human and equipment resources being available.

The facilities estate management plans and procedures should be updated with reference to this Bushfire Operations Plan.

If the implementation of bushfire management activities identified in this BOP are implemented with fewer resources than estimated, the balance of the resources will be allocated to implementing other high priority bushfire management activities not listed in this BOP after discussion with the Emergency Services Agency.

Fire management attempts to coerce fire into a desired regime using three primary strategies:

1. Hazard Reduction through mechanical (slashing) fuel reduction.
2. Fire suppression, and
3. Ignition management and prevention.

Hazard reduction and ignition management and prevention of fire outbreaks are the primary focus of fire control strategies within this document.

4.1 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLANNING

Completing a bush fire survival plan as a family unit is an important step to ensure all family members are aware of the decisions and requirements during a bush fire event. This report will help inform the Bush fire survival plan which can be accessed at <https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/resources/bush-fire-survival-plan>

Assuming communications (mobile phones are not working) develop a notification process that informs neighbours and responding fire agencies that the property has been evacuated. This could be a non-combustible colour signal (star picket painted red) at the front gate when closed. Ensure this is communicated to neighbours and responding fire agencies.

4.1.1 Annual reviews, exercise schedules

Reviewing the passive bushfire protection measures annually prior to bushfire season and undertaking test exercise will assist the family in being aware of the tasks and action if a bush fire emergency developed. This will enable quick and appropriate action to be undertaken within a timely manner.

4.2 PRIMARY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ACTION

The primary emergency management action for the estate depends on the location of each of the residential development.

4.3 NSW RFS NEIGHBOURHOOD SAFER PLACE

Neighbourhood Safer Places are a place of last resort during a bush fire emergency. They are to be used when all other options in your bush fire survival plan can't be put into action safely.

NSP have limited capabilities and do not guarantee safety. People need to be aware of the following risks associated with NSPs as a Place of Last Resort:

- Travelling to an NSP is inherently dangerous due to the potential for traffic congestion, poor visibility, fire activity, traffic accidents or fallen trees that may block the route.
- People will need to use judgement and take appropriate action in regard to their personal safety while sheltering at an NSP.
- Sheltering at a NSP may result in physical and/or psychological trauma.
- People are likely to experience extreme conditions including heat, high winds, fire noise, embers, radiant heat, smoke, and ash while sheltering at an NSP.
- Access into a NSP may not be facilitated by emergency services and cannot be guaranteed; › Emergency services may not be present.
- There is no provision for pets.
- There will generally be limited parking. Large numbers of vehicles may further compromise what little protection the area affords.
- There may be limited capacity with no amenities (e.g., food, drink, toilets will not be provided).
- There may be little or no capacity to help people with special needs.
- There is likely to be no communication or first aid facilities at an NSP.

The performance criteria for NSP building are located and constructed to enhance the chance for survival for humans in attendance from the radiant heat of a bush fire. The acceptable solution for the performance criteria is building is situated to prevent direct flame contact, material ignition and radiant heat levels of 10kW/m²; or provide 139 metres separation distance from a bush fire hazard.

The performance criteria for open space are located to enhance the chance for survival for humans in attendance from the radiant heat of a bush fire, The acceptable solution for the performance criteria is open space is situated and maintained to prevent direct flame contact, material ignition and radiant heat levels of 2kW/m²; or provide 310 metres separation distance from a bush fire hazard.

Area between bush fire hazard and the site is maintained to a level that ensures the radiant heat levels at the BESS and support building meet the Performance Criteria for Radiant Heat. The site and land adjacent to the site between the BESS and support building and the bush fire hazard is managed land or maintained in accordance with NSW RFS document Standards for Asset Protection Zones.

There are no appropriate on-site NSP, although the RFS delegated NSP is an open space located at Bowler Street, Holbrook, approximately 6mins unobstructed drive travel time (5.2km by road) of the north on the site.

4.4 PREPARATION FOR BUSH FIRES

The official Bushfire Danger Period generally starts on 1 October and extends through to the following April. However, the fires season has been starting earlier and finishing latter. During this period, bushfires can occur at any time.

5 BUSH FIRE OPERATIONAL PLANNING

Ensuring the bushfire operational planning is adequately completed will assist in emergency management.

5.1 STANDARD BUSH FIRE PROTECTION MEASURES

The standing bushfire protection measures should be continuously reviewed and implemented to provide the buildings within the facility the best opportunity to withstand a bushfire event. These include:

- Construction standards to defend against ember attack, radiant heat, and flame contact.
- Adequate separation between the unmanaged vegetation and the built asset (referred to as Asset Protection Zones),
- Landscaping, gas, electricity supplies and vegetation features within the asset protection zone are critical and should be maintained to prevent ignition and fire spread within the curtilage (APZ) of the building.
- Access to water for firefighting purposes in a location that is accessible.
- Vehicle access is maintained clear and operational.

5.2 SMART HOME TECHNOLOGY

Establishing smart home technology can assist in activating bushfire protection measures when remote from the location. The assumption is that telecommunication equipment is functional to enable this process, which has been found to be unreliable during landscape fire events.

These systems can remotely engage water spray systems if established correctly. Each site is unique on its characteristics and specific systems by specialised service providers should be reviewed to ensure the technology id fit for purpose.

5.3 BUSH FIRE SURVIVAL KIT

A bushfire survival kit gives you easy access to things that will help save your life in a bushfire. Kept together in one place, the kit will save you time whether you're packing to leave.

The basic kits is:

- Portable battery-operated radio.
- Waterproof torch and head torch.
- Spare batteries.
- First aid kit with manual.
- Face masks, P2/N95-rated face masks can filter out the fine particles in smoke.
- Alcohol-based hand sanitiser.
- Manual can opener, cutlery, plates.
- Cooking equipment (e.g., portable stove, fuel, pots, pans).
- Detergent and chlorine bleach.
- Candles with waterproof matches.
- Woollen blankets.
- Emergency contact numbers.
- Waterproof bag for valuables.

If occupants are caught sheltering-on-site follow items will be appropriate:

- Firefighting Pants (AS 4824:2006)
- Wildfire Jacket (AS 4824:2006)
- Fire resistant shirt
- Gloves (AS 2161.6:2003 Type 1)
- Goggles (AS 1337:1992)
- Firefighting Helmet (AS 1801:1997 Type 3)
- Smoke Mask (AS 1716:2003 Class P2)
- Fire boots (minimum AS 4821:2014)
- Oxygen bottle and mask
- Drinking water (camel pack)
- UHF radios
- McLeod tool (Rack-hoe)

5.4 STRATEGIES TO REDUCE IGNITION

The key personnel responsible for reporting and monitoring fire hazards and for the prevention of fire are:

- All Employees and Contractors of the operator have a general duty of care to observe and report fire hazards within the site.
- The Facility Manager is responsible for overall monitoring of fire hazard within site.

The key to minimising fire ignition is to increase the awareness of the risks of ignition.

The NSW RFS Hume Bush Fire Risk Management reports the district has on average 50 bush fires per year, of which very few can be major fires.

The main sources of ignition in the Hume Zone BFMC area are:

- Escapes from legal burning off, lightning and equipment use remain the top three causes of bush fire in the zone. These are mainly confined to rural areas.
- Lightning activity in the Zone is mainly associated with late spring and summer thunderstorm activity, which is normally (but not always) accompanied by rainfall.
- Farm machinery activity early in the summer when cereal crops are being harvested often produce outbreaks of fire across the Zone. Many haystack fires have also been experienced in recent years that appear associated with the unusual rainfall pattern.
- Incendiarism continues as a trend and is most common in the grassland and forested areas adjacent to townships, particularly the suburbs of Albury. Areas of high incidence have been identified by the BFMC.
- The main Melbourne to Sydney railway line passes through the Zone and has been a known ignition source in the past decade.
- The Hume, Riverina and Olympic Highways pass through the Zone with several recorded ignitions occurring each year.

Table 6 documents the actions required concerning the identified ignition causes to help prevent fire ignition. These strategies are especially important during the fire season when weather patterns are conducive to the spread of fire.

Table 6 Ignition Risk and Actions

Ignition Risk	Actions
Deliberate / Arson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promoting cooperative surveillance programs with fire agencies and community. Promoting staff, community education and awareness programs. Limiting public access during severe and catastrophic fire weather conditions. Cooperatively assist NSW Police and the Rural Fire Service to investigate all fires believed to have been deliberately lit.
Campfires	Promoting staff, community education and awareness programs.
Debris Burning	Ensure neighbours obtain appropriate permits to implement Debris burns.
Machinery use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain high level of employee awareness (e.g., toolbox talks). Ensure adequate buffer zone between activities and fuel source. All hot work activities to have a spotter and a fire extinguisher within work zone when required. Hot works to be avoided during total fire bans or on FDR days of Very High or greater. Do not undertake mechanical clearing works on Extreme and Catastrophic fire danger days. Removal of some visual rocks before slashing. Avoid driving on/through long grass (vehicle exhaust systems are known to igniting grass fires).
Electrical & lightning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liaise with electricity providers to ensure maintenance of powerlines. Further information visit https://www.electricitysafety.com.au/

5.5 STRATEGIES TO SUPPRESS UNPLANNED FIRES

Fire suppression actions start from the time the fire is detected until it is extinguished. The lifestyle facilities priorities in wildfire suppression operations are the safety of all staff and visitors; the effective protection of human life, facility, and community assets; reduces ignition potential on site to acceptable levels. On 'Total Fire Ban' days no vegetation management or hot works will be undertake unless notification and approved through s99 by NSW RFS is obtained. Only general maintenance works that do not require mechanical machinery that can create an ignition source will be permitted during 'Total Fire Ban' days.

Table 7 Activities and Fire Behaviour ratings

ELEMENT	NONE	MODERATE	HIGH	EXTREME	CATASTROPHIC
Preparedness for ignition	Assessing the required level of day-to-day preparedness by monitoring Fire Danger Indexes and synoptic conditions on a continuous basis throughout the fire season. Identifying pre-emptive incident management and ensure staff are aware of response procedures. Prior to each fire season an annual and biannual inspection of the fire management requirements.				
Response to ignition		Plan and commence preparation for a wildfire. Check fire equipment.	Fire suppression equipment tested, water ready and ready to act.	Fire suppression equipment tested, water ready and ready to act. Monitor for ignition points, if fire growth	Leave bushfire risk areas.
Minimise hot works through appropriate work scheduling	No requirements for specific wildfire preparedness or suppression.	If deemed appropriate. Hot works should be accompanied by a spotter and a fire extinguisher.	If deemed appropriate. Hot works should be accompanied by a spotter and a fire extinguisher.	No hot works	No hot works
Minimise vegetation maintenance activities through appropriate work scheduling		No requirements	If deemed appropriate. Vegetation management should be accompanied by a spotter and a fire extinguisher/ fire vehicle.	No vegetation maintenance activities.	No vegetation maintenance activities

5.6 STRATEGIES TO MINIMISE POTENTIAL SPREAD OF BUSHFIRES

A range of permanent, natural and point fire control advantages exist to minimise the potential for the spread of bush fires in and around the site. The following sections define the different advantages, their characteristics, and considerations.

Table 8 summarises the control advantages in and around the site. The Operator will ensure the facility effectiveness of fire control advantage infrastructure on site is maintained to minimise the potential for the spread of fires from or into and from the property. In general:

- Priorities the maintenance of Asset Protection Zones and vehicle access trails/roads.
- Maintain Assets Protection Zone to standards in accordance with NSW RFS, specifically management of the ground and shrub growth, and lower tree branches under the tree line for a minimum of 2m height, and
- Point advantages such as water availability and access locations are signposted and maintained.

Table 8 Summary of Permanent Advantages

Control Advantage	Type of Zone	Characteristics and Considerations
Asset Protection Zones	Permanent	Cleared areas immediately adjacent to built assets that provided an area of low flammable materials. Undertaken within the first month of fire season. Completed in accordance with NSW Rural Fire Service, Standards for Asset Protection Zones. NSW Rural Fire Service, Sydney.
Access roads and trails	Permanent	Roads, tracks and trails may be used as access ember ignitions. Fire crew safety and probability of success will be assessed against the ability to access along the road and trails.
Other Areas cleared of flammable materials	Permanent	Other cleared areas that act as advantages include roads and boundary cleared areas that will impede the progress of a fire.
Drainage lines and rivers	Natural	The effectiveness of drainage lines depends upon whether it is saturated or has a bed of sand or stones that will impede fire crossing rather than vegetation litter. Drainage lines are unlikely to contain high intensity fires under severe conditions due to the likelihood of ridge top spotting.
Recent (<3yr) fire history	Natural	Recently burnt areas can be used for containment. Their effectiveness is limited by their depth, the level of fuel reduction, the vegetation type, the recovery time for fuel loads, and the spotting distance of approaching fire.
Vehicle water points	Point	Vehicle based firefighting can draw water from numerous hydrants and hose reels within the facility.
Fire detection	Point	Early detection can also be gained from active patrolling during a wildfire event.

5.7 BUSHFIRE MITIGATION TREATMENTS AND SCHEDULE

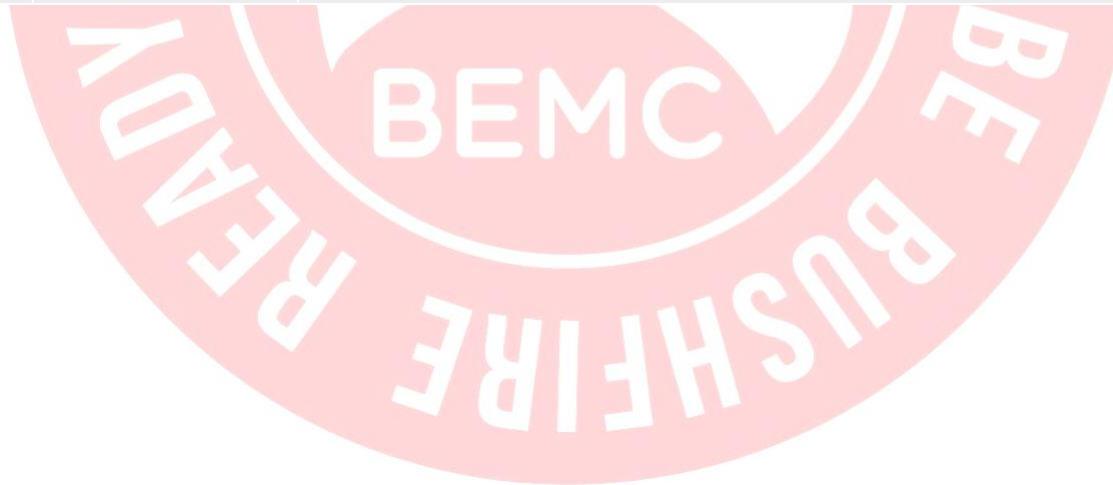
The bush fire mitigation treatments are strategic in nature as they prioritise protection of life and property undertaken before the impact of bushfire on the site and completed at the commencement of the Bush Fire Danger Period. The chief warden elements of the Bushfire mitigation treatments are:

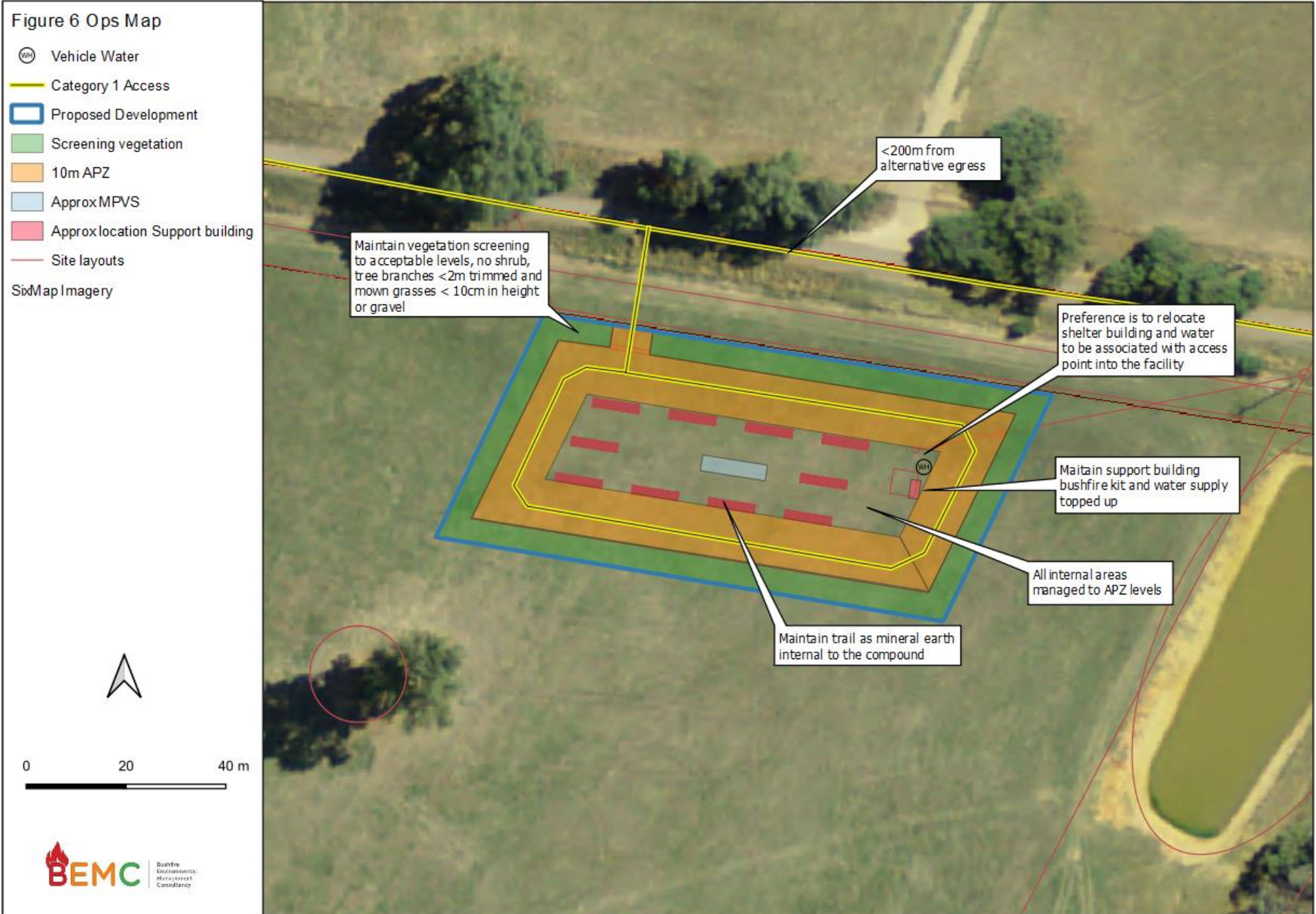
- Establishing and maintain landscape maintenance schedules.
- Making representations to the District BFMC.
- Implementation of the Bush fire Operations and Evacuation Plan, and
- Establishing a staff and visitors education program.

Table 9 Bush fire Action statement

Period	Trigger	Issue	Action	Responsibility
Preparation Prior to bushfire danger period	Planning requirement	Risk assessment and Response capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ensure Landscape and Vegetation Management Program has considered the application of Bushfire protection, namely Asset Protection Zones and vegetation screen management. ○ Ensure Landscape and Vegetation Management Program have been completed prior to 1 October each year. ○ Certification should be received prior to October that the work has been completed in accordance with RFS Standards for Asset Protection Zones to Inner Protection Zone standard. ○ If Asset Protection Zones have not been maintained by October each year, liaise with facility manager regarding Asset Protection Zones maintenance. ○ Communicate the facilities bushfire preparedness arrangements with staff and additional users including their responsibilities at staff/contractor meeting by September each year. ○ Communicate the facility's bushfire preparedness arrangements with the surround landowners and any consent authorities as required by September each year. ○ Review facilities contact list to communicate during emergency situations (includes communication regarding short-term operational requirements). ○ Review and update the facilities Bushfire Emergency Management and Evacuation Plan and contact local rural fire brigades and NSW Fire and Rescue and undertake familiarisation of the facility and emergency procedures. ○ Check bushfire emergency kit and equipment are available and operational (battery radio, mobile telephone) and test and verify fire protection systems (fire hydrants, fire extinguishers). 	Facility Manager

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Check operation of any built bushfire protection mechanism, such as bushfire shutters, water spray systems if provided. ○ Provide updated contact details including a mobile number for emergency contact after operating hours to local Emergency Services and Police. ○ Conduct practice fire evacuation drills. ○ Contact off-site assembly area (where applicable). ○ Make the Evacuation Plan available to all associated uses within the facility. 	
Preparation During bushfire danger period	Planning requirement	Risk assessment and Response capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Display the Emergency Management System information in prominent places throughout the facility (support building). ○ Listening to the local radio station, TV and/or monitoring the NSW Rural Fire Service website at www.rfs.nsw.gov.au for information on bushfire activity or fire danger ratings. ○ Knowing the Fire Danger Ratings for the area. ○ Staying alert for warnings such as Bush Fire Alert Levels issued by the RFS. ○ Watching for signs of fire, especially smoke or the smell of smoke ○ Calling the RFS Bush fire Information Line on 1800 NSW RFS (1800 679 737). ○ Downloading the free iPhone application from NSW Rural Fire Service – Fires Near Me NSW and keeping aware of fire in the vicinity of the facility. ○ 	Facility Manager





Observations or Situation	Bushfire Danger Period			
	MODERATE	HIGH	EXTREME	CATASTROPHIC
Out of control fire approaching the site 5-10km	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Normal operation ➤ Seek instruction from emergency services. ➤ Situational awareness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Seek instruction from emergency services. ➤ Situational awareness ➤ Prepare for Evacuation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Seek instruction from emergency services. ➤ Situational awareness ➤ Prepare for Evacuation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Evacuation triggered if safe to do so. ➤ Seek instruction from emergency services
Out of control fire approaching the site 5km	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Normal operation ➤ Situational awareness ➤ Seek guidance from emergency services. ➤ Prepare for Evacuation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Seek instruction from emergency services. ➤ Prepare for Evacuation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Evacuation triggered if safe to do so ➤ Seek instruction from emergency services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Evacuation triggered if safe to do so ➤ Maybe too late to evacuate – shelter-in-place ➤ Seek instruction from emergency services
Bushfires within region but not within Area of Concern	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Normal operation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Situational awareness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Situational awareness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Seek instruction from emergency services ➤ Situational awareness
No fires	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Normal operation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Situational awareness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Situational awareness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Situational awareness

Figure 7 Bush fire risk matrix

6 BUSH FIRE EVACUATION PLAN

Procedures for both sheltering and evacuation should be developed, with one identified as the Primary Action to be followed during a bush fire. In this case, shelter-on-site is not a feasible emergency management options due to the lack of appropriately designed structure. Furthermore, the site will not be occupied, and people present on-site will be only for maintenance and operational requirements.

Evacuating early is always the safest option and emergency services may decide to evacuate areas for public safety. For this reason, procedures to evacuate are required to ensure the necessary planning and coordination arrangements are in place.

An important factor when planning for emergency procedures is that under intense conditions it is common for people to behave irrationally, and this may increase the time taken to move people.

6.1 EVACUATION PLAN ASSUMPTIONS

The plan is based on the premise that:

1. On Total Fire Ban days and above, the *Chief Warden* will determine the operations of the facility in line with local decision-making provisions.
2. On days of Total Fire Ban and above the NSW RFS will liaise with the *Chief Warden* should the need arise to evacuate or limit occupation.
3. Leaving a high-risk bushfire location is the safest action and evacuating before a bushfire threatens is always safer than remaining until a bushfire starts. Occupants leaving early and becomes increasingly appropriate with extreme and catastrophic Fire Danger Ratings.

6.2 TYPES OF EVACUATION

Evacuation is a risk management strategy that may be used to mitigate the effects of an emergency on a community. It involves the movement of people to a safer location and their return. The types of evacuation and alternatives to evacuation include:

Immediate Evacuation This results from a hazard impact that forces immediate action, thereby allowing little or no warning and limited preparation time.

Pre-Warned/Managed Evacuation This follows the receipt of sufficient and reliable information which prompts a decision to evacuate ahead of a potential hazard impact.

Self-Managed Evacuation/Relocation This is a spontaneous type of evacuation involving the self-initiated movement of people as individuals, families, or community groups. This may include circumstances where residents are advised to leave early ahead of dangerous conditions.

Shelter in Place Shelter in place should be considered as an alternative when the risk associated with evacuation is seen as being greater than that of sheltering in place or as an outcome of an immediate threat to individuals where evacuation cannot be initiated in a safe manner.

6.1 EVACUATION PROCESS

The evacuation process has been adopted from AFAC Australian Disaster Resilience – Evacuation Planning (2017). The decision to advise or direct evacuation should be considered whenever there is a potential need to move people to a safer place. This process should be constantly reviewed in changing circumstances.

The decision to evacuate people who are at immediate risk during an emergency is not always straightforward, as it is often based on incomplete or unverified information in a rapidly developing and dynamic situation. Timing of the decision is a significant factor.

The occupants must consider whether the lead warning times they have available to them permit a safe evacuation of a location threatened by bush fire. If sufficient time is available, then properly planned and executed evacuation is the most effective strategy. **Figure 8** shows the evacuation process.

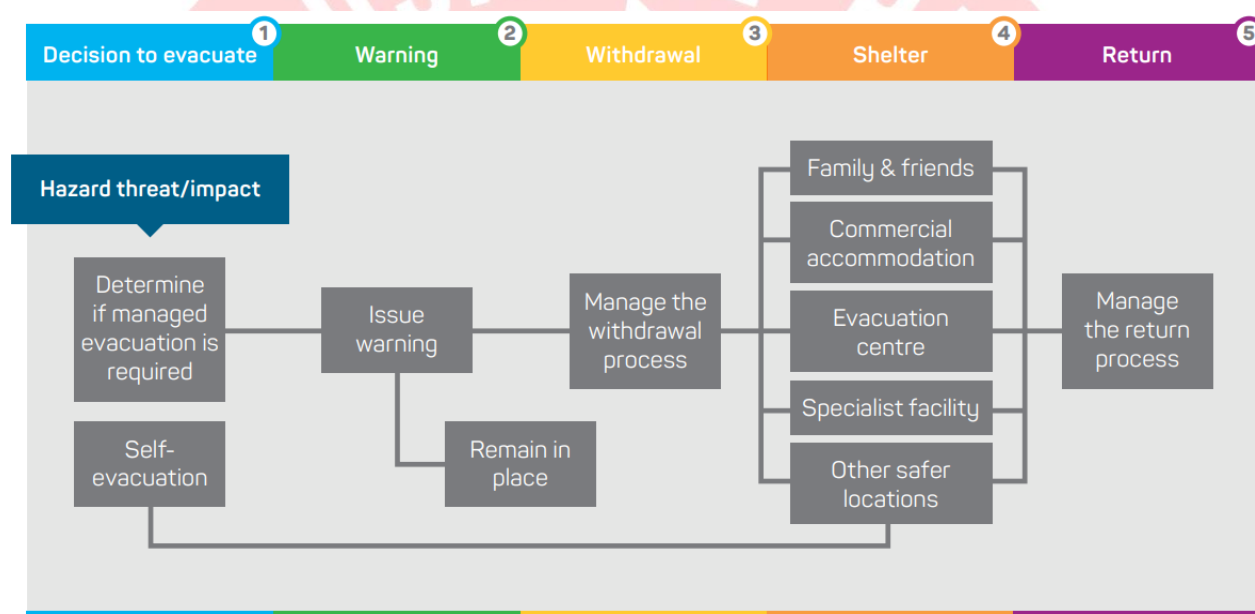


Figure 8 Evacuation Process (AFAC Australian Disaster Resilience – Evacuation Planning, 2017)

6.2 THE NEED FOR EARLY ACTION

The Evacuation Plan has been completed so it does not rely on the availability of emergency service personnel to undertake the evacuation. As such, the decision to evacuate must be undertaken confidently and without hesitation by the occupants. The occupants will require early advice and decisions to evacuate or close the property.

Early action can lead to family visiting family and friends in a lower bushfire threat area. Communicating this information amongst the family unit is essential to facilitate post-fire recovery and communications.

6.2.1 Pre-Emptive Closure

The lead time for a planned closure varies depending on weather patterns, but every attempt is made to give the facility and attending staff as much notice as possible to prepare and respond.

Once the decision that aspects of the facilities operations is to undertake, information needs to be disseminated quickly and clearly identifying the expectations of staff, occupants, and visitors.

Potentially, between declaration of the closure and the day of closure, weather conditions improve sufficiently to remove the need to close, and the facility can therefore stand down its pre-emptive closure plans. Triggers for these decisions need to be clear and concise.

Due to the location of the site, pre-emptive closure for the facility for non-emergency works during Extreme and Catastrophic FBI is considered a primary bushfire emergency management action.

6.3 DECISION TRIGGERS

Developing a clear set of triggers will increase the ability to react quickly and make decisions when a bush fire event occurs.

Figure 7, page 28, provides emergency considerations within a risk matrix and **Table 10, page 34** provides the triggers to guide management to make the decision to evacuate.

Awareness of triggers are determined by maintaining knowledge of Daily Fire Danger Categories and the predominant weather (specifically wind) conditions. It is essential that occupants maintain daily awareness of these categories to ensure they are informed and aware of trigger requirements.

6.4 AUTHORITY TO EVACUATE

Authority to evacuate can be directed by:

- NSW Police or Fire Authority (NSW Rural Fire Service or Fire and Rescue NSW).

NSW Agencies with legislated authority to order an evacuation are:

- a) Combat Agencies with appropriate legislation; and
- b) the NSW Police Force.

A Combat Agency generally issues an order to evacuate; consideration should be given to how affected people may respond to such an order. Police Officers generally enforce such orders.

NSW Police may issue an evacuation order under *Section 60L State Emergency & Rescue Management Act 1989*. A senior police officer may, if satisfied that there are reasonable grounds for doing so for the purpose of protecting persons from injury or death threatened by an actual or imminent emergency, direct, or authorise another police officer to direct, a person to do any or all the following once a danger area is declared:

- a) to leave any premises and to move outside the danger area,
- b) to take any children or adults present in any premises who are in the person's care and to move them outside the danger area,
- c) not to enter the danger area. A 'danger area' means the areas specified by a senior police officer as the area affected by an emergency.

Fire & Rescue NSW under *Section 19 Fire Brigades Act 1989* through the officer in charge at a fire or hazardous material incident may cause to be removed any person, vehicle, vessel, or thing the presence of whom or which at or near a fire or hazardous material incident might, in the officer's opinion, interfere with the work of any fire brigade or the exercise of any of the officer's functions.

NSW Rural Fire Service under *Section 22A Rural Fires Act 1997* provides that an officer of a rural fire brigade or group of rural fire brigades may cause to be removed any person, vehicle, vessel or thing the presence of whom or which at or near a fire, incident or other emergency might, in the officer's opinion, interfere with the work of any rural fire brigade or the exercise of any of the officer's function.

6.5 EVACUATION

Facilities with evacuation as their Primary Action that have no shelter-on-site mechanisms will have clear and concise decision triggers for staff to follow. Pre-emptive site closures become more critical in these situations ensuring staff are not placed in any danger when they are required to consider shelter as an emergency response option.

Safe access arrangements for people to evacuate an area whilst emergency service personnel are accessing the same area to suppress a bush fire are essential. Alternative access/way out routes will also assist if part of the road system is cut by wildfire or wildfire related activities, such as fallen tree or firefighting appliances. Evacuation is by vehicle, relocating people to where they are safer and by a route that is relatively safe.

Evacuation involves relocating people to where they are safer and by a route that is relatively safe. The action taken is largely determined by the nature of the fire threat, the people involved and their location. Welfare of evacuees following evacuation is also an important consideration. Such procedures require careful and timely consideration of all factors. Every bushfire attack scenario will be different. The response to each must therefore be specific and include consideration of the following:

- Location of fire.
- Fire behaviour including.
- Rate and direction of spread.
- Ember affecting the area.
- Smoke affecting the area.
- Numbers of potential evacuees.
- Availability of access, and
- Transport.

In the event of a bushfire emergency, where external evacuation to a safe place outside the facility triggered all occupants within the facility are expected to the designated refuge area. The delegated refuge area is an open space located at Bowler Street, Holbrook, approximately 6mins unobstructed drive travel time (5.2km by road) of the north on the site.

6.5.1 Evacuation process considerations

Spread of bushfire front

Applying the thumb rules of bushfire rate of spread will provide an *indication* of the progress of the fire front. This assessment shall be confirmed when discussing evacuation with NSW RFS.

A base line progress of grassland fire is 20% of the wind speed /per hour. For example, wind velocities of 40km/hr may result in the fire front progressing 8km with 1 hr, and wind speed of 80km/hr may result in the fire front progressing 16km with 1 hr. There is a direct correlation between wind speed and the progression of the fire front. This is indicative and fire can spread much fast through long distance spotting, and it is not uncommon for a bushfire 10km away, under winds >60km/hr impact on a site in less than an hour.

Evacuation time

When considering the rate of spread, the It is essential to consider the progress of the fire on the site and the *entire evacuation route to the NSP*.

The delegated refuge area is an open space located at Bowler Street, Holbrook, approximately 6mins unobstructed drive travel time (5.2km by road) of the north on the site.

Depending on the location and spread of the fire, further evacuation options are available to the north or south, returning to the work depot or home base, under the authority of the *Chief Warden*.

Evacuation time is further compromised by low visibility (smoke), people panicking, or should a car accident, tree/power pole/line impeded access along the road. Furthermore, it is common for increased volumes of traffic as people are trying to use the road at a single period adding to congestion.

Practical commencement of evacuation

There are a range of time factors that inhibit the evacuation:

- Mechanisms to communicate that an evacuation has been confirmed.
- Occupants will generally request time to pack there belongs prior to evacuation, which may not possible. In most cases occupants are not prepared to evacuate.
- Transportation of personal items to vehicle is dependent on the location of the vehicle in consideration of the accommodation.
- Traffic congestion exiting the property to the public road system.

As such, the decision to evacuate must be undertaken confidently and without hesitation by management and communicated to occupants quickly and concisely.

6.6 SHELTER

Evacuating early is always the safest option although situations during emergency are very dynamic and fluid, and evacuation may not be available, and sheltering may be required.

Facilities with sheltering as their Primary Action will have evacuation procedures in case they can no longer shelter, or emergency services call for a pre-emptive evacuation due to catastrophic or extreme bush fire conditions. Shelter-on-site is not possible for this facility as no build structure is provided for shelter purposes.

This places more emphasis on the need to close the facility to non-emergency works during extreme and catastrophic fire danger days (postpone work to following days of lower FDI) and early evacuation procedures.

6.6.1 Shelter Occupancy

The support building is the last option refuge building. It is not designed to be a refuge building and should only be used in last resort situations.

6.7 RESPONSE BUSHFIRE ACTION STATEMENTS

Response Bush Fire Action Statements outline duties and actions required to be undertaken during and after a bush fire emergency, stating clearly who is to do what, and when. A trigger is a timeframe, scenario or some other factor that initiates an action.

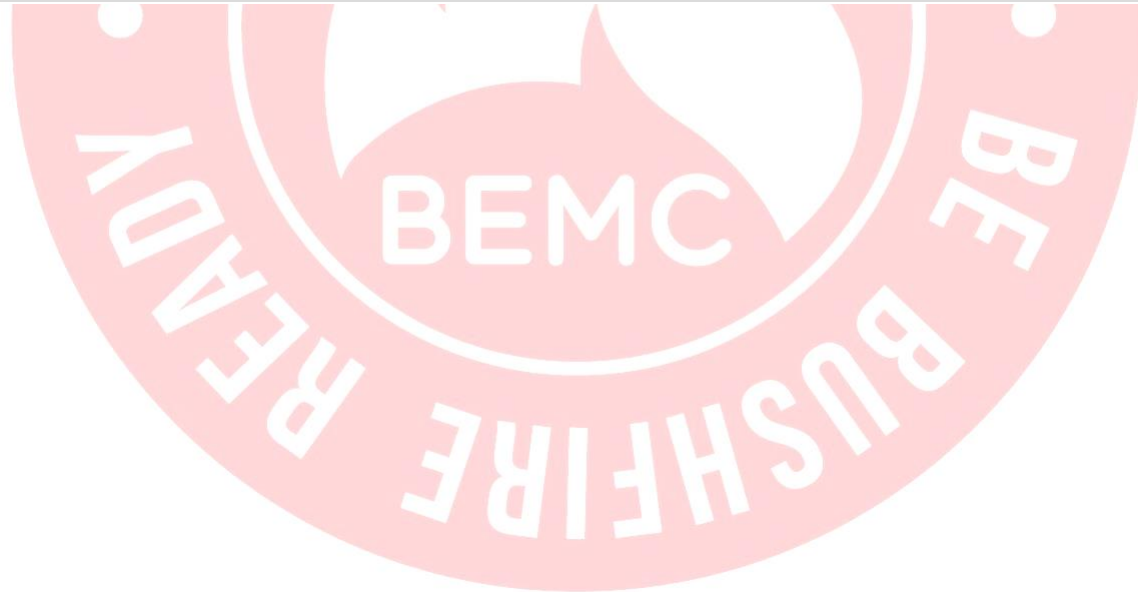
Triggers are to be determined and aligned with the appropriate action. Factors to be considered in determining triggers include the decision to evacuate or shelter as this will influence the timeframe required for certain actions to be undertaken.

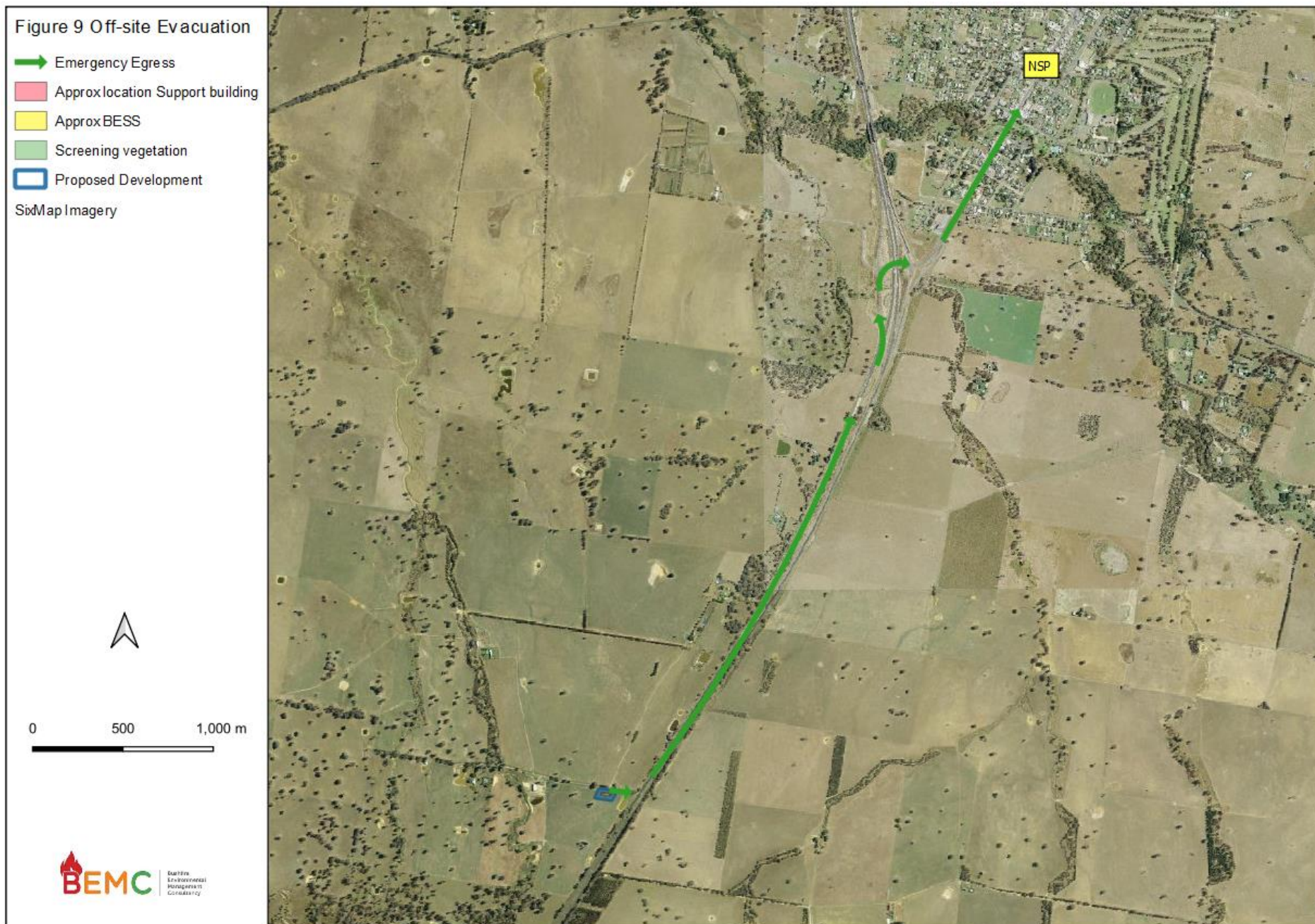
Table 10 Bushfire Decision Triggers

Category	Bush fire threat		Bush fire specific arrangements and actions	Responsibility
	Wind Direction	Confirmed Ignition		
Total Fire Ban	Total Fire Ban is declared by the Commissioner of the NSW Rural Fire Service for the Sydney Basin weather district, the facility may be closed on the designated day of Total Fire Ban.			
Possible emergency	<p>The Chief warden (or delegate), on becoming aware of a bushfire emergency, will take the following steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ascertain the nature of the emergency or potential emergency situation and determine appropriate response using the Bushfire Decision Triggers below. • Contact Emergency Services for advice and support; 			
Extreme and Catastrophic FBI > 50	All directions	No	Prepare for evacuation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extreme and Catastrophic FBI is issued in the Greater Hume District Bush fire area. • Upon acknowledgment of Extreme and Catastrophic FBI, chief warden to discuss operations with facility management and postponement of non-essential non-emergency activities. • Undertake the following tasks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure all hazardous materials are protected and secured. • Ensure all buildings and infrastructure are secured. • Preparations to enable quickly to 'turn off' of facility if required. • Determines availability of temporary relocation or alternative place of work and prepare notification to staff, contractors, suppliers, deliver services. • Activate local notification requirements to staff regarding temporarily ceasing operations or early finish time for the start of the next day. • Confirm details of staff off-site relocation arrangements if facility is remaining open. • Monitor local weather conditions for further advice. • Delay hot works to following days with lower FBIs. • Collect list of contacts to notify re closure/reopen 	Chief Warden

Extreme and Catastrophic FBI > 50		Yes (within 10km of site)	'Emergency Warning' Implement emergency management arrangements. 'EVACUATE'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider elements within section 6.5, page 32 of this report. Notify staff to 'EVACUATE' through phone and text. Notify fire authorities and site management of anticipated Evacuate site. Facility emergency procedures specific to the BESS infrastructure. Roll-call of staff at off-site evacuation point then determine if staff progress home or off-site meeting point (NSP). Program to return to site (following incident) to re-establish access controls (lock gates). 	Chief Warden
Moderate to High FBI 12 < 49	All directions	No	'Be ready to act' Monitor Fire Near Me	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Normal operations until active fire within 5kms. Undertake preliminary preparations as above and Apply fire spread thumb rule to determine impact time (Fire speed is 20% of wind speed – i.e., 50km/hr wind fire will spread approx. 5km in 30mins). 	Chief Warden
Moderate to High FBI 12 < 49	All directions	Yes (within 5km of site)	Take action to protect life and property	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare for evacuation and maintain normal operations. When fire is 5km from site - under 50km/hr wind fire may impact on site within 30 mins. Determine the direction of the fire, establish if the fire (or future wind changes) will impact directly on the site, if progressing towards the site undertaken 'EVACUATION'. Notify facility manager and staff to 'EVACUATE' through evacuation phone calls and SMS off-site staff not to return. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure all hazardous materials are protected and secured. Ensure all buildings and infrastructure are secured. Preparations to enable quickly to 'turn off' of facility if required. Notify staff to 'EVACUATE' through phone and text. Notify fire authorities and site management of anticipated Evacuate site. 	Chief Warden

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facility emergency procedures specific to the BESS infrastructure. • Roll-call of staff at off-site evacuation point then determine if staff progress home or off-site meeting point (NSP). • Program to return to site (following incident) to re-establish access controls (lock gates). 	
LOW FBI < 12	All directions	Yes	'Advise' Monitor Fire Near Me	Normal Operations Advise and assist fire agencies as required.	Chief Warden
Following passage of fire	Contact RFS to establish notification to re-enter site to undertake access and tree safety assessments. Contact utility providers to re-establish services. Engineering safety checks of infrastructure. Notification to all staff/contractors/delivery services/clients of future arrangements. Facilitate community resilience and recovery. Debrief and review emergency response planning.				





BUSHFIRE EVACUATION PLAN SUMMARY



KEY EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

POLICE, FIRE, AMBULANCE	CALL '000'
CHIEF WARDEN	Name contact
DEPUTY CHIEF WARDEN	Name contact
HQ contact	Name contact



AWARENESS OF SITUATION

RFS BUSHFIRE INFORMATION LINE	1800 679 737 (1800 NSW RFS)
DISTRICT RFS OFFICE	Albury 02 6033 4550
RFR WEBSITE	www.rfs.nsw.gov.au
FIRE NEAR ME APP	



LOCATION INFORMATION

ADDRESS	Bendemeeer Lane, south of Holbrook
NUMBER OF STAFF	5
OFF-SITE EVACUATION	Bowler Street, Holbrook



ACTIONS

1. Consistently - Pre-incident actions, triggers and determine bushfire threat level (Page 25), if fire occurs:
2. Raise Alarm & Call '000'
3. Call agency HQ
4. Undertake actions within Bushfire Actions Statement for determined threat (Page 34)

EVACUATION



THE SAFEST OPTION IS TO LEAVE EARLY

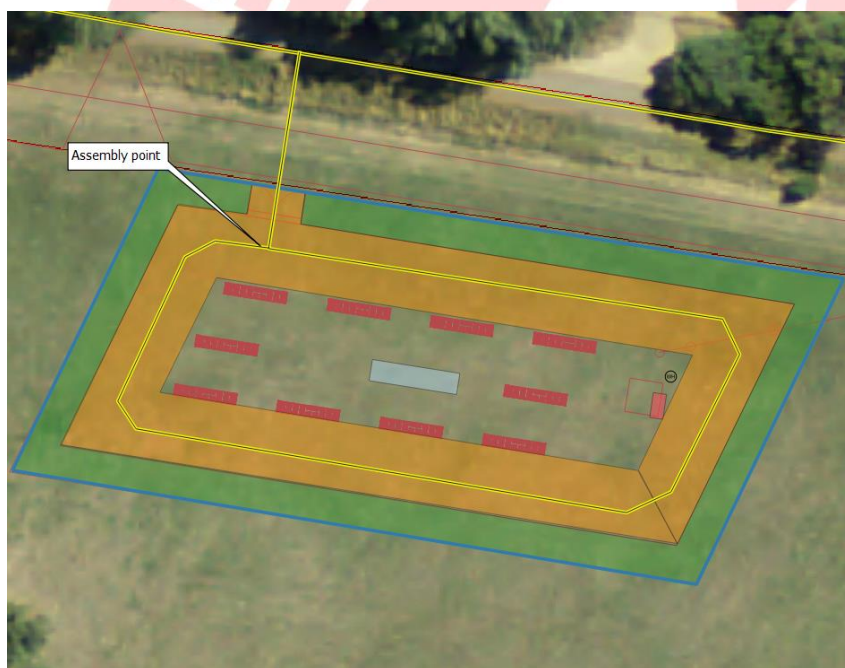
Authority to Evacuate can be directed by:

- Instruction from NSW Police or Fire Authority (NSW Rural Fire Service or Fire and Rescue NSW)
- Instructed from agency HQ
- Instructed by the Chief Warden in consultation with the facilities Emergency Control Organisation EMO



ASSEMBLY POINT

- Assemble Point is inside entry to the facility



KEY ACTIONS:

- Roll-call
- Close all building/structures
- Leave access gates unlocked
- Gather bushfire survival kits and water
- Keep watch for spot fire around building
- When safe, evacuate or as instructed by emergency services



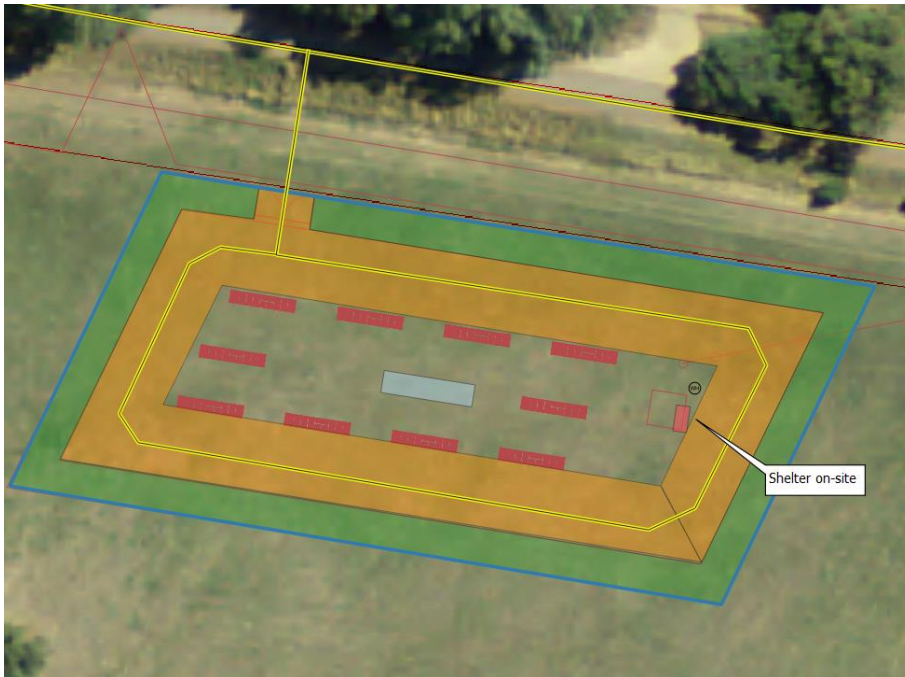
DO NOT EVACUATE IF:

- Spot fires are observed
- Embers are observed
- It is unsafe
- Directed by emergency services to remain in place
- Shelter-on-site should be considered as **LAST OPTION** when the risk associated with evacuation is greater than sheltering-on-site, or evacuation can not be initiated and completed in a safe manner



SHELTER-ON -SITE OPTION

- Shelter-on-site is inside the support building (ONLY CONSIDERED FOR LAST RESORT)



KEY ACTIONS:

- Roll-call
- Close all doors and windows
- Turn-off air conditioning
- Gather bushfire survival kits and water
- Keep watch for spot fire around building
- When safe, evacuate or as instructed by emergency services



VEHICLE EVACUATION



Traffic Impact Assessment Report

**Hume Highway, Holbrook,
NSW**

Project Number 230506

Final Report 12/03/2024

Client ACenergy Pty Ltd

Document control record

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Document control

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Draft	5/02/2024	Preliminary draft	Stuart Redman	Kate Kennedy
Final	12/03/2024	Final	Stuart Redman	Kate Kennedy

Executive summary

ACEnergy Pty Ltd engaged Trafficworks to undertake a traffic impact assessment (TIA) for the proposed development of a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) at **Hume Highway, Holbrook, NSW**.

The table below summarises the subject site's proposed development and our conclusions and recommendations.

Address	Hume Highway, Holbrook, NSW
Zoning	RU1: Primary Production
Proposed development	Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)
Road network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Hume Highway (State Road) — Bendemeer Lane (Local Road)
Traffic generation	<p>Construction phase (per day):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — 3 light vehicles — 2 heavy vehicles <p>Operation phase (per month):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — 2 light vehicles
Car parking	<p>Construction phase: 3 spaces</p> <p>Operation phase: 2 spaces</p>
Conclusion	<p>We conclude that, subject to the implementation of our recommendations, no traffic engineering reasons would prevent the development from proceeding.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — the peak hour traffic generation is likely to occur during the construction phase of the development, where the peak hour volumes are expected to be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — 3 light vehicles — 1 heavy vehicle — the construction phase is expected to take 4 weeks — the subject site will generate a peak car parking demand of 3 spaces during the construction period and 2 spaces post-opening — the development plan includes a designated parking area that will satisfy the parking demand

-
- adequate sight distance can be achieved at the intersection of Bendemeer Lane and the Hume Highway; no further treatment is required
 - the proposed site access driveway along Bendemeer Lane satisfies the minimum entering sight distance of 160 m, as specified in AS/NZS 2890.1
 - the setback of the proposed security gate is about 25 m from the edge of Bendemeer Lane and will accommodate the storage of a 19 m semi-trailer clear of the traffic lane
 - no turn lane treatments are required at the Bendemeer Lane/site access intersection during the development's construction phase.

Recommendations

It is recommended that:

- **Recommendation 1:** the subject site access driveway should be constructed per Figure 7.4 in Austroads Guide to Road Design Part 4 requirements and to the council's satisfaction.
-

Referenced documents

References used in the preparation of this report include the following:

- Austroads Guide to Road Design
 - Part 4: Intersections and Crossings, for details of the access driveway
 - Part 4A – Unsignalised and Signalised Intersections, for sight distance criteria and provision for turning vehicles at intersections (AGRD4)
- Austroads Guide to Traffic Management
 - Part 6 – Intersections, Interchanges and Crossings Management, for sight distance criteria and provision for turning vehicles at intersections (AGTM6)
- Australian Standards:
 - AS 2890.1-2004 Parking facilities - Off-street car parking
- RTA Guide to Traffic Generating Developments, Version 2.2, October 2002.
- Federation Council
 - Greater Hume Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 2012
 - Greater Hume Development Control Plan (DCP) 2013

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1 Introduction

ACEnergy Pty Ltd engaged Trafficworks to undertake a traffic impact assessment (TIA) for the proposed development of a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) at **Hume Highway, Holbrook, NSW**.

For the detail about:

- existing site conditions – see section 2
- description of the proposed development – see section 3.1
- traffic impact of the proposed development – see section 3
- car parking assessment of the proposed development – see section 4
- assessment of the access to the proposed development – see section 5
- our conclusions and recommendations – see section 5.3.

2 Existing conditions

2.1 Subject site

The subject site is:

- located adjacent to the Hume Highway and Bendemeer Lane, south of Holbrook and comprises a small area contained within Lot 22 of DP809338, approximately 4.5 km south of Holbrook
- currently occupied by farmland with a residential dwelling and outbuildings.

Vehicular access to the subject site is available from the Hume Highway via Bendemeer Lane (i.e. no direct access to the Highway).

Figure 1 shows the subject site's location, surrounded by farmland and rural properties.



Figure 1: Location plan (reproduced with permission from Nearmap)

The subject site is located within a wider area of the RU1: Primary Production zone on the west side of the state highway (located within SP2: Classified Road zone), as per the Greater Hume Council’s (council) Local Environmental Plan (LEP).

Figure 2 shows the zoning for the subject site and surrounding area.

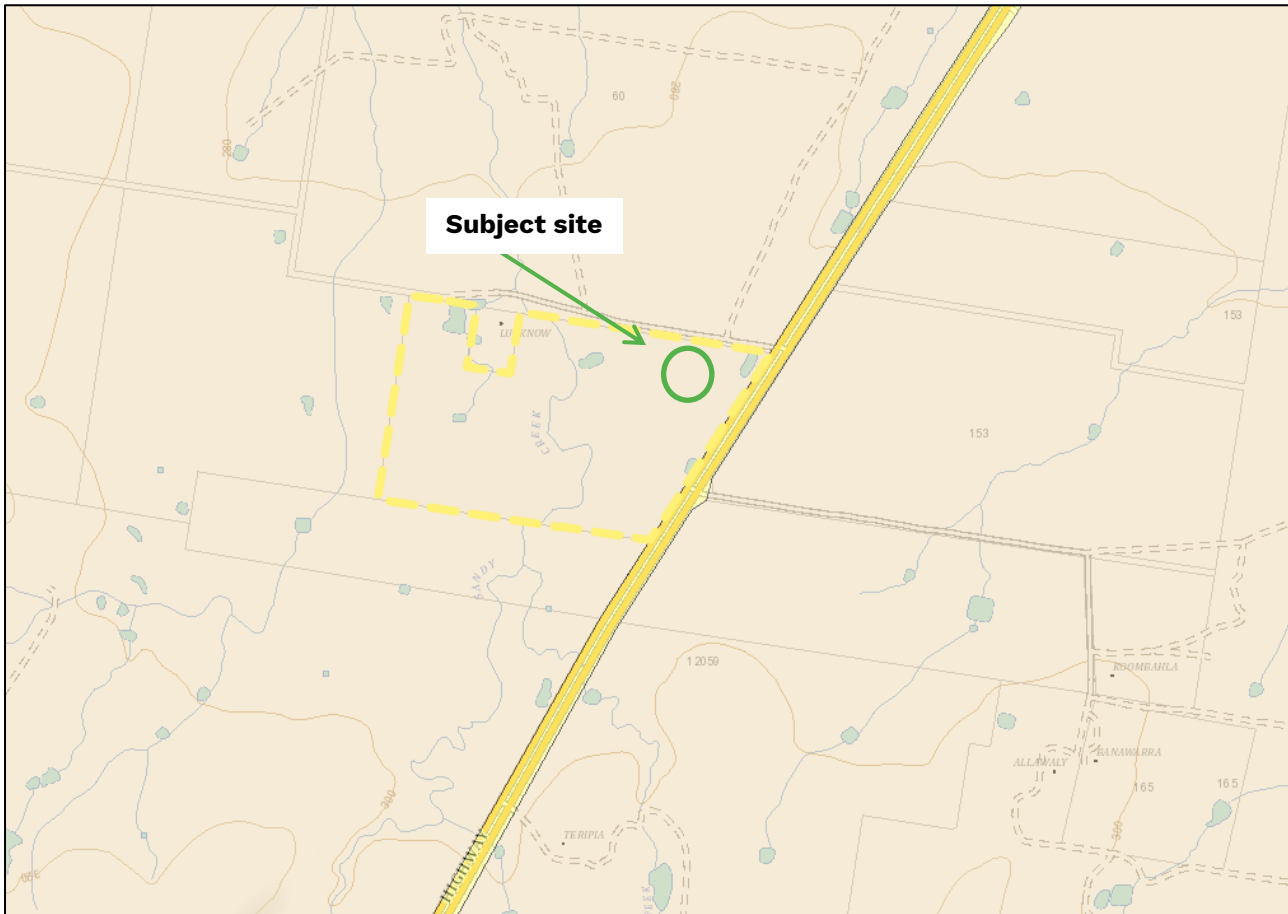


Figure 2: Zoning plan (reproduced from NSW ePlanning Spatial Viewer)

2.2 Road network

The road network includes:

- Hume Highway (M31)
- Bendemeer Lane

2.2.1 Hume Highway (M31)

Table 1 describes the features of this road.

Table 1: Hume Highway features

Feature	Description
Road type	Classified state arterial road managed by Transport for New South Wales (TfNSW). Part of the national Auslink network.
Access	Provides access between the NSW/Victorian border and Sydney to the northeast (continues southwest to Melbourne as Hume Freeway)
Carriageway	Four-lane, two-way dual carriageway sealed road consisting of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — 4.0 m northbound and southbound traffic lanes (2 lanes in each direction) — sealed shoulders ranging from 1.0 m to 1.5 m in width
Road reservation	60 m wide
Speed limit	110 km/h

Figure 3 provides further information about the road.



Figure 3: Hume Highway, northbound carriageway, looking south at the intersection with Bendemeer Lane

2.2.2 Bendemeer Lane

Table 2 describes the features of this road.

Table 2: Bendemeer Lane features

Feature	Description
Road type	Local road managed by council
Access	Provides access to a few residential properties and farmland to the Hume Highway. The road is a no-through road
Carriageway	Two-way unsealed road with a 4.0m wide formation
Road reservation	20 m wide
Speed limit	Default rural 100 km/h

Figure 4 and Figure 5 provide further information about the road.



Figure 4: Bendemeer Lane, looking east towards the Hume Highway, near the proposed subject site driveway



Figure 5: Bendemeer Lane, looking west at the subject site driveway

2.3 Traffic volumes

TfNSW Traffic Volume Viewer details traffic volumes for many of the arterial roads in New South Wales. A review of the records indicates that in 2010, 4,026 vehicles per day (vpd) travelled along the section of the Hume Highway located approximately 24 km northeast of Holbrook (Station Id: 95033).

The two-way traffic volumes recorded by the station indicate the following:

- daily traffic volume of 4,026 vpd
- AM commuter peaks (9:00 am to 10:00 am) of 170 vehicles per hour (vph)
- PM commuter peak (3:00 pm – 4:00 pm) of 156 vph
- even directional split

Projecting the traffic volumes to 2024 by adopting a compound growth rate of 1%¹ per annum, Bendemeer Lane is currently estimated to carry:

- a daily traffic volume of 4,628 vpd
- AM peak of 195 vph
- PM peak of 179 vph.

2.4 Crash history

The TfNSW Centre for Road Safety website details all injury crashes throughout New South Wales and reports that a single casualty crash occurred on the roads near the subject site in the last 5 years (2018 – 2022).

- Serious injury off road to left into object (RUM code 71) crash occurred in daylight conditions in 2022 on the Hume Highway northbound carriageway at the intersection with Bendemeer Lane.

Based on this, we conclude that no trend requires immediate investigation.

¹ Investigation of traffic volumes within the region indicates a less than 1 % growth rate within the last 5-10 years. Therefore, the assumption of applying a 1 % growth rate is conservative for projecting the traffic volumes to 2024.

3 Traffic assessment of the proposed development

3.1 The proposal

The proposed development south of Holbrook involves constructing a BESS with batteries and a medium voltage power station (MVPS) housed in 40ft containers. The proposed facility will be unstaffed, and the period that will generate the most traffic will be the construction phase.

Vehicular access to the site is proposed directly from Bendemeer Lane via a new access driveway approximately 200 m west of the Hume Highway (Figure 6). An extract of the proposed development plan is shown in Figure 7, and the full plan is provided in Appendix 1.



Figure 6: The location of the proposed driveway access to the subject site to / from Bendemeer Lane

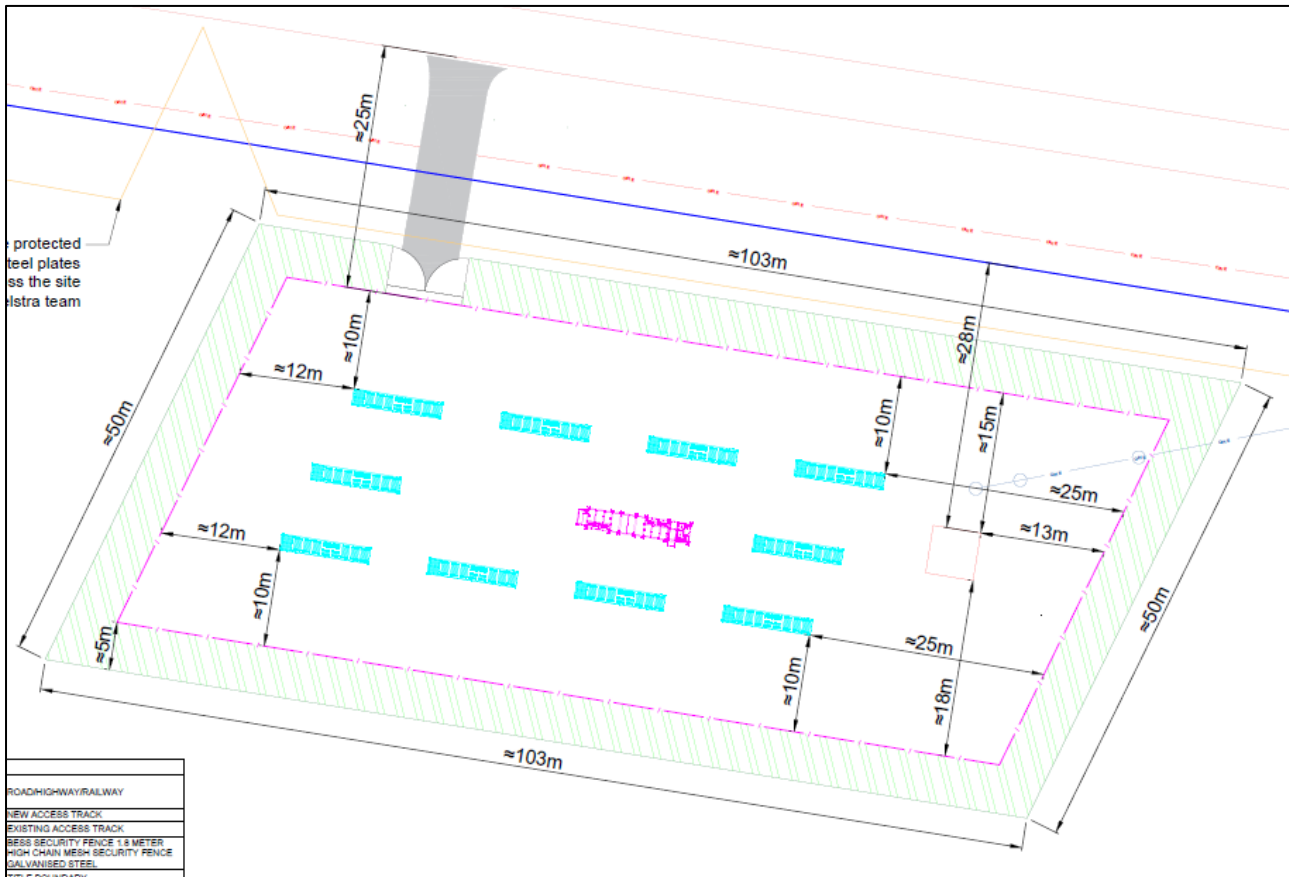


Figure 7: Extract of the development plan

3.1.1 Construction

On-site construction for the proposed BESS is limited mainly to assembly and connecting components with the typical battery energy storage system shipping containers. For the most part, all equipment will be transported to the subject site via rigid trucks, with only the batteries and MVPS required to be delivered by a 19 m semi-trailer (B-doubles will not be used for transportation).

The typical construction delivery schedule for this BESS is shown in Table 3.

Table 3: Construction delivery schedule

Time period	Site Works
Week 1	drainage, road and fencing works installation of concrete footings
Week 2	cable installation delivery of battery shipping containers and MVPS installation of battery shipping containers and inverter station

Time period	Site Works
Week 3	electrical installation and cable termination electrical testing
Week 4	commissioning / demobilisation

There is a 4-week construction phase before the full operation of the BESS.

3.1.2 Heavy vehicle access to the subject site

All heavy vehicle traffic will arrive / depart the subject site via Bendemeer Lane and the Hume Highway. Heavy vehicles will enter the subject site with a left turn from the Hume Highway onto Bendemeer Lane and then turn left into the subject site, about 200 m along Bendemeer Lane.

Heavy vehicles will exit the subject site with a right turn onto Bendemeer Lane and then a left turn onto the Hume Highway to head north towards Holbrook. At the Holbrook interchange (Albury Street), the heavy vehicles would leave the highway via the off-ramp, use the interchange to perform a U-turn and enter the southbound carriageway to Melbourne via the on-ramp.

The route for departing heavy vehicles to use the interchange at Holbrook to the north is preferred to heavy vehicles making a right turn using the at-grade centre median crossing of the Bendemeer Lane / Hume Highway intersection.

Figure 8 and Figure 9 indicate the routes for all heavy vehicles arriving and departing the subject site.

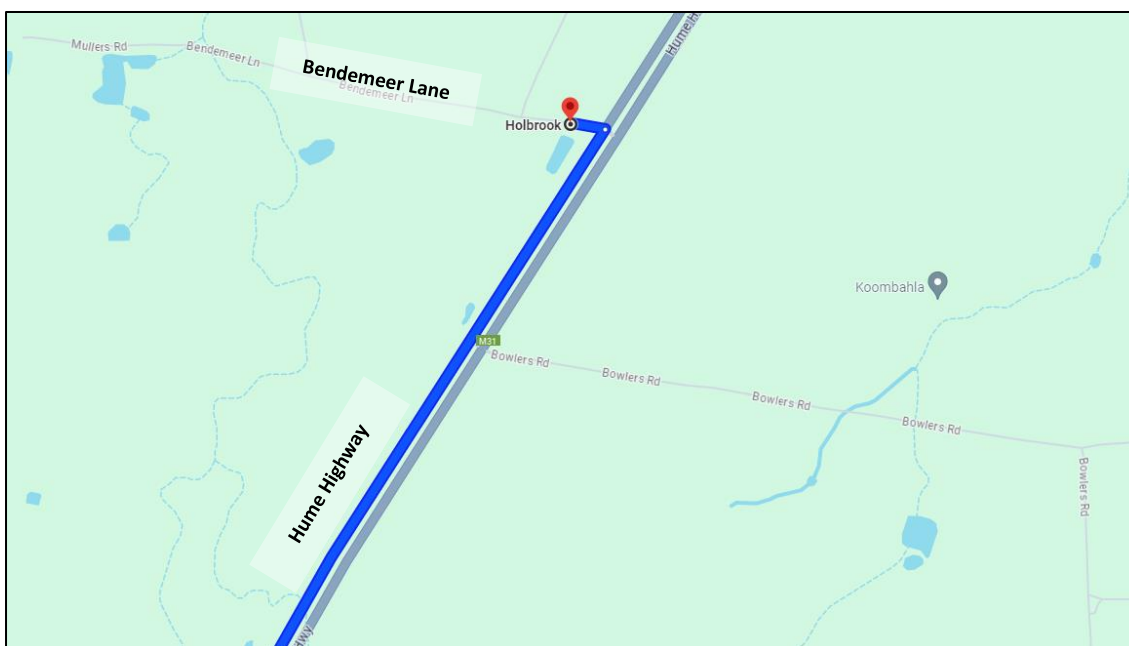


Figure 8: Indicative route for heavy vehicle arrivals (source: Google Maps)

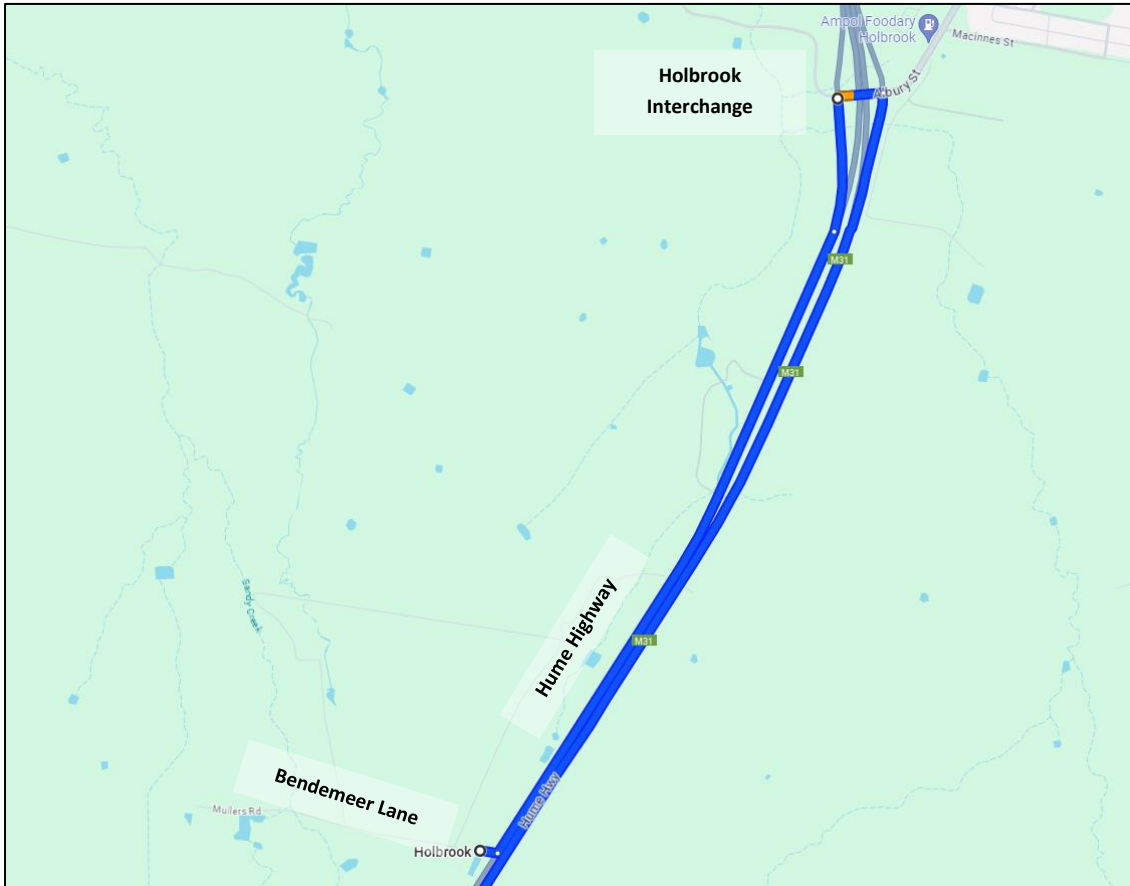


Figure 9: Indicative route for heavy vehicle departures (source: Google Maps)

The light vehicles are expected to arrive from Holbrook (from the north) or the more significant population centre of Albury/Wodonga to the south (about one hour's travel each way).

3.1.3 Operation / decommissioning

The proposed use is based on a forty-year lease. Upon completion of this leasing period, if the lease is not renewed, it will be incumbent upon the facility's operator to decommission the facility, remove all installations, and remediate the subject site back to its pre-existing state.

Upon approval of this application, the responsible authority may stipulate a requirement for a decommissioning and rehabilitation plan to be submitted for endorsement.

3.2 Traffic generation

Typically, the traffic generation for new developments is estimated using the traffic generation rates provided in the RTA Guide to Traffic Generating Developments – Version 2.2A 2002 (the RTA Guide). However, the RTA Guide does not include traffic generation rates for BESS facilities.

Therefore, the traffic generation to/from the proposed development was estimated empirically. Traffic generation analysis was undertaken for the development's construction and operational phases to establish the likely peak traffic generation.

3.2.1 Construction phase traffic volumes

Based on the information provided, the peak light vehicle traffic generation is likely to occur from the start of the construction phase to the completion of this phase, with a maximum traffic generation likely to occur during weeks 1 to 3. This is when 3 construction staff vehicles per day (vpd) will access the subject site, resulting in a total daily traffic generation of 6 vpd (3 vpd arriving at the start of the shift and 3 vpd departing at the end of the shift).

Assuming the construction work will be undertaken during regular working hours, it is anticipated that 3 vehicles will access the subject site during a given peak hour (at the start of the morning shift).

Assessment of the heavy vehicles accessing the subject site during the construction phase revealed that peak traffic generation is likely to occur from the start, with a maximum number of heavy vehicles accessing the subject site during week two. This period includes delivery of battery shipping containers when up to 12 heavy vehicles will access the subject site weekly and up to 2 vpd. Therefore, this would result in a total daily traffic generation of 4 vpd (2 vpd arriving and 2 vpd departing). It is unlikely that heavy vehicles will arrive within the same hour as deliveries will be managed by the project team (i.e. delivery schedule).

The vehicles are anticipated to be accessing the subject site outside of the commuter peak hours for the surrounding road network.

The impact of heavy vehicles is considered negligible; however, conservatively, for this assessment, it has been assumed that a single heavy vehicle will access the subject site during the AM (arriving) and PM (departing) peak hours.

3.2.2 Operational phase traffic volumes

The proposed BESS will have remote monitoring in real-time, allowing for constant surveillance and monitoring of the facility without the requirement for staffing on-site.

The compound contains critical infrastructure that requires a high degree of security. Upon identification of potential issues, action can be taken indirectly from the control centre or directly using chosen contractors who would travel to the subject site if required. During the operational phase, 2 light vehicles will attend the subject site fortnightly for general maintenance.

3.2.3 Peak traffic generation

Assessment of the likely traffic generation volumes during the construction and operational phases of the development revealed that the peak traffic generation for the subject site

would occur during the construction phase of the development. Therefore, the assessment was undertaken to determine the traffic implications during the construction phase of the development.

Conclusion 1: the peak hour traffic generation is likely to occur during the construction phase of the development, where the peak hour volumes are expected to be:

- 3 light vehicles
- 1 heavy vehicle

Conclusion 2: the construction phase is expected to take 4 weeks.

3.3 Traffic distribution assumptions

Based on the surrounding road network, it has been assumed that light vehicle traffic will access the site as follows:

- 60% to/from the south (Albury/Wodonga), entering via a left turn from the highway
- 40% to/from the north (Holbrook), entering via a right turn from the highway
- 100% of the light vehicles will turn left from Bendemeer Lane to the subject site.

It has been assumed that 100% of the heavy vehicle traffic will access the subject site to/from the south, entering the subject site via a left turn in (i.e. from Melbourne) along the designated route (refer to Figure 8 and Figure 9). It should be noted that 100% of the heavy vehicles will turn left in/left out to/from the Highway (to/from Bendemeer Lane).

It has been assumed that all vehicles will enter the site in the AM peak and depart during the PM peak.

3.4 Anticipated traffic volumes

Given that the proposed BESS will have peak traffic generation during the construction phase, the anticipated development traffic volumes for 2023 (when the facility is under construction) are summarised in Table 4. It is noted that this table reflects the turning movements at the Hume Highway / Bendemeer Lane intersection.

Table 4 Directional split of peak traffic flow at the intersection of the Hume Highway and Bendemeer Lane

Period	Type	Left In	Right In	Left Out	Right Out	Total
AM Peak	Light	2	1	0	0	3
	Heavy	1	0	0	0	1
TOTAL		3	1	0	0	4

Period	Type	Left In	Right In	Left Out	Right Out	Total
PM Peak	Light	0	0	1	2	3
	Heavy	0	0	1	0	1
	TOTAL	0	0	2	2	4

4 Car parking assessment of the proposed development

4.1 Planning scheme car parking assessment

The RTA Guide provides car parking rates for new developments. However, the parking requirement for BESS facilities is currently unavailable. Therefore, an empirical assessment was undertaken to estimate the car parking demand for the proposed development.

Section 3.2.1 outlined that:

- up to 3 light vehicles are anticipated to access the subject site per day during the construction phase of the development

Section 3.2.2 outlined that:

- up to 2 light vehicles are anticipated to access the subject site every fortnight post-opening the facility for periodic maintenance.

The proposed site plan indicates a formal on-site car parking area, providing sufficient space to accommodate the required on-site parking.

Conclusion 3: the subject site will generate a peak car parking demand of 3 spaces during construction and 2 spaces post-opening.

Conclusion 4: the development plan includes a designated parking area to satisfy the parking demand.

5 Access to the subject site

5.1 Site access – intersection SISD requirement

The visibility criterion typically applied to intersections is Safe Intersection Sight Distance (SISD). Figure 10 shows the SISD, which:

- is nominated in the Austroads Guide to Road Design, Part 4A (AGRD4) as the minimum distance that should be provided on a major road at any intersection (refer to Section 3.2.2 in AGRD4A)
- provides sufficient distance for the driver of a vehicle on the major road:
 - to observe a vehicle from the minor access approach moving into a collision situation, e.g., in the worst case, stalling across the traffic lanes
 - to decelerate to a stop before reaching the collision point.

The minimum SISD criterion, specified in Table 3.2 of AGRD4A, requires clear visibility for a desirable minimum distance of 324 m, relating to the general reaction time RT of 2 seconds and a design speed of 120 km/h (posted speed + 10 km/h).

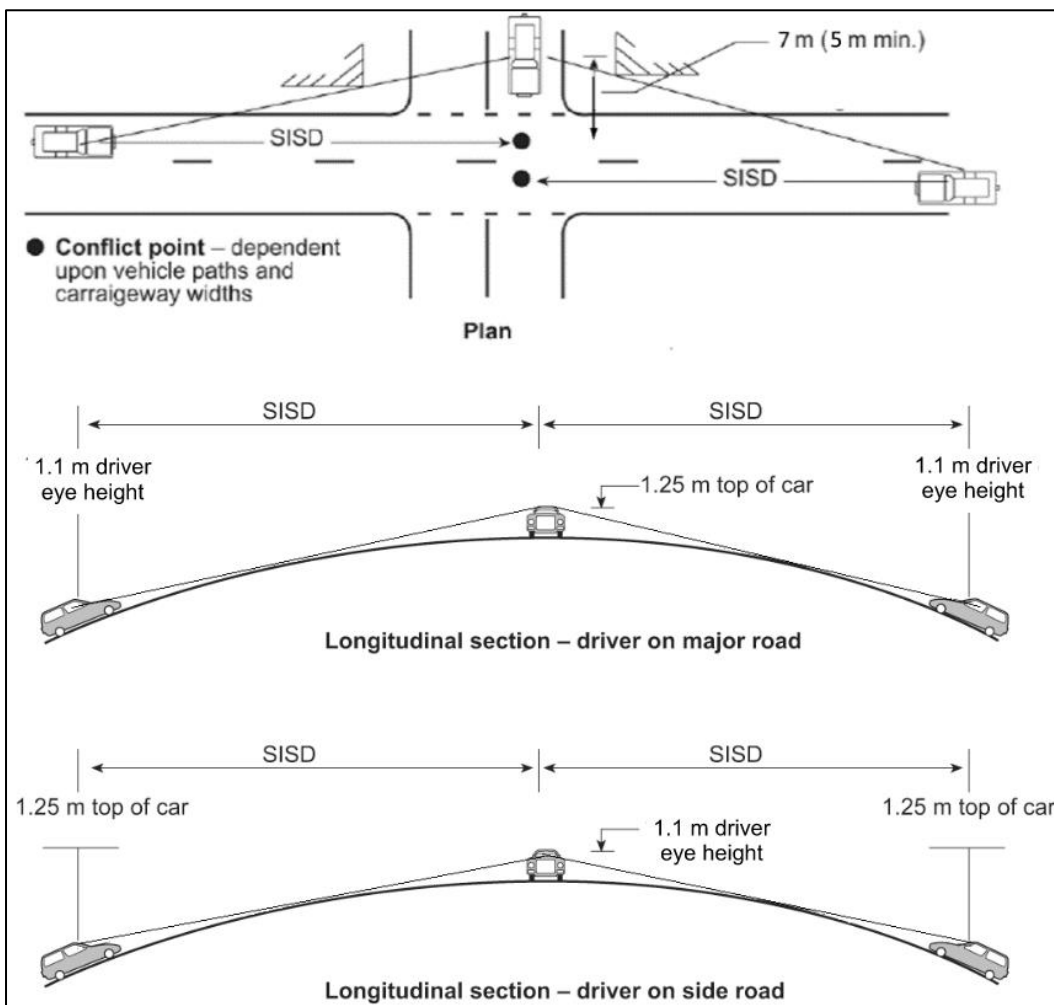


Figure 10: Safe Intersection Sight Distance (SISD) (Source: Figure 3.2 from AGRD4)

SISD for heavy vehicles is calculated with reduced deceleration coefficients and increased observation heights to incorporate the different vehicle characteristics. With a 110 km/h design speed, the SISD for a heavy vehicle at this location is 351 m.

The available sight distance at the intersection of Bendemeer Lane and the Hume Highway is demonstrated in Figure 11.



Figure 11: Bendemeer Lane and the Hume Highway intersection – view southwest

Due to the traffic conditions on the day of the site inspection, photos from the centre median looking northeast were not possible. However, site observations were made while turning from the median to travel southbound on the Hume Highway (and subsequent desktop checks using current aerial photography).

The site assessment concluded that the visibility requirements are satisfied at the intersection of Bendemeer Lane and the Hume Highway; no further treatment is required.

Conclusion 5: Adequate sight distance can be achieved at the intersection of Bendemeer Lane and the Hume Highway; no further treatment is required.

5.2 Site access – Access driveway ESD requirement

Section 3.2.4 in AS/NZS 2980.1 Parking Facilities – Part 1: Off-street car parking sets out the entering sight distance (ESD) criteria for a driver exiting an access driveway to traffic on the frontage road.

Un-signalised access driveways shall be located so the intersection sight distance available to drivers leaving the driveway along the frontage road is at least that shown in Figure 3.2 of AS/NZS 2890.1 (reproduced in Figure 12).

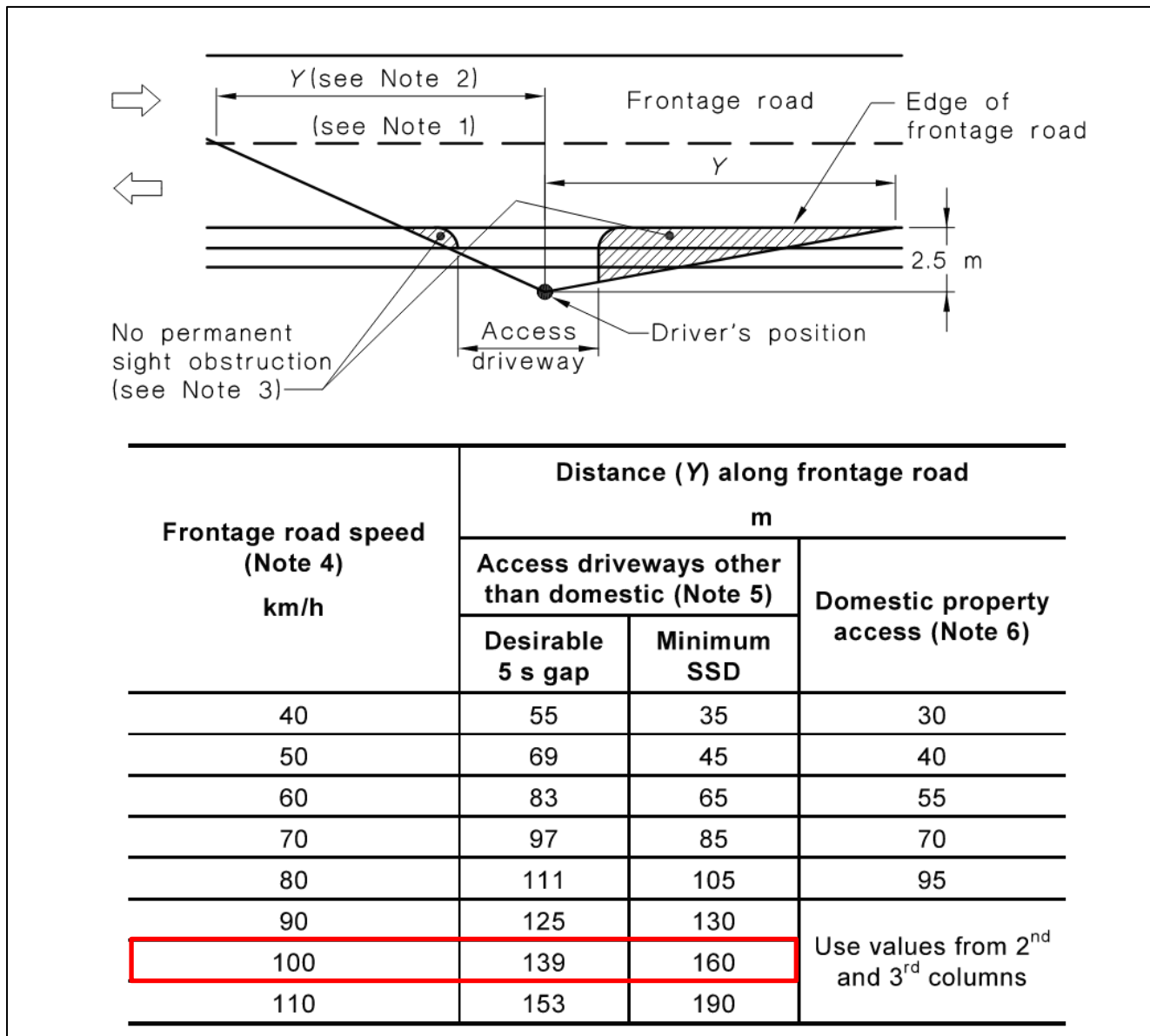


Figure 12: Sight distance requirements at driveways (Source: Figure 3.2 from AS/NZS 2890.1)

The proposed site access to the development along Bendemeer Lane is subject to a 100 km/h speed limit. As a result, the corresponding minimum Stopping Sight Distance (SSD) is 160 m. This can be achieved east and west of the proposed site access driveway. Figure 13 and Figure 14 show there is no vegetation restricting site distance to the east and west of the site access.



Figure 13: At the intersection of the site access driveway and Bendemeer Lane facing east



Figure 14: At the intersection of the site access driveway and Bendemeer Lane facing west

Conclusion 6 The proposed site access driveway along Bendemeer Lane satisfies the minimum entering sight distance of 160 m, as specified in AS/NZS 2890.1.

5.3 Access location and operation

The subject site access driveway is recommended to be constructed per Figure 7.4 in Austroads Guide to Road Design Part 4: Intersections and Crossings requirements and to the council's satisfaction (refer to Figure 15). It should provide sufficient width to facilitate the movements of a 19 m semi-trailer accessing the subject site.

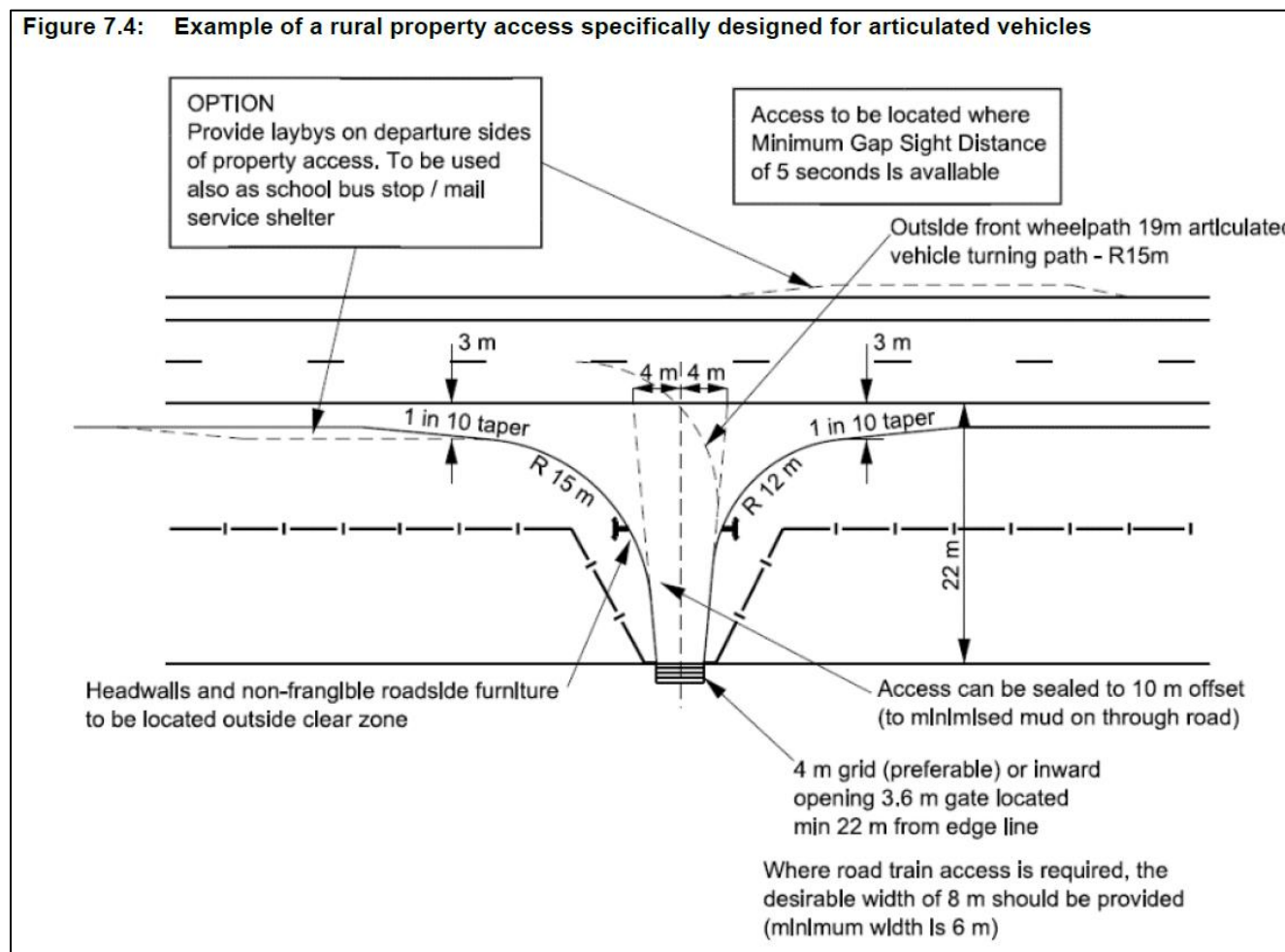


Figure 15: rural property access designed for an articulated vehicle

Recommendation 1: The subject site access driveway should be constructed per Figure 7.4 in Austroads Guide to Road Design Part 4 requirements and to the council's satisfaction.

5.4 Site security

The proposed development will include installing site security and restricting access to authorised vehicles only. This will involve the provision of security fencing and gates at the development's entrance. The proposed security gate is about 25 m from the edge of the formation on Bendemeer Lane.

It is indicated that only 1 truck is expected to arrive and queue at any time, with the largest vehicle accessing the subject site a 19 m semi-trailer. Hence, the access gate is setback a

sufficient distance from the edge of Bendemeer Lane to allow a 19 m semi-trailer to wait clear of the carriageway.

Conclusion 7: the setback of the proposed security gate is about 25 m from the edge of Bendemeer Lane and will accommodate the storage of a 19 m semi-trailer clear of the traffic lane.

5.5 Turn provisions impact

The traffic turning from major roads into minor roads should not delay through traffic. Generally, turn treatments from major roads into minor roads at sign-controlled intersections are provided for safe and efficient intersection operation.

Figure 16 shows the formulas required to determine the major road volume (Q_M), reproduced from Figure 3.26 of Austroads Guide to Traffic Management Part 6 (AGTM6). The results were then applied to Figure 3.25 of AGTM6 to determine the turning treatment warrants for the intersections.

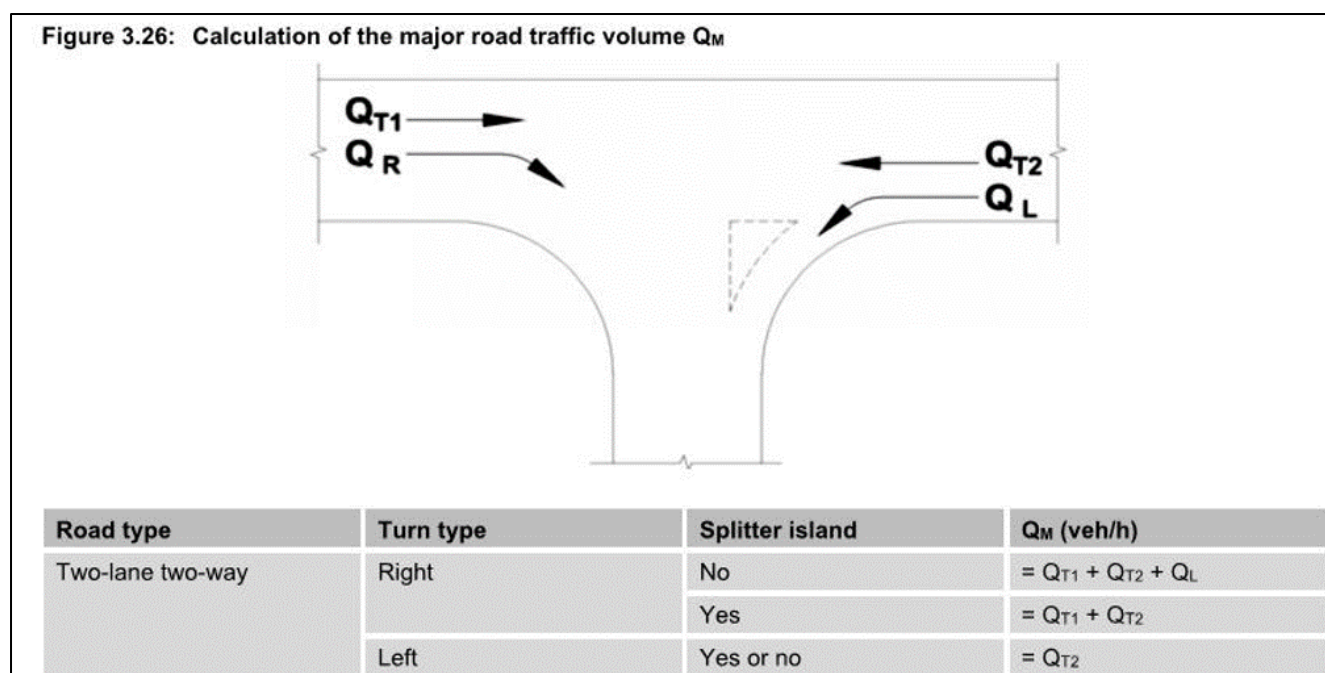


Figure 16: Formulas used to determine major road traffic (Source: Figure 3.26 from AGTM6)

5.5.1 Turn lane treatments

Traffic volumes help determine appropriate turn lane treatments at access intersections to development sites.

To determine anticipated conditions at the intersection, traffic volumes from Section 2.3 were used to determine the warrants shown in Table 5 and were applied in Figure 17.

Table 5: Turn lane treatments on the Hume Highway at the Bendemeer Lane intersection – anticipated conditions

Road	Peak Period	Left Turn Q_L (vph)	Right Turn Q_R (vph)	Through Q_T (vph)		Q_M	Q_M
						Left Turn	Right Turn
Hume Highway	AM	3	1	Q_{T1}	98	98	199
				Q_{T2}	98		
	PM	0	0	Q_{T1}	90	0	0
				Q_{T2}	90		

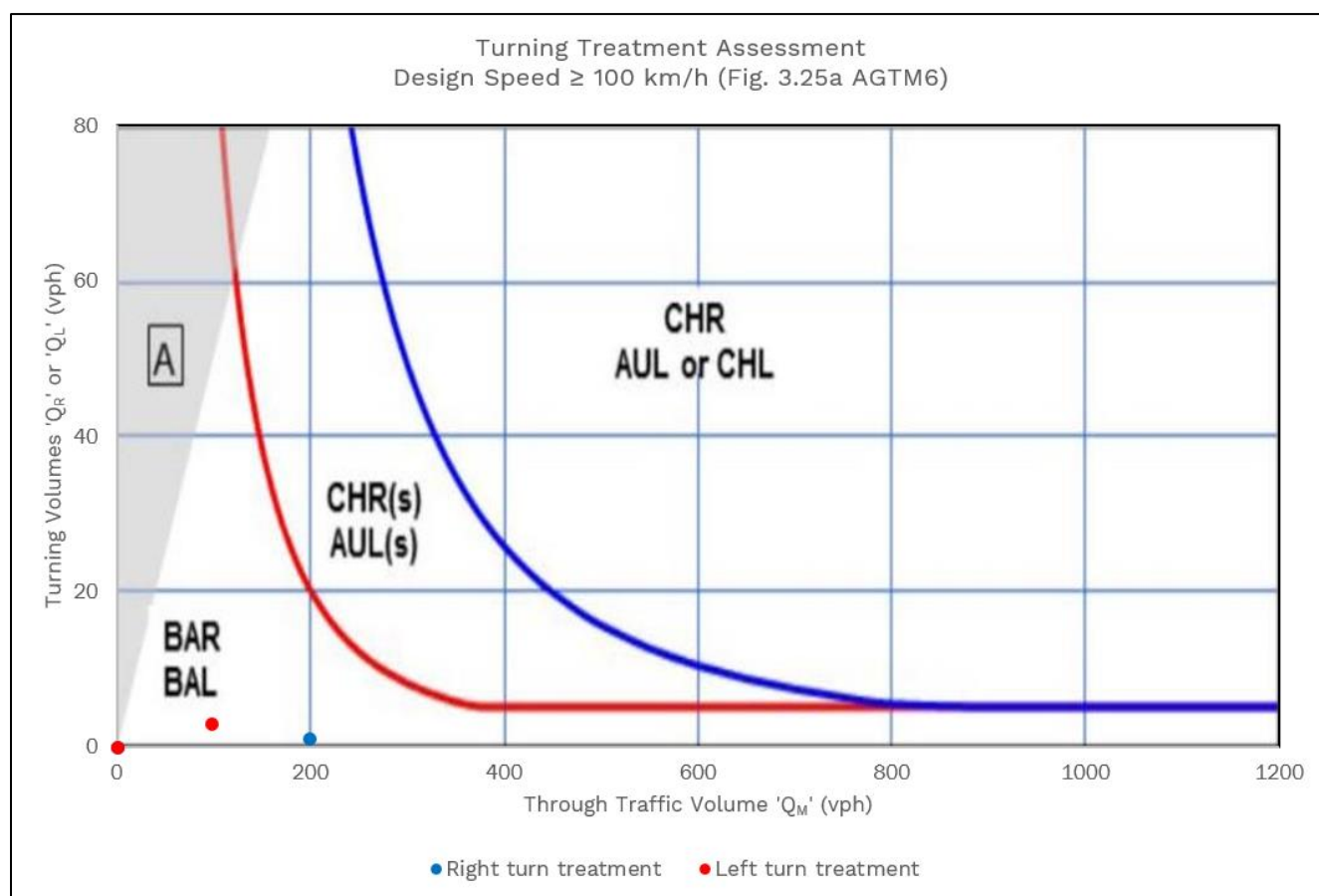


Figure 17: Graph used to determine the turn treatments on the Hume Highway at the Bendemeer Lane intersection – anticipated conditions

The assessment revealed that the Bendemeer Lane/site access intersection warrants a Basic Left (type BAL) and a Basic Right (type BAR) turn treatment.

Due to the low turning volumes during construction and operation, and the short term duration of construction, the safety and operation of the Hume Highway at the Bendemeer intersection can be maintained with no additional turn lane treatments.

Conclusion 8: No turn lane treatments are required at the Hume Highway / Bendemeer Lane intersection for the construction phase of the development.

6 Conclusions and recommendations

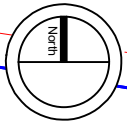
We conclude there are no traffic engineering reasons that would prevent the development from proceeding, as outlined below:

- the peak hour traffic generation is likely to occur during the construction phase of the development, where the peak hour traffic volumes are expected to be:
 - 3 light vehicles
 - 1 heavy vehicle.
- the construction phase is expected to take 4 weeks
- the subject site will generate a peak car parking demand of 3 spaces during the construction period and 2 spaces post-opening.
- the development plan includes a designated parking area that will satisfy the parking demand
- adequate sight distance can be achieved at the intersection of Bendemeer Lane and the Hume Highway; no further treatment is required
- the proposed site access driveway along Bendemeer Lane satisfies the minimum entering sight distance of 160 m, as specified in AS/NZS 2890.1
- the setback of the proposed security gate is about 25 m from the edge of Bendemeer Lane and will accommodate the storage of a 19 m semi-trailer clear of the traffic lane
- no turn lane treatments are required at the Bendemeer Lane/site access intersection for the construction phase of the development.

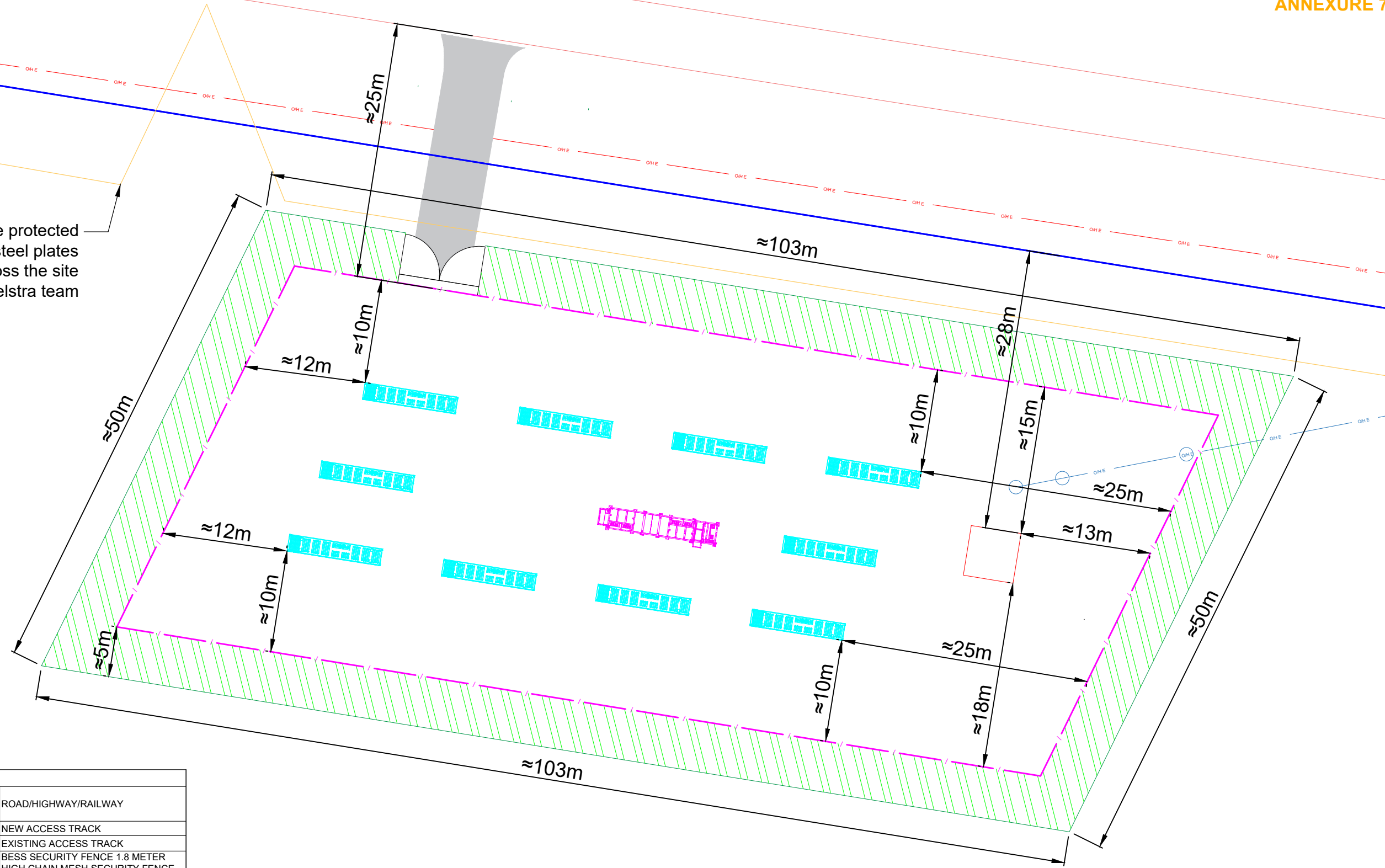
However, this TIA has identified a recommendation that needs to be addressed:

- **Recommendation 1:** the subject site access driveway should be constructed per Figure 7.4 in Austroads Guide to Road Design Part 4 requirements and to the council's satisfaction.

Appendix 1 – Development Plans



Existing Telstra copper cable will be protected during construction by using temporary steel plates 2400mm x 1200mm x 20mm across the site access as per the consultation with Telstra team



LEGEND

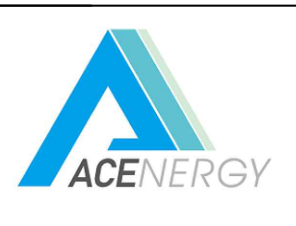
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	BATTERY		NEW ACCESS TRACK
	MVPS		EXISTING ACCESS TRACK
	HV SWITCHGEAR		BESS SECURITY FENCE 1.8 METER
	EXISTING O/H LINE		HIGH CHAIN MESH SECURITY FENCE GALVANISED STEEL
	EXISTING LINE EASEMENT		TITLE BOUNDARY
	EXISTING HV POLE/TOWER		NEIGHBORING BOUNDARIES
	NEW O/H LINE		ONE ROW LANDSCAPE
	NEW LINE EASEMENT		TWO ROWS LANDSCAPE
	NEW HV POLE/TOWER		RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY
	EXISTING ACCESS ROUTE TO BE UPGRADED (TBC)		CAR PARK AREA
	EXISTING TREES		TREES TO BE REMOVED (ALL TREES IN THE MARKED AREA)
	TREE TO BE REMOVED (MARKED)		EXISTING DAM
	FARM FENCE		EXISTING TELSTRA COPPER CABLE
			72,000 LITERS WATER TANK

REVISIONS					
REV	STATUS	DESCRIPTION	DATE	D.B.	C.B.
A	FA	CONCEPT SITE PLAN	13/12/23	XZ	AJ

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CLIENT DETAILS:	ACENERGY PTY LTD
DRAWING TITLE:	SITE PLAN 2 OF 2

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ISSUE DATE:	13/12/2023
SHEET SIZE:	A3
PROJECT NO:	23132
REV. NO:	A



**PROPOSED PoCC LOCATION
POLE NUMBER 303031**

**EXISTING TREES LOCATED ON THE
OPPOSITE ROAD WAY TO PROJECT SITE**



R03

MULLERS RD

R02

BENDEMEER LN

R01

HUME HWY

HUME HWY

LEGEND			
	SITE ACCESS GATE AND ROAD		ROAD/HIGHWAY/RAILWAY
	BATTERY		NEW ACCESS TRACK
	MVPS		EXISTING ACCESS TRACK
	HV SWITCHGEAR		BESS SECURITY FENCE 1.8 METER HIGH CHAIN MESH SECURITY FENCE GALVANISED STEEL
	EXISTING O/H LINE		TITLE BOUNDARY
	EXISTING LINE EASEMENT		NEIGHBORING BOUNDARIES
	EXISTING HV POLE/TOWER		ONE ROW LANDSCAPE
	NEW O/H LINE		TWO ROWS LANDSCAPE
	NEW LINE EASEMENT		RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY
	NEW HV POLE/TOWER		CAR PARK AREA
	EXISTING ACCESS ROUTE TO BE UPGRADED (TBC)		TREES TO BE REMOVED (ALL TREES IN THE MARKED AREA)
	EXISTING TREES		EXISTING DAM
	TREE TO BE REMOVED (MARKED)		EXISTING TELSTRA COPPER CABLE
	FARM FENCE		72,000 LITERS WATER TANK

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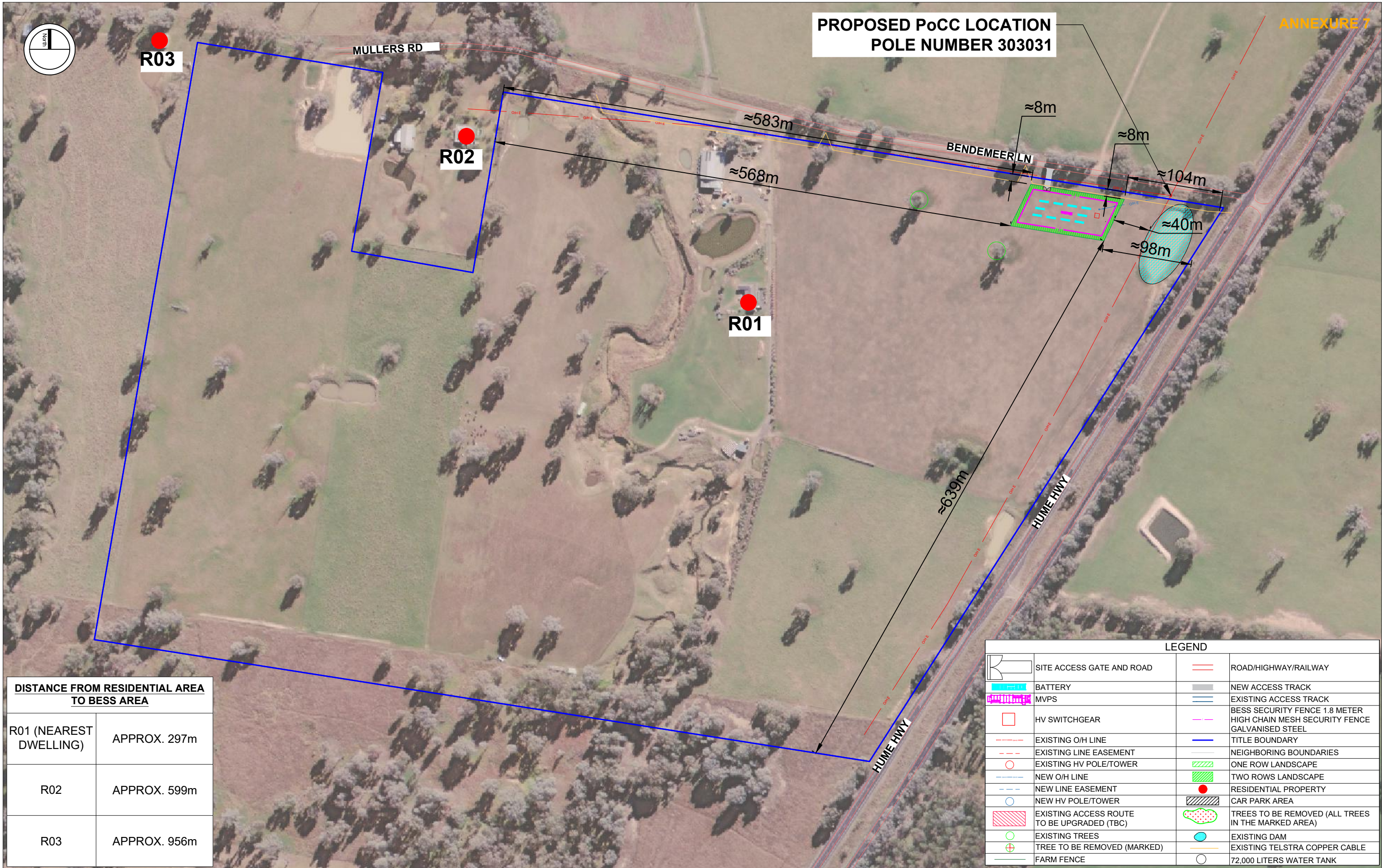
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**PROPOSED PoCC LOCATION
POLE NUMBER 303031**



DISTANCE FROM RESIDENTIAL AREA TO BESS AREA	
R01 (NEAREST DWELLING)	APPROX. 297m
R02	APPROX. 599m
R03	APPROX. 956m

LEGEND			
	SITE ACCESS GATE AND ROAD		ROAD/HIGHWAY/RAILWAY
	BATTERY		NEW ACCESS TRACK
	MVPS		EXISTING ACCESS TRACK
	HV SWITCHGEAR		BESS SECURITY FENCE 1.8 METER HIGH CHAIN MESH SECURITY FENCE GALVANISED STEEL
	EXISTING O/H LINE		TITLE BOUNDARY
	EXISTING LINE EASEMENT		NEIGHBORING BOUNDARIES
	EXISTING HV POLE/TOWER		ONE ROW LANDSCAPE
	NEW O/H LINE		TWO ROWS LANDSCAPE
	NEW LINE EASEMENT		RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY
	NEW HV POLE/TOWER		CAR PARK AREA
	EXISTING ACCESS ROUTE TO BE UPGRADED (TBC)		TREES TO BE REMOVED (ALL TREES IN THE MARKED AREA)
	EXISTING TREES		EXISTING DAM
	TREE TO BE REMOVED (MARKED)		EXISTING TELSTRA COPPER CABLE
	FARM FENCE		72,000 LITERS WATER TANK

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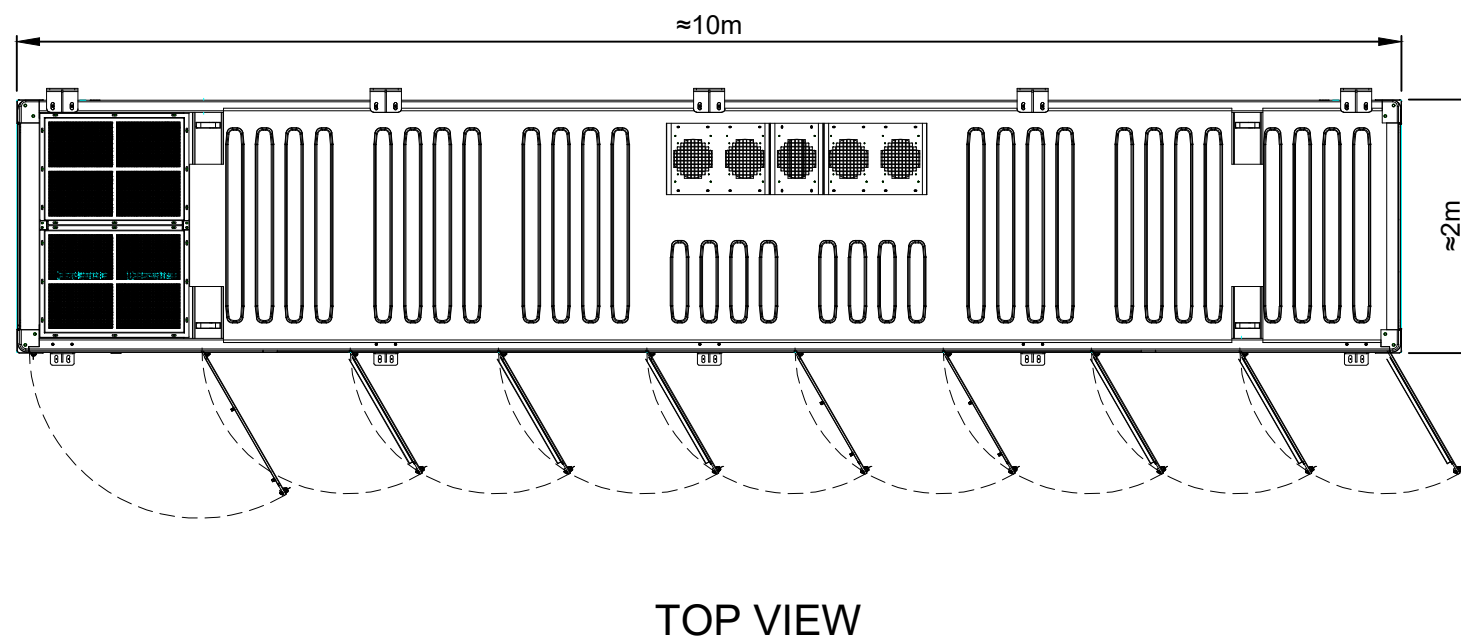
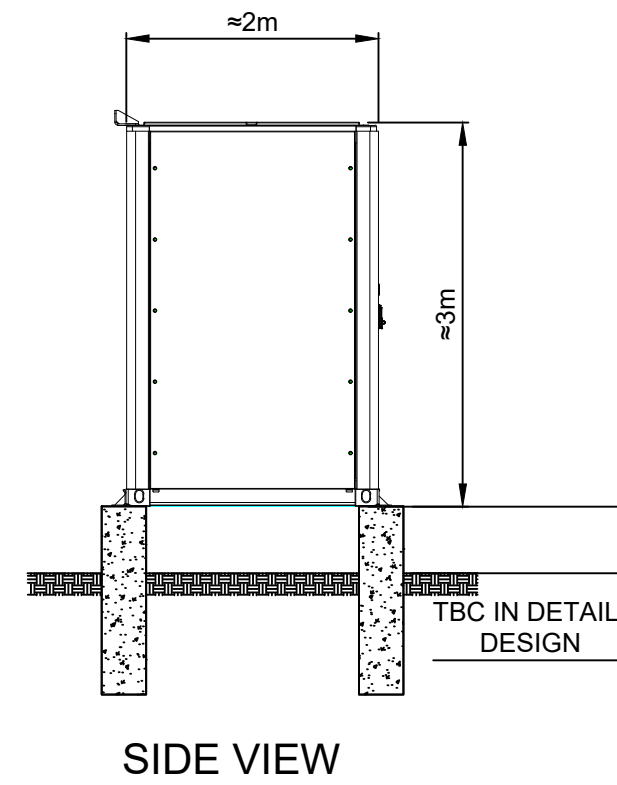
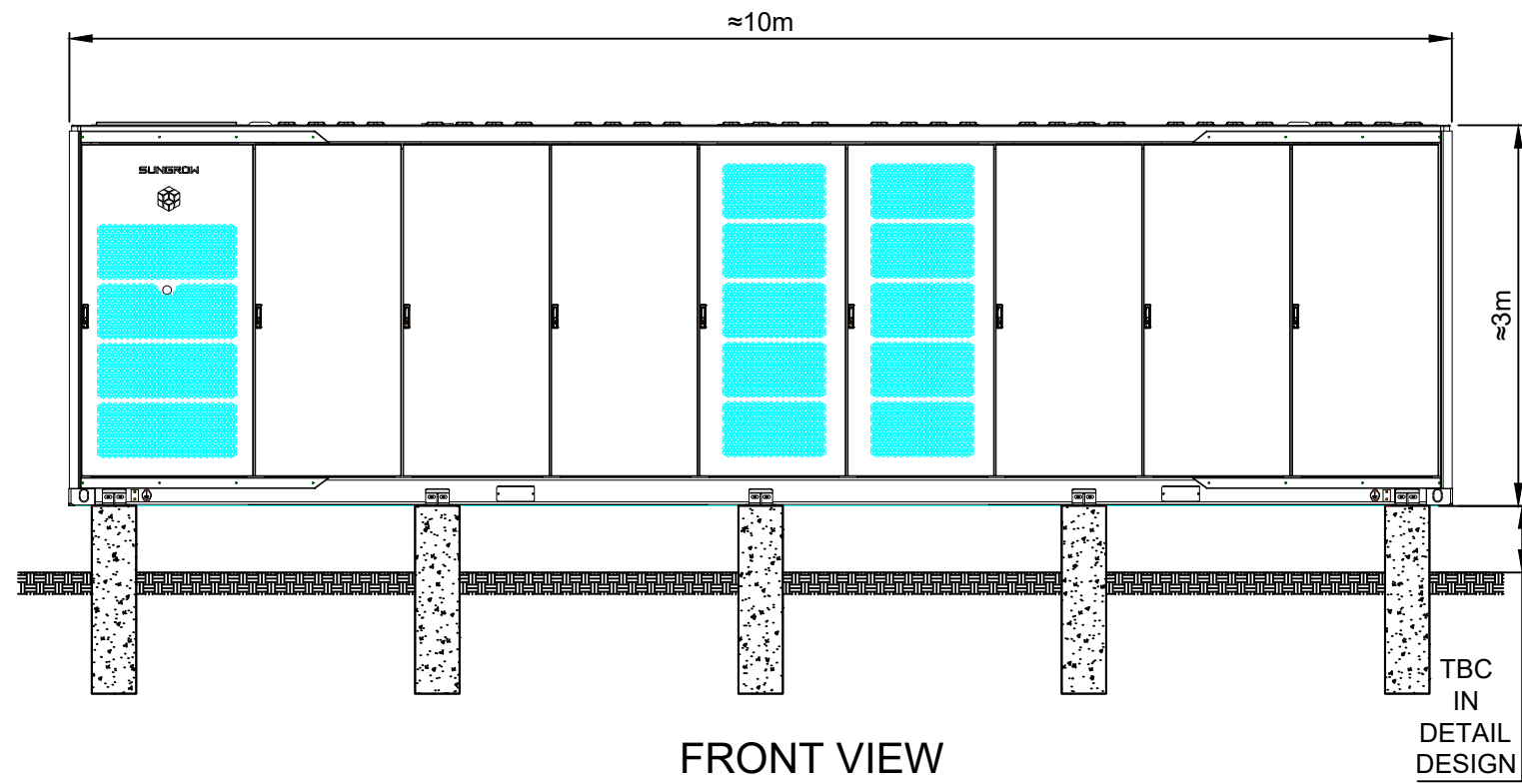
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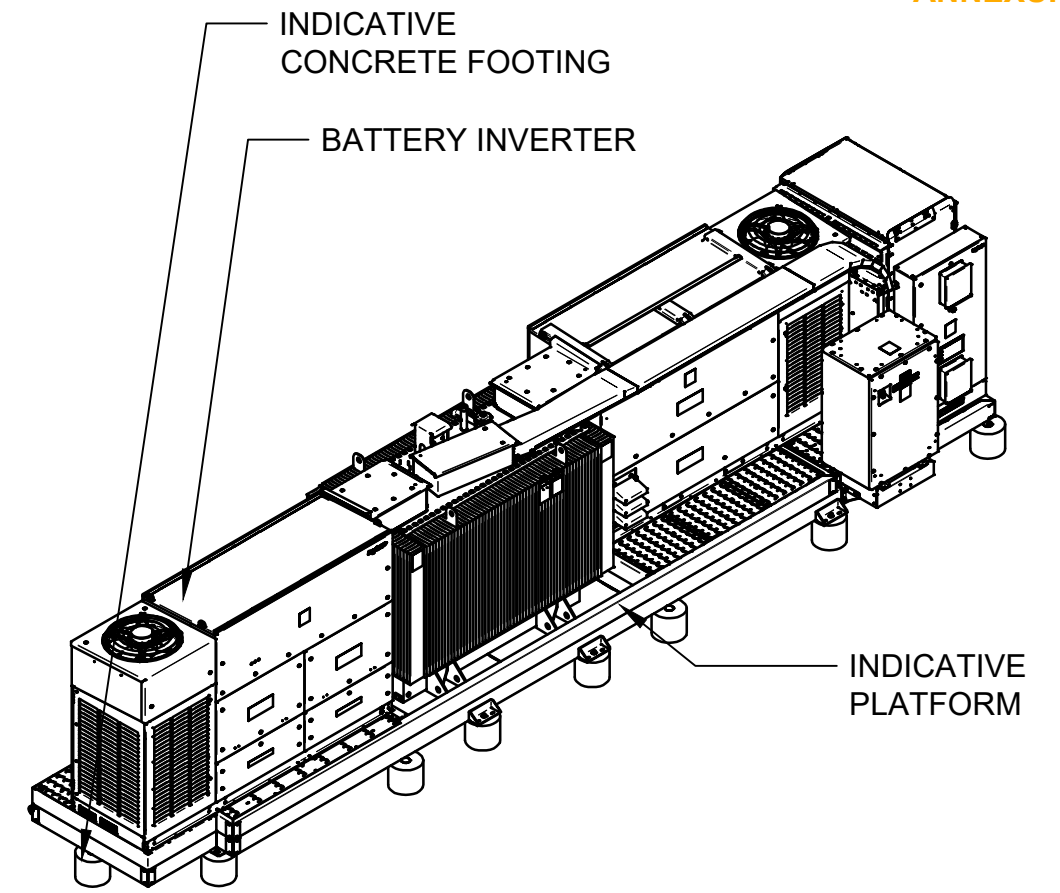
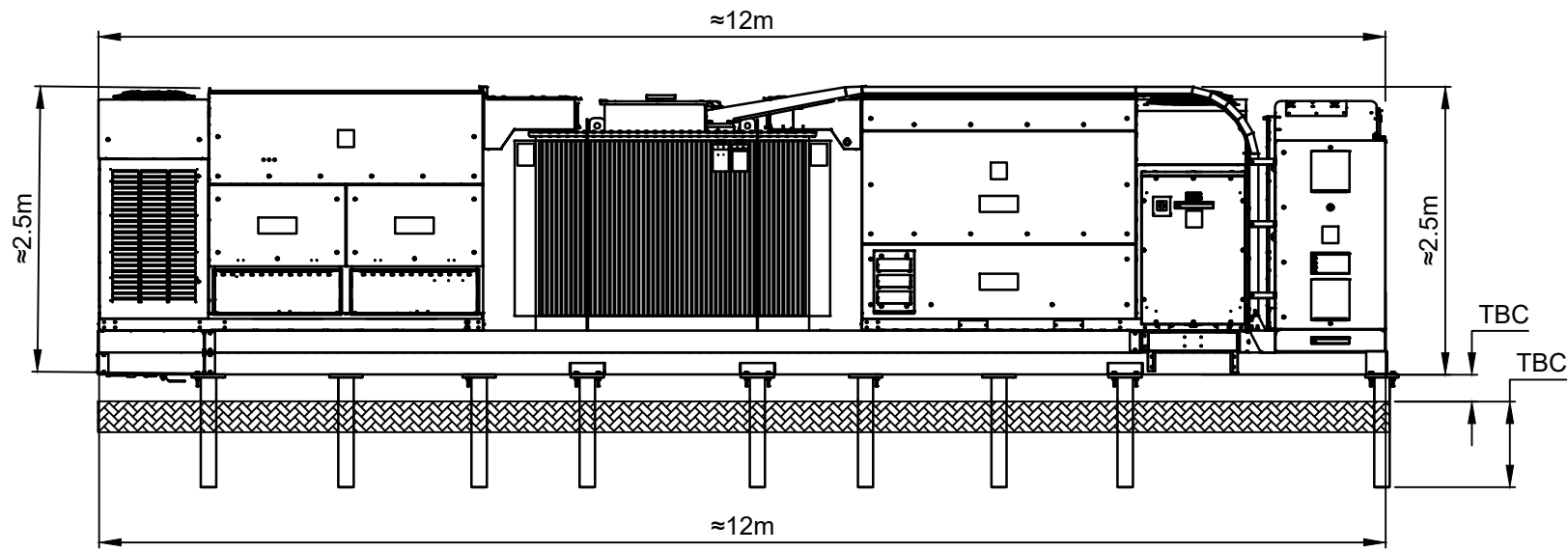
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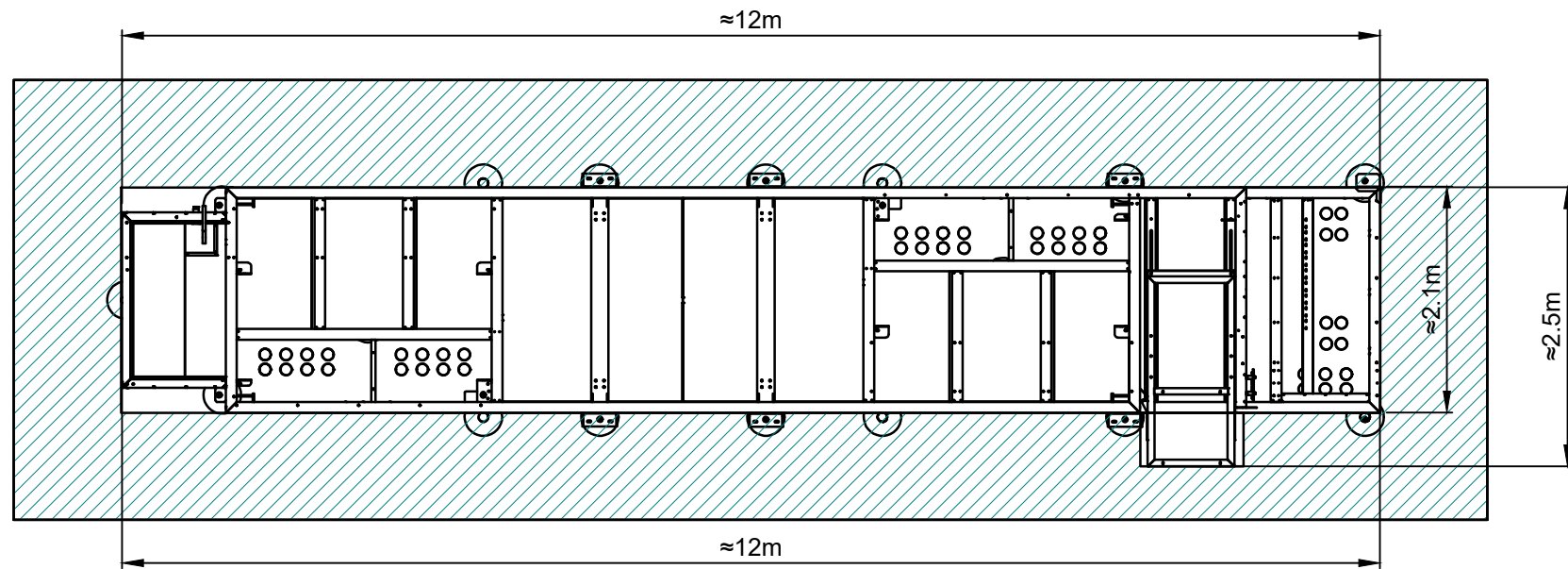
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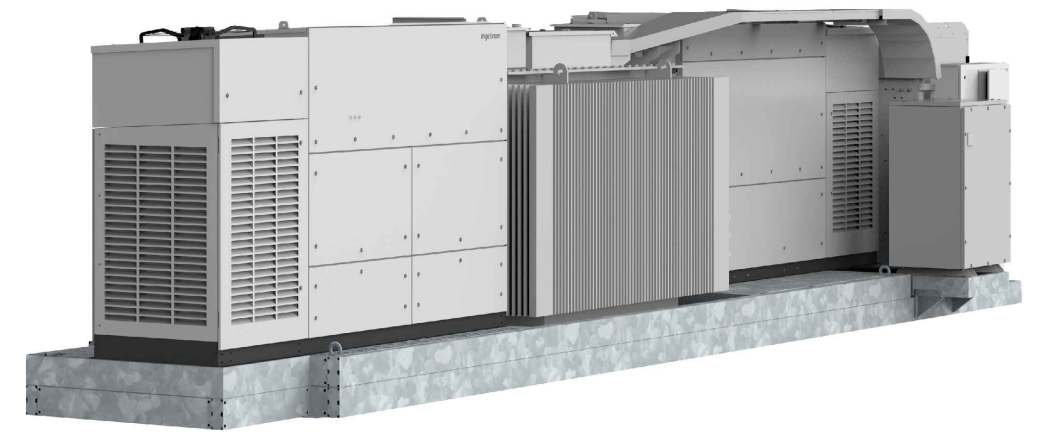
MVPS FRONT VIEW



MVPS TOP VIEW



TYPICAL MVPS



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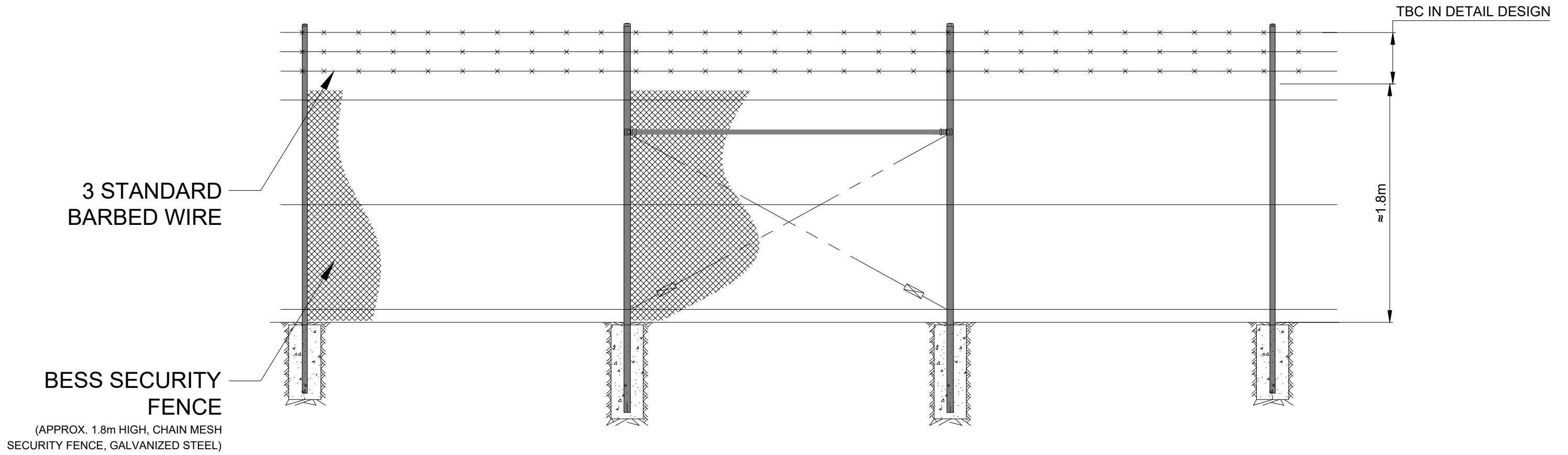
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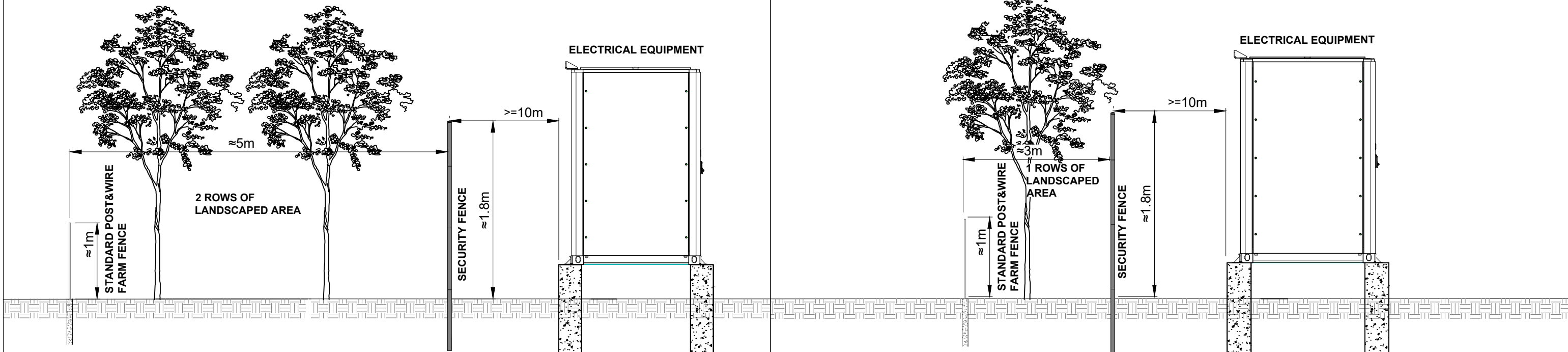
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SECURITY FENCE FRONT VIEW



SECURITY FENCE AND LANDSCAPE SIDE VIEW



REVISIONS					
REV	STATUS	DESCRIPTION	DATE	D.B.	C.B.
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PROJECT DETAILS: **HOLBROOK DISTRIBUTION BESS**
HUME HIGHWAY, HOLBROOK NSW 2644
 -35.75903, 147.28859

CLIENT DETAILS: **ACENERGY PTY LTD**

DRAWING TITLE: **SECURITY FENCE & LANDSCAPE ELEVATIONS**

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Appendix 2 – Acronyms and terms

Acronyms / terms	Definition
AGRD4	Austroads Guide to Road Design Part 4 – Intersections and crossings
AGRD4A	Austroads Guide to Road Design Part 4A – Unsignalised and signalised intersections
AGTM6	Austroads Guide to Traffic Management Part 6 – Intersections, interchanges and crossings management
AGTM8	Austroads Guide to Traffic Management Part 8 – Local street management
AS/NZS2890.1	Australian Standard / New Zealand Standard 2890.1 Parking facilities Part 1: Off-street car parking
DPE	Department of Planning and Environment
ESD	Entering site distance
PSP	Precinct structure plan
SIDRA	SIDRA intersection – micro analytical traffic engineering software to model the performance of intersections
SISD	safe intersection sight distance
TIA	traffic impact assessment
TfNSW	Transport for New South Wales (NSW)
vpd	vehicles per day
vph	vehicles per hour

Holbrook Distribution BESS

Cnr Bendemeer Lane and Hume Highway, Holbrook

Acoustic Report – Environmental Noise Emission Assessment

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MEMBER FIRM OF THE ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALASIAN ACOUSTICAL CONSULTANTS

Project	Proposed Distribution BESS – Cnr Bendemeer Lane and Hume Highway, Holbrook, NSW
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Date	Tuesday, March 12, 2024
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Disclaimer

Watson Moss Growcott Acoustics Pty Ltd has prepared this document for the sole use of the Client and based on a specific scope of works and relevant limitations as agreed between Watson Moss Growcott Acoustics Pty Ltd and the Client.

The information contained within this report and adopted as the basis for any assessment has been provided by the Client.

The findings of any assessment and / or recommendations provided within this document are based on noise and vibration factors only. Any proposal / recommendation nominated within this document must be reviewed and approved by Relevant Authorities, and third-party consultants, as necessary. This may include but is not limited to structural engineers, mechanical services engineers etc.

The information contained within the report should not be used by or relied upon by any other parties other than the Client without the written approval of Watson Moss Growcott Acoustics Pty Ltd.

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1. Introduction

The proposal includes the construction and operation of a new 4.95MW battery energy storage system (BESS) facility at the site located on the corner of Bendemeer Lane and Hume Highway, Holbrook, New South Wales.

The subject site is currently vacant and is generally surrounded by vacant grassland which in some instances includes scattered residential premises.

The new facility will include electrical infrastructure which will generate noise emissions with the potential to impact on the acoustic amenity of the surrounding environment including at residential receptors.

In consideration of the above, Watson Moss Growcott Acoustics (WMG) has been engaged to undertake an assessment of noise emissions from the proposal to consider the following:

- Noise and vibration associated with electrical infrastructure and vehicle activity at the subject site during general operations associated with the proposed facility.
- Noise and vibration emissions associated with the construction phase of the proposal.

This report presents the findings of the assessment, and where appropriate, includes indicative noise mitigation strategies to minimise the potential for adverse impacts at nearby noise sensitive receptor locations.

2. Noise Assessment Terminology

Noise assessment terminology used within this report is defined within Table 1 below.

Table 1: Noise Assessment Terminology

Terminology	Definition
dB(A)	Decibels recorded on a sound level meter, which has had its frequency response modified electronically to an international standard, to quantify the average human loudness response to sounds of different character
L_{eq} / L_{Aeq}	The equivalent continuous level that would have the same total acoustic energy over the measurement period as the actual varying noise level under consideration. It is the noise measure defined by the EPA as the measure of the noise to use in assessing compliance with noise limits.
L_{90} / L_{A90}	The level exceeded for 90% of the measurement period, which is representative of the typical lower levels in a varying noise environment. It is the noise measure defined by the EPA as the measure of the background noise level to use in determining noise limits.
Sound Power Level (Lw)	The sound power level of a source is a measure of the amount of energy in the form of sound emitted from the source. The sound power level of a source is an inherent characteristic of that source and does not vary with distance from the source or with a different acoustic environment. The sound power level equals the sound pressure level at a distance from the source plus 10 times the logarithm (to base 10) of the measurement surface area (m ²), and is relative to a reference sound power of 1pW, (10 ⁻¹² Watts).
Sound Pressure Level (Lp)	Sound that we can hear with our ears or measure with a sound level meter is actually small variations in the pressure of the air around us. The magnitude of the pressure fluctuations vary over a very wide range from the very lowest levels we can just hear to the very high levels we need to be protected from, and for that reason sound is measured on a logarithmic scale. The sound pressure level equals 10 times the logarithm (to base 10) of the sound pressure divided by a reference pressure, which is 20 µPa. The sound pressure level reduces with increasing distance from a source and is influenced by the surroundings.

3. Site and Surrounding Environment

The land under consideration is located on the corner of Bendemeer Lane and Hume Highway, Holbrook.

The overall site boundaries abut Bendemeer Lane to the north, Hume Highway to the east, and RU1 zoned land to the west and south. The area of land under consideration is located in the northeastern corner of the subject site and is rectangular in shape.

The land in immediate proximity of the proposal is generally vacant and would not be expected to be noise sensitive in accordance with legislative or guideline criteria.

The closest and therefore most critical sensitive uses located within proximity of the site will include:

- **R01** – located within the boundaries of the subject site off Bendemeer Lane (address unknown).
- **R02** – 85 Mullers Road, Holbrook.

Information regarding the location and the use at the sensitive receptors has been provided by the client.

Figure 1 below provides an aerial photo of the site and surrounds including the sensitive receptors which have been considered as part of the noise emission assessment.



Figure 1: Proposed subject site and surrounding environment

4. Operational Phase Noise Assessment

4.1. Operational Noise Criteria

4.1.1. Overview

The NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) Noise Policy for Industry (NPfI) provides criterion for addressing operational noise emissions associated with the proposed use at sensitive receptors. The Policy was released in 2017 and includes relevant methodologies for assessment and management of typical operational noise emissions from industrial premises within NSW.

Within the NPfI, commercial noise emissions are considered during various assessment periods defined as the day, evening, and night to reflect the sensitivity associated within the impacts of noise. The assessment periods defined by the EPA are included within Table 2 below.

Table 2: EPA Defined Assessment Periods

EPA Assessment Period	Relevant Days	Relevant Time Periods
Day	Monday to Saturday	7:00am to 6:00pm
	Sunday	8:00am to 6:00pm
Evening	All Days	6:00pm to 10:00pm
Night	Monday to Saturday	10:00pm to 7:00am
	Sunday	10:00pm to 8:00am

When addressing noise emissions associated with commercial/industrial uses, the NPfI defines project trigger levels which are used to consider potential impacts at sensitive receptors. The levels are determined based on consideration of what the NPfI refers to as the 'Project Intrusiveness Noise Level', and the 'Project Amenity Noise Levels'.

The project trigger levels then adopt the lower and more stringent of the determined values.

4.1.2. Project Intrusiveness Noise Criteria

The intent of the project intrusiveness noise level is to minimise the potential for change in the acoustic environment at relevant sensitive receptors by ensuring that impacts associated with a new source are controlled to values 5 dB above a minimum threshold noise level.

The attributable noise levels are defined as L_{Aeq} values assessed over a 15 minute period.

It is noted that the site is located in proximity to Hume Highway, and therefore may be subject to elevated noise levels associated with traffic. WMG has not undertaken measurements of the ambient noise environment at or within the vicinity of the site as part of preparation of this report, however, at the client's direction could do so at a later project stage to determine whether traffic movements influence the background noise levels at nearby sensitive receptors.

In consideration of the above and in the absence of site measured data, the minimum 'rating background levels' (RBLs) nominated within the NPfi have been adopted as the basis for the assessment and are included below.

Table 3: Minimum RBLs

Descriptor	NPfi Defined Assessment Period		
	Day	Evening	Night
Minimum RBLs	35 L_{A90}	30 L_{A90}	30 L_{A90}

The project intrusiveness noise levels will then be determined based on the adopted minimum RBLs plus 5 dB and will therefore be as shown below in Table 4.

Table 4: Project Intrusiveness Noise Levels

Descriptor	NPfi Defined Assessment Period		
	Day	Evening	Night
Project Intrusiveness Noise Levels	40 L_{Aeq} 15min	35 L_{Aeq} 15min	35 L_{Aeq} 15min

4.1.3. Project Amenity Noise Criteria

The intent of the project amenity noise level is to limit continuing noise level increases at sensitive receptors through consideration of independent commercial/industrial operations in accordance with the Intrusiveness Noise Level criteria alone.

Derivation of the project amenity noise levels is based on the 'recommended amenity noise levels' contained within **Table 2.2: Amenity noise levels** of the NPfI. The values presented in the Table represent the total industrial noise which may impact on a receptor location over an assessment period.

In order to compare the amenity values with the **project intrusiveness level**, the values are adjusted from a L_{Aeq} period to $L_{Aeq 15min}$, by adding a 3dB correction to the amenity noise level.

When determining the relevant amenity noise levels, WMG has considered the site as 'rural' as surrounding sensitive uses are generally residential type and located within RU1 zoned land. The amenity noise levels for 'rural' areas are summarised below.

Table 5: NPfI Amenity Noise Levels

Receiver	Noise Amenity Area	Time of Day	Recommended Amenity Noise Level	
			Raw NPfI Values	Adjusted for 15min
Residential	Rural	Day	50 L_{Aeq} period	53 $L_{Aeq 15min}$
		Evening	45 L_{Aeq} period	48 $L_{Aeq 15min}$
		Night	40 L_{Aeq} period	43 $L_{Aeq 15min}$

New industrial noise sources are then subject to the **project amenity noise level** which is determined to represent an objective for any single commercial/industrial noise source at a receptor location.

Where the surrounds include other commercial/industrial uses which may impact on receptors, the project amenity noise level implements a negative adjustment to account for cumulative contributions.

Based on a review of the land zoning surrounding the subject site, it would not be anticipated that a new industrial or commercial use would be introduced within proximity of the critical sensitive receptors.

In consideration of the above, WMG has not allowed for potential cumulative contributions at the critical sensitive receptor locations. The adopted values are therefore as shown below in Table 6.

Table 6: Project Amenity Noise Levels

Descriptor	NPfI Defined Assessment Period		
	Day	Evening	Night
Recommended Amenity Noise Level	50 L_{Aeq} period	45 L_{Aeq} period	40 L_{Aeq} period
Adjustment to reflect 15min assessment period	plus 3 dB	plus 3 dB	plus 3 dB
Project Amenity Noise Levels	53 $L_{Aeq 15min}$	48 $L_{Aeq 15min}$	43 $L_{Aeq 15min}$

4.1.4. Adopted Project Trigger Noise Criteria

In accordance with the assessment methodologies contained within the NPfI, project noise trigger levels will be determined based on whichever of the project intrusiveness level and the project amenity level is the lower or more stringent. In consideration of the above, the project trigger noise levels will be as shown in Table 7.

Table 7: Project Trigger Noise Levels

Descriptor	NPfI Defined Assessment Period		
	Day	Evening	Night
Project Intrusiveness Noise Levels	40 LAeq 15min	35 LAeq 15min	35 LAeq 15min
Project Amenity Noise Levels	53 LAeq 15min	48 LAeq 15min	43 LAeq 15min
Project Trigger Noise Levels	40 LAeq 15min	35 LAeq 15min	35 LAeq 15min

For sensitive receptors, the trigger levels are assessed at the most affected point within site boundaries, or within 30 metres of dwellings where the dwellings are setback from boundaries.

Due to the continuous operation of the subject site and new equipment, the critical criteria will be based on the night period when the lowest criteria will be applicable.

4.1.5. Modifying Factor Corrections

When considering noise impacts on sensitive receptors, NPf methodology includes relevant adjustment factors which account for the potential for the noise source under consideration to impact on the acoustic amenity of the noise sensitive receptor.

The relevant factors are included within Fact Sheet C of the NPf and include:

- Tonal noise.
- Low frequency noise.
- Intermittent noise.

Clarification regarding each of the adjustments is shown below in Table 8.

Table 8: NPf Modifying Factor Corrections

Relevant Factor	Assessment / Measurement	When to Apply	Correction
Tonal Noise	One-third octave band analysis.	Level of one-third octave band exceeds the level of the adjacent bands level on both sides by in the order of 5dB – 15dB as defined in the NPf.	5 dB
Low-Frequency Noise	Measurement of source contribution C-weighted and A-weighted level and one third octave measurements.	Measured/assess source contribution C and A weighted Leq,t levels over same time period. Correction to be applied where the C minus A level is 15 dB or more and the level defined in Table C2 of the NPf is exceeded.	2 or 5 dB
Intermittent Noise	Subjectively assessed but should be assisted with measurement to gauge the extent of change in noise level.	The source noise heard at the receiver varies by more than 5 dB(A) and the intermittent nature of the noise is clearly audible.	5 dB

The adjustments are applied to the measured/predicted values at sensitive receptors for consideration relative to the project noise trigger levels. A maximum of 10dB correction will be applied to the measured/predicted noise levels at the sensitive receptor, with a maximum of 5dB applicable when the tonal character is in the low frequency range below 160Hz.

4.2. Noise Modelling Results

4.2.1. Noise Prediction Methodology

Modelling of operational noise emissions from the site has been conducted using DataKustik CadnaA environmental noise modelling software.

Relevant information regarding site elevations, site buildings and the surrounding environment has been provided by the client and sourced from online databases including Nearmaps, NSW Planning Portal, and topography from the ANZLIC Committee on Surveying and Mapping.

With the utilisation of the above, the model has been developed and configured with sufficient detail for appropriate noise emission calculations to be undertaken.

For this assessment, the modelling software has implemented the calculation procedures defined within International Standard ISO 9613-2: 1996 Acoustics – Attenuation of sound during propagation outdoors – Part 2: General method of calculation (ISO 9613).

The described standard has been considered and approved as part of many previous projects requiring noise emission assessment works. Through implementation of the Standard using CadnaA, the noise emission modelling considers the following attenuation measures:

- Geometrical spreading.
- Atmospheric absorption.
- Ground attenuation.
- Meteorological effects.
- Source / Receiver height effects.
- Attenuation due to the surrounding environment including existing buildings / structures.

In addition to the above, and in accordance with the methodologies contained within the NPfI, noise predictions must account for noise enhancing weather conditions in the direction of sensitive receptors.

This can be addressed via two options:

- **Option 1**
Adopt the **noise-enhancing meteorological conditions** for all assessment periods for noise impact assessment purposes without an assessment of how often these conditions occur – a conservative approach that considers source-to-receiver wind vectors for all receivers and F class temperature inversions with wind speeds up to 2 m/s at night.
- **Option 2**
Determine the **significance** of noise-enhancing conditions.

Option 1 has been adopted as the basis for predicting noise emissions from the proposed use and is often considered conservative as it represents a worst case operation scenario.

The critical receptors located in proximity of the subject site are understood to be single level dwellings, therefore an assessment height of 1.5m has been adopted as the basis for the noise model.

Predicted values at receptor locations have been calculated in the 'free-field', which do not include reflections from localised surfaces other than the ground.

4.2.2. Source Sound Power Levels

When considering noise emissions associated with the proposal, the client has advised that the relevant noise sources will include the following:

- 1no. MVPS including 2no. inverters and 1no. 5MVA transformer.
- 10no. liquid cooling battery containers.

Figure 2 below provides a site plan for the proposal including the relevant equipment locations.

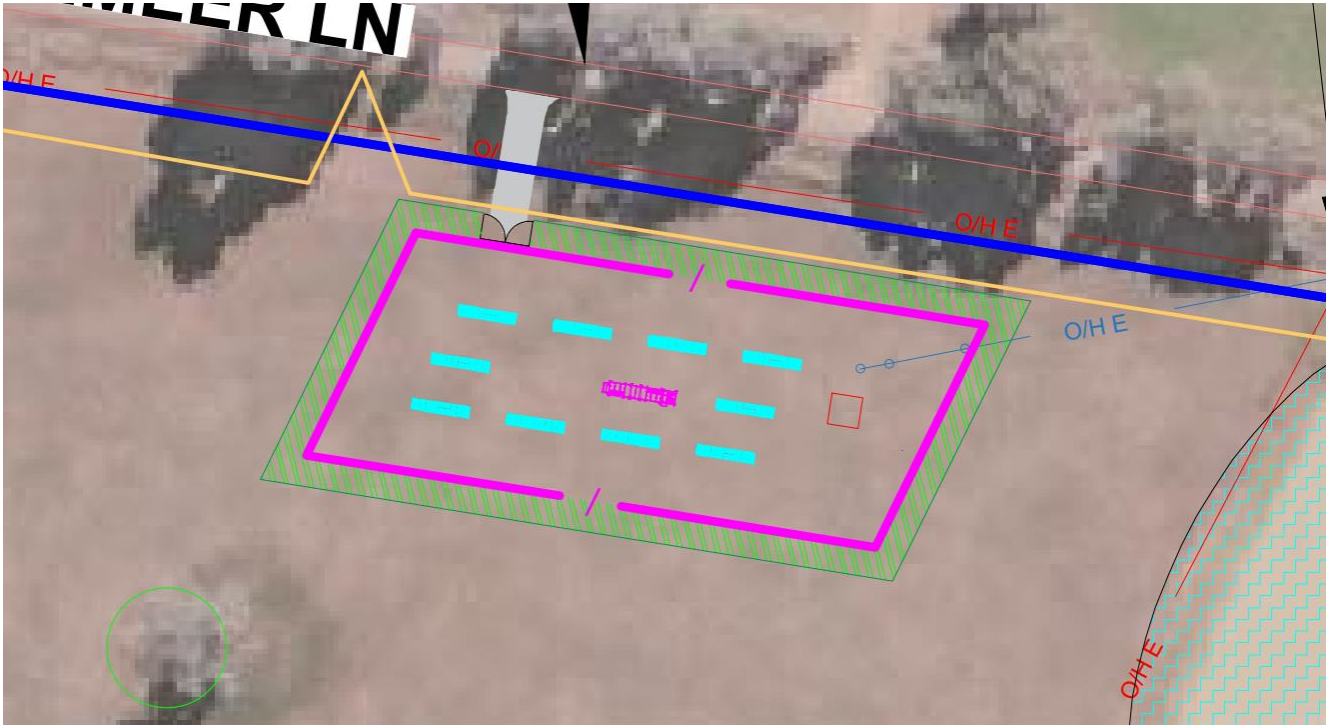


Figure 2: Site plan including relevant noise sources

For the purposes of this assessment, WMG has considered source noise data provided by the inverter and battery unit manufacturers (refer Appendix 1) in combination with input from the client. A summary of the sound power/pressure levels adopted for each item of equipment is included within Table 9.

Table 9: Adopted source sound power levels

Noise Source	Adopted Noise Level
MVPS inverter – per unit	92 dB(A) – sound power
MVPS Transformer – 5MVA unit	65 dB(A) – sound power
Battery cabinet liquid cooling – per unit	95 dB(A) – sound power

Once commissioned, the electrical infrastructure which forms part of the facility will operate continuously 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. The assessment will therefore consider potential noise emissions during the day, evening, and night assessment periods.

4.2.3. Predicted Noise Levels

The results of the noise model are presented below in Table 10. It should be noted that the noise sources have been modelled as follows:

- As an omnidirectional noise source for the MVPS unit inverters and transformer. There may be the potential for the MVPS to include directivity which may reduce noise emissions in some directions pending orientation.
- With directivity facing east for the battery units. The battery units therefore must be configured so that the higher noise emissions from the unit face east away from the nearest sensitive receptors.

Table 10: Noise modelling results compared with Project Trigger Noise Levels

Assessment Location	Predicted Noise Level (15 _{min})	Project Trigger Noise Levels L _{Aeq}		
		Day	Evening	Night
R01	34 dB(A) L _{eq}	40	35	35
R02	30 dB(A) L _{eq}	40	35	35

The findings of the assessment indicate that in the absence of noise control, residual noise levels at the R01 and R02 receptors are compliant with the project trigger levels during the day, evening, and night periods.

4.2.4. Consideration of Modifying Factors

As part of previous assessments, WMG has identified that electrical infrastructure has the potential to include a tonal character which may be audible at nearby receptors and warrant an adjustment in accordance with the NPfI.

Due to the distance separation between the electrical infrastructure and nearby sensitive receptors however, WMG would expect that residual tonal noise may not be present and therefore not require an adjustment for this project.

The noise modelling software utilised as part of the assessment includes the capability to predict the one-third octave band noise levels at the sensitive receptors. The predicted one-third octave band noise levels are summarised below.

Table 11: Predicted one-third octave band noise levels - dB

Rec	25Hz	31.5Hz	40Hz	50Hz	63Hz	80Hz	100Hz	125Hz	160Hz	200Hz	250Hz	315Hz	400Hz	500Hz	630Hz	800Hz	1kHz	1.25kHz	1.6kHz	2kHz	2.5kHz	3.15kHz	4kHz	5kHz	6.3kHz	8kHz	10kHz
R01	34	32	34	34	31	35	28	32	33	26	28	22	25	26	26	28	25	24	22	18	17	21	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10
R02	29	26	29	29	26	29	21	25	26	20	22	16	19	20	20	21	19	24	22	18	15	12	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10

To provide a basis for understanding the presence of any modifying factors, WMG has compared the predicted values with the criteria nominated in the NPfI which relates to tonal noise and low frequency noise.

Tonal noise

The predicted values do not exceed the level of the adjacent one-third octave bands on both sides by the 5dB, 8dB and 15dB thresholds nominated in the NPfI. In consideration of the above, a tonal adjustment will not be applicable for the assessment.

Low frequency noise

The predicted values do not exceed the low-frequency noise threshold values, and hence an adjustment will not be applicable for the assessment.

The above outcomes confirm that the predicted noise levels at the R01 and R02 sensitive receptors will comply with the project trigger levels during the day, evening, and night periods.

5. Construction Noise Assessment

5.1. Duration of Construction Works and Construction Program

The construction program for the proposed BESS facility is expected to have a duration of four weeks, during which various activities will be undertaken at the subject site.

The client has advised that the construction hours will be limited in accordance with the 'recommended standard hours' nominated by the EPA which include:

- Monday to Friday, 7:00am to 6:00pm.
- Saturday, 8:00am to 1:00pm.
- Sunday and Public Holidays, no construction works.

In consideration of the above, assessment of noise emissions due to construction activities at the site has been limited to the above 'recommended standard hours', as the client has advised that there is no need for works to be completed during other times.

For the purposes of this assessment, the client has provided a breakdown of the proposed construction program to assist with calculating residual noise levels at the critical sensitive receptors within proximity of the subject site.

The construction program is included below in Table 12 and indicates that the potentially 'noisy' activities including excavation, crane usage and heavy delivery vehicles will generally be limited to week 1 and week 2 of the program.

Table 12: Proposed construction program

Period	Site Works	No. of Vehicle Access per week
Week 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drainage, road, and fencing works • Installation of concrete footings 	Light - 10 (2 per day) Heavy - 2
Week 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cable installation • Delivery of battery shipping containers and inverter station • Installation of battery shipping containers and inverter station 	Light - 15 (3 per day) Heavy - 12
Week 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electrical installation and cable termination • Electrical testing 	Light - 15 (3 per day)
Week 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • commissioning / demobilisation 	Light - 10 (2 per day) Heavy - 1

5.2. Interim Construction Noise Guideline

5.2.1. General Assessment Methodologies

Construction noise and vibration associated with demolition, remediation, renewal, maintenance, and general building works has been identified as a major environmental issue within NSW. Construction activities can generate high levels of noise which can adversely impact on the surrounding acoustic environment including affecting sleep, concentration, mental and physical health.

In consideration of the above, several agencies including the Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC), NSW Department of Planning, Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA), WorkCover NSW, NSW Health together with the Local Government and Shires Association of NSW prepared the *Interim Construction Noise Guideline* (INCG) to assist with addressing construction noise and vibration impacts.

The guideline was released in 2009 and provides methodologies for assessing and managing the potential impacts of construction noise on residences and other sensitive land uses.

The INCG document is currently under review by the EPA with a new draft guideline having been issued for *public consultation purposes only*, however had not been superseded at this stage.

In consideration of the above, WMG has adopted the currently applicable INCG document as the basis for providing an assessment of construction noise and vibration emissions associated with the project.

The main objectives of the ICNG are to:

- Promote a clear understanding of ways to identify and minimise noise from construction works.
- Focus on applying all 'feasible' and 'reasonable' work practices to minimise construction noise.
- Encourage construction activities to be undertaken only during the 'recommended standard hours' unless approval is given for works that cannot be undertaken during these hours.
- Streamline the assessment and approval stages and reduce time spent dealing with complaints at the project implementation stage.
- Provide flexibility in selecting site-specific feasible and reasonable work practices to minimise noise impacts.

When addressing construction noise and vibration, the guideline presents two alternative assessment methodologies expressed as either quantitative or qualitative and which vary based on the proposed construction project duration.

For shorter duration projects which are nominally defined as less than three weeks in total, the qualitative assessment procedures are commonly adopted which require the proponent to consider the guideline's checklist of work practices to minimise noise and implement appropriate strategies.

Where projects have a duration of greater than three weeks, the quantitative assessment procedure is recommended which includes derivation of 'noise management levels' (NML) and noise predictions to consider the potential noise impacts at sensitive receptor locations.

This BESS project will be undertaken for a period of four weeks and will therefore marginally exceed the timeframe which is nominated for a qualitative assessment. Furthermore, due to the proximity of the site to the nearest sensitive receptors, it is considered appropriate that a detailed investigation consistent with the quantitative assessment approach is undertaken for the proposal.

5.2.2. Determination of Project Noise Management Levels

The NMLs are determined based on an emergence of the construction noise impacts above the RBLs defined within the NPfl for the 'recommended standard hours' as shown within Table 13.

Table 13: Hours Nominated within ICNG

Period Designation	Relevant Hours
Recommended Standard Hours	Monday to Friday – 7:00am to 6:00pm Saturday – 8:00am to 1:00pm
Outside Recommended Standard Hours	All Days – 6:00pm to 7:00am Saturday – 1:00pm to 6:00pm Sunday / Public Holidays – All Day

A summary of the methodologies associated with determining the NMLs and the methods of application are included within Table 14 below.

Table 14: Noise impacts at residences using quantitative assessment procedure.

Time of Day	NML L_{Aeq} (15 min)	How to Apply
Recommended standard hours.	Noise affected RBL + 10 dB	<p>The noise affected level represents the point above which there may be some community reaction to noise.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where the predicted or measured L_{Aeq} (15 min) is greater than the noise affected level, the proponent should apply all feasible and reasonable work practices to meet the noise affected level. The proponent should also inform all potentially impacted residents of the nature of works to be carried out, the expected noise levels and duration, as well as contact details.
	Highly noise affected 75 dB(A)	<p>The highly noise affected level represents the point above which there may be strong community reaction to noise.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where noise is above this level, the relevant authority (consent, determining or regulatory) may require respite periods by restricting the hours that the very noisy activities can occur, taking into account: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Times identified by the community when they are less sensitive to noise (such as before and after school for works near schools, or mid-morning or mid-afternoon for works near residences). If the community is prepared to accept a longer period of construction in exchange for restrictions on construction times.
Outside recommended standard hours	Noise affected RBL + 5 dB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A strong justification would typically be required for works outside the recommended standard hours. The proponent should apply all feasible and reasonable work practices to meet the noise affected level. Where all feasible and reasonable practices have been applied and noise is more than 5 dB(A) above the noise affected level, the proponent should negotiate with the community.

The NMLs are not mandatory limits, however where construction noise levels are predicted to exceed the NMLs, it is considered appropriate that the proponent implement feasible and reasonable work practices to minimise the potential impacts on noise sensitive receptors.

Guidance in relation to what is considered feasible and reasonable is included in the ICNG and generally relates to practical implementation and ongoing maintenance associated with the proposed treatment.

It also considers whether the overall noise benefits associated with the noise control approach outweigh the overall adverse social, economic, and environmental effects, including the cost of the measure.

When determining the noise management levels for the construction phase of the project, and in the absence of site measured data, WMG has adopted the minimum RBLs which form part of the NPfl.

The adopted NMLs for the project are therefore as shown below in Table 15.

Table 15: Residential Receptor Noise Management Levels for Construction

Descriptor	NPfi Defined Assessment Period		
	Day	Evening	Night
Recommended Standard Hours – Noise Affected	45 L _{Aeq}	N/A	N/A
Recommended Standard Hours – Highly Affected	75 L _{Aeq}	N/A	N/A

Where appropriate, the ICNG also requires consideration of ground borne noise impacts at residential receptors as well as the potential for noise emissions to cause sleep disturbance at residential receptors during the night periods.

Given the distance setback of the closest sensitive receptor to the site and the proposed construction hours which are limited to the day period, potential ground borne noise emissions, and the potential for sleep disturbance has not been considered further.

5.3. Proposed Construction Activities and Noise Assessment

Based on information provided by the client, equipment which will form part of the construction works associated with preparation and commissioning of the subject site will include:

- Excavator.
- Water dust suppression truck.
- Truck mounted crane (60 tonne) – lifting and positioning works expected to be completed in 1 day.
- Concrete truck and associated agitator.
- Power hand tools.

In addition to the above, a total of fifteen (15) heavy vehicles will attend the subject site throughout the four week construction program, with fourteen (14) expected within the first two weeks. The heavy vehicles will deliver the battery containers and inverter station. The final truck will likely be for waste collection.

An indicative breakdown of the construction stages during which each type of equipment will be utilised is included below within Table 16.

Table 16: Summary of Construction Activities.

Construction Stage	Equipment and Activity
Drainage, road and fencing works.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Excavator for landscaping. ▪ Water trucks for dust suppression. ▪ Concrete truck and associated agitator for fence construction. ▪ Private vehicles.
Installation of concrete footings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Concrete truck and associated agitator. ▪ Private vehicles.
Delivery of battery shipping containers and inverter station unit.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Semi-trucks for good deliveries. ▪ Crane truck to move containers and place in position. ▪ Private vehicles.
Cable installation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Excavator for cable trenching. ▪ Water trucks for dust suppression. ▪ Powered hand tools for connection. ▪ Private vehicles.
Electrical installation, cable termination and electrical testing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Powered hand tools for connection. ▪ Private vehicles.
Commissioning and demobilisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Private vehicles. ▪ Waste truck.

Private vehicles, although relevant, will have source sound power levels significantly lower than other potential noise sources forming part of the proposed construction activities and will not contribute to the calculated value at the sensitive receptors. In consideration of the above, WMG has not considered noise associated with private vehicles further within the construction noise assessment.

Transient sources such as trucks may travel within the site boundaries, however, for the purposes of this assessment, WMG has considered that the construction activities will generally occur where the electrical infrastructure will be located.

When addressing source noise levels associated with the construction activities, WMG has considered the following:

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- Maximum noise levels from plant and equipment nominated within Appendix C of the Construction Noise and Vibration Strategy document issued by Transport for NSW 2019.
- Noise level data provided by the manufacturer / equipment suppliers.
- Noise level data obtained by WMG as part of previous independent investigations.

Based on the above, and with input from the client, the equipment types and adopted sound power levels are included within Table 17 below.

Table 17: Summary of Equipment and Associated Sound Power Levels

Construction Stage	Equipment Type	No. of Units	Adopted Sound Power Level	Operating Time in 15min period	Adopted L_{WA} per Stage
Drainage, road, and fencing works.	Excavator	1	95 dB(A)	100 %	111 dB(A)
	Water Cart	1	102 dB(A)	50 %	
	Concrete Truck	1	104 dB(A)	25 %	
	Concrete pouring	1	110 dB(A)	100 %	
Concrete footings install	Concrete Truck	1	104 dB(A)	25 %	110 dB(A)
	Concrete pouring	1	110 dB(A)	100 %	
Delivery of battery shipping containers and inverter station unit	Truck movements	1	101 dB(A)	25 %	102 dB(A)
	Crane truck	1	104 dB(A)	50 %	
Cable installation.	Excavator	1	95 dB(A)	100 %	102 dB(A)
	Water Cart	1	102 dB(A)	50 %	
	Hand Tools	3	96 dB(A)	50 %	
Electrical installation, cable termination and electrical testing	Hand Tools	3	96 dB(A)	50 %	98 dB(A)
Commissioning and demobilisation.	Waste Truck	1	101 dB(A)	50 %	98 dB(A)

The client has advised that each phase of the construction program will be undertaken progressively which will result in cumulative noise levels during each stage rather than due to multiple construction stages.

Using the adopted sound power levels and usage rates described in Table 17, the calculated resultant noise levels at the critical receptors are summarised within Table 18 below.

Table 18: Predicted Construction Noise Levels

Construction Phase	Predicted Noise Levels L_{Aeq} (15 minute)		Predicted Noise Levels relative to Derived NMLs L_{Aeq} (15 minute)		Comments
	R01	R02	R01	R02	
Drainage, road, and fencing works.	49	43	45	45	Noise impact at receptor dominated by concrete pouring.
Concrete footings install	48	42	45	45	Noise impact at receptor dominated by concrete pouring.
Battery containers and inverter station unit delivery and placement	40	34	45	45	Noise impact at receptor dominated by crane truck moving containers.
Cable installation.	40	34	45	45	Noise impact at receptor includes contributions due to all noise sources.
Electrical installation, cable termination and electrical testing	36	30	45	45	Noise impact at receptor includes contributions due to all noise sources.
Commissioning and demobilisation.	36	30	45	45	Noise impact at receptor includes contributions due to all noise sources.

The results of the noise model indicate that during the initial stages of the construction program, noise emissions associated with the concrete truck, and more particularly, the concrete pouring process have the potential to be higher than the 'Noise Affected' NMLs during the recommended standard hours.

The calculated values will continue to be well below the 'highly affected' NML of 75 dB(A).

For the purposes of this assessment, WMG has assumed that the pouring process will be continuous for the 15-minute assessment period. Exceedances will be lesser if the process occurred for less than a continuous 15 minutes, however, would need to occur for less than 4-5 minutes in a 15-minute period to be equal or below the NMLs.

Given the calculated NML exceedances, construction noise mitigation strategies have been included in Section 5.4.

5.4. Construction Noise Mitigation and Management

The NSW ICNG requires that noise emissions associated with construction are assessed against NMLs.

The NMLs are not mandatory noise limits, however where construction activity noise levels are predicted to exceed the NMLs, it is considered appropriate that the proponent implement feasible and reasonable work practices to minimise the potential impacts on noise sensitive receptors.

Guidance regarding minimisation of disturbance due to construction is included within *AS2436-2010 Guide to noise and vibration control on construction, demolition and maintenance sites* as well as the ICNG and includes the reference to the following:

- Implementation of universal work practices relating to minimising noise.
- Selection of low noise plant and equipment.
- Consultation and transparency with the surrounding community.

In addition, due to the calculated exceedances of NMLs at the R01 receptor, specific noise control for some activities should be considered by the client.

5.4.1. General Work Practices

Universal work practices which should form part of a construction management plan will include:

- Regular enforcement (ie toolbox talks) of the need to minimise noise and vibration. This will include educating heavy vehicle drivers regarding expectations of their vehicle use (eg. avoid engine brakes, sudden acceleration, minimising reversing etc).
- Regular identification of noisy activities and adoption of improvement techniques.
- Avoiding the use of portable radios, public address systems or other methods of site communication that may unnecessarily impact upon nearby residents.
- Developing routes for the delivery of materials and parking of vehicles to minimise noise.
- Where possible avoiding the use of equipment that generates impulsive noise.
- Minimising the need for vehicles reversing at the site and within proximity of receptors.
- Use of broadband audible alarms on vehicles and elevating work platforms used on site.
- Minimising the movement of materials and plant and unnecessary metal-on-metal contact.
- Minimising truck movements.
- Scheduling respite periods (eg. noisy periods limited to 3 hours).
- Prioritise ensuring that construction works, and heavy vehicle movements occur during standard work hours between 7am and 6pm Monday to Friday, and 7am to 1pm Saturday.

5.4.2. Plant and Equipment

General work practices which will minimise the potential for noise emissions to cause disturbance at sensitive receptors will include:

- Where possible, implementing quieter techniques for high noise activities.
- Choosing quieter mobile and fixed equipment based on the site requirements.
- Operating equipment in the quietest and most efficient manner.
- Regular inspection and maintenance of equipment to ensure it is in good working order.

5.4.3. Community Relations

Communication and transparency with the surrounding community will be critical in minimising the potential for adverse impacts on the acoustic amenity at sensitive receptors. In order to orchestrate the above, it is advised that the client implement the following:

- Appoint a relevant community relations manager prior to project commencement.
- The manager must approach and communicate with sensitive receptors information regarding the project timeline, construction methodologies, potentially noisy periods.
- Maintain contact with receptors throughout duration of project to ensure that they are up to date on when certain events will commence and finish.
- Provide a construction noise management plan to the sensitive receptors which includes site contact information for residents to call regarding complaints and other queries.

Where complaints are received, they must be recorded on a centralised system and handled in a prompt and responsive manner. This may involve noise monitoring or a review of processes.

5.4.4. Specific Construction Activity Noise Control

5.4.4.1. Concrete Truck Pouring

The noise emission assessment has identified the potential for exceedances of NMLs at the critical R01 residential receptor due to the concrete pouring works which will occur during fencing and concrete footing installation.

Predicted values at all other identified receptor locations will be $< 45 L_{Aeq}$ during the described works which is below the NML for the recommended standard hours at these locations. As a result, predicted exceedances will be limited to a single dwelling.

Due to the calculated exceedances, it would be recommended that the client engage in consultation with the receptor and ensure that they are aware of the works proposed and the duration of the works.

It would be expected that the main source of noise associated with the pouring activity will be the truck engine revs, therefore the contractor should minimise this where possible to minimise noise emissions.

Furthermore, in accordance with information provided in AS2436-2010, where feasible, the contractor should:

- Locate static mixing activities as far as possible from sensitive receptors.
- Ensure that workers do not hammer the drum as part of cleaning.
- Fit more efficient silencers to diesel or petrol engines.

5.4.4.2. Reversing and Warning Alarms

Community concerns in relation to construction noise have often resulted from the use of tonal reversing beepers associated with mobile equipment at construction sites. In consideration of the above, WMG provide the following recommendations:

- Equipment which is based at site should be fitted with 'new generation' broadband reverse alarms which vary their noise output according to the ambient noise level in the surrounding environment.
- Encourage operators of commercial vehicles making deliveries / collection at site to replace any tonal reversing beepers with the described 'new generation' broadband reverse alarms.
- Configure the site to minimise the requirement for non-site based vehicles to reverse.

Where possible, non-audible warning systems (eg. flashing lights, reversing cameras) should be used to reduce noise and must be approved by relevant safety authorities.

6. Vibration Assessment

The client has advised that vibration intense activities will not form part of the construction or operational phase of the proposed use. In consideration of the above, WMG has not considered vibration further.

7. Road Traffic Noise Assessment

During the operational phase of the BESS project, it is understood that there will be no permanent staff based at the site, and therefore no regular traffic movements.

Site inspections and maintenance works will be undertaken intermittently as required.

Given the infrequency of the operational vehicle movements, noise impacts during these times will be negligible and are not expected to impact adversely on the acoustic environment at sensitive receptors.

The focus of any vehicle movements will therefore be based on the project construction phase during which there will be weekly vehicle movements. It is understood that during this phase, vehicles will access the site directly from Hume Highway located adjacent to the eastern site boundary.

When addressing the potential noise impacts associated with vehicle movements along public roads, commonly adopted criterion is provided within the NSW Department of Environment Climate Change and Water (DECCW) Road Noise Policy, March 2011.

The Policy includes assessment criteria to consider the potential noise impacts at residences affected by traffic on existing roadways generated by land use developments as shown in Table 19.

Table 19: Road Traffic Noise Assessment Criteria for Residential Land Uses

Road Category	Type of Project / Land Use	Assessment Criteria L_{Aeq}	
		Day (7am to 10pm)	Night (10pm to 7am)
Freeway	Existing residences affected by additional traffic on described roadway generated by land use developments	60 (15 HOUR)	55 (9 HOUR)
Local Roads	Existing residences affected by additional traffic on described roadway generated by land use developments	55 (1 HOUR)	50 (1 HOUR)

Based on guidance provided by the client, it is understood that the following light and heavy vehicle movements will form part of the four week project construction program:

- **Week 1** – two light vehicles accessing the site per day, and a total of two heavy vehicles accessing the site across the week period. No more than one heavy vehicle in a one hour period.
- **Week 2** – three light vehicles accessing the site per day, and a total of twelve heavy vehicles accessing the site across the week period. No more than one heavy vehicle in a one hour period.
- **Week 3** – three light vehicles accessing the site per day, and no heavy vehicles.
- **Week 4** – two light vehicles accessing the site per day, and a total of one heavy vehicle accessing the site across the week period.

The heavy vehicles will be delivering materials to the site including the new battery storage containers and the MVPS containers. Light vehicles will be associated with construction staff and their personal vehicles. Based on information provided by the client it is understood that vehicles can arrive at the site from the east along Hume Highway.

The Hume Highway is already a heavily trafficked roadway during the day period, and hence the relative small number of traffic movements associated with the project are not anticipated to impact on the existing acoustic environment at sensitive receptor locations.

8. Conclusion

WMG has undertaken an acoustic assessment to address potential operational and construction noise and vibration impacts associated with the BESS facility proposed on the corner of Bendemeer Lane and Hume Highway, Holbrook, New South Wales.

Assessment of noise emissions from the proposed site operations, and construction activities have been based on the methodologies described within the following documentation:

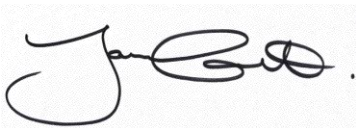
- NSW EPA Noise Policy for Industry.
- NSW Interim Construction Noise Guideline 2009.
- Department of Environment and Conservation's 'Assessing Vibration: a technical guideline'.
- NSW Department of Environment Climate Change and Water Road Noise Policy 2011.

The findings of the assessment have concluded that operational noise and vibration emissions associated with the proposal will comply with relevant criteria at sensitive receptors in the absence of any noise mitigations strategies.

When addressing general construction noise and vibration as well as road traffic noise, the findings of the assessment concluded the following:

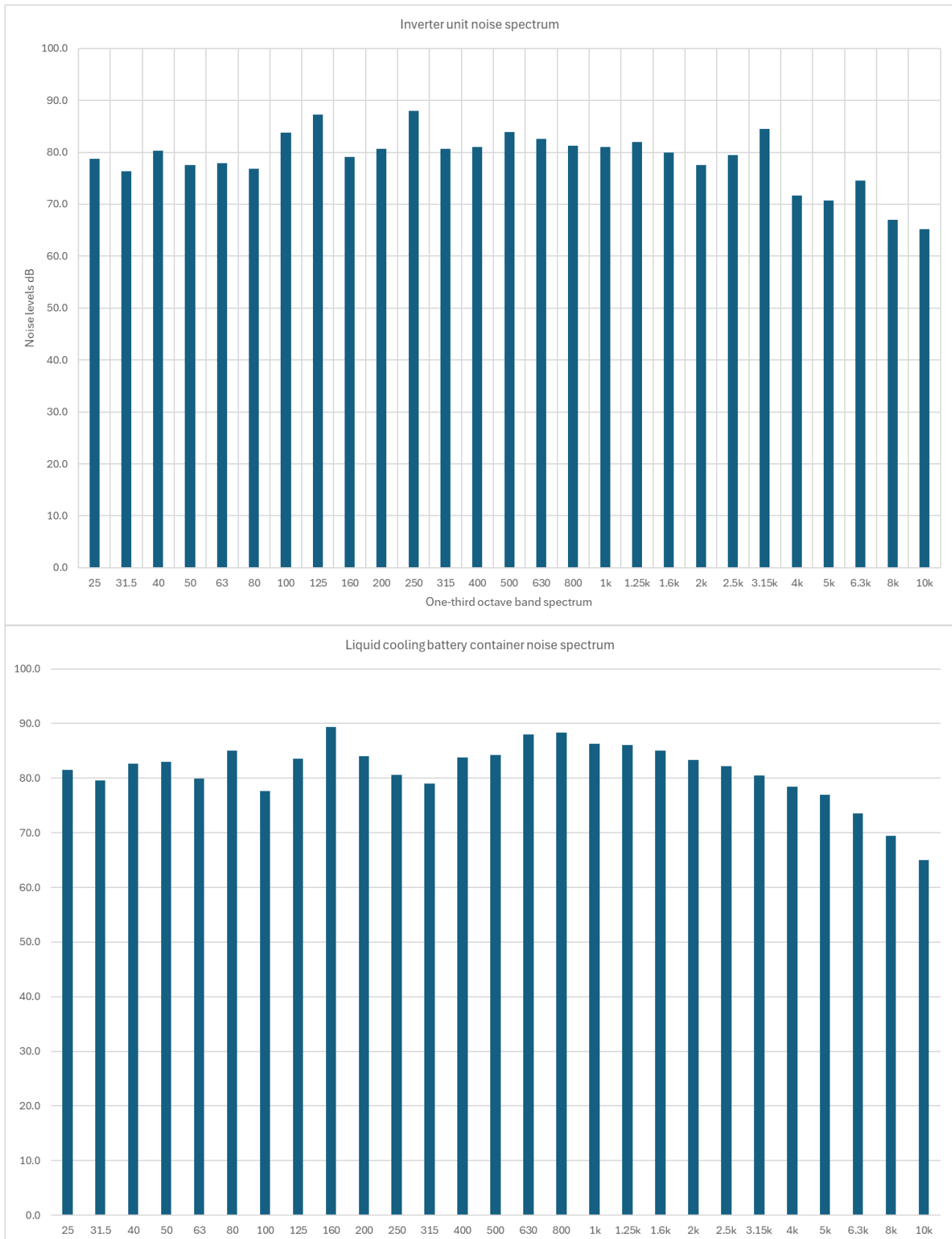
- Noise due to construction vehicle movements is predicted to be below noise level criteria nominated within the Road Noise Policy.
- Noise emissions due to some construction activities have been predicted to exceed NMLs at receptors. In these instances, WMG has provided suitable noise mitigation strategies to minimise the potential for adverse impacts on the relevant sensitive receptors.
- The client has advised that vibration intense activities will not form part of the project construction or operational phase and have therefore not been considered within the assessment.

Given the preliminary nature of the assessment, WMG would recommend that the finalised design is reviewed by an acoustic consultant to ensure that the outcomes comply with relevant criteria.

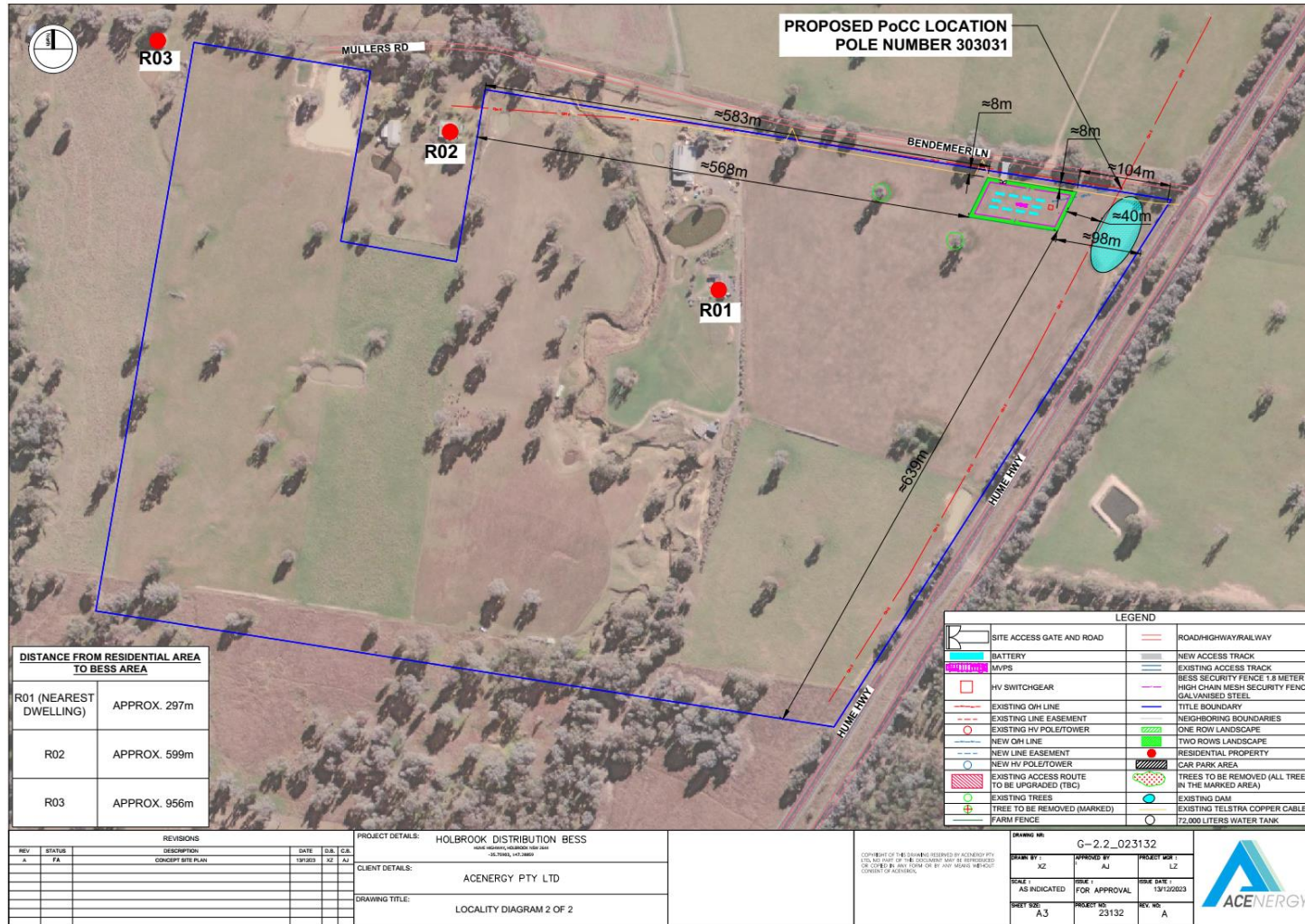


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Appendix 1 – Noise source one-third octave band spectrum



Appendix 2 – Aerial Site Plan Layout



Flood Risk Report

ACEnergy BESS – Hume Highway,
Holbrook, NSW 2644

ACEnergy Pty Ltd

08 March 2024





Document Status

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Overview

ACEnergy Pty Ltd are proposing to construct a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) at 22/-/DP809338 Hume Highway, Holbrook, NSW (the subject site). The study objective was to better understand the flooding mechanisms within the site, particularly across the location where the battery farm is proposed to be constructed. This site is referred to as 'the subject site' within this report. The report presents the flood modelling assumptions and results together with an investigation of the subject site flood risk.

1.2 Objectives

To provide ACEnergy Pty Ltd with a better understanding of the flooding and drainage behaviour within the subject site, the following tasks were completed:

- Review of existing flood information.
- Development of a 2D (Two-Dimensional) hydraulic flood model (using TUFLOW) Rain-on-Grid (RoG) methodology to assess flood risk from stormwater runoff.
- Provision of high-level recommendations for any mitigation or design alterations which may be required to reduce potential risks associated with flooding and drainage.

No previous flood studies were available for the subject site.

1.3 Site

The subject site is located approximately 5.0 km northeast of the Holbrook township in southwest NSW, located at 22/-/DP809338 Hume Highway, Holbrook, 2644 (Figure 1-1). There is an existing farm dam on the east side of the subject site, as shown in Figure 1-2.

The site facility is proposed to be installed on generally flat terrain. The topography varies from 287.9 m AHD in the west to 289.0 m AHD in the east of the subject site (Figure 1-3). The terrain slopes towards the northeast with a slope of approximately 0.7%.



FIGURE 1-1 SUBJECT SITE LOCATION



FIGURE 1-2 SUBJECT SITE

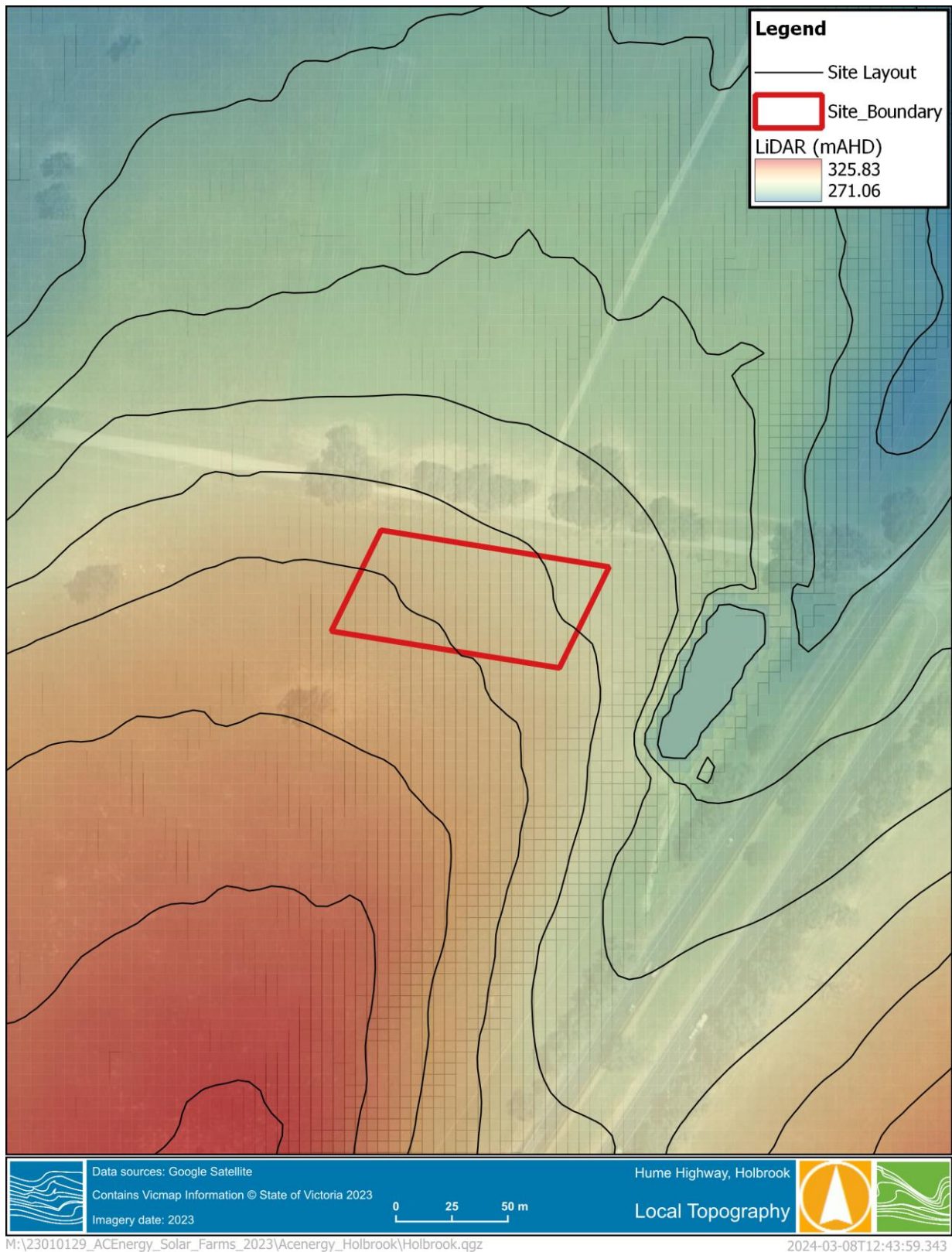


FIGURE 1-3 SUBJECT SITE TOPOGRAPHY



2 FLOODING

2.1 Methodology

A two-dimensional Rain on Grid (RoG) hydraulic modelling approach was employed for this investigation using Australian Rainfall and Runoff (ARR) 2019 guidelines¹ and TUFLOW hydraulic flood modelling software. Simulations were completed using TUFLOW Build 2023-03-AB Single Precision with HPC (Highly Parallelised Computations) solution scheme on a GPU solver.

The RoG methodology is extensively used for flood mapping of urban and rural areas. It allows for a comprehensive flood risk assessment by identifying overland flow paths based on the topography dataset as illustrated in the flow chart in Figure 2-1.

- The rainfall layer, which consists of one single rainfall polygon over the model extent was produced in a GIS package.
- Hyetographs (rainfall depth timeseries) were created for a range of design rainfall AEP (Annual Exceedance Probability) events and durations using QGIS TUFLOW plugin and the 2016 Bureau of Meteorology Intensity Frequency Duration (IFD) at the centroid of the catchment. These were applied to the TUFLOW model to represent catchment rainfall under various durations for the 1% AEP design storm.

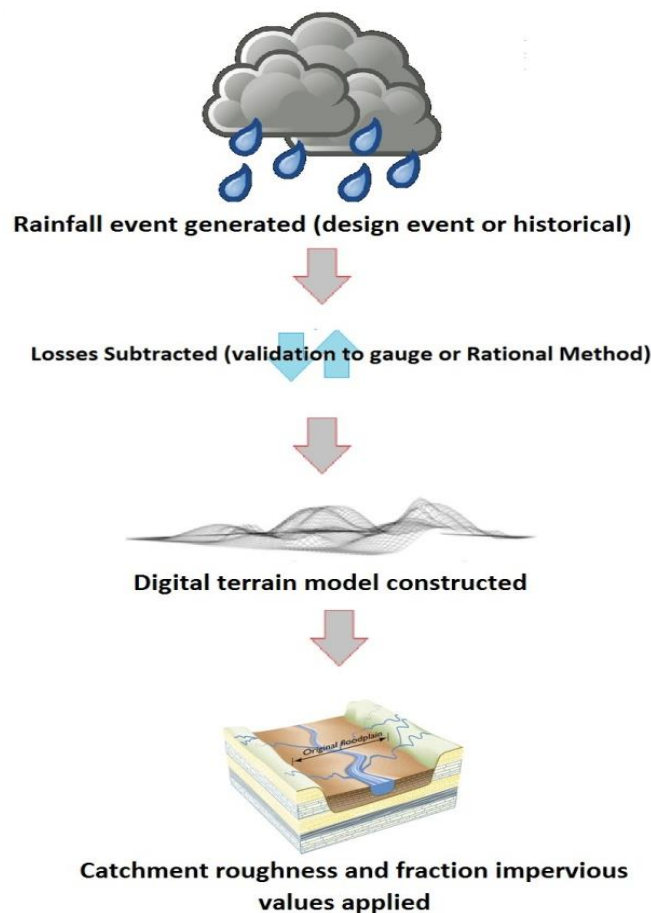


FIGURE 2-1 RAINFALL ON GRID MODELLING APPROACH

¹ <http://book.arr.org.au.s3-website-ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/>



A new hydraulic model was constructed using land use, cadastral, topography and aerial photography datasets to identify different land uses which are represented from a hydrologic and hydraulic perspective as surface roughness and initial and continuing loss values.

The upstream catchment and wider area were modelled. The TUFLOW model set-up is presented in Figure 2-2, highlighting the model extent.



FIGURE 2-2 TUFLOW MODEL SETUP

2.1.1 Digital Elevation Model, Losses and Hydraulic Roughness

A Digital Elevation Model (DEM) was generated from 5 m resolution LiDAR, supplied by NSW Spatial Services via Geoscience Australia's Elevation Information System (ELVIS)². It should be noted that 5 m resolution only provides a basic understanding of the flooding mechanisms within the site and future model updates should be undertaken when better topography data around the subject site becomes available. It is also expected the vertical accuracy of the data would not be as good as detailed LiDAR or ground survey was available, which would improve the model outputs.

Table 2-1 summarises the rainfall losses and hydraulic roughness used for the hydraulic modelling as per the land use types within the model. These values were adopted based on Water Technology's experience with RoG models in the surrounding area.

A check was also undertaken to test the sensitivity of infiltration losses. It was found that reducing the losses by 50% for the critical duration (1% AEP, 180 minutes, TP02) had negligible impacts on the flood extent and maximum flood depths (<2cm) around the subject site.

² <https://elevation.fsd.org.au/>



TABLE 2-1 MODEL PARAMETERS

Land use types	Manning’s ‘n’ (roughness)	Initial loss (mm)	Continuing loss (mm/hr)
Open pervious area	0.040	14	2
Residential - rural	0.150	14	2
Roads/carpark/paved area	0.025	1	0.5
Open water	0.020	0	0

2.1.2 Boundaries

A tailwater (2D TUFLOW ‘HQ’) boundary was set and extended around the downstream model boundary to allow overland flow to freely drain out of the model, with a constant slope of 0.5%. This was located downstream of the site and is not likely to impact on flood behaviour at the site as runoff from within the site is contained due to irrigation channels.

2.1.3 Rainfall

The mean monthly rainfall observed at Holbrook (Croft Street) Gauge 72142 from 2000 – 2024 is presented in Figure 2-3, indicating a fairly even monthly distribution.

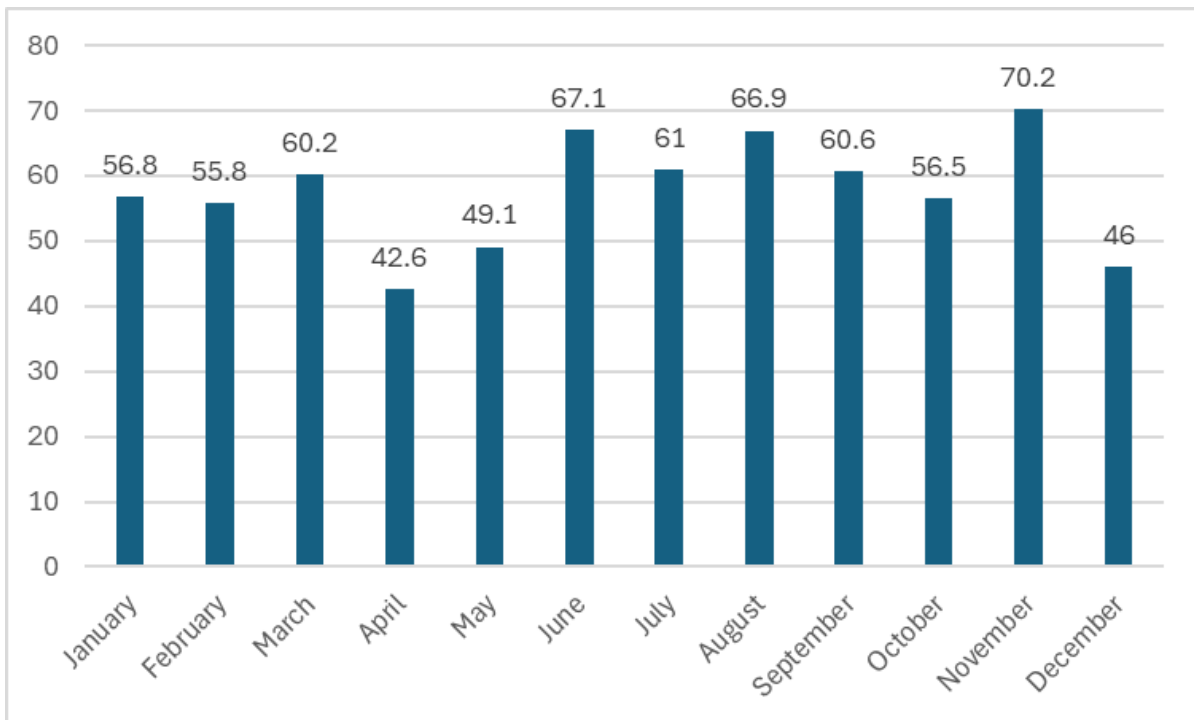


FIGURE 2-3 AVERAGE MONTHLY RAINFALL IN HOLBROOK (2000 – 2024)

2.1.4 TUFLOW Model Checks

- The following checks were undertaken on the TUFLOW model parameters and outputs:
 - 2D timestep: The adaptive 2D timestep drops to a minimum of 0.5 seconds. A ‘Classic’ TUFLOW model would be expected to have a timestep no less than ¼ of the grid size (5 m), i.e. 1.25 seconds,



with a healthy HPC model no lower than a tenth of this figure. Hence, the adopted timestep is within the recommended range.

- Model mass errors: The mass errors for all models was less than 1% and within the recommended range.
- Errors and warning messages: No errors were found within the model and all warnings were reviewed and either acceptable or fixed, if required.

2.1.5 Critical Duration and Temporal Pattern Assessment

The model was run for the following 1% AEP design storm durations; 3, 6, 12, & 24 hours, using three ARR 2019 temporal patterns representative of front, mid and back loaded storm events.

Results were processed to select the combination of durations and temporal patterns resulting in the maximum flood depths throughout the catchment and covering the site. This is a conservative method of identifying areas prone to flooding in a 1% AEP event.

The modelled durations and temporal patterns are shown in Table 2-2.

TABLE 2-2 MODELLED DURATION AND TEMPORAL PATTERN

AEP Event	1%
Durations	3, 6, 12, & 24 hours
Temporal Pattern	TP01, TP02, TP05

2.2 Flood Hazard Classification

Floods can be hazardous, producing harm to people, damage to infrastructure and potentially loss of life. In examining potential flood hazard there are several factors to be considered, as outlined in ARR 2019 (Book 6 Chapter 7)³. An assessment of flood hazard should consider:

- Velocity of floodwater.
- Depth of floodwater.
- Combination of velocity and depth of floodwater.
- Isolation during a flood.
- Effective warning time.
- Rate of rise of floodwater.

The flood hazard of the site was assessed in accordance with ARR2019, which defines six hazard categories. The combined flood hazard curves are presented in Figure 2-4 and vulnerability thresholds classifications are tabulated in Table 2-3.

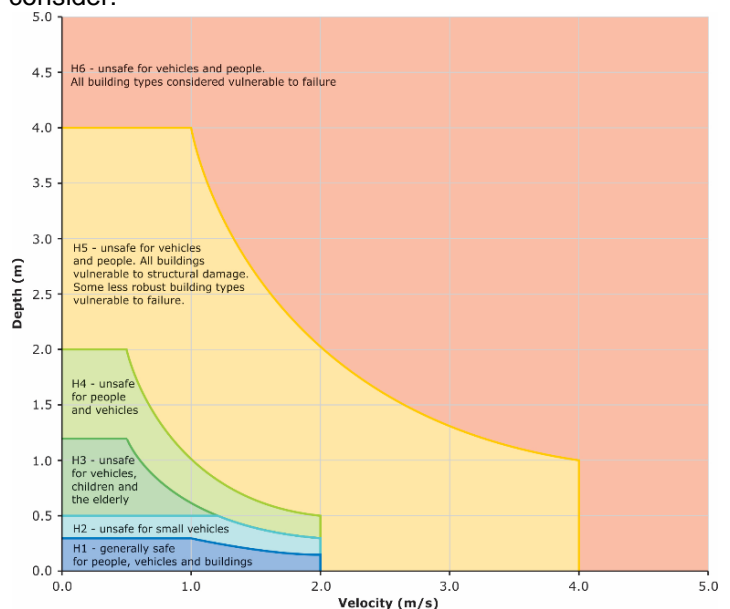


FIGURE 2-4 COMBINED FLOOD HAZARD CURVES

³ <http://book.arr.org.au.s3-website-ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/>



TABLE 2-3 HAZARD CLASSIFICATION (ARR, 2016)

Hazard Vulnerability Classification	Classification Limit (D and V in combination)	Limiting Still Water Depth (D)	Limiting Velocity (V)	Description
H1	$D \cdot V \leq 0.3$	0.3	2.0	Generally safe for vehicles, people and buildings.
H2	$D \cdot V \leq 0.6$	0.5	2.0	Unsafe for small vehicles.
H3	$D \cdot V \leq 0.6$	1.2	2.0	Unsafe for vehicles. Children and the elderly.
H4	$D \cdot V \leq 1.0$	2.0	2.0	Unsafe for vehicles and people.
H5	$D \cdot V \leq 4.0$	4.0	4.0	Unsafe for vehicles and people. All buildings vulnerable to structural damage. Some less robust buildings subject to failure.
H6	$D \cdot V > 4.0$	-	-	Unsafe for vehicles and people. All building types considered vulnerable to failure.



2.3 Results

The existing conditions 1% AEP depth, velocity and flood hazard results are shown from Figure 2-5 to Figure 2-7. The flood depth map was filtered for small depths (below 0.02 m) and puddles less than 100m² were removed.

It should be noted that no drainage structures were included in the hydraulic model and limited topographic data was available.

The following observations can be made for the 1% AEP flood event:

- The maximum flood depth within the site was less than 100 mm.
- The maximum peak velocities within the site were less than 0.05 m/s.
- A flood hazard map was created from the product of both flood depth and velocity as described in the previous section. The subject site and facilities are classified as H1 'Generally safe for vehicles, people, and buildings'. This is due to the very slow moving shallow water.

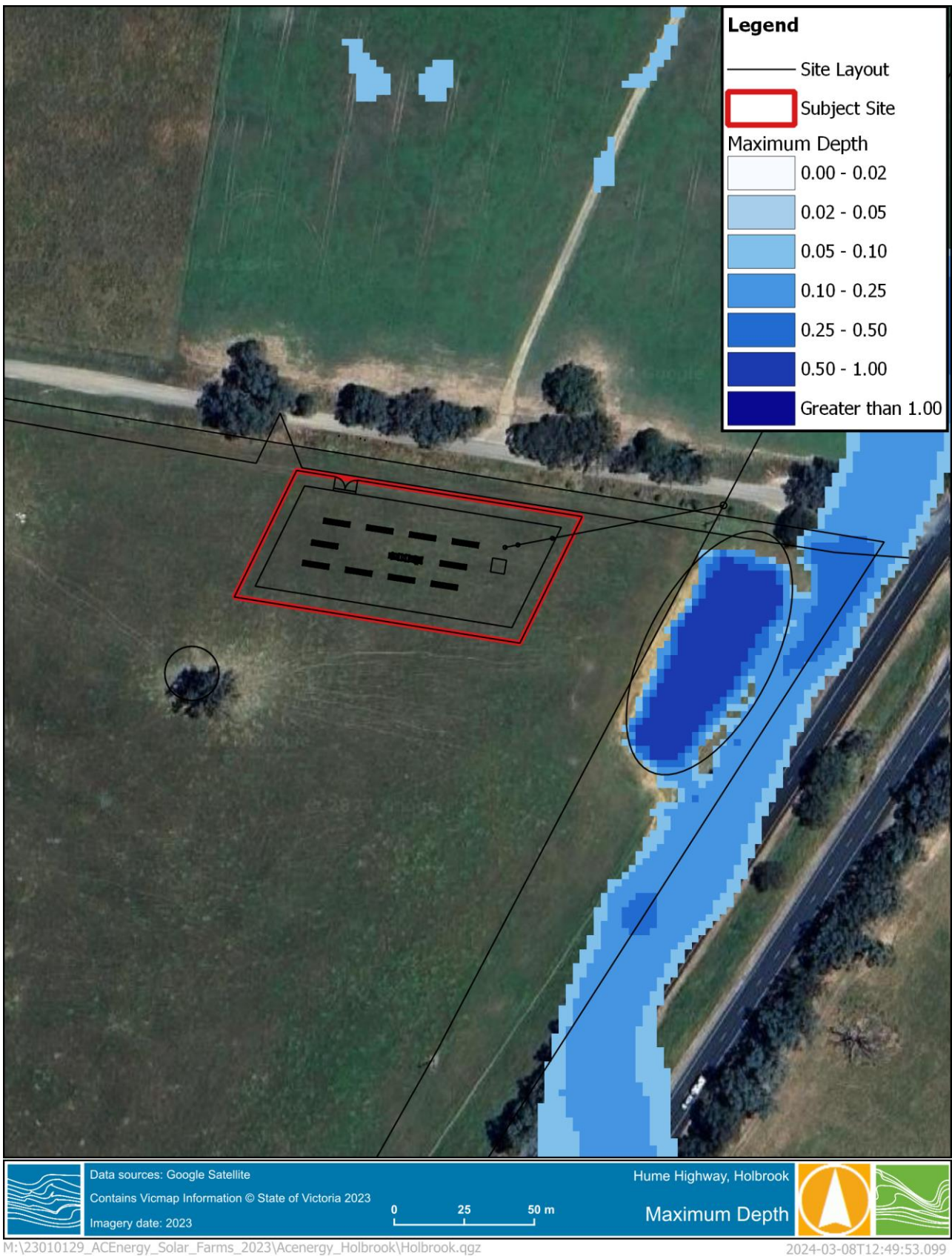


FIGURE 2-5 1% AEP MAXIMUM FLOOD DEPTH (DEPTHS BELOW 0.02M NOT SHOWN)



FIGURE 2-6 1% AEP MAXIMUM FLOOD VELOCITY

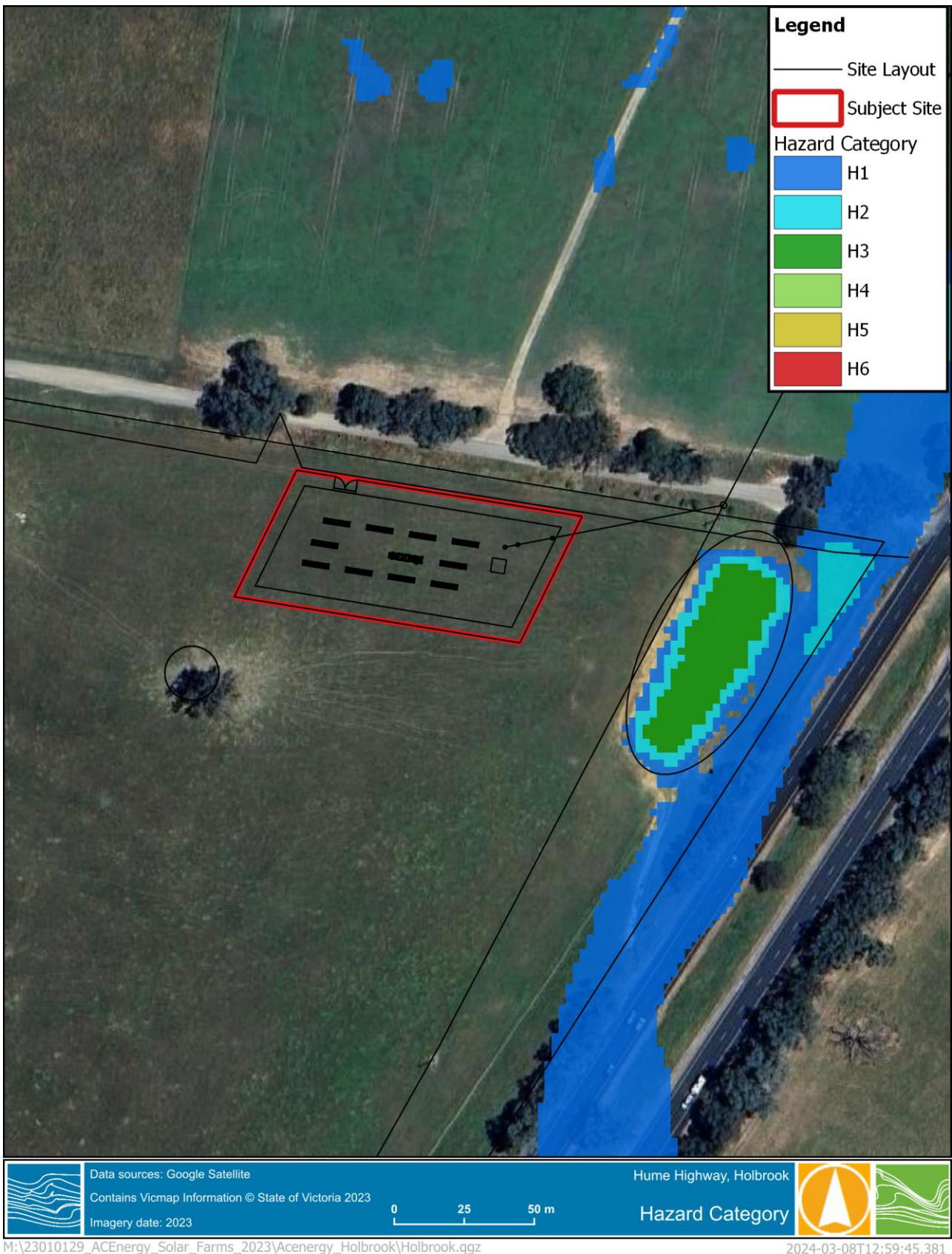


FIGURE 2-7 1% AEP MAXIMUM FLOOD HAZARD



3 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 Surface Water

The flood investigation provided within this report provides flood mapping for the proposed BESS at Hume Highway, Holbrook, NSW (22/-/DP809338). A 2D hydraulic flood model was developed and modelling undertaken in line with the latest flood modelling software; industry standards (i.e. BoM IFD and ARR 2019 guidelines) and the latest available 5 metre LiDAR dataset (NSW Spatial Services) for the 1% AEP design storm event.

It should be noted that 5 meter resolution topographic data only provide a basic understanding of the flooding mechanisms within the site and future model updates should be undertaken when better topography data around the subject site becomes available.

The flood modelling and mapping combined with some external information confirmed that there are no significant overland flow paths across the site (facility location). In the main flow paths, depths were less than 100 mm and maximum velocities less than 0.05 m/s, resulting in the site being classified as flood hazard H1 (generally safe for people, vehicles, and buildings).

Based on the findings of the flood modelling, it is recommended to set any batteries and critical electrical infrastructure at least 200 mm above the ground level, and if available detailed topographic data should be used as the basis for additional modelling.





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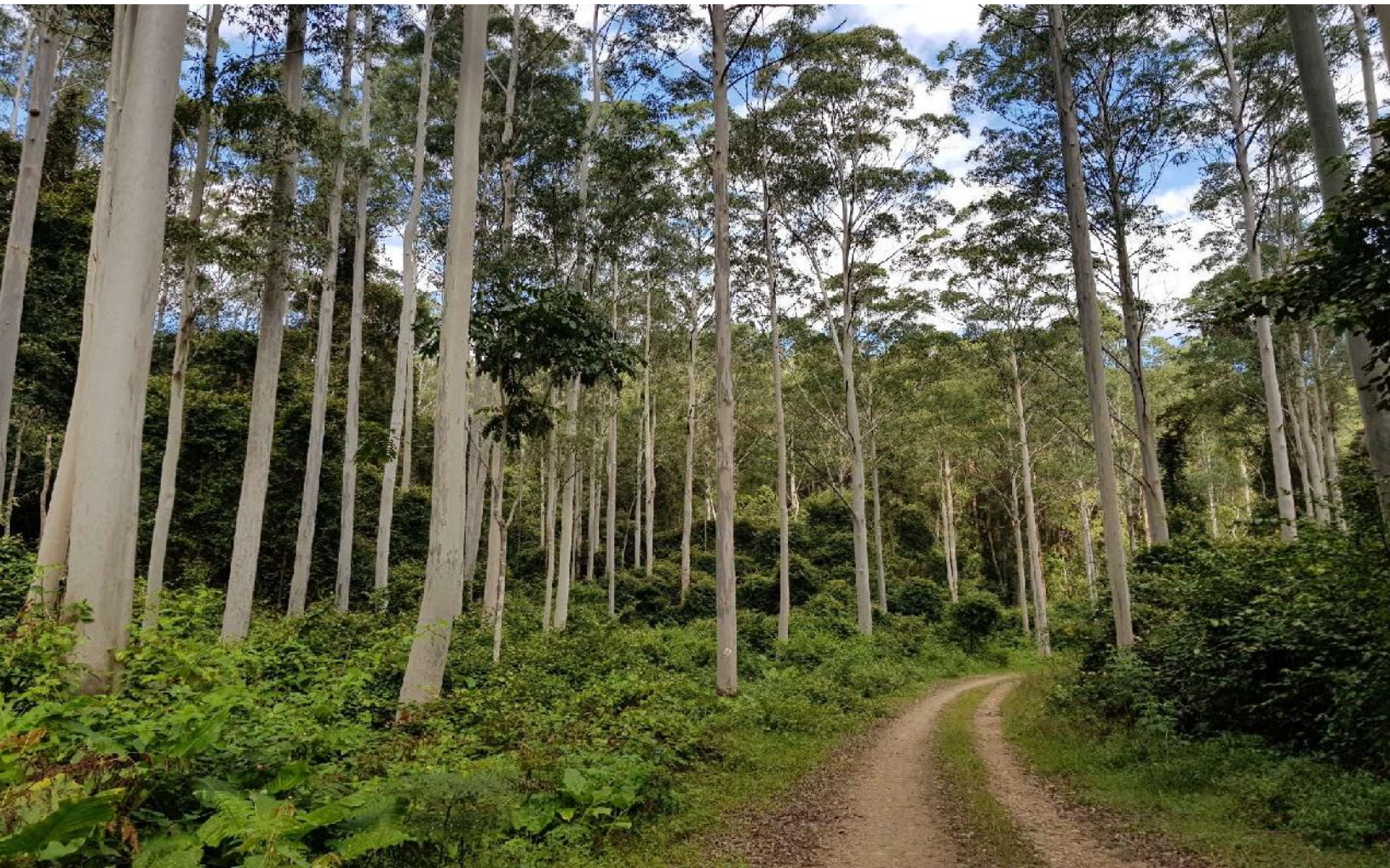
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Flora and Fauna Assessment Report

Lot 22 DP 809338 Hume Highway, Holbrook, NSW 2644

08 March 2024



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08 March 2024

Prepared for

ACEnergy Pty Ltd

Prepared by

Habitat Environmental Services Pty Ltd

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1 Introduction

1.1 Background

Habitat Environmental Services Pty Ltd (Habitat) have been engaged by ACEnergy Pty Ltd (the proponent) to prepare a Flora and Fauna Assessment Report (FFAR) to support a Development Application (DA) to Greater Hume Shire Council for the proposed construction of a battery energy storage system (BESS) in the north east of Lot 22 DP 809338 Hume Highway, Holbrook, NSW 2644 (refer to **Figure 1**).

The DA will be assessed under Part 4 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act). The following terms are used throughout this report:

- Lot 22 DP 809338: the legal name of the lot where the BESS is proposed, approximately 58.41 hectares (ha)
- Study Area: the north east corner of Lot 22 DP 809338, approximately 2.72 ha
- Subject Site (proposed development): BESS and associated infrastructure located within the central west portion of the Study Area (refer to **Figure 2**). The Subject Site is approximately 0.47 ha
- Locality: Land within a five kilometre (km) radius of the Study Area.

1.2 Report Objectives

The objectives of this FFAR include:

- Describe the biodiversity values and landscape features within the Study Area
- Identify native vegetation, noting the extent and condition of Plant Community Types (PCTs), and the presence, condition and extent of any Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs)
- Assess the relevance and value of the Study Area for threatened species and ecological communities (and their habitats) listed under the NSW *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (BC Act)
- Assess the potential impacts of the proposed development on threatened species and ecological communities, pursuant to Section 7.3 of the BC Act (5-part test)
- Discuss the occurrence and relevance of matters of national environmental significance (MNES) listed under the Commonwealth *Environment Planning and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act)
- Discuss the potential for impacts to biodiversity values caused by the construction of the unauthorised structures within the Study Area and provide recommendations to mitigate impacts.

1.3 Site Description

The Study Area is located approximately 4.5 km south west of the township of Holbrook on the Hume Highway, between Gundagai and Albury, within the Greater Hume Shire local government area (LGA) (refer to **Figure 1**). The town of Holbrook is approximately 384 km north-east of the city of Melbourne, in southern region of NSW.

Local land use is mainly rural agriculture, the region around Holbrook is well known for its local produce including the production and export of merino wool, wheat and other grains, lucerne, fat cattle and lamb. The town centre contains an eclectic mix of small businesses and historical landmarks, including a collection of submarine memorabilia and the decommissioned HMAS Otway submarine.

Lot 22 is zoned RU1 – Primary Production under the Greater Hume Council Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 2012. The Study Area is located in the north east of Lot 22 and is bordered by the Hume Highway to the east and Bendemeer Lane to the north (refer to **Figure 2**). Two residences and associated access are located within the central and western portion of Lot 22 and the remaining land is mostly agricultural with patches of woodland vegetation.

The site has a predominantly flat topography and contains several constructed dams of various sizes. All of the dams are distant from the proposed development except for one large dam that is located within the Study Area near the eastern boundary. No natural watercourses occur within or immediately adjacent to the Study Area, however, Sandy Creek (a fourth order stream) is mapped through the central portion of Lot 22 and an unnamed first order stream is mapped within western portion of Lot 22. Both waterways converge just north of Bendemeer Lane.

1.4 Proposed Development

The proposal seeks to construct a BESS and associated infrastructure within the north east corner of Lot 22. Access to the BESS would be achieved via construction of an entranceway and a gate off of Bendemeer Lane. The BESS would be surrounded by security fencing. The indicative site plan is shown on **Figure 2**.

The proposed development has been strategically located to reduce the potential for impacts to native vegetation and biodiversity values within the site. The proposed development has also been located to allow the landowner to continue utilising the surrounding areas of the site for agricultural purposes. The total area of the proposed development is approximately 0.47 ha.

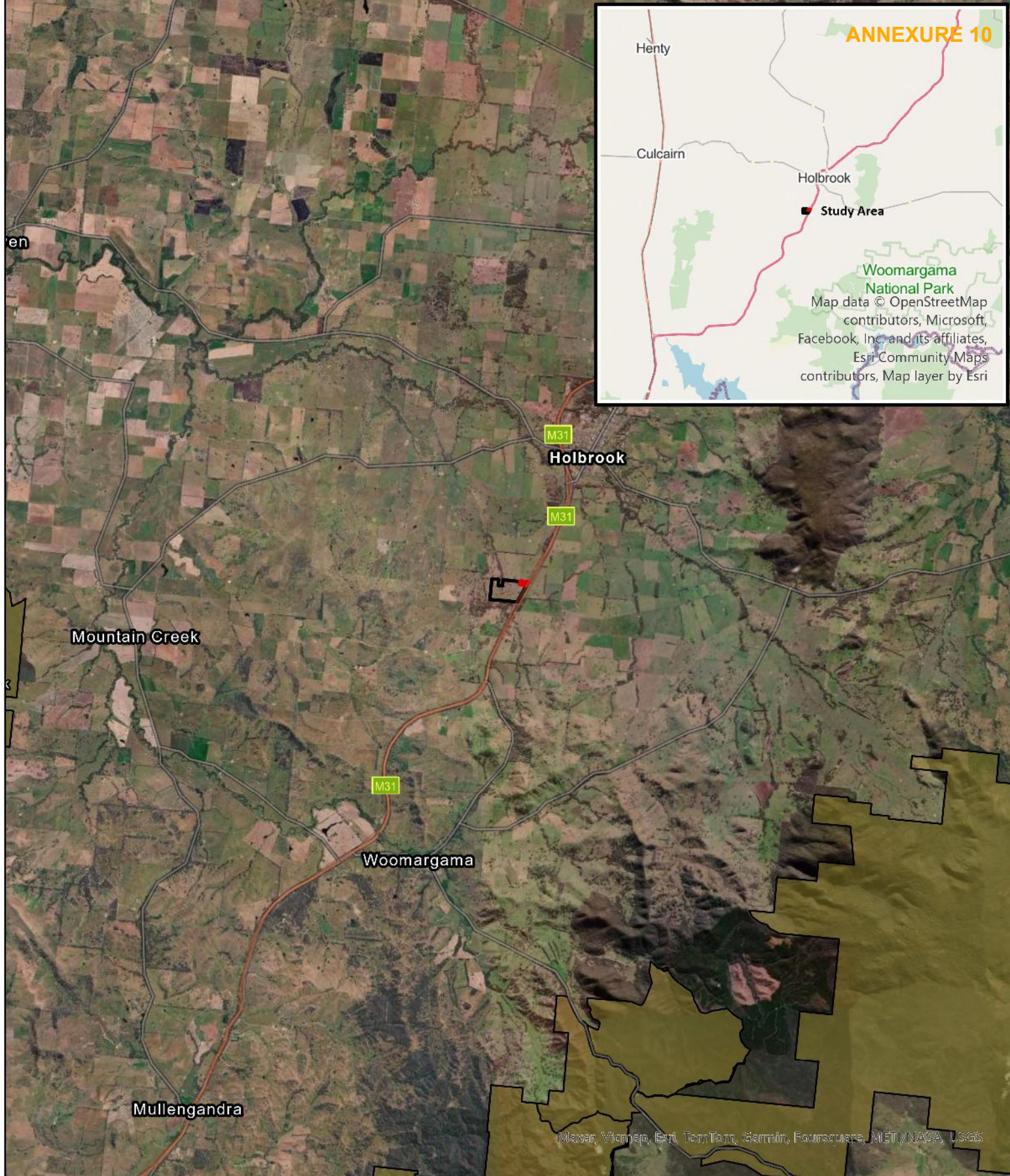





Figure 1 - Locality



- Legend**
-  Lot 22 DP 809338
 -  Study Area
 -  Woomargama National Park

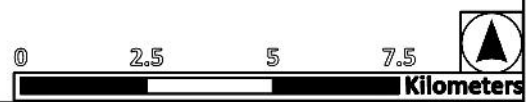




Figure 2 - Study Area and Subject Site (proposed development)



Legend

- | | |
|------------------|----------------------|
| Lot 22 DP 809338 | BESS Security Fence |
| Study Area | Access track |
| Battery | Site access and gate |
| HV Switchgear | Landscaping |
| MVPS | Cadastral Boundary |



2 Legislative Context

2.1 Summary

The assessment was undertaken in accordance and consideration of the following Acts and Policies:

Commonwealth

- *Environment Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act)

State

- *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act)
- *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (BC Act)
- *Biodiversity Conservation Regulation 2017* (BC Regulation)
- *Biosecurity Act 2015*
- *Water Management Act 2000* (WM Act)
- State Environmental Planning Policy (Biodiversity and Conservation) 2021
 - Chapter 3 Koala Habitat Protection 2020
- State Environmental Planning Policy Amendment (Land Use Zones) 2023

Local

- Greater Hume Council Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 2012
- Greater Hume Development Control Plan (DCP) 2013
- Greater Hume Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) 2020

Information pertaining to the above list is presented in the following subsections.

2.1.1 Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act)

Under the EPBC Act, an approval is required for actions that are likely to have a significant impact on MNES. An action includes a project, development, undertaking, activity, or series of activities. When a person proposes to take an action, which they believe may need approval under the EPBC Act, they must refer the proposal to the Australian Government Minister for the Environment. The Act identifies the following nine MNES:

- World Heritage properties
- National heritage places
- Wetlands of international importance (Ramsar Convention)
- Listed threatened species and communities
- Migratory species listed under international agreements
- Great Barrier Reef Marine Park
- Commonwealth marine areas
- Nuclear actions
- Water resources in respect to CSG and large coal mines.

The proponent is required to address the EPBC Act as part of their development application to Council. Relevant matters include listed threatened species and communities. An assessment to address relevant matters is summarised in **Section 4.6.2**.

2.1.2 Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016

The NSW BC Act together with the NSW BC Regulation outlines the framework for addressing impacts on biodiversity from development and clearing. The framework details a pathway to avoid, minimise and offset impacts on biodiversity from development through the Biodiversity Offset Scheme (BOS).

Entry into the BOS is triggered by developments, projects and activities that meet criteria or certain thresholds for significant impacts on biodiversity in accordance with Section 6.3 of the BC Act.

Criteria to which the BOS applies include the following:

- Local Development (assessed under Part 4 of the EP&A Act) that triggers the BOS Threshold or is “likely to significantly affect threatened species” (based on a test of significance pursuant to Section 7.3 of the BC Act). The BOS Threshold has two parts, and is triggered by the following:
 - Clearing of vegetation that exceeds an area threshold (based on the minimum lot size), or
 - Impacts are predicted to occur within an area mapped on the NSW Biodiversity Values Map (BV Map) (DPE 2024f).
- State Significant Development (SSD) and State Significant Infrastructure projects (SSI), unless “the Secretary of the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment and the environment agency head determine that the project is not likely to have a significant impact”
- Biodiversity certification proposals
- Clearing of native vegetation in urban areas and areas zoned for environmental conservation that exceeds the BOS threshold and does not require development consent
- Clearing of native vegetation that requires approval by the Native Vegetation Panel under the Local Land Services Act 2013
- Activities assessed and determined under Part 5 of the EP&A Act (generally, proposals by government entities) if proponents choose to ‘opt in’ to the Scheme.

Conclusion

Sandy Creek is mapped on the NSW BV Map; however, the BV mapping is at least 300 m from the western boundary of the Study Area. The minimum lot size for the site is 100 ha and the native vegetation clearing threshold is one ha. The Study Area contains approximately 0.12 ha of native vegetation; however, the proposed development has been designed to avoid direct impact to these areas. A FFAR is appropriate to support the proposed development.

2.1.3 Biosecurity Act 2015

Under the *Biosecurity Act 2015* all plants are regulated with a general biosecurity duty to prevent, eliminate or minimise any biosecurity risk they may pose. Any person who deals with any plant, who knows (or ought to know) of any biosecurity risk, has a duty to ensure the risk is prevented, eliminated or minimised, so far as is reasonably practicable.

Under the Act, a biosecurity impact is an adverse effect on the economy, environment, or the community that arises, or has the potential to arise, from a biosecurity matter. This legislation is addressed in **Section 4.7**.

2.1.4 Water Management Act 2000

Controlled activities carried out in, on or under waterfront land are regulated by the WM Act. Waterfront land is defined as the bed of any river, lake or estuary, and the land within 40 meters (m) of the riverbanks, lake shore or estuary mean high water mark.

The proposed development does not encroach into areas within 40 m of a mapped waterway (refer to **Figure 2**). Mapped waterways are at least 300 m from the Study Area boundary and the constructed dam is at least 40 m from the proposed development. Mitigation measures to reduce potential indirect impacts to aquatic and riparian environments during construction and operation are discussed in **Section 6**.

2.1.5 State Environmental Planning Policy (Biodiversity and Conservation) 2021

Chapter 3 Koala Habitat Protection 2020

Chapter 3 of the SEPP contains provisions aimed to encourage the conservation and management of areas of natural vegetation that provide habitat for Koalas to support a permanent free-living population over their present range and reverse the current trend of Koala population decline. Where an approved Koala Plan of Management (KPoM) applies to the land, council's determination of the DA must be consistent with the approved KPoM that applies to the land.

The Koala SEPP 2020 applies to LGAs listed under Schedule 2 and that are zoned rural (RU1, RU2 or RU3). The Study Area is zoned RU1 and therefore has been assessed in accordance with the guidelines to determine whether it contains core Koala habitat as defined by the SEPP. The Koala habitat assessment is provided in **Section 4.4.2**.

2.1.6 Greater Hume Council Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 2012

The Greater Hume Council LEP (2012) aims to make local environmental planning provisions for land in Greater Hume in accordance with the relevant standard environmental planning instrument. The particular aims of the LEP include:

- To protect and promote the use and development of land for arts and cultural activity, including music and other performance arts
- To encourage sustainable economic growth and development in Greater Hume
- To protect and retain productive agricultural land
- To protect, conserve and enhance natural assets
- To protect built and cultural heritage assets
- To provide opportunities for the growth of townships.

2.1.7 Greater Hume Development Control Plan 2013

The aim of the Greater Hume Development Control Plan (DCP) 2013 is to

- To reflect the objectives of the EP&A Act
- To implement the Greater Hume Shire Strategic Land Use Plan 2007-2030 (SLUP)
- To assist in the administration of Greater Hume Shire LEP 2012
- To provide good planning outcomes for development in the Shire.

2.1.8 Greater Hume Local Strategic Planning Statement 2020

The Greater Hume Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) 2020 is the key resource to understand how strategic and statutory plans will be implemented at the local level. The LSPS considers land use trends that are currently occurring within the shire and anticipates others that will likely emerge.

3 Methods

3.1 Desktop Assessment

3.1.1 Database Search

Existing information on flora and fauna within the Study Area and the locality, including relevant threatened biota, was obtained from:

- The BioNet Atlas of NSW Wildlife (DPE 2024a) for previous records of threatened species, populations and ecological communities (as listed under the BC Act) within a five km radius of the Study Area
- The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW 2024a) Protected Matters Search Tool, for MNES within a five km radius of the Study Area
- NSW BioNet Vegetation Classification database
- Mitchell Landscapes Version V3.1
- Soil Landscapes of Central and Eastern NSW - V2.1
- Threatened Biodiversity Data Collection (TBDC)
- Historical aerial imagery (NearMap 2024)

The results of the database searches were used to compile a list of threatened species, populations, and communities, as listed under the BC Act and EPBC Act that could potentially occur within the Study Area (refer to **Appendix A**). The results were used to inform the assessment of suitable habitat for survey requirements of threatened species and populations within the Study Area.

3.1.2 Regional Vegetation Mapping Projects

The NSW State Vegetation Type Map maps most of the agricultural areas within the Study Area as Not Classified. The following Plant Community Types (PCTs) are mapped as occurring within Lot 22:

- PCT 277 - Blakelys Red Gum - Yellow Box grassy tall woodland of the NSW South Western Slopes Bioregion
- PCT 278 - Riparian Blakelys Red Gum - box - shrub - sedge - grass tall open forest of the central NSW South Western Slopes Bioregion
- PCT 633 - Speargrass - Redleg Grass derived grassland on hills in the Jindera to Holbrook region, southern NSW South Western Slopes Bioregion.

The vegetation assessment determined that this mapping is relatively accurate (refer to **Section 4.3**).

3.2 Field Survey

3.2.1 Photo Points

A total of ten photo points were taken throughout the Study Area on 04 January 2024 to demonstrate the condition of vegetation and assist with delineating and/or clarifying vegetation boundaries. Photo point locations are illustrated on **Figure 3** and corresponding photographs are provided in **Appendix B**.

3.2.2 Random Meander

A general search (random meander) for threatened biota was undertaken on 04 January 2024 throughout the Study Area and within the patches of woodland vegetation adjacent to the site's northern boundary. Survey tracks are displayed on **Figure 3**.

3.2.3 Vegetation Mapping Surveys

The boundaries of vegetation were mapped using a combination of rapid data points (RDP) and walking transects, using the polygons produced through aerial photo interpretation (API) to assist in targeting survey effort. The RDPs involved collecting waypoints using a handheld GPS unit and recording dominant species, structure and condition. Walking transects involved verifying polygons where homogenous in floristic composition and condition, as well as walking vegetation ecotones and using the recorded tracks to define vegetation community boundaries. The RDPs and survey tracks were then overlaid on an aerial photograph and used to delineate and/or clarify vegetation boundaries.

3.2.4 Plant Community Type and Determination

In addition to floristic and structural similarity, one plot transect was undertaken to assess attributes such as floristic composition, structure and functionality and determine vegetation condition (refer to **Figure 3**). The closest equivalent PCT for each vegetation community was determined through a comparison of the floristic descriptions of PCTs listed in the BioNet Vegetation Classification Database (DPE 2024b). The landscape position, soil type and other diagnostic features of the vegetation communities on the site were also compared to the descriptions in the database. Threatened ecological communities (TEC) as defined in NSW and Commonwealth legislation were also identified if present.

3.2.5 Floristic Identification and Nomenclature

Floristic identification and nomenclature were based on Harden (1992, 1993, 2000 and 2002) with subsequent revisions as published on PlantNet (<http://plantnet.rbg Syd.nsw.gov.au>).

3.2.6 Habitat Assessment

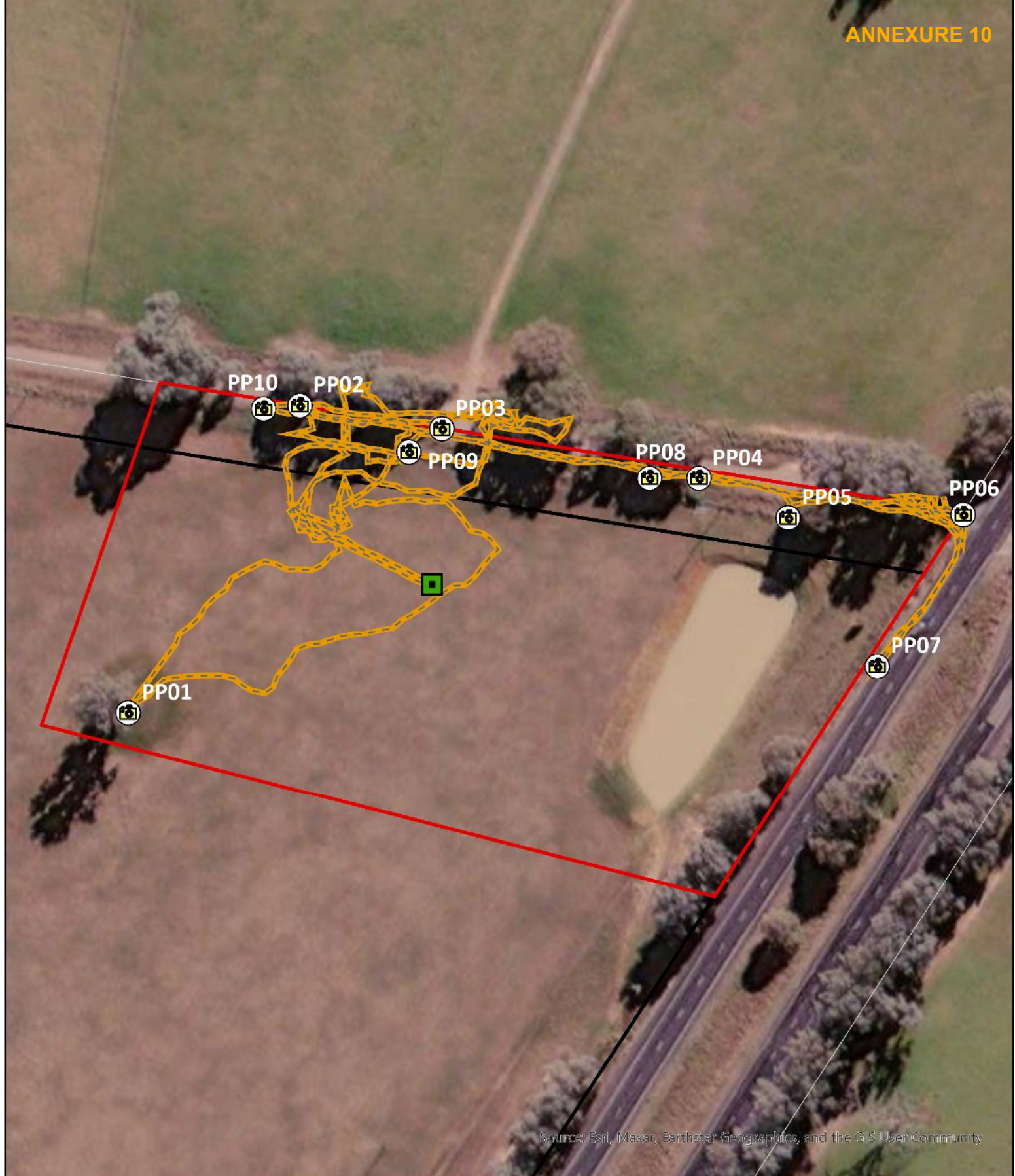
The BC Act and EPBC Act database search results were used to inform the habitat assessment undertaken throughout the Study Area on 04 January 2024 (refer to **Appendix A**). The survey aimed to identify hollows and their attributes (height, diameter, position), nests, dead standing stags, Koala feed trees, and to inform habitat suitability for threatened species A boundary (refer to **Figure 3**).

Diurnal opportunistic and incidental observations of fauna species were recorded during field surveys. These included opportunistic observations of fauna activity such as scats, tracks, burrows, or other traces and any important habitat features, such as microbat roosting habitat and terrestrial refugia. Searches for potential habitat for threatened fauna species included but were not limited to:

- Foraging trees for threatened bird and hollow-bearing trees
- Koala feed trees (scratches and scats)
- Potential roosts for microbats
- Vegetated ponds, riparian vegetation and drainage lines for frogs and waterbirds
- Woody debris, leaf litter and bush rock.

3.2.7 Survey Limitations

The survey techniques and survey effort applied for this study were commensurate with the nature and condition of the biodiversity values within the Study Area. Due to the low condition and extent of habitat, a reduced survey effort was deemed appropriate. Due to the lack of native vegetation within the Study Area, the limited availability of fauna habitat, and the low number of historical records of threatened species within the locality, targeted surveys for threatened species were not conducted. Opportunistic surveys were conducted during the site inspection and a detailed habitat assessment was conducted for all threatened biota previously recorded or predicted to occur within the locality based on State and Commonwealth information sources.



Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community

Figure 3 - Survey Effort



Legend

-  Lot 22 DP 809338
-  Study Area
-  Photo Points
-  BAM Plot
-  Targeted Survey Track
-  Cadastral Boundary



4 Results

4.1 Landscape Features

The landscape features that are applicable to the Study Area are described in **Table 1**.

Table 1 Landscape Features

Landscape Features	Information
IBRA Region	NSW South Western Slopes Bioregion
IBRA Sub Region	Lower Slopes Sub Region
Local Government Area	Berrigan LGA
Mitchell Landscape	The Study Area lies within the Mitchell Landscape identified as the Brokong Plains. The Brokong Landscape occurs on quaternary alluvial plains, general elevation 170m, local relief <10m. Red-brown texture contrast soils, extensively cleared and cropped, formerly Grey Box (<i>Eucalyptus microcarpa</i>), Yellow Box (<i>Eucalyptus melliodora</i>), Blakely's red gum (<i>Eucalyptus blakelyii</i>) and White Cypress Pine (<i>Callitris glaucophylla</i>) woodland to open forest.
Rivers, streams and estuaries	No waterways are mapped within the Study Area. An unnamed first order stream is mapped approximately 600 m to the west of the Study Area within Lot 22 and Sandy Creek, a fourth order stream, is mapped approximately 300 m west of the Study Area through the central portion of the lot. Both waterways converge just north of Bendemeer Lane. A constructed dam is located near the eastern boundary of the Study Area, the dam is at least 40 m from the proposed development. Mitigation measures to reduce the potential for indirect impacts to aquatic and riparian environments are provided in Section 6 .
Wetlands	The proposed development has been positioned to avoid areas of aquatic and riparian habitat. No mapped coastal wetlands (DPE 2022i) occur within or adjacent to the Study Area. The Hume Dam is located approximately 30 km south of the site. The nearest State listed floodplain wetlands and Commonwealth listed Wetlands of National Importance (Ramsar sites) are the Central Murray Forests Ramsar sites located on the floodplain of the Murray River in south-central NSW. Central Murray Forests Ramsar sites are approximately 170 km west and are comprised of three geographically discrete but interrelated units: Murray Valley National Park and Murray Valley Regional Park (formally the Millewa Forest), Werai Forests, and Koondrook -Perricoota Forests.
Connectivity of different areas of habitat	On a local level the Study Area is situated within an area mostly cleared for rural land and agricultural production and connectivity is limited. The fragmented patches of woodland vegetation, adjacent to the Study Areas northern boundary, are part of local corridor. Although it is fragmented, it provides a disjunct north/south link to other patches within the locality. Woomargama National Park is located approximately 11 km to the south east and Benambra National Park is located approximately 14 km south west of the site. Mitigation measures to reduce the potential for indirect impacts to the woodland vegetation are provided in Section 6 .
Areas of geological significance and soil hazard features	There are no areas of geological significance within the Study Area. There are no significant soil hazard features within the Study Area; no steep slopes occur, and no mapped Acid Sulphate Soil.
Areas of outstanding biodiversity value	There are no areas of outstanding biodiversity value mapped within the Study Area.

4.2 Historical Aerial imagery

Historical imagery of the Study Area and the locality is limited. Online Nearmap imagery covering the Study Area is current (2024), however the image is unavailable to download as the area is not covered by Nearmap.

4.3 Vegetation Assessment

4.3.1 Floristic Diversity

A low diversity of plant species were recorded within the Study Area and the woodland vegetation. A total of 28 plant species comprised of seven native species and 21 exotic species were recorded. A complete list of the flora species identified during the assessment is provided in **Appendix C**. The presence of noxious weeds and priority weeds for the region are discussed further in **Section 4.3.2** below.

4.3.2 Weeds

A total of 21 exotic plant species were detected during the assessment. None of the exotic species identified are priority listed weeds under the NSW *Biosecurity Act 2015* for the Greater Hume Shire LGA or are they Commonwealth listed Weeds of National Significance (WoNS) (further discussed in **Section 4.7**). The most dominant exotic plant species include:

- *Panicum coloratum* (Coolah Grass)
- *Avena barbata* (Bearded Oats)
- *Lolium perenne* (Perennial Ryegrass)
- *Phalaris aquaticus* (Phalaris)
- *Conyza bonariensis* (Flax-leaf Fleabane)
- *Hypochaeris radicata* (Cat's Ear).

Recommendations to prevent the introduction or the spread of exotic plant species during the construction phase of the project are provided in **Section 6**.

4.3.3 Plant Community Type Identification

As the Study Area has been used for agriculture for some time, most of the vegetation present does not contain an assemblage of native plant species with a floristic composition or structure representative of a native PCT, as defined by the BioNet Vegetation Classification Database (DPE 2024b). However, small patches of native vegetation occurring within the Study Areas eastern boundary and directly north of the Study Area.

Based on floristic and structural composition of vegetation within these areas were assigned to one PCT:

- PCT 277 - Blakelys Red Gum - Yellow Box grassy tall woodland of the NSW South Western Slopes Bioregion.

Further information pertaining to the floristic composition of the vegetation within the Study Area and PCT 277 is summarised in **Table 2** and **Table 3** below. Representative photographs of the vegetation are presented in **Plates 1** through to **4**. The extent of each vegetation type is illustrated on **Figure 4**.

Table 2 Non-native Agricultural Cropland

Criteria	Information
PCT	The agricultural areas of the Study Area do not contain native vegetation commensurate with a PCT.
Area within the Study Area	2.22 ha
Area within the Subject Site	0.47 ha
Floristic description	<p>The Study Area is vegetated throughout with agricultural land (refer to Plate 1 and Plate 2). The groundcover is dominated throughout by exotic grasses and forbs. The dominant grass species include <i>Panicum coloratum</i> (Coolah Grass), <i>Phalaris aquaticus</i> (Phalaris), and <i>Lolium perenne</i> (Perennial Ryegrass). Introduced forbs included <i>Conyza bonariensis</i> (Flax-leaf Fleabane), <i>Cirsium vulgare</i> (Spear Thistle) and <i>Malva parviflora</i> (Small-flowered Mallow). Minor occurrences of <i>Lactuca serriola</i> (Prickly Lettuce), <i>Hirshfeldia incana</i> (Hairy Brassica), <i>Sonchus oleraceus</i> (Common Sowthistle) were also observed along the fence lines bordering the site.</p> <p>Native species were limited to occasional occurrences of <i>Portulaca oleracea</i> (Pigweed), <i>Einadia nutans</i> (Climbing Saltbush), and <i>Lythrum hyssopifolia</i> (Hyssop Loosestrife).</p>
Condition	The vegetation is in a low condition state and contains of low diversity of native species and lacks structural complexity.
Status	<p>BC Act: Not applicable</p> <p>EPBC Act: Not applicable</p>



Plate 1 Agricultural cropland within the Study Area (Q01 - start)



Plate 2 Agricultural cropland within the Study Area (Q01 - end)

Table 3 PCT 277 - Blakelys Red Gum - Yellow Box grassy tall woodland

Criteria	Information
PCT	PCT 277 - Blakelys Red Gum - Yellow Box grassy tall woodland of the NSW South Western Slopes Bioregion
Area within the Study Area	0.12 ha – canopy of tree species only
Area within the Subject Site	0.0 ha
Floristic description	The canopy is dominated by <i>Eucalyptus polyanthemos</i> (Red Box) and <i>Eucalyptus blakelyi</i> (Blakely’s Red Gum) (refer to Plate 3 and Plate 4). The shrub layer is largely absent. The groundcover is dominated throughout by native and introduced grass species such as <i>Panicum coloratum</i> (Coolah Grass), <i>Phalaris aquaticus</i> (Phalaris), and <i>Lolium perenne</i> (Perennial Ryegrass). A low cover of native grass species occurs, including sparse occurrences of <i>Microlaena stipoides var stipoides</i> (Weeping Grass) and <i>Rytidosperma caespitosum</i> (Ringed Wallaby Grass). A sparse coverage of native forbs occurs, including <i>Sida corrugata</i> (Corrugated Sida) and <i>Oxalis perennans</i> .
Condition	Due to the fragmented state of the woodlands and the lack of plant diversity present, the vegetation is in a low condition state.
Status	<p>BC Act: Commensurate with the Critically Endangered Ecological Community (EEC):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> White Box - Yellow Box - Blakely’s Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland in the NSW North Coast, New England Tableland, Nandewar, Brigalow Belt South, Sydney Basin, South Eastern Highlands, NSW South Western Slopes, South East Corner and Riverina Bioregions <p>Note that disturbed remnants of the EEC are still considered to form part of the community including remnants where the vegetation, either understory, overstorey or both, would, under appropriate management, respond to assisted natural regeneration, such as where the natural soil and associated seed bank are still at least partially intact (further discussed in Section 4.6).</p> <p>EPBC Act: Not applicable (further discussed in Section 4.6).</p>

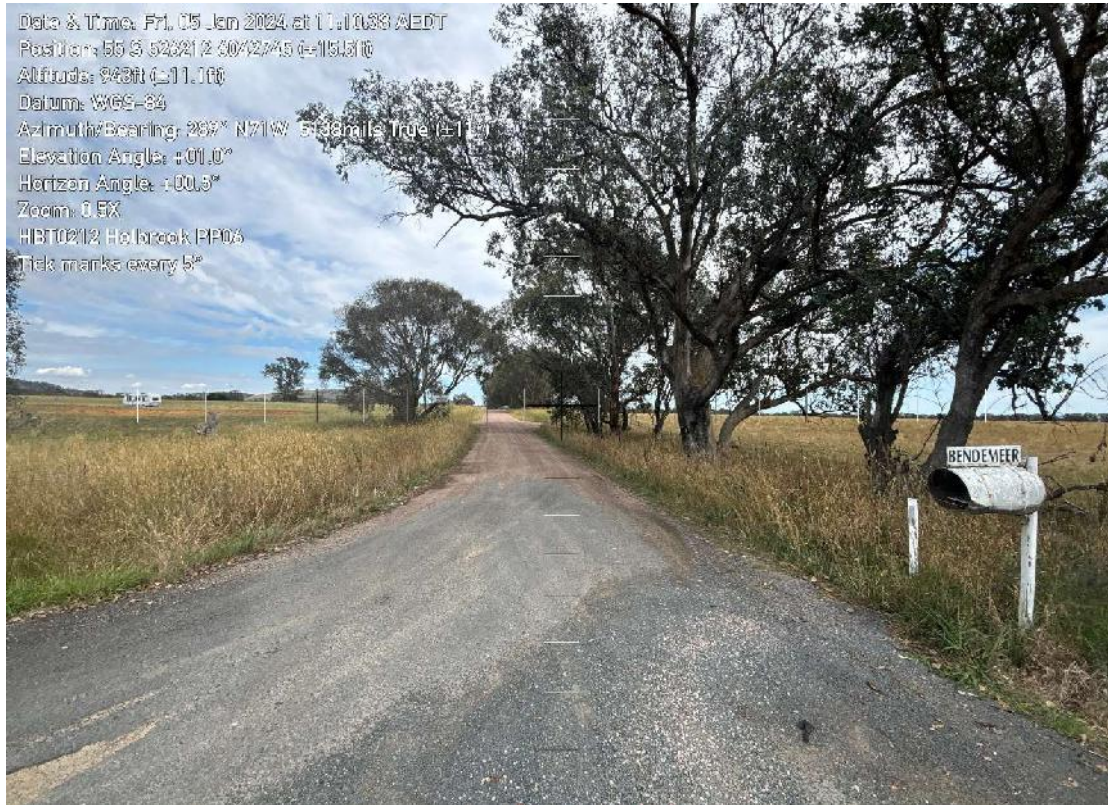


Plate 3 PCT 76 woodland vegetation east of the Study Area (PP07)



Plate 4 PCT 76 woodland vegetation east of the Study Area (PP05)



Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community

Figure 4 - Vegetation Mapping and Habitat Features



Legend	
Lot 22 DP 809338	Non-native Agricultural Grassland
Study Area	PCT 277 Blakely's Red Gum Yellow Box grassy tall woodland of the NSW SW Slopes Bioregion
HBT	EEC - White Box Yellow Box Blakely's Red Gum Woodland
Dam	Cadastral Boundary



4.4 Habitat Assessment

4.4.1 Habitat Features

The vegetation within the Study Area lacks key habitat features for flora and fauna species, including a complex vegetation structure, dense groundcover, leaf litter, stags, nests and habitat logs for the provision of shelter and refugia. The native vegetation that is present is fragmented and mostly comprised of canopy trees. Only one hollow bearing tree (mature Blakely's Red Gum), containing a small sized hollow, was identified near the south western boundary of the Study Area (refer to **Figure 4**).

The constructed dam to the east of the Study Area contains no aquatic or emergent native vegetation and is likely to hold water on a semi-to permanent basis. Although the dam may provide a source of water for local fauna, no breeding habitat for waterbirds or migratory species is present.



Plate 5 hollow bearing tree in the south west of the Study Area

4.4.2 Koala Habitat

The definition of core Koala habitat under the Koala SEPP 2020 includes a reference to highly suitable habitat. Highly suitable habitat is where 15% or greater of the total number of trees within any PCT are the regionally relevant species of those listed in Schedule 2. Greater Hume Shire LGA is within the Central and Southern Tablelands Koala management area.

The patches of woodland (PCT 277) vegetation within and adjacent to the Study Areas northern boundary contains two species of Koal feed trees (*Eucalyptus blakelyi* and *Eucalyptus albens*). These species do not constitute greater than 15% of the canopy cover within the Study Area and therefore the site does not meet the definition of highly suitable habitat as defined by the SEPP. The patches of woodland vegetation adjacent to the northern boundary is within the roadside verge of Bendemeer Lane and less than one ha in area. Consequently, it also does not constitute highly suitable habitat as defined by the SEPP.

A review of historical Koala records (DPE 2023g) from within a five km radius of the Study Area was undertaken. The review returned no records of Koala locations within five km's of the Study Area. The closest Koala record is from 2023 and is located approximately 20 km south of the site. No signs of Koala activity, such as scats or scratches, were identified during the assessment and no areas of native woodland would be impacted by the proposed development. No further assessment under the Koala SEPP 2020 is required.

4.5 Threatened Species

As areas of native woodland vegetation within and adjacent to the Study Area will not be impacted by the proposed development, the threatened species assessment has been limited to a discussion of the habitat values present within the Study Area. Mitigation measures to reduce the potential for indirect impacts to the woodland vegetation are provided in **Section 6**.

4.5.1 Threatened Flora

No threatened flora species were detected during the assessment. A search of the BioNet Atlas of NSW Wildlife (DPE 2024a) returned no threatened flora species within a five km radius of the Study Area. An EPBC Protected Matters Search returned a list of eleven threatened plant species predicted to occur within five km of the Study Area.

Vegetation clearing for agriculture has facilitated the growth of exotic ground cover species and caused a decline in native species richness throughout the Study Area. The remaining areas of native vegetation are small and fragmented and unlikely to be large enough to support viable populations of threatened flora species.

4.5.2 Threatened Fauna

No threatened fauna species were detected during the assessment. A search of the BioNet Atlas of NSW Wildlife (DPE 2024a) returned a total of three threatened species, comprising two birds and one mammal within a five km radius of the Study Area (refer to **Appendix A**). An EPBC Protected Matters Search returned a list of 25 threatened fauna species, comprised of 18 birds, two amphibians, three mammals, one insect, and one reptile species predicted to occur within a five km radius of the Study Area.

The likelihood of occurrence assessment determined that the threatened fauna species have a low potential to occur within the Study Area (refer to **Appendix A**). Clearing for agriculture has diminished the habitat quality and the biodiversity value of the Study Area for these species. Threatened fauna species are likely to forage within the Study Area as part of a broader network of habitats within the locality.

The proposed development will not impact on potential foraging or breeding habitat and the proposed BESS layout has been designed to avoid all direct impacts to native vegetation and aquatic habitat while ensuring that connective areas of habitat within the locality are maintained. Mitigation to reduce the potential for indirect impacts are provided in **Section 6**.

4.6 Threatened Ecological Communities

4.6.1 NSW BC Act

The patches of PCT 277 woodland vegetation within and adjacent to the Study Area's northern boundary are commensurate with the NSW BC Act listed Critically Endangered Ecological Community (CEEC):

- White Box - Yellow Box - Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland in the NSW North Coast, New England Tableland, Nandewar, Brigalow Belt South, Sydney Basin, South Eastern Highlands, NSW South Western Slopes, South East Corner and Riverina Bioregions

Although the woodland vegetation is fragmented and contains a primarily exotic groundcover, it is still considered to form part of the CEEC based on the final determination (NSW Scientific Committee 2020). Relevant listing criteria are summarised below:

- The vegetation occurs within the NSW South Western Slopes Bioregion where the CEEC is known to occur
- The vegetation has a grassy woodland structure and occurs on fertile soils that typically support the CEEC
- The canopy vegetation is dominated by *Eucalyptus blakelyi* (Blakely's Red Gum) and *Eucalyptus polyanthemos* (Red Box Box) which are characteristic tree species within the CEEC
- The shrub layer is sparse, which is a characteristic of the CEEC
- The groundcover is dominated by mostly exotic plant species, however one of the key diagnostic species, *Microlaena stipoides* (Weeping Grass), is present.

No areas of the CEEC will be directly impacted by the proposed developed (further discussed in **Section 5**).

4.6.2 Commonwealth EPBC Act

The patches of PCT 277 woodland vegetation within and adjacent to the Study Area's northern boundary is not commensurate with the Commonwealth EPBC Act listed EEC White Box – Yellow Box – Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland.

In accordance with the listing criteria from the Commonwealth Conservation Advice for the EEC (Commonwealth Scientific Committee 2021), a woodland patch is defined as follows:

- A patch is considered to be dominated or co-dominated by the identified Eucalypt species where one, or a combination of these species are collectively the most abundant trees in the canopy – in terms of either crown cover (at least 50% of the canopy cover), or stem/trunk density (at least 50% of the trees in the patch).

In accordance with the condition thresholds for the EEC the woodland patches within and adjacent to the Study do not form part of the CEEC due to the following:

- The patch size for the largest patch of woodland (adjacent to the northern boundary) is 0.36 ha, all of the other patches are less than 0.1 ha
- The understory of all woodland patches is predominantly comprised of non-native species and no areas contain more than 12 native non-grass species.

4.7 Biosecurity Act

Several exotic plant species were detected during the assessment; however, none are listed under the NSW *Biosecurity Act 2015* for the Greater Hume Shire LGA as priority weeds. Additionally, none of the species are listed WoNS under the Commonwealth EPBC Act. Recommendations to prevent the introduction or spread of weeds during the construction phase of the project are provided in **Section 6**.

5 Impact Assessment

5.1 Direct Impacts

Mitigation and management measures are presented in **Section 6** to reduce the potential for these impacts.

5.1.1 Removal of Native Vegetation

The construction and operation of the proposed development would impact on 0.47 ha of non-native agricultural cropland. No native vegetation would be directly impacted (refer to **Figure 4**).

5.1.2 Removal of Habitat

No hollows or other important habitat features within the Study Area will be directly impacted by the proposed development. The site does not represent important habitat for locally occurring species. Direct impacts to fauna habitat include soil disturbance during construction and the potential displacement of ground-dwelling fauna such as amphibians and reptiles.

5.1.3 Impacts to Threatened Species

No BC Act listed species were identified within the Study Area. The location of the proposed development ensures that connective areas of habitat within the locality are maintained however indirect impacts to species may occur if not managed.

Indirect impacts from the construction and operation of the proposed development are considered not to be significant. The implementation of mitigation measures provided in **Section 6** will reduce the potential for indirect impacts to the species.

5.1.4 Impacts to Threatened Ecological Communities

A total of 0.12 ha of the NSW BC Act listed CEEC White Box - Yellow Box - Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland in the NSW North Coast, New England Tableland, Nandewar, Brigalow Belt South, Sydney Basin, South Eastern Highlands, NSW South Western Slopes, South East Corner and Riverina Bioregions occurs within the Study Area.

An assessment of significance in accordance with Section 7.3 of the BC Act for the CEEC is provided in **Appendix D**. The assessment determined that significant impacts to the CEEC, as a result of the proposed development are unlikely given that no areas of CEEC will be directly impacted. Mitigation measures provided in **Section 6** to reduce the potential for indirect impacts associated with the proposed development.

5.2 Indirect impacts

5.2.1 Edge Effects

Edge effects may cause adverse changes to the structure and function of areas of retained vegetation from factors such as increased light intensity and duration, increased exposure to wind, dust and weed invasion in edge habitats and adjoining vegetation.

The construction and operation of the proposed development are unlikely to have caused a change in abiotic conditions, as the habitat within the Study Area is cleared of native vegetation and the retained woodland vegetation has already been subjected to long-term edge effects. Site conditions following construction are unlikely to substantially have changed or modified the abiotic conditions of any retained vegetation.

5.2.2 Loss of hollows

Hollows represent important microhabitat features and provide potential nesting and breeding sites for arboreal fauna and bird species. No hollow-bearing trees will be directly impacted from the proposed development.

5.2.3 Transport of Weeds and Pathogens

The activities associated with clearing vegetation and increased human presence during construction and operation have potential to introduce waste and weeds into adjacent vegetation outside the proposed development as well as increase the risk of introducing plant and animal diseases carried on machinery.

A consolidated list of plant species from the flora survey identified several exotic species. If not managed, weed incursion and the introduction of waste and disease during construction activities can reduce the viability and vegetation integrity of the adjacent woodland habitat.

5.2.4 Noise and Vibration

Anthropogenic noise can alter the behaviour of animals or interfere with their normal functioning. During construction of the proposal there will likely be increased noise and vibration levels due to vegetation clearing, ground disturbance, machinery and vehicle movements, and general human presence. Noise impacts during operation are expected to be minimal.

5.2.5 Contamination

During the construction phase localised release of contaminants (hydraulic fluids, oils, drilling fluids, etc.) into the surrounding environment (aquatic, riparian and terrestrial habitats) may accidentally occur. Accidental release of contaminants is considered low risk, and if it did occur would likely be localised and able to be contained. Control measures will include ensuring that accidental spills are immediately reported and remediated.

5.2.6 Cumulative Impacts

Cumulative impacts arise from the interaction of individual elements associated with the unauthorised development and the additive effects of other external projects. The potential for cumulative impact is low due to the historical and current land use of the Study Area and the surrounding rural environment



6 Mitigation Measures

Mitigation measures proposed to minimise and avoid potential impacts associated with the proposed development are summarised below and detailed in **Table 4**.

Table 4 Mitigation Measures

Potential Impacts	Mitigation Measures	Responsibility	Timing
Adverse impacts to native vegetation in areas adjacent to the Study Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clearly delineate the boundaries of the project footprint to prevent any unnecessary clearing beyond its extent. This includes the installation of appropriate fencing along the extent of the Study Area. Fencing should prohibit entry into the adjacent retained vegetation and minimise indirect impacts during construction such as the movement of dust and rubbish into the forest. Ensure vehicle and equipment parking areas and stockpile areas are identified and positioned to avoid areas containing ecological value, i.e., no stockpiling or parking in retained forest. Stockpiling must not occur within, or in close proximity (5m) to, areas of native vegetation in adjacent habitat. Appropriate signage such as 'no-go zone' should be installed around the boundaries of the adjacent vegetation and communicated during site inductions. Tree protection measures should be implemented where appropriate to protect retained trees on the boundary of any construction areas. Tree protection measures should consider allowances for Tree Protection Zones in accordance with AS4970 (Standards Australia, 2009). 	Construction site manager	Prior to and during vegetation clearing
Impacts to surface and groundwater quality and quantity due to sediment run-off and/or contaminant runoff into adjacent watercourses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Source controls such as sediment fences, mulching and jute matting should be utilized where appropriate. Site-based vehicles should carry spill kits. Erosion and sediment control will be required for future construction activities in accordance with Managing Urban Stormwater: Soils and Construction (Landcom 2004) prior to commencement of construction. Limit the use of pesticides in the project footprint where possible to avoid contamination off site. 	Construction site manager	During vegetation clearing, construction and operation



Potential Impacts	Mitigation Measures	Responsibility	Timing
Vehicle collision with fauna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Speed limits within the Study Area should be limited to 20 km/hr. This limit should be clearly signed at all entry points to site The Study Area should be separated from vegetated and riparian areas throughout the construction and operational phases of the future development. This separation should be achieved through physical barriers including fencing and appropriate signage. 	Construction site manager	During construction and operation
Transfer of weeds and pathogens to and from site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The fungal pathogens <i>Phytophthora cinnamomi</i> and Myrtle Rust (<i>Puccinia psidii</i>) are known to occur in the region, however, it is unknown if they occur within the Study Area. These pathogens can have devastating impacts on native plant communities and inhabiting fauna if not properly managed. Vehicles and equipment should arrive clean and leave clean. Vehicles should follow formed tracks / driveways where appropriate. High-threat weeds occur within the Development Site. Topsoil is to be disposed of appropriately and not stored within retained vegetation. Any stored topsoil piles should be covered or threatened regularly for emerging weeds. 	Construction site manager	During vegetation clearing, construction, and operation
Noise, vibration, lighting, waste and air pollution impacts to adjacent sensitive habitat areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased human activity (from workers and traffic levels) directly adjacent to sensitive habitat areas may cause disturbance to flora and fauna species in adjoining habitat. Measures to mitigate impacts on flora and fauna from noise, vibration, waste, light and air pollution such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enforce 'carry-in, carry-out' policy regarding rubbish and waste materials generated on-site during construction to avoid waste materials entering adjacent vegetation. Restriction of public access and associated impacts from domestic pets, waste dumping and damage to adjoining vegetation must be enforced pre, during and post construction. Fence sensitive areas to delineate 'no-go' zones. Levels of lighting within the site should be reduced to a minimal level to reduce any adverse effects upon the essential behavioral patterns of light-sensitive fauna. Lighting should comply with Australian Standard AS4282 (INT) 1997 – Control of Obtrusive Effects of Outdoor Lighting. Noise minimisation practices in accordance with DPE recommendations. 	Construction site manager	During construction and operation



Potential Impacts	Mitigation Measures	Responsibility	Timing
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Dust control measures should involve covering loads where required; stopping operations under excessive wind conditions including ceasing operations if required; use of water tankers as required to control dust; truck wheel washes or other dust removal measures.		

7 Summary

ACEnergy Pty Ltd are proposing to construct a BESS in the north east of Lot 22 DP 809338, Hume Highway, Holbrook, NSW. The proposed development is approximately 0.47 ha and is proposed within land already cleared for agriculture.

The vegetation within the Study Area is highly modified and has been subject to long-term agricultural production, most of the vegetation is not representative of a native PCT.

Small patches of native vegetation occur within the Study Areas eastern boundary and directly to the north of the Study Area along Bendemeer Lane. These areas were assigned to one PCT:

- PCT 277 - Blakelys Red Gum - Yellow Box grassy tall woodland of the NSW South Western Slopes Bioregion.

This community is commensurate with the following NSW BC Act listed CEEC:

- White Box - Yellow Box - Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland in the NSW North Coast, New England Tableland, Nandewar, Brigalow Belt South, Sydney Basin, South Eastern Highlands, NSW South Western Slopes, South East Corner and Riverina Bioregions.

No direct impacts to the CEEC will occur as a result of the proposed development.

The Study Area does not contain core Koala habitat as defined by the Koala SEPP 2020 and key habitat features are limited throughout the Study Area. Only one hollow bearing tree (mature Blakely's Red Gum), containing a small sized hollow, was identified near the south western boundary of the Study Area. The hollow would not be directly impacted by the proposed development.

No threatened flora or fauna species were identified within the Study Area during the assessment. Due to the absence of several important habitat features, only mobile fauna species are likely to use the Study Area intermittently as part of a broader network of habitat within the locality.

The proposed development is unlikely to cause a significant impact to any threatened species, populations, or ecological communities listed under the NSW BC Act or the EPBC Act. An EPBC Act referral to the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment is not recommended.

Avoidance and mitigation measures have been provided to reduce the potential for indirect impacts to biodiversity values within surrounding environments, including aquatic, riparian and terrestrial habitats.

8 References

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Appendix A – Threatened Species Database Search

A list of threatened species, populations and ecological communities that have been reported or modelled to occur from within a five-kilometre radius of the Study Area was obtained from the DPIE BioNet Atlas: (<http://www.bionet.nsw.gov.au/>).

The table below summarises the likelihood of threatened species occurring within the Subject Site based on the habitat requirements of each species.

Definition of the likelihood of occurrence criteria are provided below:

- Present – species identified within the site during surveys
- High – species known from the area (DPIE BioNet Atlas records), suitable habitat (such as roosting and foraging habitat) present within the site
- Moderate – species may be known from the area, potential habitat is present within the site
- Low – Few recent historical records, species not known from the area and/or marginal habitat present
- Nil – habitat requirements not met for this species within the site.

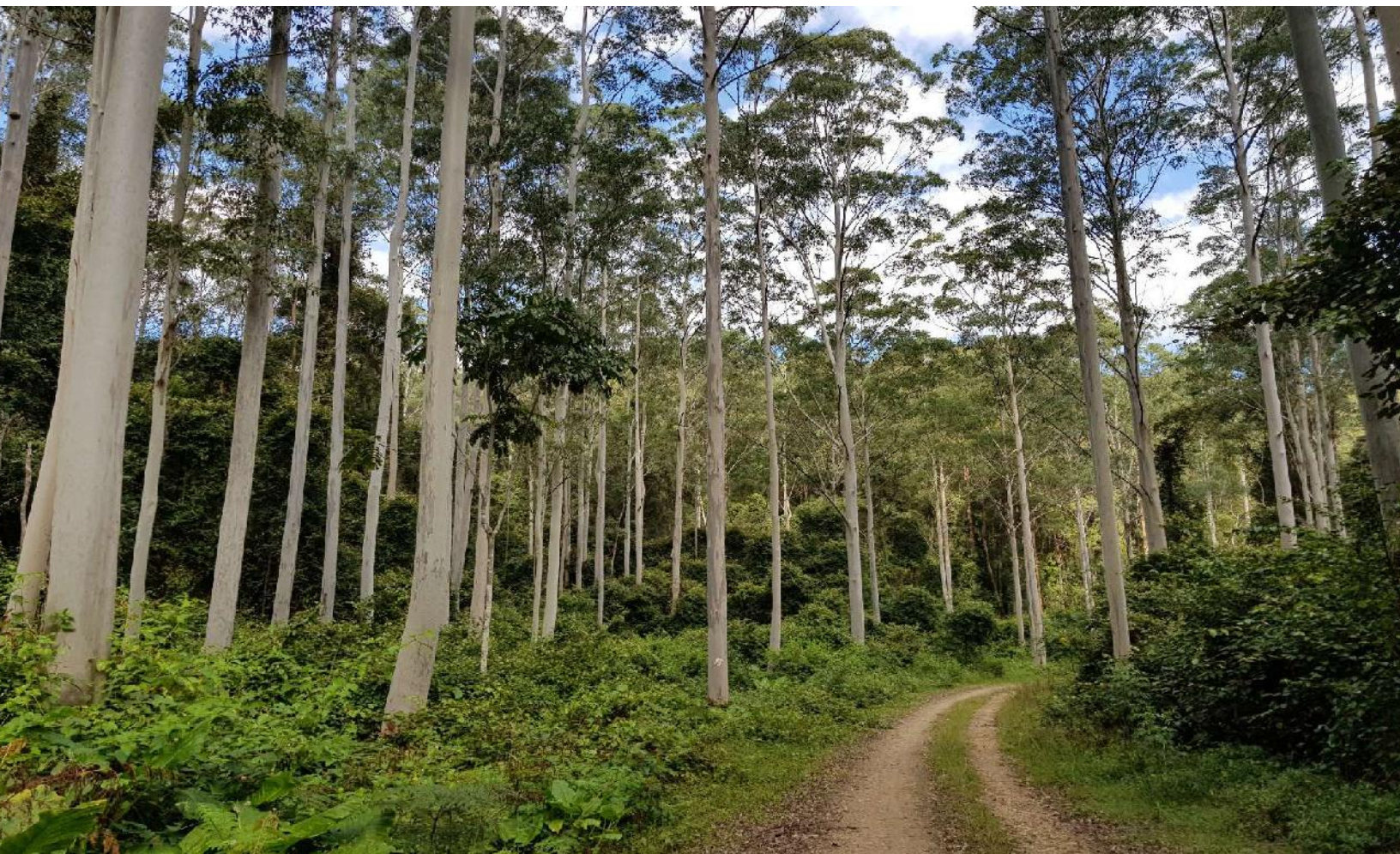
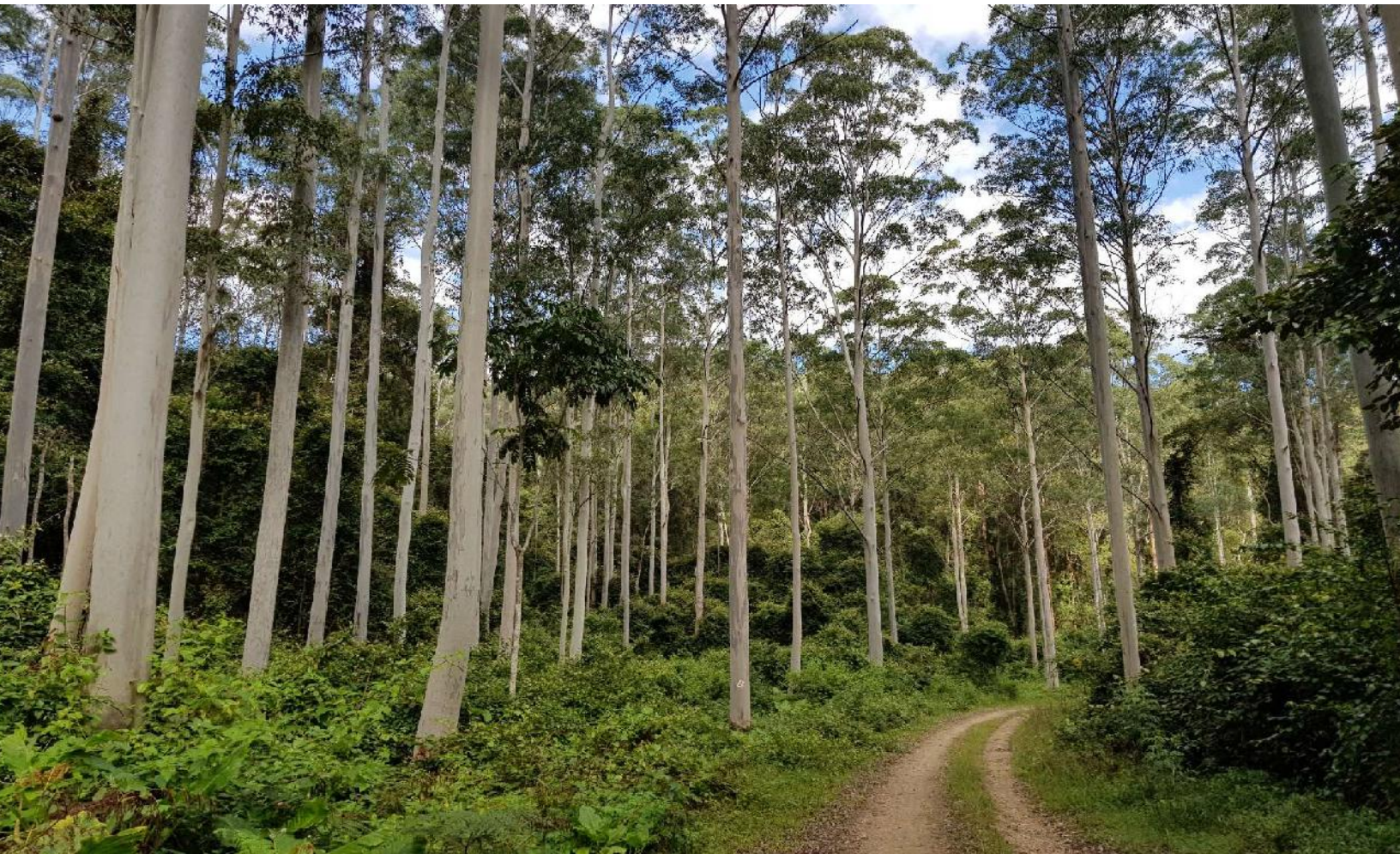




Table A1 Likelihood of Occurrence (Study Area)

Species	BC Act	EPBC Act	BioNet	Habitat	LoO	Summary
<i>Pteropus poliocephalus</i> Grey-headed Flying Fox	V, P	V	1	The Grey-headed Flying-fox is endemic to Australia. It occurs along the east coast from Bundaberg in Queensland to Melbourne, Victoria. In NSW, Grey-headed Flying-foxes have been recorded in numerous conservation reserves along the east coast, and the tablelands and eastern slopes of the Great Dividing Range. The Grey-headed Flying-fox occurs in subtropical and temperate rainforests, tall sclerophyll forests and woodlands, heaths and swamps. Urban gardens and cultivated fruit crops also provide habitat for this species.	Low	Not recorded during site assessment. Unlikely to occur within the Study Area based on the low condition of the site, and lack of suitable foraging habitat. No camps are within the local area. Few records for the species within the locality. Potential foraging habitat for the species may occur in the fragmented patches of PCT 277 woodland north of the site.
<i>Ixobrychus flavicollis</i> Black Bittern	V, P	V	1	The Black Bittern has a wide distribution, from southern NSW north to Cape York and along the north coast to the Kimberley region. The species also occurs in the south-west of WA. In NSW, records of the species are scattered along the east coast, with individuals rarely being recorded south of Sydney or inland. Inhabits both terrestrial and estuarine wetlands, generally in areas of permanent water and dense vegetation. Where permanent water is present, the species may occur in flooded grassland, forest, woodland, rainforest and mangroves. During the day, roosts in trees or on the ground amongst dense reeds	Low	Not recorded during site assessment. No suitable habitat within the Study Area. Only one record within the locality.
<i>Petaurus norfolcensis</i> Squirrel Glider	V,P		42	The species is widely though sparsely distributed in eastern Australia, from northern Queensland to western Victoria. Inhabits mature or old growth Box, Box-Ironbark woodlands and River Red Gum forest west of the Great Dividing Range and Blackbutt-Bloodwood forest with heath understorey in coastal areas. Prefers mixed species stands with a shrub or Acacia midstory.	Low	Not recorded during site assessment. No suitable habitat within the Study Area.

Appendix B – Photo Points



Holbrook Photo Points (01-10)

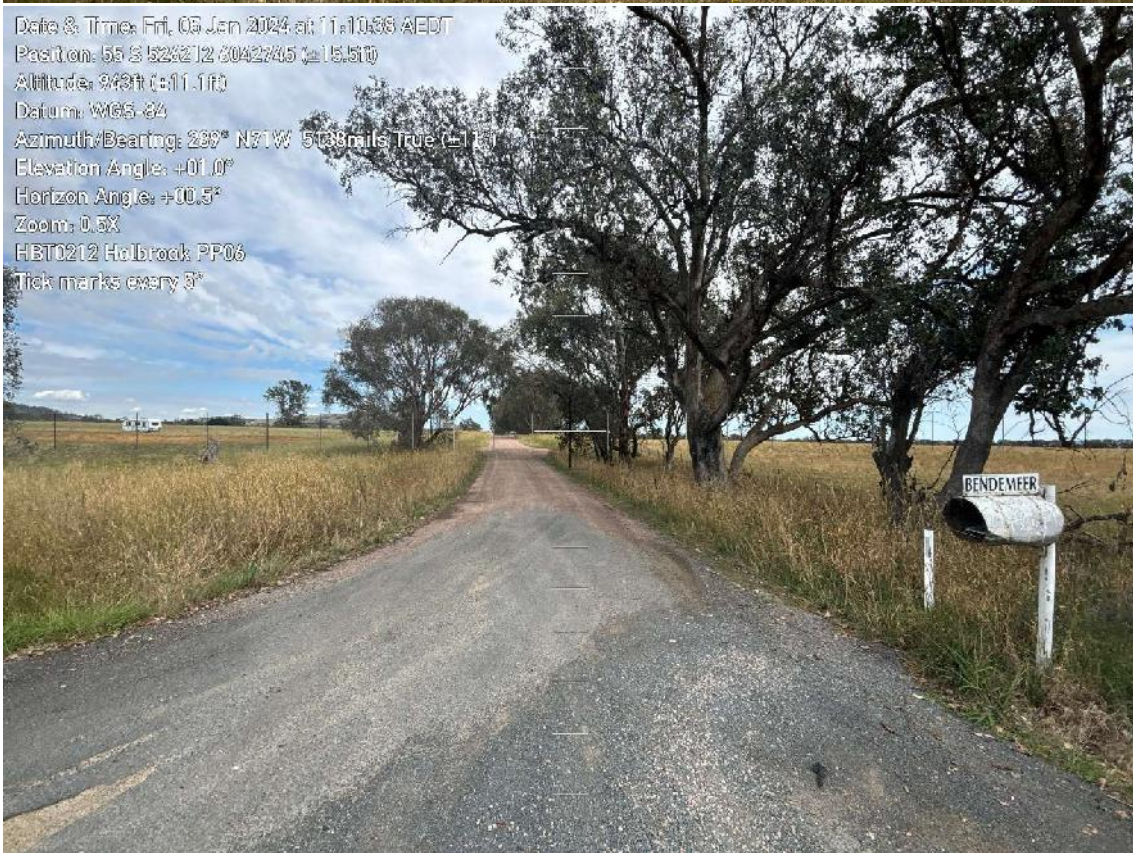




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Altitude: 945ft (± 11.1 ft)
Datum: WGS-84
Azimuth/Bearing: 222° S42W 3947mils True (± 11 ")
Elevation Angle: +00.2°
Horizon Angle: +00.0°
Zoom: 0.5X
HBT0212 Halbrook PP05
Tick marks every 3"



Date & Time: Fri, 05 Jan 2024 at 11:10:36 AEDT
Position: 55 S 526212 6042745 (± 15.5 ft)
Altitude: 948ft (± 11.1 ft)
Datum: WGS-84
Azimuth/Bearing: 239° N7°W 5038mils True (± 11 ")
Elevation Angle: +01.0°
Horizon Angle: +00.5°
Zoom: 0.5X
HBT0212 Halbrook PP06
Tick marks every 3"







Appendix C – Flora List

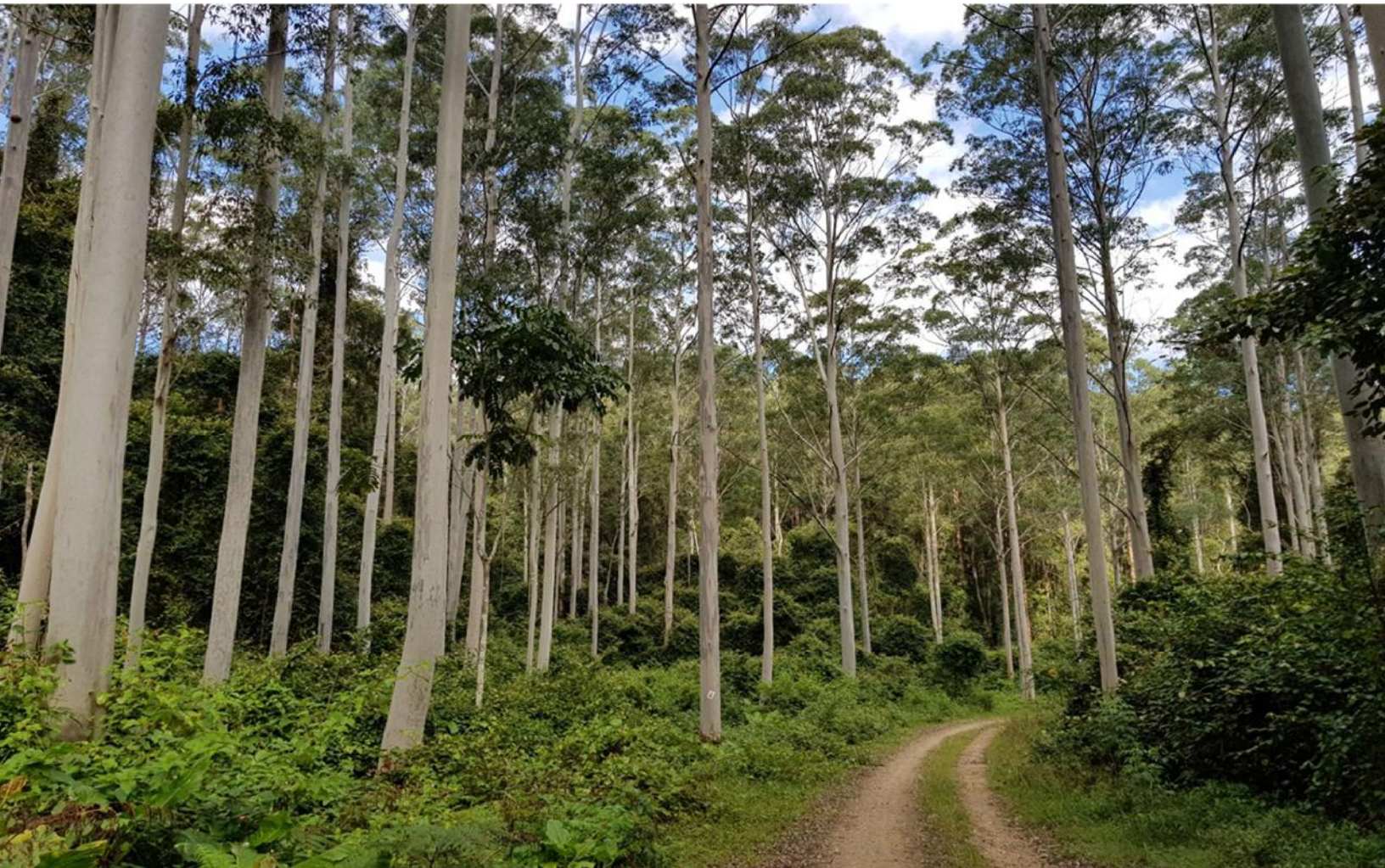




Table C1 Flora List

Native/ Exotic	Growth Form	Scientific Name	Common Name	Study Area (Q01)	Roadside Vegetation (Presence)
Exotic	Forb	<i>Amaranthus viridis</i>	Green Amaranth	0.1	x
Exotic	Forb	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Spear Thistle	0.5	x
Exotic	Forb	<i>Conyza bonariensis</i>	Flax-leaf Fleabane	1	x
Exotic	Forb	<i>Echium plantagineum</i>	Paterson's Curse	0.1	x
Exotic	Forb	<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>	Cat's Ear	5	x
Exotic	Forb	<i>Lactuca serriola</i>	Prickly Lettuce	0.5	x
Exotic	Forb	<i>Malva parviflora</i>	Small-flowered Mallow	0.5	x
Exotic	Forb	<i>Rumex acetosella</i>	Sheep Sorrel	0.1	x
Exotic	Forb	<i>Rumex conglomeratus</i>	Clustered Dock	0.1	x
Exotic	Grass	<i>Avena barbata</i>	Bearded Oats		x
Exotic	Grass	<i>Briza subaristata</i>	Quaking Grass	0.1	x
Exotic	Grass	<i>Bromus catharticus</i>	Prairie Grass	0.5	x
Exotic	Grass	<i>Bromus sterilis</i>	Sterile Brome	0.1	x
Exotic	Grass	<i>Bromus tectorum</i>	Drooping Brome	0.1	x
Exotic	Grass	<i>Dactylus glomeratum</i>	Cocksfoot Grass	0.1	x
Exotic	Grass	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire Fog		x
Exotic	Grass	<i>Lolium perenne</i>	Perennial Ryegrass	20	x
Exotic	Grass	<i>Panicum coloratum</i>	Coolah Grass	40	x
Exotic	Grass	<i>Paspalum dilatatum</i>	Paspalum		x
Exotic	Grass	<i>Phalaris aquaticus</i>	Phalaris	20	x
Exotic	Grass	<i>Vulpia myosuroides</i>	Rats-tail fescue	0.5	x
Native	Forb	<i>Einadia nutans</i>	Ruby Saltbush		x
Native	Forb	<i>Lythrum hyssopifolia</i>	Hyssop Loosestrife	0.1	x
Native	Forb	<i>Portulaca oleraceus</i>	Pigweed	0.1	x
Native	Grass	<i>Microlaena stipoides</i>	Weeping Grass		x
Native	Grass	<i>Rytidosperma caespitosum</i>	Ringed Wallaby Grass		x
Native	Tree	<i>Eucalyptus blakelyi</i>	Blakely's Red Gum		x
Native	Tree	<i>Eucalyptus polyanthemos</i>	Red Box		x

Appendix D – Assessment of Significance





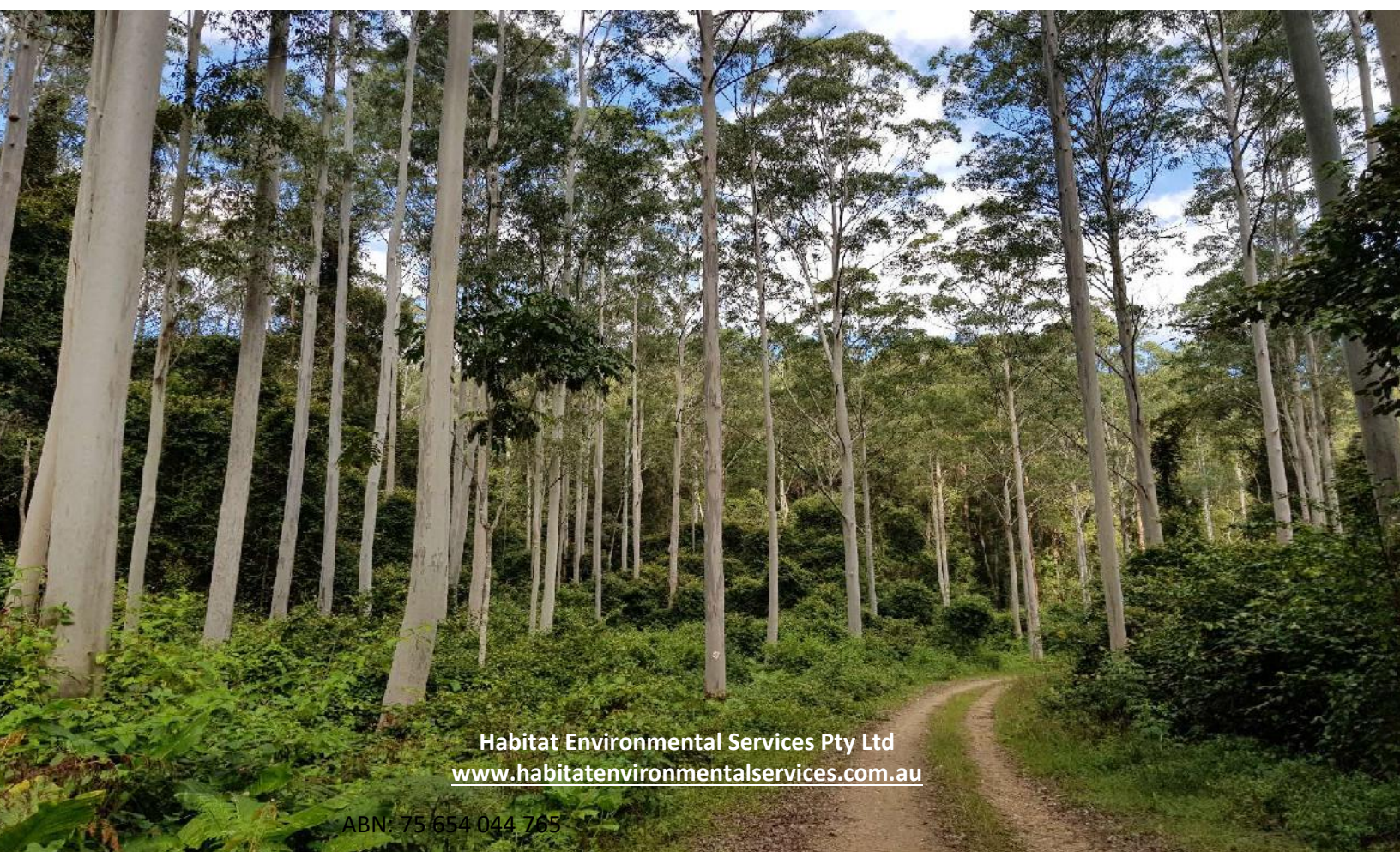
Assessment of Significance

CEEC White Box - Yellow Box - Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland in the NSW North Coast, New England Tableland, Nandewar, Brigalow Belt South, Sydney Basin, South Eastern Highlands, NSW South Western Slopes, South East Corner and Riverina Bioregions occurs

Factor	Assessment
(a) Effect on life cycle of threatened species.	Not Applicable
(b) (i) Effect on extent of EEC or CEEC.	The proposed development will not directly impact areas of the CEEC, which is located approximately 70 m from the Subject Site boundary along eastern border of the Study Area.
(b) (ii) Effect on composition of EEC or CEEC.	The total extent of this CEEC occurs within land outside of the construction footprint. The construction and operation of the proposed development is unlikely to have caused a change in abiotic conditions, given that the habitat within the Study Area is already cleared and the CEEC has already shown resilience to long-term edge effects. Site conditions following construction are unlikely to substantially change the abiotic conditions and are unlikely to have an effect on the composition of the CEEC.
(c) (i) Extent of habitat removal or modification for threatened species, population or ecological community	The proposed development will not remove or modify the CEEC. The habitat values within the EEC are unlikely to substantially change following completion of the proposed development.
(c) (ii) Extent of fragmentation or isolation of habitat for threatened species, population or ecological community.	The proposed development will not cause further fragmentation or isolation of the CEEC.
(c) (iii) The importance of habitat to threatened species, populations or ecological community.	The CEEC is fragmented and in low condition state, existing in a linear strip adjacent to the Hume Highway. The CEEC within the Study Area is unlikely to be important for the long-term persistence of the CEEC within the locality. The proposed development will remove not important habitat for the CEEC.
(d) Area of Outstanding Biodiversity Value	The Study Area does not occur with an Area of Outstanding Biodiversity Value.
(e) Key Threatening Processes	<p>The following Key Threatening Processes (KTP) are relevant to the proposed development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invasion of native plant communities by African Olive <i>Olea europaea</i> subsp. <i>cuspidata</i> (Wall. ex G. Don) Cif. • Infection of native plants by <i>Phytophthora cinnamomi</i> • Invasion of native plant communities by exotic perennial grasses. • Loss and degradation of native plant and animal habitat by invasion of escaped garden plants, including aquatic plants. <p>The proposed development is likely to facilitate the above-listed KTPs to a negligible extent.</p>



Factor	Assessment
Conclusion	The proposed development is unlikely to significantly impact the occurrence of this CEEC such that its occurrence is likely to become extinct within the locality.



Habitat Environmental Services Pty Ltd
www.habitatenvironmentalservices.com.au

ABN: 75 654 044 765



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SURVEYORS**

DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION COST PLAN

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March 25, 2024

Ahmed Adel

AC Energy

Level 3, 689 Burke Road

Camberwell VIC 3124

p

1300 795 170

w

www.mcqqs.com.au

e

steve.weeks@mcqqs.com.au**RE: Development Application Cost Plan - Hume Highway, Holbrook NSW 2644**

Dear Ahmed ,

MCG Quantity Surveyors have prepared the following Development Application Cost Plan for AC Energy, and not in any other capacity.

1.0 Development Location

Development Type: Micro BESS Storage Development

Client Details: AC Energy

Address: Hume Highway

Suburb: Holbrook NSW 2644

1.1 Development Summary

The development consists of Micro BESS storage development including infrastructure, site fencing, landscaping and driveway.

Please note the attached Indicative Development Application Cost Plan has been calculated from the total development costs. Therefore this only provides a broad indication of the likely percentages of the total development cost against each of the projects trade elements.

2.0 Financial Summary

MCG Quantity Surveyors believe that the attached Development Application Cost Plan and subsequent development cost, reflects a fair and competitive cost to complete the proposed development, based on the information provided to our offices.

The MCG Quantity Surveyors Development Application Cost Plan for construction costs totals \$4,601,836 exclusive of GST or \$5,062,020 inclusive of GST, with a further \$161,064 payable in consultants fees.

Trade	Total GST Exclusive	Total GST Inclusive
Total Construction Cost	4,601,836	5,062,020
Consultant and Authority Fees	161,064	177,171
Total	4,762,900	5,239,190

The development consists of a total site area of 4,946 square metres.

3.0 Construction Program

MCG Quantity Surveyors anticipate a period of 1 months to be appropriate for the construction of a development of this scope and nature.

4.0 Descriptive Summary

The development involves the construction of a Micro BESS Storage Development located at Hume Highway, Holbrook NSW 2644.

An appropriate level of finishes and quality has been allocated to the development.

Please refer to attached Schedule of Finishes and Assumptions which have been included for within the MCG Quantity Surveyors Development Application Cost Plan.

The development construction cost per square metre of site area is \$963 exclusive of GST or \$1,059 inclusive of GST.

5.0 Disclaimer

MCG Quantity Surveyors have prepared this report on the basis of information supplied by AC Energy.

Whilst all professional care and skill have been exercised to ensure the accuracy of this report, MCG Quantity Surveyors are unable to provide any guarantee on any estimates relying on information provided by the client or other third party, and will not be liable to any party for any loss arising as a result of any such information subsequently being found to be inaccurate or lacking authenticity.

6.0 Report Conclusion

It is the recommendation of MCG Quantity Surveyors that the contents of the aforementioned report be treated as advice on the likely construction cost of the development, and is not a reflection of the current market sales valuation of the development.

Please do not hesitate to contact our office should you have any further queries.

Yours Sincerely,



Marty Sadler
Director
MCG Quantity Surveyors

Schedule of Finishes

The following is a schedule of the finishes assumed by MCG Quantity Surveyors in the preparation of the Development Application Cost Plan.

- Boundary security fencing
- Landscaping
- Unsealed entry road widening and extension
- BESS
- MVPS
- Tree removal
- Overhead powerlines and infrastructure

Schedule of Information

The following is a schedule of the information used by MCG Quantity Surveyors in the preparation of the Development Application Cost Plan.

- Written and verbal information provided by AC Energy
- Drawings G-1.2_023132 FA-A (6 x plans in total)

Schedule of Exclusions

The following is a schedule of the exclusions within the MCG Quantity Surveyors preparation of the Development Application Cost Plan.

- Design contingency
- Land and legal costs
- Rise and fall
- Holding costs, interest charges and finance costs
- Unknown ground conditions and rock excavation
- Goods and services tax
- Leasing and marketing costs
- Removal of hazardous materials and contaminated soils
- Staging, phasing or delay costs
- Cost increase beyond March 25, 2024
- Works not clearly noted on the provided plan documentation
- Heritage Work if applicable

Indicative Development Application Cost Plan

Indicative Development Application Cost Plan

Development Type: Micro BESS Storage Development
Development Address: Hume Highway, Holbrook NSW 2644
Site Area: 4,946 m²

No	Trade Description	% Job	Cost (\$/m ²)	Total Cost Excl GST	Total Cost Incl GST
	Trade Breakup				
1	Preliminaries	5.50	51.17	253,101	278,411
2	Substructure	2.80	26.05	128,851	141,737
	Superstructure				
3	Columns	-	-	-	-
4	Upper Floors	-	-	-	-
5	Staircases	-	-	-	-
6	Roof	-	-	-	-
7	External Walls & Windows	-	-	-	-
8	External Doors	-	-	-	-
9	Internal Walls	-	-	-	-
10	Internal Screens	-	-	-	-
11	Internal Doors	-	-	-	-
	Finishes				
12	Wall	-	-	-	-
13	Floor	-	-	-	-
14	Ceiling	-	-	-	-
	Fittings				
15	Fitments	-	-	-	-
	Services				
16	Plumbing	-	-	-	-
17	Mechanical	-	-	-	-
18	Fire	-	-	-	-
19	Electrical	90.28	839.98	4,154,538	4,569,991
20	Transportation	-	-	-	-
21	Demo,Excavation,External Works	1.42	13.21	65,346	71,881
	Sub Total	100.00	930	4,601,836	5,062,020
	Consultant and Authority Fees	3.18	32.56	161,064	177,171
	Contingency			-	-
	Totals		963	4,762,900	5,239,190

Indicative Development Application Cost Plan

Development Type: Micro BESS Storage Development
Development Address: Hume Highway, Holbrook NSW 2644
Site Area: 4,946 m2

Trade Description	Total Cost Excl GST	Total Cost Incl GST
Site Prep Site Prep (Cost per m2 Site Area)	25,000 5.05	27,500 5.56
Excavation Excavation (Cost per m2 Site Area)		
Construction - Commercial Construction - Commercial (Cost per m2 Commercial Area)	4,511,768 912.21	4,962,945 1,003.43
Construction - Residential Construction - Residential (Cost per m2 Residential Area)		
Construction - Retail Construction - Retail (Cost per m2 Retail Area)		
Construction - Site Works Construction - Site Works (Cost per m2 Site Area)	65,068 13.16	71,575 14.47
Fit Out - Commercial Fit Out - Commercial (Cost per m2 Commercial Area)		
Fit Out - Residential Fit Out - Residential (Cost per m2 Residential Area)		
Fit Out - Retail Fit Out - Retail (Cost per m2 Retail Area)		
Sub Total	4,601,836	5,062,020
Consultant and Authority Fees % of Construction Cost % of Development Cost	161,064	177,171 3.50% 3.38%
Totals	4,762,900	5,239,190
Total GST		476,290



Marty Sadlier

Director - Senior Quantity Surveyor (Associate Member of the Australian Institute of Quantity Surveyors - AAIQS - 9374)

MCG Quantity Surveyors

Don Hugo

From: TE_Technical Enquiries
To: gwickramasinghe@greaterhume.nsw.gov.au
Subject: CNR-68101 - A-82305 - HUME HIGHWAY HOLBROOK 2644

Thank you for seeking comment from Essential Energy in relation to the proposed development at the above property.

Strictly based on the documents submitted, Essential Energy has the following comments to make as to potential safety risks arising from the proposed development:

- As the plans provided show the distances from Essential Energy's infrastructure and the development, there may be a safety risk. A distance of 13m from the nearest part of the development to Essential Energy's infrastructure (measured horizontally) is required to ensure that there is no safety risk.
- **A safety clearance of 13m is required from the Overhead 22 Kv Network located on Bendemeer Lane.**
- It is also essential that all works comply with SafeWork clearance requirements. In this regard it is the responsibility of the person/s completing any works to understand their safety responsibilities. The applicant will need to submit a [Request for Safety Advice](#) if works cannot maintain the safe working clearances set out in the [Working Near Overhead Powerlines Code of Practice](#), or [CEOP8041 - Work Near Essential Energy's Underground Assets](#).

Information relating to developments near electrical infrastructure is available on our website [Development Applications \(essentialenergy.com.au\)](#). If the applicant believes the development complies with safe distances or would like to submit a request to encroach then they will need to complete a Network Encroachment Form via Essential Energy's website [Encroachments \(essentialenergy.com.au\)](#) and provide supporting documentation. Applicants are advised that fees and charges will apply where Essential Energy provides this service.

Council's and the applicant's attention is also drawn to Section 49 of the Electricity Supply Act 1995 (NSW). Relevantly, Essential Energy may require structures or things that could destroy, damage or interfere with electricity works, or could make those works become a potential cause of bush fire or a risk to public safety, to be modified or removed.

Essential Energy makes the following general comments:

- If the proposed development changes, there may be potential safety risks and it is recommended that Essential Energy is consulted for further comment;
- Any existing encumbrances in favour of Essential Energy (or its predecessors) noted on the title of the above property should be complied with;
- Any activities in proximity to electrical infrastructure must be undertaken in accordance with the latest industry guideline currently known as ISSC 20 Guideline for the Management of Activities within Electricity Easements and Close to Infrastructure;
- Prior to carrying out any works, a “Dial Before You Dig” enquiry should be undertaken in accordance with the requirements of *Part 5E (Protection of Underground Electricity Power Lines)* of the *Electricity Supply Act 1995* (NSW); the location of overhead and underground powerlines are also shown in the Look Up and Live app essentialenergy.com.au/lookupandlive.

Should you require any clarification, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Regards

Essential Energy



T: 13 23 91 |

PO Box 5730 Port Macquarie NSW 2444 | www.essentialenergy.com.au | www.intelligentnetwork.com.au

From: [Jack](#)
To: [MailMailbox](#)
Subject: Mountain biking
Date: Wednesday, 26 July 2023 8:29:43 PM

Hello greater Hume council team, I am sending you a email about a mountain bike trail in Walla Walla or Gerogery. There's a lot of mountain bike and BMX riders around Walla and Gerogery who love riding there bikes but have nowhere to ride. So I am asking for a mountain Bike trail with a couple of nice flowing jumps and some rocks and roots, as of the Walla skate park does nothing for bikes. We don't mind raising Money for this Idea as of we would like to see it get put into action, Even just a simple pump right next to the skate park would go a long way. -From the Walla and Gerogery Mountain biking and BMX community

From: [Timothy Edwards](#)
To: [MailMailbox](#)
Cc: [Andrew Kotzur](#); [Kim Lieschke](#)
Subject: Zion Lutheran Church toilet block
Date: Monday, 23 October 2023 3:56:31 PM

Dear Sir/Madam,

I write on behalf of Zion Lutheran Church in Walla Walla. We are seeking financial support (either through Greater Hume Shire or other suggested avenues) to upgrade/replace the existing toilets at the church. The current toilets are open at all times and, although currently not well signed, are available to the general public.

We are looking to upgrade/replace the existing toilets as they are aged and do not meet current requirements with respect to all abilities access and to provide parent facilities.

We would provide the necessary maintenance and cleaning.

Your support, including providing direction on where funding assistance may be sought, would be greatly appreciated.

Yours Faithfully,

Tim Edwards

Treasurer, Zion Lutheran Church, Walla Walla.

Have Your Say - Draft 2024 - 2025 Operational Plan, 2025 - 2028 Budget, 2024 - 2025 Fees and Charges



Submitted on 22 April 2024, 9:39AM

Receipt number HYSDB2

Related form version 2

Are you providing your comments/suggestions/opinions on the Draft Budget 2025 - 2028? No

Have Your Say - Draft Budget 2025 - 2028

Are you providing your comments/suggestions/opinions on the Draft 2024 - 2025 Operational Plan? Yes

Have Your Say - Draft 2024 - 2025 Operational Plan?

ref. H2.1.3 and H2.1.4 Has consideration been given to developing the Culcairn to Corowa Rail Trail. This concept was presented to council some years ago. There has been considerable movement in Rail trail development in NSW and the benefits (economic and social) are now well documented. What is Council's Position on this? Further to this, what is Council's position on supporting and developing the Hume and Hovell Track? Another great opportunity for our area.

Are you providing your comments/suggestions/opinions on the Draft 2024 - 2025 Fees and Charges? No

Have You Say - Draft 2024 - 2025 Fees and Charges

What is your name (first and surname)? Andrew Kotzur

What is your phone number? 02 6029 4700

What is your email address? andrew@kotzur.com

What is your address? (inc Street/Rural Number) 1 short st, walla walla

I live in Walla Walla

If other, name town/village/area walla walla

Your Overall Suggestions and/or Comments

As a Walla Walla citizen, I am disappointed with the profile Walla (lack of) gets in the Draft Plan. e.g. repairs of town streets.

Have Your Say - Draft 2024 - 2025 Operational Plan, 2025 - 2028 Budget, 2024 - 2025 Fees and Charges



Submitted on 23 April 2024, 6:13AM

Receipt number HYSDB3

Related form version 2

Are you providing your comments/suggestions/opinions on the Draft Budget 2025 - 2028? No

Have Your Say - Draft Budget 2025 - 2028

Annexure 2, P10 of the Draft plan indicates that Greater Hume Shire will provide a "Customer Relations Centre" at Walla Walla. Does this mean that the services at the Walla Walla RTC which were closed down recently will be reopened?

Are you providing your comments/suggestions/opinions on the Draft 2024 - 2025 Operational Plan? Yes

Have Your Say - Draft 2024 - 2025 Operational Plan?

Are you providing your comments/suggestions/opinions on the Draft 2024 - 2025 Fees and Charges? No

Have You Say - Draft 2024 - 2025 Fees and Charges

What is your name (first and surname)? Andrew Kotzur

What is your phone number? 0260294700

What is your email address? andrew@kotzur.com

What is your address? (inc Street/Rural Number) 60 Commercial St

I live in Walla Walla

If other, name town/village/area Walla Walla

Your Overall Suggestions and/or Comments ref the Walla Walla Customer Relations Centre

From: [Bruce Naismith](#)
To: [MailMailbox](#)
Subject: DELIVERY PROGRAM AND OPERATION PLAN 2023-2024 [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]
Date: Friday, 26 April 2024 11:23:48 AM

UNOFFICIAL

Reference: above document section STRATEGIC THEME 3 / CSP STRATEGY N1.3 / INITIATIVE N1.3.1

I plan on building in the next few years within your council area, can you advise as to what programs the council is currently or intending to promote with respect to the above reference.

Cheers Bruce

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Have Your Say - Draft 2024 - 2025 Operational Plan, 2025 - 2028 Budget, 2024 - 2025 Fees and Charges



Submitted on	22 May 2024, 11:12AM
Receipt number	HYSDB14
Related form version	3
<hr/>	
Are you providing your comments/suggestions/opinions on the Draft Budget 2025 - 2028?	Yes
Have Your Say - Draft Budget 2025 - 2028	We compost our green waste. Don't require another bin!
<hr/>	
Are you providing your comments/suggestions/opinions on the Draft 2024 - 2025 Operational Plan?	Yes
Have Your Say - Draft 2024 - 2025 Operational Plan?	
<hr/>	
Are you providing your comments/suggestions/opinions on the Draft 2024 - 2025 Fees and Charges?	Yes
Have You Say - Draft 2024 - 2025 Fees and Charges	
<hr/>	
What is your name (first and surname)?	Cheshire
<hr/>	
What is your phone number?	0417 453 927
<hr/>	
What is your email address?	vmullavey@bigpond.com
<hr/>	
What is your address? (inc Street/Rural Number)	88 Huon St Jindera
<hr/>	
I live in	Jindera
<hr/>	
If other, name town/village/area	Jindera
<hr/>	
Your Overall Suggestions and/or Comments	Would not use a green waste bin. Our rubbish is put into our compost

Have Your Say - Draft 2024 - 2025 Operational Plan, 2025 - 2028 Budget, 2024 - 2025 Fees and Charges



Submitted on 21 May 2024, 7:16PM

Receipt number HYSD6

Related form version 3

Are you providing your comments/suggestions/opinions on the Draft Budget 2025 - 2028? Yes

Have Your Say - Draft Budget 2025 - 2028

Are you providing your comments/suggestions/opinions on the Draft 2024 - 2025 Operational Plan?

Have Your Say - Draft 2024 - 2025 Operational Plan?

Are you providing your comments/suggestions/opinions on the Draft 2024 - 2025 Fees and Charges? Yes

Have You Say - Draft 2024 - 2025 Fees and Charges

Why is this new 3 bin system being implemented in a rural area where most have a green waste home disposal routine i.e chickens or compost? Why are we being charged more then other towns for the same service? If you are rural, homes don't get the green bin, so does the red bin still get emptied weekly? The council gets grants for this, so why have our fees gone up 64%?

What is your name (first and surname)? Chris McDonald

What is your phone number?

What is your email address? c.mcdonald@live.com

What is your address? (inc Street/Rural Number) 193 hueske rd jindera

I live in Jindera

If other, name town/village/area

Your Overall Suggestions and/or Comments

We can't get home postal because we need to vote on it, why are changed implemented to our bin system without residents voting?

From: [Evelyn Arnold](#)
To: [Louise Frichot](#)
Subject: FW: Have Your Say - Budgets
Date: Monday, 13 May 2024 4:27:12 PM
Attachments: [Supporting Signatories.pdf](#)

Hi,
Another budget submission.

Thank you,

Kind Regards
Evelyn Arnold
General Manager
Greater Hume Council
39 Young St
PO Box 99
Holbrook NSW 2644
T 02 6036 0139 M 0447 224 281

www.greaterhume.nsw.gov.au

Disclaimer - This email and attached files may contain information that is confidential and/or subject to legal privilege. If you receive this e-mail and are not the intended addressee please delete and notify sender immediately. Views expressed in this message are those of the individual sender and not necessarily the views of Greater Hume Council.

-----Original Message-----

From: Philip McCartney <philipmac@bigpond.com>
Sent: Monday, 6 May 2024 3:49 PM
To: Evelyn Arnold <EArnold@greaterhume.nsw.gov.au>
Cc: Ian Forrest <IForrest@greaterhume.nsw.gov.au>; Kirsty Wilksch <kirsty@wilkschestate.com.au>
Subject: Have Your Say - Budgets

Dear Evelyn

Re: GHS Draft Delivery Program 2022 – 2026 and Operational Plan 2024 – 2025

The CCDC (committee) is taking this opportunity to share community feedback regarding these plans.

From recent discussions held with Greg Blackie we understand further works will be undertaken along Balfour Street and Railway Parade. Greg mentioned that time is required for the previous drainage works to settle before the final resealing of the road can occur. It was advised that the time scale for completion was approximately another 18 months and money has been allocated in the 2025-26 budget.

During the discussion, Greg advised that when the asphalt was being completed works would also be undertaken on the roundabout and the centre garden of Balfour Street. This is where we have a major concern. The community appreciates all the work that has been undertaken to improve Balfour Street and the works planned to complete the project. However, the centre garden is really detracting from the appearance of the town. We believe the works required on the centre garden needs to be brought forward to the 2024-25 budget.

The committee understands the need to wait for the resealing work to start but we do not understand why this has any impact on when the centre garden works should commence.

With the works already undertaken and the wait for further works to be concluded, Balfour Street has looked unkept for a substantial amount of time. If the garden works were undertaken sooner, it would go a long way to

addressing community concerns.

Many businesses and residents have expressed concern to our committee about the general poor condition of the CBD and its impact on town morale and livability. Culcairn goes by the motto of The Oasis of the Riverina. Looking at the current condition of Balfour Street, one would really have to question if we live up to this moniker.

The committee are also concerned that this may negatively impact the viability of the new housing sub-division in town. First impressions count for a lot. When potential new residents visit the development, they could think Culcairn is a town in decline and not a place to move to.

Local businesses have also expressed concern that the condition of our main shopping area is not helping in getting new visitors to the town and getting them to stay longer and spend. Please see signatures of support attached from our local businesses.

The committee's primary goal in requesting this is to improve the quality of life of our residents and to address the above concerns.

If this issue could be addressed with bringing forward this expenditure by one year, our main street of Culcairn could be transformed. As you know, we have asked for the centre garden to be grassed with an underground watering system. This would have a major visual impact on our town landscape. The town would look so more inviting to spend time in. This would also be a sustainable project with the added benefit of cooling the CBD with the addition of grass.

As you know, The Culcairn Master Plan was based around the community's desire to see the greening of our town. This one measure would go a very long way in reaching this goal.

The committee would ask that Council to reconsider the budgets so that money for these works could be allocated in 2024-25.

The committee looks forward to hearing Council's response.

Kind regards

Philip McCartney

Culcairn Community Development Committee

Ms Evelyn Arnold
General Manager, Greater Hume Shire
PO Box 99
Holbrook NSW 2644

23 June 2023

Dear Evelyn and the Greater Hume Shire Councillors,

WHITEBOX WOODLANDS

The Culcairn Landcare Group requests consideration in the next year's budget for the noxious weed removal to commence in the WhiteBox Woodlands.

This area of local significance is an underutilised space for passive local and tourist enjoyment of our native flora and fauna.

Please see attached report from Colleen O'Malley who regularly visits WhiteBox Woodlands and has documented the woody weeds needing eradication and management. We would be happy to meet with you to discuss this project.

We thank you for your assistance to enhance this area as a useful, enjoyable place for everyone.

Kind regards,

Kirsty Wilksch
Secretary
Culcairn Landcare Group
kirsty@wilkschestate.com.au

Have Your Say - Draft 2024 - 2025 Operational Plan, 2025 - 2028 Budget, 2024 - 2025 Fees and Charges



Submitted on	24 May 2024, 8:08PM
Receipt number	HYSDB19
Related form version	4

Are you providing your comments/suggestions/opinions on the Draft 2024 - 2025 Fees and Charges?	Yes
---	-----

Have You Say - Draft 2024 - 2025 Fees and Charges	New bin system not required. Hume's current system is far better than Albury and other surrounding council areas.
---	--

What is your name (first and surname)?	Damien Bell
--	-------------

What is your phone number?	0437351079
----------------------------	------------

What is your email address?	damien.bell78@gmail.com
-----------------------------	-------------------------

What is your address? (inc Street/Rural Number)	111 Urana St
---	--------------

I live in	Jindera
-----------	---------

If other, name town/village/area	
----------------------------------	--

Your Overall Suggestions and/or Comments	Leave the current bin system in place. It's great <input type="checkbox"/>
--	--

Have Your Say - Draft 2024 - 2025 Operational Plan, 2025 - 2028 Budget, 2024 - 2025 Fees and Charges



Submitted on 21 May 2024, 8:11PM

Receipt number HYSDB10

Related form version 3

Are you providing your comments/suggestions/opinions on the Draft Budget 2025 - 2028?

Have Your Say - Draft Budget 2025 - 2028

Are you providing your comments/suggestions/opinions on the Draft 2024 - 2025 Operational Plan?

Have Your Say - Draft 2024 - 2025 Operational Plan?

Are you providing your comments/suggestions/opinions on the Draft 2024 - 2025 Fees and Charges? Yes

Have You Say - Draft 2024 - 2025 Fees and Charges

What is your name (first and surname)? Hall

What is your phone number? 0488440093

What is your email address? lizhall57@hotmail.com

What is your address? (inc Street/Rural Number) 113 Fallon street

I live in Jindera

If other, name town/village/area

Your Overall Suggestions and/or Comments

I am disappointed we were not consulted on the new bin system. Waste of my money. Very little green waste as we mulch and compost but having a large family need a reasonable size red bin. Albury residents hate this system and you see rubbish in the streets around there as a result of rubbish dumping. So now we will start to see the same. Progress is not downsizing a service and charging more. Cost of living is bad enough without this silliness. Can't get my mail delivered which would be much better especially for people with mobility issues.

Have Your Say - Draft 2024 - 2025 Operational Plan, 2025 - 2028 Budget, 2024 - 2025 Fees and Charges



Submitted on 21 May 2024, 7:38PM

Receipt number HYSDB8

Related form version 3

Are you providing your comments/suggestions/opinions on the Draft Budget 2025 - 2028?

Have Your Say - Draft Budget 2025 - 2028

Are you providing your comments/suggestions/opinions on the Draft 2024 - 2025 Operational Plan? Yes

Have Your Say - Draft 2024 - 2025 Operational Plan?

I do not agree with the 3 bin waste system. Many people in our rural area maintain their own food scraps/ green waste with animals, composting etc. It seems like we are paying for a system that is not needed that will increase inconvenience to many families!!

Are you providing your comments/suggestions/opinions on the Draft 2024 - 2025 Fees and Charges? Yes

Have You Say - Draft 2024 - 2025 Fees and Charges

I don't agree paying for a 3 waste bin system for something that you have received funding for and we have not agreed to.

What is your name (first and surname)? Emily Sarroff

What is your phone number? 0409127762

What is your email address? emilydelarue@hotmail.com

What is your address? (inc Street/Rural Number) 4 Phillips Way

I live in Jindera

If other, name town/village/area

Your Overall Suggestions and/or Comments

I think any changes for operational/ systems that impact residents should be voted on.

Have Your Say - Draft 2024 - 2025 Operational Plan, 2025 - 2028 Budget, 2024 - 2025 Fees and Charges



Submitted on 21 May 2024, 5:01PM

Receipt number HYSDB5

Related form version 3

Are you providing your comments/suggestions/opinions on the Draft Budget 2025 - 2028? No

Have Your Say - Draft Budget 2025 - 2028

Are you providing your comments/suggestions/opinions on the Draft 2024 - 2025 Operational Plan?

Have Your Say - Draft 2024 - 2025 Operational Plan?

Are you providing your comments/suggestions/opinions on the Draft 2024 - 2025 Fees and Charges? Yes

Have You Say - Draft 2024 - 2025 Fees and Charges

Firstly, 65% increase in residential wastage! Really! How is this increase justified?

We are on a large 6000m2 lot, and don't use green waste. If we did, we would need a trailer each week for lawn clippings. We compost all of our scrap food and any tree clippings we burn or take to the tip. So essentially, for our circumstance, we would be paying an additional 65% each year for less of a garbage service (saying the red bed changes to fortnightly service). How is this fair.

A fairer approach, would be an opt in for the green waste service, and an amendments to charges for less red waste service.

What is your name (first and surname)? Erin Bullman

What is your phone number? 0416255279

What is your email address? erin.bullman@hotmail.com

What is your address? (inc Street/Rural Number) 15 Tathra place Jindera

I live in Jindera

If other, name town/village/area

Your Overall Suggestions and/or Comments

These costs are not a fair approach to owners of large residential lots. Thurgoona have the three bin system and their rate payers pay \$310 per annum. Why are we being charged so excessively?

Have Your Say - Draft 2024 - 2025 Operational Plan, 2025 - 2028 Budget, 2024 - 2025 Fees and Charges



Submitted on	22 May 2024, 8:26AM
Receipt number	HYSDB13
Related form version	3

Are you providing your comments/suggestions/opinions on the Draft Budget 2025 - 2028?

Have Your Say - Draft Budget 2025 - 2028

Are you providing your comments/suggestions/opinions on the Draft 2024 - 2025 Operational Plan?

Have Your Say - Draft 2024 - 2025 Operational Plan?

Are you providing your comments/suggestions/opinions on the Draft 2024 - 2025 Fees and Charges? Yes

Have You Say - Draft 2024 - 2025 Fees and Charges I should not have to pay for green bin if I don't require one as I mulch my lawn and garden

What is your name (first and surname)? Graham howe

What is your phone number? 0425450095

What is your email address? ghowie68@hotmail.com

What is your address? (inc Street/Rural Number) 116 drumwood road Jindera

I live in Jindera

If other, name town/village/area

Your Overall Suggestions and/or Comments I don't need a 3 bin service as I mulch my lawn and garden , residents should be able to choose their service to save money and not waste resources

Have Your Say - Draft 2024 - 2025 Operational Plan, 2025 - 2028 Budget, 2024 - 2025 Fees and Charges



Submitted on 29 May 2024, 8:06AM

Receipt number HYSDB21

Related form version 4

Are you providing your comments/suggestions/opinions on the Draft 2024 - 2025 Fees and Charges? Yes

Have You Say - Draft 2024 - 2025 Fees and Charges

I don't think its reasonable to impose an additional fee for a third bin when I already compose my organic waste on my farm. Why should I have to pay money, simply so you can burn fossil fuel to bring a truck to my place and then move my organic waste to some place kilometres down the road and then composts it anyway - it is not nonsensical and not efficient.

What is your name (first and surname)? Jonathon Howard

What is your phone number? 0260519350

What is your email address? jhoward@csu.edu.au

What is your address? (inc Street/Rural Number) 87 Jelbart Rd

I live in Jindera

If other, name town/village/area Albury

Your Overall Suggestions and/or Comments

I don't think its reasonable to impose an additional fee for a third bin when I already compose my organic waste on my farm. Why should I have to pay money, simply so you can burn fossil fuel to bring a truck to my place and then move my organic waste to some place kilometres down the road and then composts it anyway - it is not nonsensical and not efficient.

Perhaps the third bin should only apply to urban/town areas or blocks over a certain size are able to opt out

Have Your Say - Draft 2024 - 2025 Operational Plan, 2025 - 2028 Budget, 2024 - 2025 Fees and Charges



Submitted on 21 May 2024, 7:24PM

Receipt number HYSD7

Related form version 3

Are you providing your comments/suggestions/opinions on the Draft Budget 2025 - 2028? No

Have Your Say - Draft Budget 2025 - 2028

Are you providing your comments/suggestions/opinions on the Draft 2024 - 2025 Operational Plan?

Have Your Say - Draft 2024 - 2025 Operational Plan?

Are you providing your comments/suggestions/opinions on the Draft 2024 - 2025 Fees and Charges? Yes

Have You Say - Draft 2024 - 2025 Fees and Charges

Our household are not in favour of the new bin system
 We are a family of 4 adults & our red bin is full every week, even after we recycle all we can into the yellow bin
 We do not feel the need for the new green bin to be collected weekly we would prefer the red bin to continue to be collected weekly
 The green bin will not be used at our house so why should we be forced to pay higher fees for a service we will not use

What is your name (first and surname)? Kylie Creek

What is your phone number? 0418474574

What is your email address? kylie.creek@outlook.com

What is your address? (inc Street/Rural Number) 3 Edward st

I live in Walla Walla

If other, name town/village/area

Your Overall Suggestions and/or Comments

Keep the bin service the same & make it optional for residents to get a green bin if they wish
 We should not be forced to participate in the new 3 system especially when its going to include a fee rise
 Times are tough enough atm

Have Your Say - Draft 2024 - 2025 Operational Plan, 2025 - 2028 Budget, 2024 - 2025 Fees and Charges



Submitted on 28 May 2024, 5:13AM

Receipt number HYSDB20

Related form version 4

Are you providing your comments/suggestions/opinions on the Draft 2024 - 2025 Fees and Charges? Yes

Have You Say - Draft 2024 - 2025 Fees and Charges The increases charges to the new bin system are too high. Families are already struggling with the cost of living

What is your name (first and surname)? Lisa Birnie

What is your phone number? 0407420063

What is your email address? lisacherie42@yahoo.com

What is your address? (inc Street/Rural Number) 6 Hollytree court jindera

I live in Jindera

If other, name town/village/area

Your Overall Suggestions and/or Comments The red bin remains as weekly collection
There is already a mice plague in Jindera and it's unhygienic to have rubbish accumulate for two weeks

Have Your Say - Draft 2024 - 2025 Operational Plan, 2025 - 2028 Budget, 2024 - 2025 Fees and Charges



Submitted on 21 May 2024, 8:05PM

Receipt number HYSDB9

Related form version 3

Are you providing your comments/suggestions/opinions on the Draft Budget 2025 - 2028?

Have Your Say - Draft Budget 2025 - 2028

Are you providing your comments/suggestions/opinions on the Draft 2024 - 2025 Operational Plan?

Have Your Say - Draft 2024 - 2025 Operational Plan?

Are you providing your comments/suggestions/opinions on the Draft 2024 - 2025 Fees and Charges? Yes

Have You Say - Draft 2024 - 2025 Fees and Charges

Increase to bin collection fees is devastating. Seems you are introducing a new bin system that many don't need, but not providing an option to opt out? Many are doing a great job of disposing of green waste for free, why aren't they being encouraged, by not needing to pay money for a system that involves many costs, including environmental costs. Plus you now are charging \$180 for something that they already do at home. Please explain What the grant is being used to fund? What are the benefits to change of system, particularly now that soft plastics can't be recycled and red bin space is back at a premium. Has consideration of new productions of these bins against need been addressed. Waste of resources, environmental impact of producing the products, current product is in working order etc. severely disappointed in this decision with no community consultation

What is your name (first and surname)? Saunders

What is your phone number?

What is your email address? thea40@hotmail.com

What is your address? (inc Street/Rural Number) 14 pomegranate drive

I live in Jindera

If other, name town/village/area

Your Overall Suggestions and/or Comments

Please review my comments above.

Would love the council to look at ways to help reduce the costs of living rather than consistently adding to them. Remove services that aren't needed or allow residents to opt out.

Have Your Say - Draft 2024 - 2025 Operational Plan, 2025 - 2028 Budget, 2024 - 2025 Fees and Charges



Submitted on 18 April 2024, 9:15PM

Receipt number HYSDB1

Related form version 2

Are you providing your comments/suggestions/opinions on the Draft Budget 2025 - 2028?

Have Your Say - Draft Budget 2025 - 2028

Are you providing your comments/suggestions/opinions on the Draft 2024 - 2025 Operational Plan? Yes

Have Your Say - Draft 2024 - 2025 Operational Plan?

Jindera dog park, \$100,000 I have spoken to many residents on this matter and yet to find anyone that would use it. There is a greater need to replace the existing cricket nets near the School as these are used on a daily basis by many of the neighbourhood Children, which would be of greater benefit to the community. I feel as the dog park wouldn't be used it would then be policed by council rangers to insure the dogs were,nt using the footy fields for exerise, and toilet use. If the rangers policed it now it would save \$100,000 of money needed else where. I raised my concerns with Greg Blackie, who suggested perhaps cameras could be used to inforce this issue, so again more money being directed to a worthless cause. In closing I feel the football field is well catered for in the budget and enough is spent there, as it is well known that the footy field is the only reason a dog park is required.

Are you providing your comments/suggestions/opinions on the Draft 2024 - 2025 Fees and Charges?

Have You Say - Draft 2024 - 2025 Fees and Charges

What is your name (first and surname)? Scott Martin

What is your phone number? 0428558959

What is your email address? scottandjulia24@yahoo.com

What is your address? (inc Street/Rural Number) 120 Dight St

I live in Jindera

If other, name town/village/area

Your Overall Suggestions and/or Comments

As above.

Have Your Say - Draft 2024 - 2025 Operational Plan, 2025 - 2028 Budget, 2024 - 2025 Fees and Charges



Submitted on 22 May 2024, 6:53AM

Receipt number HYSDB12

Related form version 3

Are you providing your comments/suggestions/opinions on the Draft Budget 2025 - 2028? No

Have Your Say - Draft Budget 2025 - 2028

Are you providing your comments/suggestions/opinions on the Draft 2024 - 2025 Operational Plan? Yes

Have Your Say - Draft 2024 - 2025 Operational Plan? Page 68, the Jindera map in the Town Village Rates Categories is terrible and unreadable quality at any zoom level.

Are you providing your comments/suggestions/opinions on the Draft 2024 - 2025 Fees and Charges? Yes

Have You Say - Draft 2024 - 2025 Fees and Charges

If council has received a government grant to change our bin system, why is the charge being passed down to the residents anyway, when we didn't even get a chance to vote on the matter. The plan says we will all be receiving new 240L organics, recycling, and waste bins to be implemented in July. I believe our current bins are already 240L - why do all the existing waste and recycling bins need to be replaced if it's for the same size? This is only generating plastic waste and I can only presume this is why the additional charge is being passed down to ratepayers, considering the grant council is receiving? The regularity of waste (red bin) collection is reducing so only one trip a fortnight should really factor in at all there for the organics bin collection costs. It all circulates to the bottom line of why ratepayers should need to pay for this unrequested, unvoted for, new service for the period which council is receiving a government grant for the implementation.

What is your name (first and surname)? Sophie Yaldwyn

What is your phone number? 0419534526

What is your email address? sophie_yaldwyn@hotmail.com

What is your address? (inc Street/Rural Number) 98 Huon St

I live in Jindera

If other, name town/village/area

Your Overall Suggestions and/or Comments

Don't charge ratepayers for a new service not voted in by residents that council is receiving a grant for. That is literally generating a profit for council out of a grant which doesn't seem right or like it should be legal.

Have Your Say - Draft 2024 - 2025 Operational Plan, 2025 - 2028 Budget, 2024 - 2025 Fees and Charges



Submitted on 21 May 2024, 9:16PM
 Receipt number HYSDB11
 Related form version 3

Are you providing your comments/suggestions/opinions on the Draft Budget 2025 - 2028? No

Have Your Say - Draft Budget 2025 - 2028

Are you providing your comments/suggestions/opinions on the Draft 2024 - 2025 Operational Plan? No

Have Your Say - Draft 2024 - 2025 Operational Plan?

Are you providing your comments/suggestions/opinions on the Draft 2024 - 2025 Fees and Charges? Yes

Have You Say - Draft 2024 - 2025 Fees and Charges

I think it is ridiculous that I have to pay more for bin collection as I will not be using the composting bin as we already compost all our green waste. So why do I need a third bin that will be redundant. Residents should be given the option of opting for the extra bin if they wish for the extra fee. Leave the rest of us that don't want it alone.

What is your name (first and surname)? Therese Mott-Pekolj

What is your phone number? 0428291924

What is your email address? tezzac_56@yahoo.com

What is your address? (inc Street/Rural Number) 55 Goulburn Street

I live in Jindera

If other, name town/village/area

Your Overall Suggestions and/or Comments

Please give residents the option of opting in to the 3 bin system. I lived in Albury council area when they introduced the 3 bin system and we never used the green bin as we have always been composters but still had to pay for a bin we didn't ever use. Seems a bit unfair to pay for a bin we don't need.

Residents should have been polled before the council signed up for this

new system of bins

Have Your Say - Draft 2024 - 2025 Operational Plan, 2025 - 2028 Budget, 2024 - 2025 Fees and Charges



Submitted on 16 May 2024, 11:38PM

Receipt number HYSD4

Related form version 3

Are you providing your comments/suggestions/opinions on the Draft Budget 2025 - 2028?

Have Your Say - Draft Budget 2025 - 2028

Are you providing your comments/suggestions/opinions on the Draft 2024 - 2025 Operational Plan?

Have Your Say - Draft 2024 - 2025 Operational Plan?

Are you providing your comments/suggestions/opinions on the Draft 2024 - 2025 Fees and Charges?

Have You Say - Draft 2024 - 2025 Fees and Charges

Jindera needs a dog park desperately so as we don't have to take our dogs on the oval
Our off leash area has been taken of us .

What is your name (first and surname)? Yulleen

What is your phone number? 0429665423

What is your email address? yulleen@live.com

What is your address? (inc Street/Rural Number) 103 Mitchell street

I live in Jindera

If other, name town/village/area

Your Overall Suggestions and/or Comments

We are in desperate need of a dog park
So we then might stop taking our dog on the oval
We did have an off leash area but that has been taken off us .

tmsk261@outlook.com

From: tmsk261@outlook.com
To: MailMailbox
Subject: 1 Comment and 1 Suggestion - the draft Delivery Program 2022-2026 and Operational Plan 2024-2025
Attachments: May 2023 report.pdf

For the attention of Council executives, all Councillors and to the wider business community, shire residents and ratepayers of Greater Hume Local Government Area.

The Greater Hume Council organisation is a major business in the shire, one of the largest employers, operating with an annual expenditure budget of approximately \$40M. The draft document exhibited is, in simple terms, the business plan for the next 12 months.

My one comment is that such a draft business plan put to the community for comment and submission should be a 'showpiece' document, and be carefully crafted and written to demonstrate to the community that the Council is a responsible well run organisation. I think this year's draft plan does not meet business and community expectations for such an important document.

My one suggestion Growth and Prosperity Theme - the G2.1 Strategy – support local job creation by creating industrial areas and employment opportunities. G.2.2.2 Initiative – investigate grant funding opportunities to progress 46 lot subdivision at Jindera Industrial Estate including Hawthorn Rd reconstruction works. Read this section Page 24 of the pdf (also listed as page 11 in the footer), reproduced below.

Growth & Prosperity

Theme	Growth & Prosperity
Objective	Our community growth maximises our location and strengths to enable
Outcome	G2 Our liveability boosts quality of life for today's and future generations

CSP Strategy	Initiative
G2.1. Support local job creation by creating industrial areas and employment opportunities	G2.1.1.Undertake study to report on business investment opportunities
	G2.1.2. Actively promote and support vocational education programs through local high schools
G2.2. Encourage social enterprises and businesses to grow local employment	G2.2.1. Prepare a strategy to investigate the expansion of industrial estates or development of new industrial estates for Holbrook, Culcairn
	G2.2.2. Investigate grant funding opportunities to progress 46 lot subdivision at Jindera Industrial Estate including Hawthorn Road reconstruction works

The plan indicates that Council is not actioning further investigations to secure grant funding in 2024/2025 or 2025/2026 to assist the Council to progress Stages 3-4.

The 46 lot subdivision is 'shovel ready', detailed design done , DA approval done. A comprehensive economic benefit analyses and updated Engineer's estimate was compiled (and reported to Council in May 2023, see attached).

Why is Council 'dropping the ball' on this? It's a real pity, Council has a well established record of industrial land development in this location. There was a long list of persons who had expressed interest in buying lots in Stage 3 (and Stage 4). A very detailed grant application was submitted in May 2023 for the grant (the program didn't proceed). So 80% of the work to continue to chase grant funding to make this happen is already done.

I urge the Council is reconsider this initiative and include it for action in the 2024/2025 and 2025/2026 reporting years.

Regards Marg Killalea



Marg M: 0400 914 768

Email: tmsk261@outlook.com

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**ORDINARY MEETING OF GREATER HUME COUNCIL
TO BE HELD AT
CULCAIRN COUNCIL CHAMBERS – 40 BALFOUR STREET CULCAIRN
ON WEDNESDAY 17 MAY 2023**

GOVERNANCE

1. **NSW GOVERNMENT 'GROWING REGIONAL ECONOMIES' FUND – SEEKING AUTHORITY TO SUBMIT EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR FUNDING TO UNDERTAKE RECONSTRUCTION OF HAWTHORN ROAD (520 METRES) AND CONSTRUCT 46 LOT EXPANSION OF THE JINDERA INDUSTRIAL ESTATE**

Report prepared by Economic Development Coordinator – Marg Killalea

REASON FOR REPORT

The purpose of the report is to seek Council's delegated authority to submit an Expression of Interest application to NSW Government Growing Regional Economies fund to undertake reconstruction of Hawthorn Road (520 metres) and construct a 46 lot expansion of the Jindera industrial estate. Council to commit in principal to provide the 25% cash contribution, should it be successful in the detailed application stage.

REFERENCE TO DELIVERY PLAN ACTION

Theme:	Growth and Prosperity
Outcome G1:	Our towns and villages are championed to stimulate economic growth, investment and employment opportunities

DISCUSSION

Background:

The Growing Regional Economies Fund (GREF) is part of the NSW Government's \$3.3 billion Regional Growth Fund, designed to increase economic activity in regional NSW.

The key objectives of the GREF are to:

- accelerate economic development and prosperity in regional NSW
- increase the appeal of investing in regional NSW
- support investment in major transformational projects that increase employment opportunities in regional areas
- ensure that regional communities have the infrastructure and services required for sustainable growth.

Applications for funding can be for a minimum of \$2 million up to a maximum of \$30 million. Applications are required to have a financial cash co-contribution of at least 25 per cent of the total grant amount and evidence of such must be provided as part of the application.

Applicants are faced with a two-step process in applying for funding under the program.

Greater Hume Council is an eligible applicant.

Step 1 is an Expression of Interest (EOI) application, which closes 5pm, 23 May 2023. If Council is successful in the EOI stage, it will be invited to submit a detailed application which closes on 17 October 2023. Successful applicants will be notified confidentially from January 2024.

Projects must be completed by 30 June 2026.

**ORDINARY MEETING OF GREATER HUME COUNCIL
TO BE HELD AT
CULCAIRN COUNCIL CHAMBERS – 40 BALFOUR STREET CULCAIRN
ON WEDNESDAY 17 MAY 2023**

NSW GOVERNMENT 'GROWING REGIONAL ECONOMIES' FUND – SEEKING AUTHORITY TO SUBMIT EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR FUNDING TO UNDERTAKE RECONSTRUCTION OF HAWTHORN ROAD (520 METRES) AND CONSTRUCT 46 LOT EXPANSION OF THE JINDERA INDUSTRIAL ESTATE [CONT'D]

The focus of the GREF is to build enabling infrastructure including roads, and services to develop investment precincts that support increased investment, land activation and expand employment opportunities.

The program guidelines are attached as **ANNEXURE 5**.

Notable also is that the GREF will support projects that can demonstrate alignment with the NSW Government's Regional Economic Development Strategies and has the potential to increase investment and economic activity across the Functional Economic Regions (there are 38 across NSW).

Greater Hume Local Government Area (LGA) is grouped in the Albury Wodonga Functional Economic Region (FER) which comprises Greater Hume, Federation, Albury, Wodonga, and Indigo councils. The logic about a FER is that the movement of workers between LGA's including cross-border commuting, combined with economic and industry linkages, forms the basis for considering the five LGA's as a single cross-border 'functioning economic region'.

Earlier in 2023, the Albury Wodonga Regional Economic Development Strategy Regional Economic Development Strategies | NSW Government was updated, which is significant in relation to this report.

The proposed project is an enabling infrastructure project that will strongly benefit the Albury Wodonga FER, due to its close proximity to Albury Wodonga and this will be demonstrated strongly in the detailed business case, should Council's application proceed further.

Noteworthy, the updated strategy lists "the need to identify and facilitate opportunities to cluster industrial and manufacturing land uses along major road and rail corridors". Source: Albury Wodonga Regional Economic Development Strategy – 2023 Update, p 7.

**ORDINARY MEETING OF GREATER HUME COUNCIL
TO BE HELD AT
CULCAIRN COUNCIL CHAMBERS – 40 BALFOUR STREET CULCAIRN
ON WEDNESDAY 17 MAY 2023**

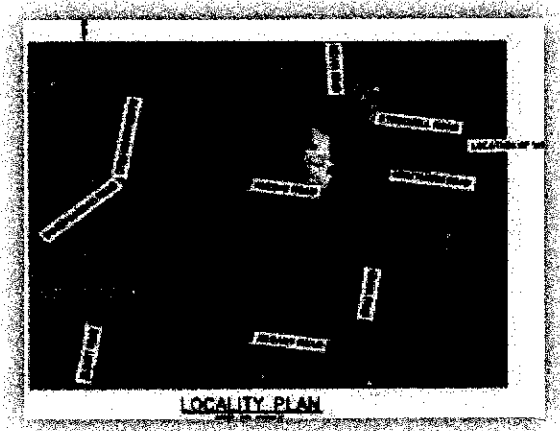
NSW GOVERNMENT 'GROWING REGIONAL ECONOMIES' FUND – SEEKING AUTHORITY TO SUBMIT EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR FUNDING TO UNDERTAKE RECONSTRUCTION OF HAWTHORN ROAD (520 METRES) AND CONSTRUCT 46 LOT EXPANSION OF THE JINDERA INDUSTRIAL ESTATE [CONT'D]

Proposed application for funding

The proposed project application aligns with the GREF guidelines.

Enabling infrastructure – 46 lot expansion of the Jindera Industrial Estate

The project provides for the reconstruction of Hawthorn Rd on the southern side of the estate to ensure that overland water flows to east and west drainage channels and for the construction of a 46 Lot Subdivision to expand the existing industrial precinct on 20 ha of land south of the existing industrial zone, as shown in the locality map and subdivision plan shown below.



**STAGE 3 AND 4
JARWICK WAY JINDERA, NSW**

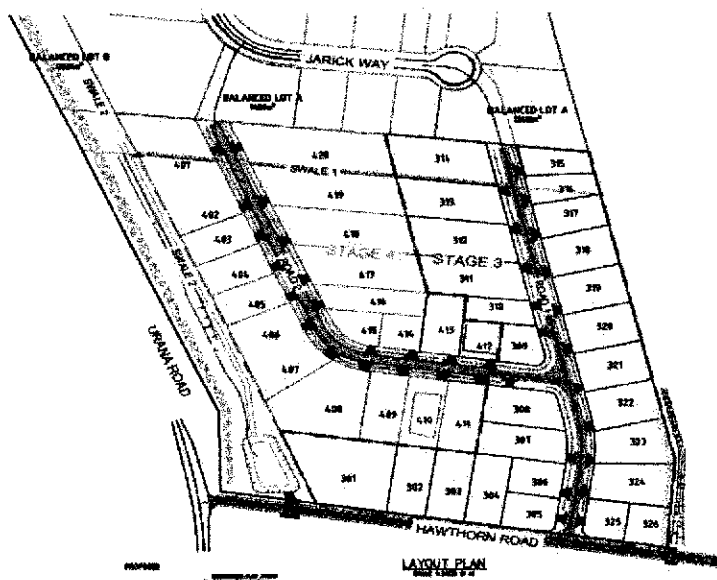


Image 1, 2: courtesy SJE Consulting

Page 50 of 8

**ORDINARY MEETING OF GREATER HUME COUNCIL
TO BE HELD AT
CULCAIRN COUNCIL CHAMBERS – 40 BALFOUR STREET CULCAIRN
ON WEDNESDAY 17 MAY 2023**

NSW GOVERNMENT 'GROWING REGIONAL ECONOMIES' FUND – SEEKING AUTHORITY TO SUBMIT EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR FUNDING TO UNDERTAKE RECONSTRUCTION OF HAWTHORN ROAD (520 METRES) AND CONSTRUCT 46 LOT EXPANSION OF THE JINDERA INDUSTRIAL ESTATE [CONT'D]

Stages 1, 2, 2a and 2b developments of the estate have been completed. Stage 3 (26 lots) and Stage 4 (20 lots) are now proposed to be undertaken as a single project.

The project is focused on increasing the provision of employment land in response to demand and help build community resilience through local employment opportunities. Jindera has a number of key factors which make it a suitable site for industrial expansion including good access to transport routes, visibility of industrial opportunities due to its proximity to Albury City, desirability as a place to live and work, projected high population growth, and a large pool of local and regional labour to draw on and a well thought out land use strategy.

Demand for new industrial land allotments at Jindera

Council has recently completed a seven (7) lot subdivision (Stage 2b), of which 5 lots have sold or in contract awaiting settlement this month. At the time of writing the report, the remaining two unsold lots which were under offer but have not progressed to contract exchange and may be subject to a further report to Council.

Demand is still regarded as strong for the next staged developments at Jindera Industrial Estate. The Economic Development Officer continues to receive phone calls and emails requesting updates in relation to the progress of new industrial land development at Jindera. Councillors should refer to the de-identified interested parties list ENCLOSED SEPARATELY to this report as further insight to the current demand.

Development Consent, Estimate of Development Costs, Shovel Ready Status

Development consent for the project subject to conditions was issued on 9 September 2022.

The project is well advanced in terms of planning and so can be described as 'shovel ready' and this fact should enhance Council's EOI application.

Council has sought current Engineer's Estimate of Development Costs for Hawthorn Road reconstruction and Stages 3 and 4, ENCLOSED SEPARATELY for councillors' information.

**ORDINARY MEETING OF GREATER HUME COUNCIL
TO BE HELD AT
CULCAIRN COUNCIL CHAMBERS – 40 BALFOUR STREET CULCAIRN
ON WEDNESDAY 17 MAY 2023**

NSW GOVERNMENT 'GROWING REGIONAL ECONOMIES' FUND – SEEKING AUTHORITY TO SUBMIT EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR FUNDING TO UNDERTAKE RECONSTRUCTION OF HAWTHORN ROAD (520 METRES) AND CONSTRUCT 46 LOT EXPANSION OF THE JINDERA INDUSTRIAL ESTATE [CONT'D]

The current Estimates of Development Costs is summarised below.

		GST Excl.
47 lot industrial subdivision	Fully serviced water, sewer, NBN fibre to the premise, electricity and upgrade to Hawthorn Road to provide access to the estate and improved drainage and new intersection with Urana Rd	\$6,580,551
Project Management 5%		\$329,027
Contingency 25% *Recommended by Regional NSW		\$1,645,137
NBN Backhaul to bring fibre to Jindera Industrial Estate 6.7 km from Jindera Gap		\$1,040,586
TOTAL		\$9,595,302
Total funds to be secured by Growing Regional Economies Fund grant		\$7,196,477
Council's required cash co-contribution 25%		\$2,398,825
TOTAL PROJECT ESTIMATE		\$9,595,302

Council should note that this report is seeking Council's commitment in principal to provide the 25% cash contribution to the project to support the submission of the Expression of Interest (first stage of the application).

Should Council in mid July 2023 be invited to submit a Detailed Application, a further report will be presented to Council at its September meeting for deliberation, and at that point Council will be informed as to the detailed business case for the project including:

- A completed business case using the NSW Government regional infrastructure project template
- A detailed project plan that outlines the project delivery timeline
- A detailed project budget and cost estimates
- Cash flows – economic costs and benefits and economic net benefits
- Evidence of experience delivering projects of similar size and scope, or demonstrated capability to deliver the project
- Evidence that the project is ready to be delivered, including the status of development application, landowners consent and construction approvals where required
- Letters of support for the project.

Council's Chief Financial Officer, Dean Hart, has recommended that a 10-year loan borrowing be secured to provide for Council's 25% cash contribution to the project, and likely such facility be taken up with T-Corp.

**ORDINARY MEETING OF GREATER HUME COUNCIL
TO BE HELD AT
CULCAIRN COUNCIL CHAMBERS – 40 BALFOUR STREET CULCAIRN
ON WEDNESDAY 17 MAY 2023**

NSW GOVERNMENT 'GROWING REGIONAL ECONOMIES' FUND – SEEKING AUTHORITY
TO SUBMIT EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR FUNDING TO UNDERTAKE
RECONSTRUCTION OF HAWTHORN ROAD (520 METRES) AND CONSTRUCT 46 LOT
EXPANSION OF THE JINDERA INDUSTRIAL ESTATE [CONT'D]

BUDGET IMPLICATION

Should Council be successful in the EOI and Detailed Application stages, a loan facility will be necessary to fund Council's cash co-contribution for the project, but noting that any future Australian Government grant program that aligns to the timing of the project be pursued as an alternative source of the cash co-contribution.

CONCLUSION

The Growing Regional Economies Fund provides a unique opportunity to obtain funding for enabling infrastructure such as has been described in this report, and will fast-track these projects to realise completion of both Stage 3 and 4 of the industrial estate and accelerate economic development and prosperity for the region.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. delegates authority to the General Manager, to submit an Expression of Interest application to NSW Government Growing Regional Economies fund to undertake reconstruction of Hawthorn Road (520 metres) and construct 46 lot expansion of the Jindera industrial estate
2. commits in principal to provide the 25% cash contribution to the project estimated at \$2,398,825.00
3. notes that if it is successful in the EOI stage, it will receive a further report in relation to the business case regarding the detailed application.

GREATER HUME COUNCIL
AUDIT, RISK & IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Greater Hume Council has established an Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee in compliance with section 428A of the *Local Government Act 1993*, the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021* and the Office of Local Government's *Guidelines for risk management and internal audit for local government in NSW*. These terms of reference set out the Committee's objectives, authority, composition and tenure, roles and responsibilities, reporting and administrative arrangements.

Objective

The objective of the Committee is to provide independent assurance to Council by monitoring, reviewing and providing advice about its governance processes, compliance, risk management and control frameworks, external accountability obligations and overall performance.

Independence

The Committee is to ensure it has no real or perceived bias or conflicts of interest that may interfere with its ability to act independently and to provide Council with robust, objective and unbiased advice and assurance.

The Committee is to have an advisory and assurance role only and is to exercise no administrative functions, delegated financial responsibilities or any management functions of the Council. The committee will provide independent advice that is informed by Council's internal audit and risk management activities and information and advice provided by staff, relevant external bodies and subject matter experts.

The Committee must always ensure it maintains a direct reporting line to and from the internal audit function and acts as a mechanism for internal audit to report to the governing body and the General Manager on matters affecting the performance of the internal audit function.

Authority

Council authorises the Committee, by resolution, for the purposes of exercising its responsibilities, to:

- access any information it needs from the Council
- use any Council resources it needs
- have direct and unrestricted access to the General Manager and senior management of the Council
- seek the General Manager's permission to meet with any other Council staff member or contractor
- discuss any matters with the external auditor, internal audit contractor or other external parties
- request the attendance of any employee at Committee meetings, and
- obtain external legal or other professional advice in line with councils' procurement policies.

Information and documents pertaining to the Committee are confidential and are not to be made publicly available. The Committee may only release Council information to external parties that are assisting the Committee to fulfil its responsibilities.

Composition and tenure

The Committee consists of an independent chairperson and [two] independent members who have voting rights and one non-voting councillor, as required under the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*.

The governing body is to appoint the chairperson and members of the Committee.

All committee members must meet the independence and eligibility criteria prescribed under the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*.

Members will be appointed for up to a four-year term. Members can be reappointed for one further term, but the total period of continuous membership cannot exceed eight years. This includes any term as chairperson of the committee. Members who have served an eight-year term (either as a member or as chairperson) must have a two-year break from serving on the Committee before being appointed again. To preserve the Committee's knowledge of the Council, ideally, no more than one member should retire from the committee because of rotation in any one year.

The terms and conditions of each member's appointment to the committee are to be set out in a letter of appointment. New members will be thoroughly inducted to their role and receive relevant information and briefings on their appointment to assist them to meet their responsibilities.

Prior to approving the reappointment or extension of the chairperson's or an independent member's term, the governing body is to undertake an assessment of the chairperson's or committee member's performance. Reappointment of the chairperson or a committee member is also to be subject to that person still meeting the independence and eligibility requirements prescribed under the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*.

Members of the committee must possess and maintain a broad range of skills, knowledge and experience relevant to the operations, governance and financial management of the Council, the environment in which it operates, and the contribution that the committee makes to the Council. At least one member of the committee must have accounting or related financial management experience with an understanding of accounting and auditing standards in a local government environment. All members should have sufficient understanding of the Council's financial reporting responsibilities to be able to contribute to the committee's consideration of the annual financial statements.

Role

As required under section 428A of the *Local Government Act 1993* (the Act), the role of the Committee is to review and provide independent advice to the Council regarding the following aspects of its operations:

- compliance
- risk management
- fraud control
- financial management
- governance
- implementation of the strategic plan, delivery program and strategies
- service reviews
- collection of performance measurement data by the Council, and
- internal audit.

The Committee must also provide information to the Council for the purpose of improving Council's performance of its functions. The Committee's specific audit, risk and improvement responsibilities under section 428A of the Act are outlined in Schedule 1 to these terms of reference.

The Committee will act as a forum for consideration of the Council's internal audit function and oversee its planning, monitoring and reporting to ensure it operates effectively.

The Committee has no power to direct external audit or the way it is planned and undertaken but will act as a forum for the consideration of external audit findings.

The Committee is directly responsible and accountable to the governing body for the exercise of its responsibilities. In carrying out its responsibilities, the Committee must at all times recognise that primary responsibility for management of the Council rests with the governing body and the General Manager.

The responsibilities of the committee may be revised or expanded in consultation with, or as requested by, the governing body from time to time.

Responsibilities of members

Independent members

The chairperson and members of the committee are expected to understand and observe the requirements of the Office of Local Government's *Guidelines for risk management and internal audit for local government in NSW*. Members are also expected to:

- make themselves available as required to attend and participate in meetings
- contribute the time needed to review and understand information provided to it
- apply good analytical skills, objectivity and judgement
- act in the best interests of the Council
- have the personal courage to raise and deal with tough issues, express opinions frankly, ask questions that go to the fundamental core of the issue and pursue independent lines of inquiry
- maintain effective working relationships with the Council
- have strong leadership qualities (chairperson)
- lead effective committee meetings (chairperson), and
- oversee the Council's internal audit function (chairperson).

Councillor members

To preserve the independence of the committee, the Councillor member of the committee is a non-voting member. Their role is to:

- relay to the Committee any concerns the governing body may have regarding the Committee and issues being considered by the Committee
- provide insights into local issues and the strategic priorities of the Council that would add value to the committee's consideration of agenda items
- advise the governing body (as necessary) of the work of the Committee and any issues arising from it
- assist the governing body to review the performance of the Committee, and
- take an active part in debating any issues being considered by the Committee.

Issues or information the councillor member raises with or provides to the Committee must relate to the matters listed in Schedule 1 and issues being considered by the Committee.

The councillor member of the Committee must conduct themselves in a non-partisan and professional manner. The councillor member of the Committee must not engage in any conduct that seeks to politicise the activities of the Committee or the internal audit function or that could be seen to do so.

If the councillor member of the Committee engages in such conduct or in any other conduct that may bring the Committee and its work into disrepute, the chairperson may recommend to the Council, that the councillor member be removed from membership of the Committee. Where Council does not agree to the Committee chairperson's recommendation, the Council must give reasons for its decision in writing to the chairperson.

Conduct

Independent committee members are required to comply with the Council's code of conduct.

Complaints alleging breaches of the Council's code of conduct by an independent committee member are to be dealt with in accordance with the *Procedures for the Administration of the Model Code of Conduct for Local Councils in NSW*. The General Manager must consult with the governing body before taking any disciplinary action against an independent committee member in response to a breach of the Council's code of conduct.

Conflicts of interest

Once a year, Committee members must provide written declarations to the Council stating that they do not have any conflicts of interest that would preclude them from being members of the Committee. Independent committee members are 'designated persons' for the purposes of the Council's code of conduct and must also complete and submit returns of their interests.

Committee members and observers must declare any pecuniary or non-pecuniary conflicts of interest they may have in a matter being considered at the meeting at the start of each meeting or as soon as they become aware of the conflict of interest. Where a Committee member or observer declares a pecuniary or a significant non-pecuniary conflict of interest, they must remove themselves from Committee deliberations on the issue. Details of conflicts of interest declared at meetings must be appropriately minuted.

Standards

Committee members are to conduct their work in accordance with the International Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing issued by the Institute of Internal Auditors where applicable.

Work plans

The work of the committee is to be thoroughly planned and executed. The Committee must develop a strategic work plan every four years to ensure that the matters listed in Schedule 1 are reviewed by the Committee and considered by the internal audit function when developing their risk-based program of internal audits. The strategic work plan must be reviewed at least annually to ensure it remains appropriate.

The Committee may, in consultation with the governing body, vary the strategic work plan at any time to address new or emerging risks. The governing body may also, by resolution, request the Committee to approve a variation to the strategic work plan. Any decision to vary the strategic work plan must be made by the Committee.

The Committee must also develop an annual work plan to guide its work, and the work of the internal audit function over the forward year.

The Committee may, in consultation with the governing body, vary the annual work plan to address new or emerging risks. The governing body may also, by resolution, request the Committee to approve a variation to the annual work plan. Any decision to vary the annual work plan must be made by the Committee.

When considering whether to vary the strategic or annual work plans, the Committee must consider the impact of the variation on the internal audit function's existing workload and the completion of pre-existing priorities and activities identified under the work plan.

Assurance reporting

The Committee must regularly report to the Council to ensure that it is kept informed of matters considered by the Committee and any emerging issues that may influence the strategic direction of the Council or the achievement of its goals and objectives.

The Committee will provide an update to the governing body and the General Manager of its activities and opinions after every Committee meeting.

The Committee will provide an annual assessment to the governing body and the General Manager on the its work and its opinion on how the Council is performing.

The Committee will provide a comprehensive assessment every council term of the matters listed in Schedule 1 to the governing body and the General Manager.

The Committee may at any time report to the governing body or the General Manager on any other matter it deems of sufficient importance to warrant their attention. The Mayor and the chairperson of the Committee may also meet at any time to discuss issues relating to the work of the Committee.

Should the governing body require additional information, a request for the information may be made to the chairperson by resolution. The chairperson is only required to provide the information requested by the governing body where the chairperson is satisfied that it is reasonably necessary for the governing body to receive the information for the purposes of performing its functions under the Local Government Act. Individual Councillors are not entitled to request or receive information from the Committee.

Administrative arrangements

Meetings

The Committee will meet at least 4 times per year, plus a special meeting to review the [Council's financial statements.

The Committee can hold additional meetings when significant unexpected issues arise, or if the chairperson is asked to hold an additional meeting by a Committee member, the General Manager or the governing body.

Committee meetings can be held in person, by telephone or videoconference. Proxies are not permitted to attend meetings if a Committee member cannot attend.

A quorum will consist of a majority of independent voting members. Where the vote is tied, the chairperson has the casting vote.

The chairperson of the Committee will decide the agenda for each Committee meeting. Each Committee meeting is to be minuted to preserve a record of the issues considered and the actions and decisions taken by the committee.

The Mayor, General Manager and the internal audit coordinator should attend Committee meetings as non-voting observers. The external auditor (or their representative) is to be invited to each Committee meeting as an independent observer.

The chairperson can request the Council's chief finance officer, head of risk management function, senior managers, any Councillors, any employee or contractor of the council and any subject matter expert to attend Committee meetings. Where requested to attend a meeting, persons must attend the meeting where possible and provide any information requested. Observers have no voting rights and can be excluded from a meeting by the chairperson at any time.

The Committee can hold closed meetings whenever it needs to discuss confidential or sensitive issues with only voting members of the committee present.

The Committee must meet separately with the internal audit coordinator and the external auditor at least once each year.

Dispute resolution

Members of the Committee and the Council's management should maintain an effective working relationship and seek to resolve any differences they may have in an amicable and professional way by discussion and negotiation.

In the event of a disagreement between the Committee and the General Manager or other senior managers, the dispute is to be resolved by the governing body.

Unresolved disputes regarding compliance with statutory or other requirements are to be referred to the Departmental Chief Executive of the Office of Local Government in writing.

Secretariat

The General Manager will nominate a staff member to provide secretariat support to the Committee. The secretariat will ensure the agenda for each meeting after approval from the chairperson and supporting papers are circulated at least one week before the meeting and ensure that minutes of meetings are prepared and maintained. Minutes must be approved by the chairperson and circulated within one week of the meeting to each member.

Resignation and dismissal of members

Where the chairperson or a committee member is unable to complete their term or does not intend to seek reappointment after the expiry of their term, they should give one month's notice to the chairperson and the governing body prior to their resignation to allow the Council to ensure a smooth transition to a new chairperson or committee member.

The governing body can, by resolution, terminate the appointment of the chairperson or an independent committee member before the expiry of their term where that person has:

- breached the Council's code of conduct
- performed unsatisfactorily or not to expectations
- declared, or is found to be in, a position of a conflict of interest which is unresolvable
- been declared bankrupt or found to be insolvent
- experienced an adverse change in business status
- been charged with a serious criminal offence
- been proven to be in serious breach of their obligations under any legislation, or
- experienced an adverse change in capacity or capability.

The Council shall supply written reasons for the termination to the person.

The position of a Councillor member on the Committee can be terminated at any time by the governing body by resolution.

Review arrangements

At least once every council term, the governing body must review or arrange for an external review of the effectiveness of the committee.

These terms of reference must be reviewed annually by the Committee and once each council term by the governing body. Any substantive changes are to be approved by the governing body.

Adopted by Council in accordance with a resolution of the governing body.

19th June 2024

[resolution reference]

Next review date: June 2027

Schedule 1 – Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee Responsibilities

Audit

Internal audit

- Provide overall strategic oversight of internal audit activities
- Act as a forum for communication between the governing body, General Manager, senior management, the internal audit function and external audit
- Coordinate, as far as is practicable, the work programs of internal audit and other assurance and review functions
- Review and advise the Council whether, in its opinion:
 - the Council is providing the resources necessary to successfully deliver the internal audit function
 - the Council is complying with internal audit requirements, including conformance with the International Professional Practices Framework
 - the Council's internal audit charter is appropriate and whether the internal audit policies and procedures and audit/risk methodologies used by the Council are suitable
 - of the strategic four-year work plan and annual work plan of internal audits to be undertaken by the Council's internal audit function is appropriate
 - the internal audit activities are effective, including the performance of the internal audit coordinator and the internal audit function
 - of the findings and recommendations of internal audits conducted, and corrective actions needed to address issues raised
 - of the implementation by the Council of these corrective actions
 - on the appointment of the internal audit coordinator and external providers, and
 - if the internal audit function is structured appropriately and has sufficient skills and expertise to meet its responsibilities

External audit

- Act as a forum for communication between the governing body, General Manager, senior management, the internal audit function and external audit
- Coordinate as far as is practicable, the work programs of internal audit and external audit
- Provide input and feedback on the financial statement and performance audit coverage proposed by external audit and provide feedback on the audit services provided
- Review all external plans and reports in respect of planned or completed audits and monitor Council's implementation of audit recommendations
- Provide advice to the governing body and/or [general manager/executive officer] on action taken on significant issues raised in relevant external audit reports and better practice guides

Risk

Risk management

Review and advise the Council whether, in its opinion:

- the Council has in place a current and appropriate risk management framework that is consistent with the Australian risk management standard
- the Council is providing the resources necessary to successfully implement its risk management framework
- the [Council's risk management framework is adequate and effective for identifying and managing the risks the Council faces, including those associated with individual projects, programs and other activities
- risk management is integrated across all levels of the Council and across all processes, operations, services, decision-making, functions and reporting
- of the adequacy of risk reports and documentation, for example, the [Council's risk register and risk profile
- a sound approach has been followed in developing risk management plans for major projects or undertakings
- appropriate policies and procedures are in place for the management and exercise of delegations
- the Council has taken steps to embed a culture which is committed to ethical and lawful behaviour
- if there is a positive risk culture within the Council and strong leadership that supports effective risk management
- of the adequacy of staff training and induction in risk management
- how the Council's risk management approach impacts on the [council's/joint organisation's] insurance arrangements
- of the effectiveness of the Council's management of its assets, and
- of the effectiveness of business continuity arrangements, including business continuity plans, disaster recovery plans and the periodic testing of these plans.

Internal controls

Review and advise the Council whether, in its opinion:

- the Council's approach to maintaining an effective internal audit framework, including over external parties such as contractors and advisors, is sound and effective
- the Council has in place relevant policies and procedures and that these are periodically reviewed and updated
- appropriate policies and procedures are in place for the management and exercise of delegations
- staff are informed of their responsibilities and processes and procedures to implement controls are complied with
- if the Council's monitoring and review of controls is sufficient, and
- if internal and external audit recommendations to correct internal control weaknesses are implemented appropriately.

Compliance

Review and advise the Council of its opinion of the adequacy and effectiveness of the Council's compliance framework, including:

- whether the Council has appropriately considered legal and compliance risks as part of the Council's risk management framework
- how the Council manages its compliance with applicable laws, regulations, policies, procedures, codes, and contractual arrangements, and
- whether appropriate processes are in place to assess compliance.

Fraud and corruption

Review and advise the Council of its opinion of the adequacy and effectiveness of the Council's fraud and corruption prevention framework and activities, including whether Council has appropriate processes and systems in place to capture and effectively investigate fraud-related information.

Financial management

Review and advise the Council whether, in its opinion:

- the Council is complying with accounting standards and external accountability requirements
- of the appropriateness of the accounting policies and disclosures
- of the implications for the Council of the findings of external audits and performance audits and the Council's responses and implementation of recommendations
- the financial statement preparation procedures and timelines are sound
- the financial management processes are adequate
- the adequacy of cash management policies and procedures
- there are adequate controls over financial processes, for example:
 - appropriate authorisation and approval of payments and transactions
 - adequate segregation of duties
 - timely reconciliation of accounts and balances
 - review of unusual and high value purchases
- policies and procedures for management review and consideration of the financial position and performance of the Council are adequate
- the grants and tied funding policies and procedures are sound.

Governance

Review and advise the Council regarding its governance framework, including:

- decision-making processes
- implementation of governance policies and procedures
- reporting lines and accountability
- assignment of key roles and responsibilities
- committee structure
- management oversight responsibilities
- human resources and performance management activities
- reporting and communication activities
- information and communications technology (ICT) governance, and
- management and governance of the use of data, information and knowledge

Improvement**Strategic planning**

Review and advise the Council

- of the adequacy and effectiveness of its integrated, planning and reporting (IP&R) processes
- if appropriate reporting and monitoring mechanisms are in place to measure progress against objectives, and

→ whether it is successfully implementing and achieving its IP&R objectives and strategies.

Service reviews and business improvement

- Act as a forum for communication and monitoring of any audits conducted by external bodies and the implementation of corrective actions (for example, NSW government agencies, Commonwealth government agencies, insurance bodies)
- Review and advise Council whether, in its opinion:
 - Council has robust systems to set objectives and goals to determine and deliver appropriate levels of service to the community and business performance
 - if appropriate reporting and monitoring mechanisms are in place to measure service delivery to the community and overall performance, and
 - how the Council can improve its service delivery and its performance of its business and functions generally

Performance data and measurement

Review and advise Council whether, in its opinion:

- Council has a robust system to determine appropriate performance indicators to measure the achievement of its strategic objectives
- if the performance indicators it uses are effective, and
- of the adequacy of performance data collection and reporting.

Child Safe Policy

Document Name	Document Version Number	Review Date
Child Safe Policy	1.0	June 2027
Date Adopted	Minute Number	Status
19 June 2024	Insert Minute Number Here	New Policy

Purpose

At Greater Hume Council we are committed to the safety of children and young people. We are committed to providing an environment which is safe for children and young people, and to ensuring that this is reflected in all aspects of our business operations.

This Child Safe Policy sets out the general principles that guide the management of child and young people's safety within our organisation.

We have developed this Policy to help our organisation to understand and manage children and young people, and to set a framework to ensure that we provide a safe environment for children and young people, and that we meet all of our objectives and comply with all of our legal and regulatory obligations in relation to these matters.

Greater Hume Council is committed to being a child safe organisation and embeds the 10 NSW and 11 Victorian Child Safe Standards. The Child Safe Standards recommended by the Royal Commission provide guidance for our Organisation to ensure our policies and procedures, strategies and attitudes, ensure children's safety is paramount and that we continue to improve our child safe culture and practices.

The 10 NSW Child Safe standards are:

- Standard 1 Child safety and wellbeing is embedded in organisational leadership, governance and culture.
- Standard 2 Children and young people are informed about their rights, participate in decisions affecting them and are taken seriously.
- Standard 3 Families and communities are informed and involved in promoting child safety and wellbeing.
- Standard 4 Equity is upheld and diverse needs respected in policy and practice.
- Standard 5 People working with children and young people are suitable and supported to reflect child safety and wellbeing values in practice.
- Standard 6 Processes to respond to complaints and concerns are child focused.
- Standard 7 Staff and volunteers are equipped with the knowledge, skills and awareness to keep children and young people safe through ongoing education and training.
- Standard 8 Physical and online environments promote safety and wellbeing while minimising the opportunity for children and young people to be harmed.
- Standard 9 Implementation of the national child safe principles is regularly reviewed and improved.
- Standard 10 Policies and procedures document how the Organisation is safe for children and young people.

Child Safe Policy

The 11 Victorian Child Safe standards are:

- Standard 1 Organisations establish a culturally safe environment in which the diverse and unique identities and experiences of Aboriginal children and young people are respected and valued.
- Standard 2 Child safety and wellbeing is embedded in organisational leadership, governance and culture.
- Standard 3 Children and young people are empowered about their rights, participate in decisions affecting them and are taken seriously.
- Standard 4 Families and communities are informed and involved in promoting child safety and wellbeing.
- Standard 5 Equity is upheld and diverse needs respected in policy and practice.
- Standard 6 People working with children and young people are suitable and supported to reflect child safety and wellbeing values in practice.
- Standard 7 Processes for complaints and concerns are child-focused.
- Standard 8 Staff and volunteers are equipped with the knowledge, skills and awareness to keep children and young people safe through ongoing education and training.
- Standard 9 Physical and online environments promote safety and wellbeing while minimising the opportunity for children and young people to be harmed.
- Standard 10 Implementation of the Child Safe Standards is regularly reviewed and improved.
- Standard 11 Policies and procedures document how the organisation is safe for children and young people.

This policy and related policies, procedures and documents commit Greater Hume Council to:

- Have a legal and ethical responsibility to ensure our Council provides a safe and friendly environment where all children are respected, valued and encouraged to reach their full potential;
- Ensuring children's safety, wellbeing and rights is paramount, and we aim to take all practical steps to protect children from harm, ensuring healthy and safe environments;
- Our Organisation takes a 'zero' tolerance approach to child abuse and is committed to raise awareness of the importance of child safety in our environment and the community;
- Collaborate with children, young people and their families in organisational decision making and service provision to ensure children's voices are heard especially when decisions affect them.
- Establish how we prevent, identify, respond to and report any concerns relating to the safety and wellbeing of children, including physical, sexual and emotional abuse and neglect;
- Ensuring any person from within the Organisation who has allegations made against them shall be treated fairly. All enquires, investigations and decisions taken shall be just and fair, with the safety of any child concerned at the heart of the process.
- Establishing how employees, contractors, Family Day Care educators, Councilors, trainee's and volunteers are well informed about preventing, identifying, responding and reporting to the different ways children may express concerns, distress and disclose harm, as well as the process for responding to disclosures from children.

Child Safe Policy

Scope

This policy applies to: any people who perform work for Greater Hume Council, including all our directors, managers, councillors, employees, contractors, subcontractors, employees of our contractors and subcontractors, apprentices, trainees, volunteers, interns, work experience students, labour hire employees and outworkers and any other people who perform work for or on behalf of our Council (Workers).

Greater Hume Council is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all Workers and visitors to our Organisation. However, this Policy specifically addresses our commitment to the safety and wellbeing of youths and children at our Organisation. Throughout this Policy, we use the terms "young people", "child" and "children" to refer generally to people under 18 years of age.

This policy applies to all activities in our Organisation which involve children, or which result in or relate to contact with children.

This policy is intended to help manage the safety and wellbeing of any children that come into contact with our Organisation, whether they are receiving services from us, are the children of someone who is receiving services from us, are the children of our Workers, or come into contact with us in any other way.

We require all Workers to sign a copy of this Policy to agree in writing that they accept and will act in accordance with this Policy.

It is important to note that while Greater Hume Council employees under the age of eighteen are defined as coworkers they are children, and we must ensure their safety and wellbeing.

Definitions

Code of Conduct	Together with a code of ethics, the code of conduct helps guide interactions between management, educators and staff, as well as informing the service decision-making processes relating to professional standards
Disclosure	The process where a child or young person conveys or attempts to convey that they are being or have been abused.
Child (ren)	A person under the age of 18.
Mandatory reporter	A person who is required to report known and suspected cases of child abuse and neglect to a nominated government department or agency.
Mandatory reporting	The legislative requirement for selected classes of people to report suspected cases of child abuse and neglect.
Child Safe Standards	Reflect ten NSW child safe standards and eleven Victorian child safe standards recommended by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse and are the vehicle for giving recommendations relating to the standards.
Reportable conduct	Certain organisations or entities have legal obligations under Reportable Conduct Schemes to notify and investigate certain allegations of abuse involving a child, when the allegation is against someone they employ, engage or contract in circumstances outlined in the legislation.
Rights of the Child	Human rights belonging to all children, as specified in the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child.
Wellbeing	Sound wellbeing results from the satisfaction of basic needs. It includes happiness and satisfaction, effective social functioning and the dispositions of optimism, openness, curiosity, and resilience.

Child Safe Policy

Working with Children	A notice, certificate or other document granted to, or with respect to a person under a working with children law. The person has been assessed as suitable to work with children; there has been no information that if the person worked with children the person would pose a risk to the children; or the person is not prohibited from attempting to obtain, undertake or remain in child-related employment.
Child Protection	All adults have a responsibility to report to the Police if they suspect or believe a child is being harmed. It is a response to a high-risk situation.
Child Safe	Taking steps to prevent children from being harmed or abused.
Child safe organisation	An organisation that systematically: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • creates conditions to reduce the likelihood of children being harmed; • creates conditions that increase the likelihood of identifying and reporting harm; • responds appropriately to disclosure, allegations and suspicions of harm.
Child Safety Risk Management Plan	Child Safety Risk Management Plan is to identify, analyse and plan to control risks of child abuse and harm within the organisation. Greater Hume Council are currently developing a Child Safety Organisation Risk Management Plan
Children with vulnerabilities	Children who may be exposed to greater risk due to their experience, ability, location or background. They may include Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children; children from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds; children with disability; the very young; those who have experienced prior trauma; those who have gender differences, or who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and children who live in remote areas.
Contractor/ Sole Trader	A third party contracted to provide goods, services or programs on behalf of Greater Hume Council. Contractors are not employed by Greater Hume Council.
People Leader	An employee who is responsible for, oversees and/or regulates the work of others, including and not limited to, Team Leaders, Supervisors, Centre Directors, Coordinators and all levels of management.
Reportable Conduct	Includes the following conduct; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a sexual offence with or in the presence of a child, • sexual misconduct with, or in the presence of a child, • ill-treatment of a child, • neglect of a child, • an assault against a child, • behaviour that causes significant emotional or psychological harm to a child, • any offence under section 43B (failure to protect) or 316A (failure to report) of the Crimes Act 1900, whether or not with the consent of the child.
Nominated Supervisor	In the absence of the Approved Provider, the Nominated Supervisor will act as the person with responsibility for the day to day management of the approved service and will ensure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring that the service is operated in compliance with the National Law, the National Regulations and the National Quality Standard. • Assisting with communication between the Approved Provider and the regulatory authority.
Worker	Includes, but is not limited to, any employee, volunteer (whether engaged by Council or a third party), contractor (labour hire, contracted service provider or otherwise), subcontractor, consultant, work experience student, Councillor or board member working with, for or on behalf of Council.
Approved Provider	Legal entity with ultimate legal responsibility for a childcare services. This may be a company, partnership or an individual

Policy Content

Child Safe Environment and Culture

A child safe organisation is one that creates a culture, adopts strategies and takes action to promote child wellbeing and prevent harm to children and young people.

A child safe organisation consciously and systematically:

- Creates an environment where children's safety and wellbeing is at the centre of thought, values and actions.
- Places emphasis on genuine engagement with and valuing of children and young people.
- Creates conditions that reduce the likelihood of harm to children and young people.
- Creates conditions that increase the likelihood of identifying any harm.
- Responds to any concerns, disclosures, allegations or suspicions of harm.

Source: Definition of a child safe organisation – [Child safe organisation](#)

Greater Hume Council safeguards a Child Safe Environment by;

- Valuing the important role parents, caregivers and the community play in fostering a child safe culture and engages them in promoting and upholding the rights of children and young people.
- Providing environments that ensures children, young people and their families feel valued and respected and enables us to improve the quality of our service.
- Striving to create an environment where children and young people's diverse needs and circumstances are recognised and all children feel safe, welcome and included.
- Collaborating with children, young people and their families in organisational decision making and service provision to ensure children's voices are heard especially when decisions affect them.
- Ensuring children and young people know how to seek help and can recognise safe environments.
- Ensuring children and young people learn about their rights, including to safety, information, to be listened to and to have their views respected.

Our commitment to the safety of children and young people

Our Organisation is committed to being a child safe organisation and embeds this into our policies and procedures, strategies and attitudes, ensure children's safety is paramount and that we continue to improve our child safe culture and practices.

- We are committed to the safety of children and young people.
- We are committed to providing an environment which is safe for children and youths, and to ensuring that this is reflected in all aspects of our business operations.
- We value and respect children and young people and welcome them regardless of their abilities, age, sex, gender, or social economic or cultural background.
- Bullying and harassment will not be tolerated at Greater Hume Council
- Safeguarding children from harm and abuse is an essential responsibility for our Organisation. We are committed to ensuring that any child who comes into contact with our Organisation or services is properly safeguarded. Every person under this policy must ensure that they play an active role in ensuring that children are properly safeguarded.

- We believe that no child or young person should experience abuse or harm and we are committed to the protection of children and young people. This policy is intended to provide guidance and overarching principles to those who represent us as volunteers or staff, to guide our approach to child protection and safeguarding.
- It is our intention that a child safe culture should be embedded in all levels of our Organisation, including but not limited to our leadership and governance as well as amongst all of our other Workers.
- When dealing with concerns about a child's safety or wellbeing, we are guided by a consideration of what is in the best interests of the child.

Greater Hume Council is committed to;

- ensuring our Workers have the knowledge, skills and awareness to keep children safe
- ensuring any of our Workers who work with children have the necessary skills, attributes, experience and qualifications to uphold this Policy and provide the support and supervision that children require
- ensuring that any children who come into contact with our Organisation and who have concerns about their safety or need assistance know where to go and who to talk to
- ensuring that any children who come into contact with our Organisation and who have concerns about their safety feel comfortable seeking assistance
- maintaining the safety and security of any of our facilities or environments which may be accessed by children (including any online facilities or environments, websites or platforms)
- promoting a workplace which values diversity and inclusion
- where appropriate, involve children and their families in decisions that affect them
- promotes a culture of child safety at all levels in our Organisation
- taking any allegations or complaints in relation to child safety seriously, and respond promptly and appropriately
- reporting any allegations or concerns to relevant authorities whenever appropriate or necessary

Our Commitment to Supporting the Diverse and Unique Identities of Children and Young People

Greater Hume Council are committed to providing a culturally safe environment in which the diverse and unique identities and experiences of Aboriginal children and young people are respected and valued. We actively encourage and support children's abilities to express their culture and exercise their cultural rights.

Our Workers must encourage and support children to freely express their culture and enjoy their cultural right and must actively support and facilitate the participation and inclusion of Aboriginal children and their families within our Organisation.

Our leadership has a responsibility to help everyone involved with our Organisation to acknowledge and appreciate the strengths of Aboriginal culture and to understand its importance to the wellbeing and safety of Aboriginal children and young people

Racism is strictly prohibited within our Organisation. If racism occurs, we will respond in an appropriate time and manner.

All of our policies, procedures, systems, and processes work together to create a culturally safe and inclusive environment that meets the needs of Aboriginal children, young people, and their families.

Continuous Improvement

Greater Hume Council are committed to continuously improving our approach to implementing a child safe organisation. We regularly review our child safe policies and practices so that we can continue to improve them. In particular, we do the following:

- we will regularly review and monitor the effectiveness of our child safe policies and procedures and invite children, staff members, families and communities to contribute to their development
- any updates or revisions will be communicated to all stake holders
- our Child Safe policy will be reviewed on an annual basis
- complaints and feedback are lodged and taken into account when reviewing our policies
- child safety is imbedded in all strategic documents and all quality improvement plans
- we will review and update all training and development programs to be in line with regulations and best practice to ensure child safety.

Managing Risks

Greater Hume Council are dedicated to minimising risks of harm to children and young people. Our risk mitigation strategies will include;

- risk assessment plans will cover child specific risks for all services, events and programs
- Working with Children Checks (WWCC) will be verified and updated regularly
- all policies, documents and procedures are reviewed regularly
- collaborate with relevant organisations to ensure our standards are adequate and reflect best practices
- all workers will be informed, resourced and supported to carry out their responsibility to providing a child safe environment
- through our robust recruitment processes will engage the most suitable people to work with children and young people.

Duty of Care

Our workers have a legal obligation to take reasonable care for their own safety and the safety of children and others with who they interact during their engagement with Council.

Our Workers must uphold our Organisation's values in accordance with this Policy.

These obligations are based on the role and responsibilities of the worker and may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- remaining alert and aware of possible safeguarding risks to children
- guarding children against harmful environments with appropriate actions, such as adequate supervision or ensuring safe environments.
- taking positive steps to maintain the safety and wellbeing of children engaging with our Organisation
- reporting concerns expeditiously and appropriately, in line with child protection procedures
- understanding the duty to report specific concerns (and understanding how this interplays with confidentiality)
- challenging any inappropriate or harmful behaviour of any other adult and reporting this accordingly
- acting appropriately in the presence of children
- not taking any inappropriate risks.

Duty of care to children applies during all activities and functions conducted or arranged by Council where children are in the care of workers.

Physical Contact

Workers must not engage in inappropriate physical contact with children, or act in ways that may cause a child to reasonably fear that unjustified force will be used against them.

Examples of inappropriate physical contact include, but are not limited to:

- harming a child either physically or emotionally
- exposing a child to behaviour which may cause physical or emotional harm
- restraining a child, unless this is part of an approved behaviour management plan

In some instances workers may use reasonable physical contact for exercising appropriate control over a child include and may include but not limited to:

- Disarming a child who is at risk of harming themselves or another person
- Separating children who are fighting
- Reasonable use of physical force for the protection of self or others

Reporting

All reports will be handled in accordance with the relevant legislation, which mandates a specific approach to the handling and reporting of complaints about staff involving a child or young person.

Council's workers will be trained to respond appropriately to complaints, allegations and disclosures. All children, young people, families, and Council workers will know what to do and who to tell if they observe abuse or are a victim of abuse, and if they witness suspected reportable conduct.

Accessible information for workers, families, community members, children and young people to report child safe concerns will be provided.

We acknowledge that some of our workers are deemed mandatory reporters and are required by law to report suspected child abuse and neglect to government authorities law.

All nominated supervisors will be aware of their reporting responsibilities to regulatory authorities as per Education and Care Services National Regulations (2011 SI 653)

Links to Policy

- Child Protection Policy
- Code of Conduct Policy
- Participation of Volunteers and Students
- Emergency Evacuations
- Excursions
- Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness
- Water Safety Policy
- Sun Protection
- Complaints Handling Policy
- Councillor Induction and Training Policy
- Customer Service Policy
- Gathering Information Policy
- Media and Communications Policy
- Playground Inspection and Maintenance Policy
- Records Management
- Recruitment and Selection Policy
- Risk Management Policy
- Sporting and Recreation Use Policy
- Stakeholders Engagement Policy
- Volunteer Policy

Links to Procedure

- Providing a Child Safe Environment Procedure

Links to Forms

References

- Childsafe.humanrights.gov.au
- Office of the Children's Guardian
- Child Safe Organisations
- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse - Final Report (2017)
- Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse - Final Report Recommendations
- Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse - A brief guide to the Final Report
- Working With Children Checks Report (2015)
- Criminal Justice Report (2015)
- A guide to the Child Safe Standards
- Risk management and the Child Safe Standards Part 2: Identifying risk
- Identifying reportable allegations – Fact Sheet 1

Responsibility

Insert Content

Document Author

Insert Content

Relevant Legislation, Regulations and Standards

NSW Child Protection (Working with Children) Act 2012
 NSW Child Protection (Working with Children) Regulation 2013
 NSW Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998
 NSW Children's Guardian Act 2019
 Civil Liability Act 2002
 Crimes Act 1900
 Local Government Act 1993
 National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse Act 2018 (Cth).
 NSW Child Safe Standards
 NSW Children (Education and Care Services National Law Application) Act 2010
 Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998
 Privacy Act 1998 (Cth.)
 State Records Act 1998
 United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1990)
 NSW Child Safe Standards
 NSW Disability Inclusion Act 2014
 Victorian Child Safe Standards
 National Quality Framework
 Local Government (State) Award

Associated Records

- Code of Conduct (to be reviewed)
- Recruitment and Selection (in development)
- Identifying, Responding to and Reporting Child Safe Concerns (to be developed)
- Reporting a Child Safe Allegation about any workers Guidelines/flowchart (to be developed)
- Child Safe Learning Training (to be development)
- Child Safety Risk Management (to be developed)
- Confidentiality & Records Management (to be reviewed)
- Bullying and Harassment Policy (to be developed)
- Children's Services Child Protection Policy and associated procedures (review/update)
- Complaints handing Policy (to be reviewed)
- Greater Hume Council Child Safe Commitment Statement (in draft)

Corporate Credit & Purchasing Card Use Policy

Document Name	Document Version Number	Review Date
Corporate Credit & Purchasing Card Use Policy	1.0.7	31 st May 2024
Date Adopted	Minute Number	Minor
16 August 2023	6485	Major Revision

Purpose

The use of a Corporate Credit Card or Store Purchasing Card can be an efficient procurement method for the Council, saving Council time and money. Additionally, some services and suppliers, such as booking flights, accommodation and online subscriptions require use of a credit card.

Credit Cards and Store Purchasing Cards must be subject to appropriate controls in order to protect Council funds, maintain the integrity of governance processes and maintain public confidence in Council operations. Council is obliged to maintain an effective system of internal control, in accordance with the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 to address the significant risks of fraud and misuse of corporate credit cards.

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that Greater Hume Council is able to make use of the procurement efficiencies associated with the use of a Corporate Credit Card and/or Store Purchasing Card while maintaining transparency in the Council's operations and ensuring that the integrity of the Council is maintained. The policy ensures that operational and administrative costs and the risks associated with credit card and purchasing card use are minimised while providing cardholders with an alternative method of purchasing goods and services on behalf of the Council.

Scope

This policy applies to all Greater Hume Shire Council Officers issued with a corporate credit card and/or store purchasing cards. It documents the responsibilities attached to these cards and their acceptable use.

Definitions

Corporate Credit Card means a credit card issued in the name of Greater Hume Council

Store Purchasing Card means a card issued by a specific store/supplier, e.g. Officeworks, to be used to facilitate purchases from the specific store from which the card is issued.

Online application refers to Council's online banking application used to manage Credit Card purchases.

Policy Content

Responsibilities and Issuing

Elected Members

The Mayor or the Councillors will not be issued with Corporate Credit Cards or Store Purchasing Cards. The Mayor will authorise all expenditure incurred on the card/s issued to the General Manager.

General Manager

It is the responsibility of the General Manager to establish the overall credit card facility limit having due regard to the number of authorised personnel requiring a card and the estimated monthly expenditure.

It is also the responsibility of the General Manager to establish the individual credit/transaction limit, thresholds and restrictions having due regard to the anticipated usage of the card and the likely expenditure to be incurred monthly.

Corporate Credit & Purchasing Card Use Policy

The issue of a Corporate Credit Card is subject to the authorisation of the General Manager. Corporate Credit Cards are issued to the position not the person. The Credit Card Facility will require an identification check of the proposed card holder prior to a Credit Card being issued. The Credit Card is not a personal benefit that comes with the job but a Council resource. The General Manager will determine whether a position is eligible to receive a credit card or store purchasing card.

Each credit card issued shall bear the name of the cardholder and the name of Greater Hume Council.

Cancellation of any credit or purchasing card or facility is at the discretion of the General Manager and may be cancelled as they see fit.

Director Corporate and Community Services

The Director Corporate and Community Services is responsible for the issue of Corporate Credit Cards and Store Purchasing Cards to authorised personnel.

A copy of this policy will be issued to the cardholder and the appropriate use of the card will be explained at the time the card is issued.

The Director Corporate and Community Services is responsible for cancelling a credit card issued to authorised personnel upon termination of employment or at any other time as directed by the General Manager.

Usage

The Corporate Credit Card must be used for work related expenses only. All staff issued with a Corporate Credit Card are required to comply with **Appendix 1 – Credit Card Terms and Conditions** and the terms and conditions of use as prescribed by the nominated credit or store facility

The Corporate Credit Card may be used to meet the costs of work-related out-of-pocket expenses (including approved entertainment / hospitality costs). The Corporate Credit Card must not be linked to any personal loyalty program such as frequent flyer programs and the like.

The Corporate Credit Card should only be used for the purchase of goods and services where it is impracticable to do otherwise. Store Purchasing Cards are to be used to facilitate the purchase of goods for Council use from specific suppliers where such cards are issued as part of a standard 30-Day business account.

Corporate Credit Cards are not to be used for private expenditure unless where it would prove impractical to split between business and private at the time of payment. Where a Council Credit Card is used accidentally for a personal expense, the Council Officer should notify the Director Corporate and Community Services in writing immediately and reimburse the full amount as soon as practical to do so.

Cash withdrawals are prohibited on the Council Credit Card or Store Purchasing Card.

It is the cardholders' responsibility to ensure the safekeeping of the card and electronic storage of card details (i.e. adding Credit Card to mobile Wallet).

In the event that a card is lost or stolen, the card holder will report the loss immediately to the Director Corporate & Community Services (of Chief Financial Officer in the event that the Director is unavailable). The bank will then be advised immediately and a cancellation of the credit card requested.

Corporate Credit & Purchasing Card Use Policy

Administration

A tax invoice must be retained for each transaction, including purchases made online or over the phone. An electronic copy of each tax invoice is to be provided with the monthly statements to comply with record management obligations and financial regulations.

The Director Corporate & Community Services (or delegate) will be responsible for training staff on the correct use of credit card and recording of transactions.

Corporate Credit Card and Store Purchasing Card expenditure is to be acquitted through the appropriate reporting mechanism provided (e.g. online application or form) by the card holder as soon as practical after purchase and by the nominated timeframe. It is the responsibility of the card holder to approve authorise the purchase, allocate the expenditure to the appropriate general ledger account and provide the supporting tax invoice. The transaction must be certified by the card holder that all charges shown are correct and were incurred for official purposes. The certified transaction and accompanying tax invoices must then be forwarded to the Director to whom the card holder reports for review and final authorisation. The Director is to verify and sign off that the transactions on the statement has been incurred on behalf of Greater Hume Council. The authorisation is to ensure the transactions are business related and the cardholder has supplied supporting documentation. Any unusual transactions must be followed up with the card holder immediately.

In relation to the Directors, the transactions must be forwarded to the General Manager for review and final authorisation. In relation to the General Manager, the transactions will be forwarded to the Director Corporate and Community Services for review and the final Monthly Cardholder Statement must be reviewed and authorised by the Mayor or Deputy Mayor (or one other Councillor).

In the event of credit card transaction disputes, the card holder will notify the Director Corporate & Community Services of unauthorised transactions who will then (or by a delegate) will notify the credit card facility to investigate.

Cardholders are not, under any circumstances, to make unauthorised deposits to their corporate card accounts.

Council will maintain an accurate Credit Card and Store Purchasing Card Register listing all current cards in use. This register will be reviewed at least annually.

Maintenance of any software used to record and acquit Credit Card or Purchasing Card transactions will be the responsibility of Councils IT Coordinator who will take the necessary steps to protect sensitive information, protect access and ensure security of the system.

In the event of loss/theft through negligence or non-compliance with these requirements, any liability charged by the provider against Council may be passed onto the Council officer to which the card is issued. In addition, disciplinary action may be taken against the Council official in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government (State) Award and/or Council's Code of Conduct.

Deliberate misuse of a Corporate Credit Card or Store Purchasing Card will be treated as a breach of the Council's Code of Conduct. In addition, deliberate misuse will be reported to relevant authorities in line with the Council's Fraud Control Policy.

Every Council Officer has a responsibility to prevent corruption. Should a Council Officer become aware of, or suspect inappropriate use of a Corporate Credit Card or Purchasing Card the matter should be reported in writing or verbally to the Public Interest Disclosure Coordinator or the Public Interest Disclosure Officer for investigation. Contact details may be found in the Internal Reporting (Public Interest) Disclosures Policy.

Corporate Credit & Purchasing Card Use Policy

Links to Policy

Fraud Control Policy
Complaints Against Staff Policy
Internal Reporting (Public Interest) Disclosures Policy
Procurement Policy and Procedure
Code of Conduct
Local Government (State) Award

Links to Procedure

Appendix 1 – Credit Card Terms and Conditions

Links to Forms

Nil

References

Credit Card Management in Local Government - NSW Audit Office

Responsibility

General Manager

Document Author

Director Corporate & Community Services

Relevant Legislation

Section 356, Local Government Act 1993
Clause 209, Local Government (General) Regulation 2005

Associated Records

Nil

Corporate Credit & Purchasing Card Use Policy

Appendix 1 – Credit & Purchasing Card Terms and Conditions

CARDHOLDER NAME: _____

POSITION TITLE: _____

Approval has been granted to issue you with a Council corporate credit card or purchasing card. This card has been issued on the express condition that you will, at all times, comply with the requirements stipulated below.

Important Note - Managers issued with a corporate credit card are in a position of trust in regards to the use of Council funds. All expenditure charged to your credit card is subject to examination to ensure its appropriateness and compliance with the policy conditions, as outlined within the *Corporate Credit Card Use Policy*. Improper use of that trust will result in your card being withdrawn and may render you liable to disciplinary and possible legal action.

I understand and agree that:

1. My credit card is only to be used for official business purposes and that should inappropriate expenditure occur, the value of that expenditure may be recovered from the cardholder.
2. My credit card is only to be used by the person whose name appears on the card.
3. I am personally responsible and accountable for the safe keeping of the card.
4. In the event that my card is lost or stolen, I will report the loss immediately to the bank and the Director of Corporate and Community Services.
5. Any PIN issued with the card (where cash withdrawals are permitted) must not be disclosed or carried with the card.
6. Periodical Cardholder Statements are to be acquitted and reconciled by the nominated timeframe
7. Once reconciled, the Cardholder Statement will be certified that all charges shown are correct and were incurred for official purposes and then forwarded to the Director Corporate & Community Services for review and final authorisation.
 - a. In relation to the Director Corporate & Community Services, the Cardholder Statement will be forwarded to the General Manager for review and final authorisation.
 - b. In relation to the General Manager, the Cardholder Statement will be reviewed and authorised by the Mayor and Deputy Mayor.
 - c. I also understand that repeated failure to acquit monthly statements in a timely fashion may result in my credit card being cancelled.
8. Supporting Tax Invoices are to be retained and submitted when acquitting the Cardholder Statement.
9. Where no documentation is available to support a particular transaction the card holder will provide a declaration detailing the nature of the expense and that is business related. In the event that suspected unauthorised transactions appear on the Cardholder Statement I agree to contact the Director Corporate & Community Services immediately and cooperate in the completion of the on-line NAB Transaction Dispute Form as required.
10. I will not exceed credit limits.
11. Cash withdrawals are prohibited unless in exceptional circumstances to cover the business expense and will only be taken when the expense is imminent.
12. I will not make deposits to the card account.
13. In the event of my termination of employment I will immediately return the credit card and ensure the credit card account is properly reconciled and acquitted.

Corporate Credit & Purchasing Card Use Policy

Signature of Cardholder _____

Name _____

Date _____

Position _____

Authorised by General Manager _____ Date _____



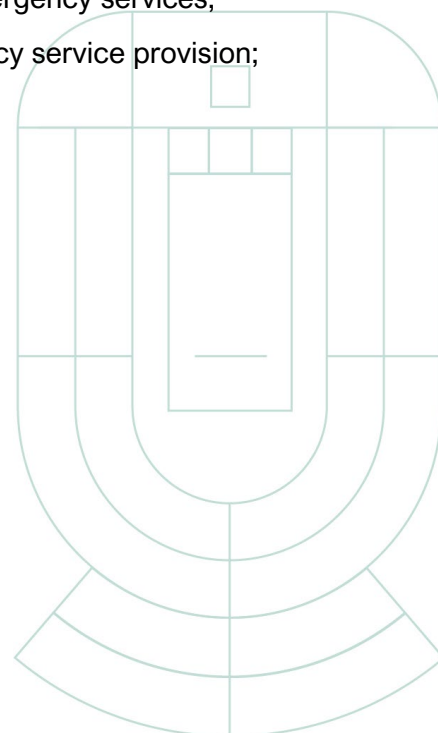
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
Public Accounts Committee

Inquiry into the assets, premises and funding of the NSW Rural Fire Service

Terms of Reference

That the Public Accounts Committee inquire into and report on:

1. The mechanisms for:
 - a. funding Rural Fire Service assets and premises;
 - b. Maintaining Rural Fire Service assets and premises;
 - c. Accounting for the ownership of Rural Fire Service assets and premises;
 - d. Operational management, including the control of assets and premises, risks, and impacts to local government, and the ability to effect a response to emergencies;
2. Whether the following arrangements between Councils and the Rural Fire Service are fit for purpose:
 - a. Service agreements;
 - b. The division of responsibilities for bushfire management and hazard reduction;
 - c. Upkeep of assets;
 - d. The provision of insurance;
 - e. Provision of land and construction management for RFS premises;
 - f. Bushfire Management Committees
3. The appropriate role for local authorities in the provision of emergency services;
4. the sustainability of local government contributions to emergency service provision;
5. Any other related matters.



REROC

RIVERINA EASTERN REGIONAL
ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS

Response

Inquiry into the Assets, Premises and Funding of the NSW Rural Fire Service

Contact:

Julie Briggs

CEO

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Response

Inquiry into the Assets, Premises and Funding of the NSW Rural Fire Service Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Councils

Introduction

Our Member Councils welcome the opportunity to respond to the Public Accounts Committee Inquiry.

The Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Councils (REROC) represents eight Member Councils, Bland, Coolamon, Cootamundra-Gundagai, Greater Hume, Junee, Lockhart, Temora and Goldenfields Water.

REROC Region



Our Member Councils are strong supporters of the RFS and the volunteers who give so generously of their time and energy to help protect the communities our Members represent. In fact, a number of our Board are directly involved in the RFS through Brigade Membership or through the involvement of family members.

REROC has always taken a very keen interest in the operation of the RFS, our first correspondence about the RFS goes back to 2001 when we raised issues about the money that was being spent on

new communications technology that was inoperable in our Region. Consequently, our Member Councils are very keen to provide feedback to the Committee on the operation, cost and other related issues, including volunteer management.

Our Member Councils remain very concerned that structures and frameworks that were adopted at the turn of the century continue to inform and guide the operation of the RFS and its interactions with local government. The RFS in 2000 (24 years ago), was a very different beast; it has transformed from a volunteer-led organisation to the professional firefighting organisation it is today, with centralised offices in Sydney and paid regional staff located across country NSW.

In the late 1990's when RFS started to take over the operation of what had previously been a totally volunteer operation, the firefighting equipment the RFS used was predominately owned by the firefighters. At the time that control of the volunteer operations was being ceded to the RFS, most volunteers were wary of a State Government agency controlling private assets and therefore strongly supported the assets being left with councils where they could be controlled locally.

As a result of volunteers demanding that the local RFS assets stay local, councils ended up as caretakers of the assets. These arrangements were codified in the *Rural Fires Act NSW (1997)* ("the Act") under s119 which states:

All fire fighting equipment purchased or constructed wholly or partly from money to the credit of the Fund is to be vested in the council of the area for or on behalf of which the fire fighting equipment has been purchased or constructed.

Under s119 of the Act all Fire Fighting Equipment ("the Equipment") which is defined as fire fighting apparatus, buildings, water storage towers or look out towers that are purchased or constructed wholly or partially from the NSW Rural Fire Fighting Fund ("the Fund") must "be vested in the council of the area" for which it was purchased or constructed.

In those days, the RFS and council would undertake a genuine negotiation to determine the fire fighting equipment that was required for the LGA. Councils were equal players at the table and were able to genuinely influence the procurement decisions being made. This was particularly important as every asset that was purchased or constructed was vested in council and therefore included on council asset registers for depreciation. As part of this process, councils entered into Service Level Agreements with the RFS which dictated the role of the RFS within the LGA.

As stated above, the RFS of today is a wholly different organisation to the one that was transitioning to professionalism in the early 2000s. The early 2010s saw the RFS move to a Global Asset Management, the result of this was that the RFS Levy paid by a council was no longer spent on equipment to be used within the LGA but was pooled and spent anywhere in the State. Now, the RFS Head Office determines what equipment was purchased and where it was required, funding the purchasing through the pool. The approach has made it far more difficult for councils to track what is happening to the RFS Levy they pay.

Up until this change came into being, councils and the RFS signed Service Levels Agreement (SLA) which had traditionally reflected the negotiations undertaken for the purchase and management of equipment within an LGA. The move to Global Asset Management effectively made the SLAs

superfluous as councils no longer had any say or influence in the purchase or decommissioning of equipment. Consequently, in our Region SLAs have not been signed with the RFS since 2010.

Our Members note with some concern that the existence of the SLAs is sometimes used to indicate the active involvement of councils in the provision of the RFS services. It is also used to justify the continued vesting of fire fighting equipment with councils; however, the SLAs are just window-dressing at this point in time – creating an illusion of collaboration that does not reflect the reality of what is happening at the coalface.

Our Members suggest that it is easy to see how much the RFS has changed simply by looking at how the budgets have changed over the last 24 years. In 2000 the revenue for the RFS was \$70,849,000, while last financial year the RFS's revenue had risen to \$628,069,000. In 2020 the revenues hit an all-time high of \$988,251,000. Councils were advised at the time that the additional \$400,000,000 was a one-off increase to cover anticipated Workers Compensation costs, however it is unclear what transpired in relation to that need for additional revenue.

In addition, our Members agree that it is time for a complete review of the way that emergency services operate in the State. From our perspective we are seeing duplication and role crossover particularly between the RFS and SES. As climate change brings us more extreme weather events, we need to do more with less, volunteers are aging, budgets are getting tighter and we cannot afford to continue as we did quarter of a century ago.

The State, Local Government and the communities we represent need a more strategic approach to the delivery of emergency services. Currently we believe that there is a mismatch between the structure of command the structure of finance, removing structural duplication would result in services being delivered more efficiently and effectively. Our Members note that recently the RFS has been given responsibilities in responding to flood situations, previously these responsibilities were exclusively with Local Government and the SES. We are finding that all three entities are now responding to an event. We believe that the duplication of effort, the lack of clear lines of command is unlikely to result in quality outcomes and at worst can put lives at risk.

Of additional concern for our Members is the long-term sustainability of the volunteer base. The role of the RFS has escalated in recent years, putting added pressure on volunteer involvement. We note that the RFS website states on its volunteer recruitment page:

NSW RFS volunteers are ready to respond to emergencies 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, all year round, attending a range of incidents from bush and grass fires to house and structure fires, road accidents and assisting at other events like floods, storms and searches.¹

The traditional role of an RFS volunteer is to fight fires near home in order protect local property. Today's RFS volunteer is expected to do to much more and with that comes more training, more time away from home and business and more danger and more trauma. Our Members are reporting declining numbers of volunteers as they can no longer afford the time that it takes to stay trained and ready to meet the RFS's 24/7 RFS commitment to action.

¹ RFS Website: <https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/volunteer/join-the-nsw-rfs>

We note that RFS publicises that it has around 70,000 volunteers in NSW however, our Members report that many of these “volunteers” are not actively participating in their local Brigades and some are even in Nursing Homes. Our Members believe that the reality of available/active volunteers could be half that number. If they are correct, then this has significant run-on effects for resource planning in order to respond to disasters.

Our Members support a restructure of the volunteers into tiers of activity that reflect what the volunteer is willing and able to do. We believe creating a volunteer framework that better responds to what volunteers are willing to do will create a more sustainable volunteer base while also allowing better resource planning.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Our Members believe it is time for significant changes to be made to the operation of the RFS which includes:

- Developing a more strategic approach to the delivery of emergency services that reduces duplication of resources, including volunteer and non-volunteer labour.
- The State Government taking complete responsibility for the operation of the RFS including the responsibility for funding. The RFS is a State agency and should be funded by the State. If the State continues with an ESL, then it should be collected by Revenue NSW.
- Until the State Government takes on full responsibility of the RFS as an agency of the Government, the RFS Levy should:
 - Apply to every land parcel in an LGA. Every landowner benefits from the provision of emergency services, so every landowner should be required to make a contribution. This should be collected by Revenue NSW.
or in the alternative
 - Be listed as a completely separate item on the rates notice or be issued as a completely separate account. The second approach would provide more transparency in relation to the cost of Emergency Services to the landowner. The approach echoes one of the recommendations made by IPART in its most recent review of rate pegging.
- Requiring the RFS to prepare an annual budget not a “bid” as is the case at the moment. A bid is a notional amount and as can be seen from Table One below, regularly goes over from between \$30 million to \$50 million dollars.
- Empowering IPART to provide direct oversight of the RFS Budget and recommended increases. To the best of our knowledge there is no independent oversight of the budget.
- Ceasing the practice of vesting firefighting equipment with the Councils. This occurs as a result of s119 of the Rural Fires Act and this legislative requirement does not reflect good accounting practice or the reality of the way assets are managed.
- Conducting an audit of volunteers to ascertain how many volunteers are willing and able to be deployed to respond to fires and disasters, where they are prepared to go and the level of involvement they seek with RFS.
- Structuring the volunteer experience to reflect what volunteers are willing and able to do.

Response to the Terms of Reference

Our Members provide the following responses to the Inquiry's Terms of Reference.

1. Mechanisms

Funding Rural Fire Service assets and premises

Our Member Councils have consistently raised concerns in relation to the ever-rising costs required to fund the operation of the Rural Fire Service in NSW. These costs directly eat away at the very small increase in revenues that rural councils receive from the annual rate peg. Over the last 10 years, over \$5 billion has been invested into the RFS, of which Local Government through its 11.7% contribution has directly contributed almost \$619,000,000. The contribution has come directly from rates income, impacting on Local Government's ability to provide services to its residents and businesses.

Funding for the RFS is based on a bid process rather than a budget, and it is a process over which Local Government has absolutely no control despite the signed SLAs which are supposed to guide local expenditure. Our Members agree that the current process is not fit-for-purpose, as Table One demonstrates the RFS consistently runs over budget, with councils expected to meet 11.7% of those cost overruns.

Our Members are very concerned that funding for Headquarters and Zone operations are going up but funding for local activities and facilities appears to be declining. This is resulting in local Brigades undertaking fundraising activities to meet local needs. In an agency with an annual budget in excess of half a billion dollars, the need to fundraise locally, demonstrates a clear structural flaw.

Table One: RFS Revenue over 10-year period (taken from the RFS Annual Reports)

RURAL FIRE SERVICE REVENUE		
Year Ended 30 June	Actual (\$)	Budget (\$)
2014	422,407,000	294,201,000
2015	340,477,000	297,039,000
2016	360,213,000	325,747,000
2017	381,632,000	351,537,000
2018	424,407,000	373,554,000
2019	520,348,000	396,181,000
2020	988,251,000	475,272,000
2021	650,053,000	590,083,000
2022	574,141,000	565,188,000
2023	628,069,000	623,907,000
TOTAL	\$5,289,998,000	\$4,292,709,000

Clearly the above trend of increases is way above the CPI and indeed way above the Local Government rate peg. The rate peg is pertinent in this discussion because Local Government is required to meet 11.7% of the cost of the Emergency Services, which includes the RFS. While IPART

has made allowances in the calculation of the rate peg, the cost of the RFS falls disproportionately on rural councils and the averaging that is applied in the calculation of rate peg does not reflect this.

The increases in RFS funding are completely out of step with the rate pegs that have been set by IPART at the same time. The RFS has enjoyed double digit increases to revenue at the same time that councils have had increases constrained to single digits. Table Two below shows the Local Government rate peg over the last decade and clearly demonstrates the mismatch between increases in Local Government revenue and the RFS increases.

Table Two: Local Government Rate Peg NSW²

Year	Rate Peg	Year	Rate Peg
2012-2013	3.4%	2018-2019	2.3%
2013-2014	3.4%	2019-2020	2.7%
2014 - 2015	2.3%	2020-2021	2.6%
2015-2016	2.4%	2021-2022	2.0%
2016-2017	1.8%	2022-2023	0.7%*
2017-2018	1.5%	2023-2024	3.7%*

*IPART included a calculation for a Population Factor resulting in different rates for councils. REROc Member Councils received the baseline increase indicated.

There is no question that the rate pegs have not matched the increased costs borne by local governments in relation to paying for emergency services and specifically the RFS. REROc has been collecting data on the mismatch between increasing costs for the RFS and other services against the rate peg for a number of years, Table Three below demonstrates the real difficulties that councils faced in 2020 when the increase rate pegged revenue did not meet the increase in State agency costs.

Table Three: 2020 Increases in ESL and LG Election Costs against Rate Peg Revenue

Member Councils	Increase in ESL Contribution in 2019/20 in \$ terms	Percentage Increase on Previous Payment	Increase in LG Election Costs in \$ terms	Percentage Increase on Previous Payment	Rate-pegged Revenue increase for 2020/21 in \$ terms	Rate peg 2020/21	What's left of the Rate Peg Increase after ESL and LG Election Cost Increases \$	% of Rate Increase Taken by ESL and Election Increases
Bland	\$ 92,519.00	25%	\$ 21,329.00	48%	\$ 185,000.00	2.70%	\$ 71,152.00	62%
Coolamon	\$ 45,086.00	24%	\$ 15,152.00	49%	\$ 64,000.00	2.70%	\$ 3,762.00	94%
Cootamundra-Gundagai	\$ 95,062.00	23%	\$ 103,946.00	142%	\$ 196,020.00	2.70%	-\$ 2,988.00	102%
Greater Hume	\$ 97,690.00	24%	\$ 28,980.00	50%	\$ 229,660.00	2.70%	\$ 102,990.00	55%
Junee	\$ 38,320.00	20%	\$ 26,336.00	58%	\$ 106,709.00	2.70%	\$ 42,053.00	61%
Lockhart	\$ 42,746.00	24%	\$ 12,056.00	67%	\$ 65,200.00	2.70%	\$ 10,398.00	84%
Temora	\$ 66,639.00	28%	\$ 35,000.00	87%	\$ 106,110.00	2.70%	\$ 4,471.00	96%
TOTAL FOR REGION	\$ 478,062.00		\$ 242,799.00					

Attachment One shows the impact of the ESL (and RFS component) on councils, demonstrating how the rate peg has completely failed to meet the increasing costs of the ESL over a decade that again shows the mismatch between rate increases and increases in RFS costs.

² IPART: <https://www.ipart.nsw.gov.au/Home/Industries/Local-Government/For-Ratepayers/The-rate-peg>

Our Members agree that Local Government should not be required to meet the operational costs of a State Government agency. We believe that if the State was directly responsible for meeting the funding requirements of the RFS, then its budgets would be more closely watched.

In addition, Local Government is subsidising the operation of the RFS because councils are forced to carry RFS assets and equipment on council assets registers meaning that Local Government is bearing the cost of depreciation, not the RFS.

It has been estimated that over \$1.5 billion in RFS Equipment is sitting on the books of rural and regional councils in NSW, with the councils receiving no reimbursement from the RFS for those depreciation costs. Local Government is often advised by the State that it is “merely a book entry” with no material impact on council finances. If that is the case then our Members agree the RFS and by extension the State government has nothing to lose by listing the Equipment that is bought, sold and controlled by the RFS on its asset registers.

Maintaining Rural Fire Service assets and premises

Our Members advise that they have no control or influence on the maintenance of RFS assets and premises. Further our Members advise that they are required to pay the accounts for the maintenance and then wait for reimbursement from the RFS which can take months. Councils are effectively providing “loans” to the RFS to cover the costs of maintenance.

Of significant concern for our Member Councils was advice received from the previous Minister for Local Government that councils are responsible for condition assessments on the assets and premises. It is impossible for councils to conduct those conditions assessments if they cannot access the keys to premises and equipment, which is currently the case.

As an example of the inability of councils to access RFS premises, recently one of our Member Councils had staff undertaking roadworks near a RFS shed. The General Manager requested that his staff be able to use the shed in order to access its amenities. The request was denied and consequently the council had to pay for on-site amenities. The irony of course is that the shed is listed as a council asset which is currently being depreciated by council.

Accounting for the ownership of Rural Fire Service assets and premises

As stated above under current legislation (s119 of the Act) all Equipment must “be vested in the council of the area” for which it was purchased or constructed.

Further s119(5) requires councils to care and maintain the Equipment and s119(6) requires that the Commissioner only use the Equipment in an area outside of the council’s area, with the council’s agreement. Under the Act, councils own and control the Equipment but can only sell or dispose of it with the written consent of the Commissioner.

The legislation is clear, dictating that councils have control over all the Equipment purchased through the Fund. This situation is further reinforced by the NSW Auditor-General's insistence that the Equipment be included in the audited financial statements prepared by councils.

However, as stated above, in practice councils have no control over the equipment and that the RFS "holds the keys" figuratively and literally. We are currently in a farcical situation where the councils own the assets and premises but do not control them while the RFS have assumed total control over the Equipment they do not own. We have no knowledge of any council in our Region being asked for, nor providing approval for the Equipment to be used outside their LGA.

There is an on-going debate with the NSW Auditor about the treatment of the Equipment as council assets when clearly this stance is inconsistent with Australian Accounting Standards Board's definition of an asset:

A resource:

- (a) controlled by an entity as a result of past events; and*
- (b) from which future economic benefits are expected to flow to the entity.*

Future economic benefits controlled by the entity as a result of past transactions or other past events.³

Section 119 (6) of the Act requires that councils can only sell or dispose of the Equipment with the approval of the Commissioner is clearly at odds with the AASB standards which require that the entity "control" the asset.

As councils have no effective control over the purchase, sale or transfer of the Equipment and as the Commissioner has the power to remove the equipment and use it anywhere in the State, it is clearly inappropriate that the assets should continue to "appear" as being owned by councils. In addition, our Members advise that further confusing the situation is the fact that the RFS is the registered owners of most of the large vehicles they use, yet these vehicles are still appearing on council asset registers.

Addressing the ownership arrangements in relation to RFS Equipment is overdue. The illusion that Local Government has in any context, genuine ownership of the RFS Equipment must end. Our Members strongly support all Equipment being recognised as owned by the State and that the ownership be realised through the Equipment being listed on the RFS asset register.

Operational management, including the control of assets and premises, risks, and impacts to local government, and the ability to effect a response to emergencies

As stated above Local Government has no control over assets or premises and cannot access any RFS Equipment in order to respond to an emergency. In yet another irony, under a Section 44 Declaration the RFS can access council-owned heavy equipment in order to respond to an emergency. The RFS has wide ranging powers that allow them to procure council equipment for fire fighting purposes.

³ AASB: <https://aasb.gov.au/research-resources/glossary-links-acronyms/glossary-of-defined-terms/>

<p>2. Arrangements between Councils and the Rural Fire Service are fit for purpose:</p>
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Service Level Agreements

As stated above, Service Level Agreements (SLAs) in our Region are more than a decade old. Our Members agree that they serve no constructive purpose. In addition, there is no negotiation of the SLAs; there is no room for co-design and they are prepared unilaterally.

Evidence of this is that we have been informed for almost 12 months that there are new SLAs in development and yet there has not been a single consultation, of which we are aware, in relation to the SLAs content or purpose. Our Members agree that the SLAs are window dressing designed to create the impression that Local Government has some influence on the way that the RFS conducts its operations in an LGA at a time when councils have no influence at all.

For example, in one of our LGAs the RFS decided that a new shed was required because the new trucks they had purchased did not fit inside the existing shed. There was no consultation with council about the design or size of the shed or its likely cost. There was no co-design involved in the development of the project, council merely acted in an administrative role. However, once the \$650,000 shed was completed it had to be listed on council's asset register.

Our Members agree that SLAs were effective tools in co-designing services when councils actually had a say in what was built and what was bought and sold. Today, that situation no longer exists.

The division of responsibilities for bushfire management and hazard reduction

Our Members agree that there is no division of responsibility, that RFS is the decision-maker and councils are merely the service provider. Our Members advise that they are provided with a fixed sum of money to provide hazard reduction services and that it is the RFS that decides where money is to be spent. There are administrative costs associated with the provision of quarterly reports by councils on the funding that is provided.

Our Members have noted in the past, with some concern, that the current Minister for Local Government views the payments for hazard reduction as some type of grant whereby councils are returned some of the Emergency Services Levy that they have paid. This is of concern because it fails to recognise that the councils in this instance are being paid a fee for service not provided with a grant.

Provision of Insurance

The Government has clearly laid responsibility for the Equipment at the feet of Local Government, however it is the RFS employees and volunteers who are using it. In the light of our ownership of the Equipment our Members are very concerned that should an RFS employee, volunteer or RFS contractor suffer injury or death using the Equipment, that councils will be held liable because they own the Equipment.

The situation is made worse by the fact that councils have no effective control over the maintenance of the Equipment, nor any say in the suitability of what is purchased or when it is disposed of, or when and where it is used.

Our Members have sought advice from the Government that Local Government is indemnified by RFS and the Government for any injury, death or damage that occurs as a result of the council-owned Equipment being used by an RFS employee, volunteer or third party. At this point the issue remains unresolved.

Bushfire Management Committees

Our Members agree that Bushfire Management Committees are of limited value, given the overarching role of the RFS in determining what does and does not happen in an LGA with respect to bushfire management.

Our Members agree that the Committees should be led by the local Brigade and that they should report their recommendation to the Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC).

3. Appropriate role for local authorities in the provision of emergency services

Our Members agree that Local Government's role in the provision of emergency services is a support role.

4. Sustainability of local government contributions to emergency service provision

As can be seen from the above and Attachment One, Local Government contributions to emergency service provision is not sustainable. Every time the costs rise, a council must decide what local service to cut in order to pay for the running costs of a State agency. Something has to give, and as things currently stand, what gives is services to the communities that our Member Councils represent.

It is for this reason that we strongly support a more transparent billing arrangement for emergency services whereby landowners are billed separately for the provision of the services, this would ensure that State Agency costs are not hidden in the operational expenses that councils pay from their rates revenue.

5. Any other related matters

We have raised our concerns above about the sustainability of the volunteers within the RFS.

We believe that it is time for an audit of the numbers of volunteers to determine the reality of the resources available to provide that 24/7 response that the RFS talks about on its website. In addition, we believe that the 24/7 approach is a disincentive for many to volunteer because they do not want that level of commitment to volunteering. Our Members strongly support a tiered approach to volunteering that offers volunteers a level of engagement that reflects their ability to

commit time and energy to the RFS or SES. The tier that a volunteer chooses would dictate the level of training they undertake, the hours they commit and even how often their PPE is replaced. Our Members are awash with stories of PPE being replaced that has never or rarely been used. The cost to the RFS of these actions would be significant. A tiered approach where PPE is provided based on the type of service delivered would be more efficient and effective.

In addition, our Members are very concerned about the duplication of volunteerism in the Region with volunteers serving both the SES and RFS as well as community organisations that assist in disasters like Red Cross and the CWA. Above, we have suggested that a review of the structure of the emergency services would be timely, to ensure that the State has the resources that are needed to fight disasters effectively.

Conclusion

Our Members welcome the opportunity to provide this feedback to the Inquiry.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with the PAC to discuss the matters we have raised in more detail.

ATTACHMENT ONE: INCREASE IN TOTAL INCOME AS A RESULT OF RATE PEG: REROC MEMBER COUNCILS								
Member Councils	Rate Pegged Income Increase 16/17	Rate Pegged Income Increase 2017/18	Rate Pegged income Increase 2018/19	Rate Pegged income Increase 2019/20	Rate Pegged income Increase 2020/21	Rate Pegged income Increase 2021/22	Rate Pegged income Increase 2022/23	Rate Pegged income Increase 2023/24
Bland	\$110,674.13	\$94,147.02	\$ 146,515.00	\$ 175,951.00	\$ 185,000.00	\$ 137,572.26	\$ 168,433.95	\$ 266,132.65
Coolamon	\$ 41,000.00	\$ 34,000.00	\$ 54,000.00	\$ 64,000.00	\$ 64,000.00	\$ 63,949.00	\$ 97,590.00	\$ 100,932.63
Cootamundra-Gundagai Rate Peg)	\$ 127,049.00	\$ 106,888.00	-\$ 105,488.00	\$ 453,328.00	\$ 196,020.00	\$ 156,253.00	\$ 64,807.00	\$ 403,394.00
Cootamundra-Gundagai (SRV)						\$ 1,406,285.00	\$ 1,416,517.00	\$ 141,733.00
Greater Hume	\$ 128,123.98	\$ 115,445.03	\$ 177,016.00	\$ 229,660.00	\$ 229,071.00	\$ 181,813.00	\$ 186,433.00	\$ 450,803.00
Junee			\$ 87,055.00	\$ 105,516.00	\$ 104,962.00	\$ 84,072.00	\$ 108,142.00	\$ 168,793.00
Lockhart	\$ 41,000.00	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 54,308.00	\$ 65,200.00	\$ 64,400.00	\$ 51,055.00	\$ 51,982.00	\$ 97,996.00
Temora	\$ 54,540.00	\$ 55,395.00	\$ 86,342.00	\$ 103,950.00	\$ 103,116.00	\$ 83,230.00	\$ 84,974.00	\$ 161,123.00
TOTAL FOR REGION	\$502,387.11	\$440,875.05	\$ 499,748.00	\$ 1,197,605.00	\$ 946,569.00	\$ 2,164,229.26	\$ 2,178,878.95	\$ 1,790,907.28
			<i>* Net of exp SRV</i>				<i>* 0.7% + additional 1.3%</i>	<i>* incl SRV</i>

INCREASES IN ESL CHARGES TO COUNCILS AND RFS COMPONENT OF INCREASE

Member Councils	Total ESL Contribution 16/17	RFS Component of ESL 2016/17	Total ESL Contribution 17/18	RFS Component of ESL 2017/18	Increase in RFS Contributions	Total ESL Contribution 2018/19	RFS Component of ESL 2018/19	Increase in RFS Contributions	Total ESL Contribution 2019/20	RFS Component of ESL 2019/20	Increase in RFS Contributions	Total ESL Contribution 2020/21	RFS Component of ESL 2020/21	Increase in RFS Contributions	Total ESL Contribution 2021/22	RFS Component of ESL 2021/22	Increase in RFS Contributions	Total ESL Contribution 2022/23	RFS Component of ESL 2022/23	Increase in RFS Contributions	Total ESL Contribution 2023/24	RFS Component of ESL 2023/24	Increase in RFS Contributions
Bland	\$ 368,179.84	\$ 335,850.28	\$ 413,005.00	\$ 381,150.00	\$ 45,299.72	\$ 375,955.00	\$ 346,689.00	\$ 34,461.00	\$ 468,474.00	\$ 436,031.00	\$ 89,342.00	\$ 659,820.00	\$ 622,420.00	\$ 186,389.00	\$ 497,681.00	\$ 454,446.00	\$ 167,974.00	\$ 649,987.00	\$ 606,752.00	\$ 152,306.00	\$ 666,805.00	\$ 607,162.00	\$ 410.00
Coolamon	\$ 186,106.38	\$ 165,722.56	\$ 194,119.44	\$ 170,163.44	\$ 4,440.88	\$ 188,124.00	\$ 165,271.50	\$ 4,891.94	\$ 233,210.00	\$ 207,826.28	\$ 42,554.78	\$ 325,839.36	\$ 296,716.72	\$ 88,890.44	\$ 524,165.69	\$ 216,641.04	\$ 80,075.68	\$ 332,623.57	\$ 289,247.64	\$ 72,606.60	\$ 535,163.25	\$ 289,442.96	\$ 195.32
Cootamundra-Gundagai	\$ 413,882.00	\$ 340,425.00	\$ 424,757.00	\$ 349,547.00	\$ 9,122.00	\$ 410,357.00	\$ 339,536.00	\$ 10,011.00	\$ 505,419.00	\$ 426,988.00	\$ 87,452.00	\$ 699,337.00	\$ 605,511.00	\$ 182,523.00	\$ 524,549.08	\$ 445,021.00	\$ 164,490.00	\$ 696,247.20	\$ 594,168.00	\$ 149,147.00	\$ 731,148.59	\$ 594,570.00	\$ 402.00
Greater Hume	\$ 391,017.00	\$ 329,069.00	\$ 443,778.00	\$ 356,087.00	\$ 27,018.00	\$ 412,379.00	\$ 353,651.00	\$ 2,436.00	\$ 510,069.00	\$ 444,787.00	\$ 91,136.00	\$ 710,056.00	\$ 634,919.00	\$ 190,132.00	\$ 529,834.00	\$ 463,572.00	\$ 171,347.00	\$ 705,627.00	\$ 618,937.00	\$ 155,365.00	\$ 738,329.00	\$ 619,355.00	\$ 418.00
Junee	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 194,464.00	\$ 165,268.00	\$ 24,204.00	\$ 240,404.00	\$ 207,860.00	\$ 42,592.00	\$ 334,560.00	\$ 296,716.00	\$ 88,856.00	\$ 249,552.00	\$ 216,640.00	\$ 80,076.00	\$ 333,620.00	\$ 289,248.00	\$ 72,608.00	\$ 351,868.00	\$ 289,444.00	\$ 196.00
Lockhart	\$ 173,780.00	\$ 157,000.00	\$ 178,639.00	\$ 161,207.00	\$ 4,207.00	\$ 178,187.00	\$ 156,573.00	\$ 4,634.00	\$ 220,933.00	\$ 196,920.00	\$ 40,347.00	\$ 308,658.00	\$ 281,100.00	\$ 84,180.00	\$ 229,689.00	\$ 205,238.88	\$ 75,861.12	\$ 305,176.00	\$ 274,024.10	\$ 68,785.22	\$ 315,547.00	\$ 274,209.10	\$ 185.00
Temora	\$ 297,960.20	\$ 253,360.72	\$ 268,511.00	\$ 223,850.00	\$ 29,510.72	\$ 283,518.96	\$ 240,919.00	\$ 17,069.00	\$ 350,158.60	\$ 303,004.00	\$ 62,085.00	\$ 486,480.59	\$ 432,529.00	\$ 129,525.00	\$ 363,802.60	\$ 315,801.27	\$ 116,227.73	\$ 482,705.82	\$ 421,641.13	\$ 105,839.86	\$ 503,015.76	\$ 421,926.08	\$ 284.95
TOTAL FOR REGION	\$ 1,830,925.42	\$ 1,581,427.56	\$ 1,922,809.44	\$ 1,642,004.44	\$ 60,576.88	\$ 2,042,984.96	\$ 1,767,907.50	\$ 39,364.94	\$ 2,528,667.60	\$ 2,223,416.28	\$ 455,508.78	\$ 3,524,740.95	\$ 3,173,911.72	\$ 950,496.44	\$ 2,637,273.37	\$ 2,317,360.19	\$ 704,829.29	\$ 3,495,986.59	\$ 3,094,017.87	\$ 776,857.68	\$ 3,641,876.60	\$ 3,096,109.14	\$ 2,091.27

GREATER HUME SHIRE COUNCIL

Schedule of the Director Corporate Community Services' Schedule of Information to Council Meeting -
Wednesday 19th June, 2024

COMBINED BANK ACCOUNT FOR THE MONTH ENDED 31st May 2024**CASHBOOK RECONCILIATION**

	General Fund	Trust Fund
General Ledger Cashbook Balance as at 1st May 2024	47,208.90	44,312.28
Cashbook Movement as at 31st May 2024	80,836.27	0.00
Less: Term Deposits included in Cashbook Balance (Trust only)	0.00	0.00
General Ledger Cashbook Balance as at 31st May 2024	<u>128,045.17</u>	<u>44,312.28</u>

BANK STATEMENT RECONCILIATION

Bank Statement Balance as at 31st May 2024	NAB	\$0.00	44,312.28
	Hume	\$22,334.35	
	Bendigo	\$3,110.00	
	WAW	\$0.00	
	Total	<u>25,444.35</u>	<u>44,312.28</u>
(LESS) Unpresented Cheques as at 31st May 2024		77,156.47	0.00
(LESS) Unpresented EFT Payments as at 31st May 2024		0.00	0.00
PLUS Outstanding Deposits as at 31st May 2024		25,444.35	0.00
PLUS / (LESS) Unmatched Cashbook Transactions 31st May 2024		0.00	0.00
Cashbook Balance as at 31st May 2024		<u>128,045.17</u>	<u>44,312.28</u>

I certify that all of Council's surplus funds have been invested in accordance with the Act, the regulations and Council's investment policies and that all cheques drawn have been checked and are fully supported by vouchers and invoices and have been certified for payment.

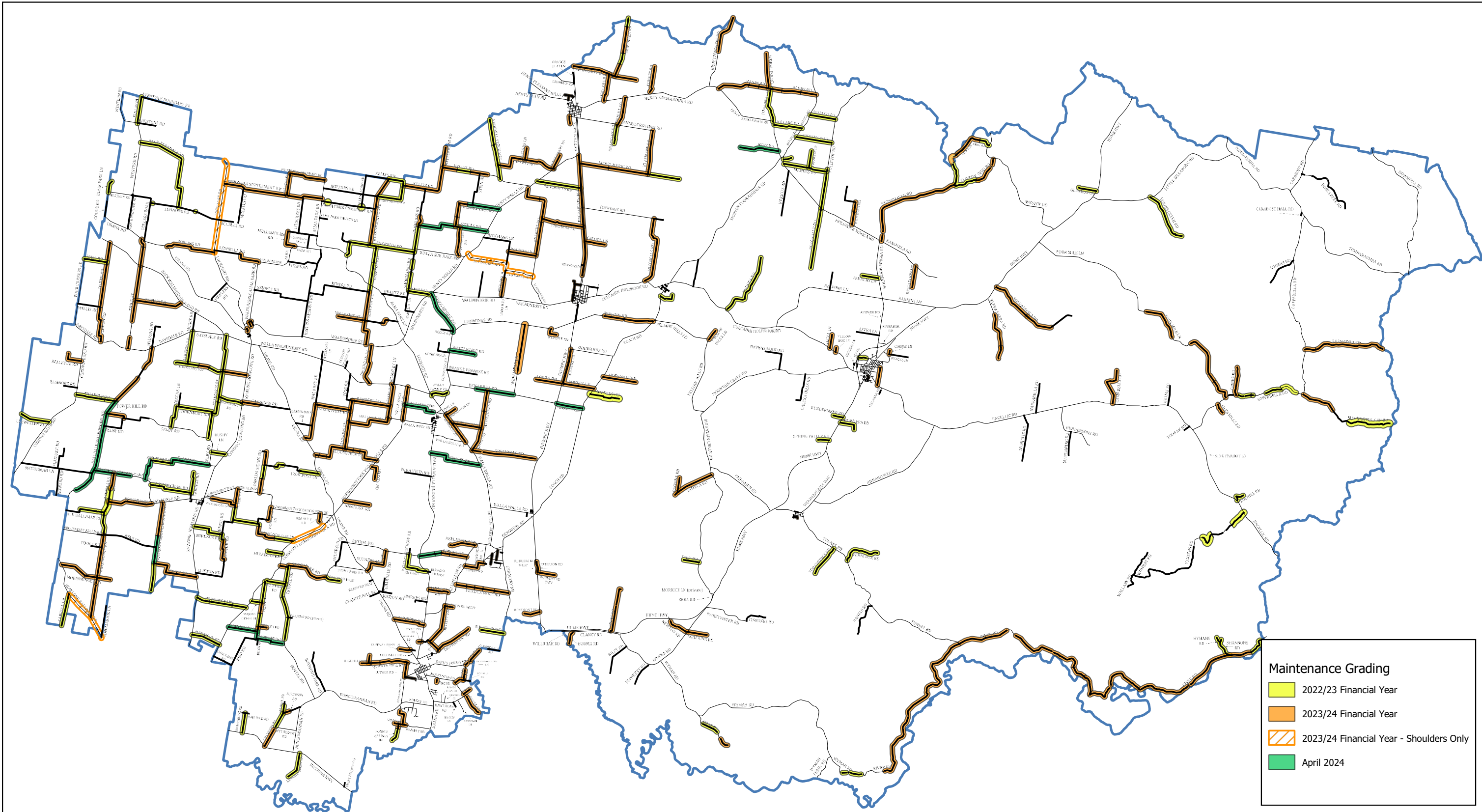


Responsible Accounting Officer
3 June 2024

This is page no.1 of Schedule No.1 of the Director Corporate & Community Services' Schedule of Information to Ordinary Council Meeting held on 19th June 2024

GENERAL MANAGER

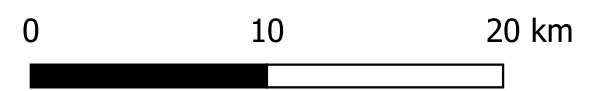
MAYOR



Greater Hume Council

Greater Hume Local Government Area

Maintenance Grading 2024 - May



Electronic Version is the controlled version. Printed copies are considered uncontrolled. Before using a printed copy verify that it is the current version.

Document Name	Working doc file path	Version Number	Date of Issue	Review Date
Maintenance grading May	G:\Projects&Maps\## Maintenance Grading\Maintenance Grading.gqz	1	2024-06-06	2025-06-06

Bridge / Major Culvert		BRIDGE PROGRAM																						
Footpath Construction		COUNCIL PROGRAM																						
52	Urana St, Jindera	Creek St to Pioneer Park (Playground) East Side - 200m	Completed	Contractor	14/03/2024																			
Kerb and Gutter		COUNCIL PROGRAM																						
Bus Shelters		COUNCIL PROGRAM																						
Various Locations																								
Town Services - Villages Vote		COUNCIL PROGRAM																						
Brocklesby		Replace Septic System in Blacksmith Park with AWTS	Deferred																					
Stormwater Drainage																								
1	Balfour Street, Culcairn	Replace Kerb & Channel & install drainage (Fraser St to Stock Route North Side to connect new residential area)	Completed	Contractor	29/11/2023																			
2	Holbrook Flood Mitigation	Construction of levee & associated drainage infrastructure	Out to Tender	Contractor																				
51	Henty Cookadina Road	New Culvert to the east of Henty	Commenced	Contractor																				
Yenches Road		New Culvert over Water Creek	Completed	Contractor	28/03/2024																			
Parks and Gardens																								
4	Jindera Rec Ground	Install all ability swing in Adventure Playground	Deferred	Contractor																				
5	Eric Thomas Park, Culcairn	Culcairn Rail Footbridge Relocation	Commenced	Contractor																				
6	Jindera Pioneer Park	Install Concrete Path	Completed	Contractor	1/03/2024																			
Jindera Rec Ground		Adventure Playground Installation	Completed	Contractor	22/12/2023																			
7	Jindera Playground/Skatepark	Install CCTV System	Completed	Contractor	6/03/2024																			
Local Road and Community Infrastructure Projects																								

Applications Approved

c_dm073

Approved Between 1/05/2024 and 31/05/2024

06/06/2024

Application No.	Location	Development Type	Est. Cost	Received	Determination	Total Elapsed Days	Stop Days	Adjusted Elapsed Days	
DA/2023/81	Applicant: Habitat Planning Pty Ltd 534 Wymah RD BOWNA Lot: 4 DP: 599486	Construction of Unisex Toilet and Onsite Waste Water Disposal System	\$0	28/07/2023	Rejected	2/05/2024	4	276	4
DA/2023/100	Applicant: R F Wenke 90-92 Urana ST JINDERA Lot: 3 Sec: 11 DP: 758544	Restaurant or cafe - Extend the Hours of Operation Including Serving of Alcohol	\$0	12/02/2024	Approved	10/05/2024	89	0	89
DA/2023/173	Applicant: Macjac Sheds 11 Holly Tree CT JINDERA Lot: 112 DP: 1277003	New Shed - Modification	\$0	10/04/2024	Approved	3/05/2024	24	0	24
DA/2024/16	Applicant: Perception Planning 96 Ryan Stock Route ALMA PARK Lot: 1 DP: 1220727	Transportable Dwelling	\$140,000	4/04/2024	Approved	3/05/2024	30	0	30
DA/2024/27	Applicant: N Chamings 1 Douglas ST CULCAIRN Lot: 36 Sec: 6 DP: 5886	New Shed	\$27,500	28/03/2024	Approved	2/05/2024	21	15	21
DA/2024/31	Applicant: Metricon Homes Smith ST HENTY Lot: 146 DP: 753741	New Dwelling and Garage	\$729,847	5/04/2024	Approved	1/05/2024	27	0	27
DA/2024/35	Applicant: Habitat Planning Pty Ltd 1 Davis DR JINDERA Lot: 1 DP: 1155032	Warehouse or Distribution Centre – Construction of warehouse building office	\$1,996,924	28/03/2024	Approved	23/05/2024	57	0	57
DA/2024/39	Applicant: Allmod Steel Build 161 Dights Forest RD JINDERA Lot: 13 DP: 588160	New Shed	\$47,333	8/04/2024	Approved	3/05/2024	26	0	26

Applications Approved

c_dm073 **Approved Between 1/05/2024 and 31/05/2024** **06/06/2024**

Application No.	Location	Development Type	Est. Cost	Received	Determination	Total Elapsed Days	Stop Days	Adjusted Elapsed Days	
DA/2024/40	Applicant: T D Jones Hume HWY LITTLE BILLABONG Lot: 1 DP: 1250143	Alterations and Additions to Existing Dwelling	\$338,470	5/04/2024	Approved	7/05/2024	33	0	33
DA/2024/49	Applicant: Spanline Albury Wodonga 66 Rock RD JINDERA Lot: 2881 DP: 1280650	New Carport Attached to Existing Garage	\$13,100	26/04/2024	Approved	22/05/2024	27	0	27
DA/2024/50	Applicant: Macjac Sheds 118 Coogera CCT JINDERA Lot: 916 DP: 1264008	New Shed	\$61,000	3/05/2024	Approved	28/05/2024	26	0	26
CDC/2024/15	Applicant: A J Mason 15-19 Atkins ST MORVEN Lot: 2 Sec: 31 DP: 758711	Attached Gabled & Skillion Roof Patio	\$37,800	13/05/2024	Approved – Private Certifier	13/05/2024	1	0	1

Report Totals & Averages	Average Elapsed Calendar Days: 54.67	Total Elapsed Calendar Days: 656.00
Total Number of Applications : 12	Average Calendar Stop Days: 24.25	Total Calendar Stop Days: 291.00
Total Estimated Cost : 3,391,974.00	Average Adjusted Calendar Days: 30.42	Total Adjusted Calendar Days: 365.00

Colin Stone

CULCAIRN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING 23RD APRIL 2024, 6 PM, CULCAIRN COUNCIL CHAMBERS

PRESENT: Greg Blackie-GHS Engineering Director, Ken Scheuner, Phil McCartney, Terry Weston, Paul Wilksch, Michelle Godde, Ian Forrest, Kirsty Wilksch

APOLOGIES: Jennifer Christensen.

CBD UPGRADE

Greg Blackie presented an update on Culcairn. Details are as follows:

- By end of June (This financial year) - Street trees in Balfour Street to be planted. 3 taps also to be installed for watering pots (northern side of Balfour Street.) The current star pickets and orange taping around tree holes and witches hats etc around town will be tidied up for Anzac Day parade.
- Future works (2025-2026)
 - a. Asphaltting will occur in main CBD (between McBean St and Railway Pde), 1st block of Railway Parade and the Coach Terminal. This needs to be left for at least 12 months to let the areas around the trees, and where pipe works were conducted, have time to settle. In 2024-2025 budget around \$500,000 to be allocated for asphaltting. This also gives time for feedback on carparking etc before the permanent spraying of lines etc. Centre gardens to be addressed in same budget I 12 months time (see later discussion). Trees will have tree guards around them for 5-7 years then they will be removed. (like Holbrook's main street trees).
 - b. Shade structure planned for plaza - open to suggestions. Carly Martin (Architect recommended by Regional Designers) is yet to quote on assisting us. Has been for a look and a discussion.
 - c. Spray painting of main roundabout and surrounding cement islands (2024-2025). To cost between \$50 000 and \$100 000.

Paul requested that both sides of Balfour Street receive the same level of maintenance and the loose stones issues were discussed - Greg to see about some being swept up by Council workers to lessen the amount going into businesses.

BINS - Requested that one of the bins in front of the Café "Cauldron" be moved to James Balfour Park please.

RAILWAY PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE - Move could be this year, but up to Inland Rail.

SUBDIVISION - Approximately 6 more weeks of works until the 24 blocks of Stage 1 (70 blocks in total) will be ready. Hopefully ready for sale in about 3 months time. Currently testing water pressure in mains and doing electrical works. The lots are of various sizes and there are also a couple of reserves where large trees needed to be retained.

WHITEBOX WOODLANDS – Funding of \$50,000 - Greg to meet with a couple of locals to get works happening to make improvements.

OTHER WORKS IN CULCAIRN-**2024-2025:**

- Underground drainage from Federal St towards the east – In front of houses opposite the pool.
- Kerb and gutter.
- Pathway at Fifield Close and onto Federal Street to assist movement to Sports Ground. Culvert asphalt required.
- Shade sails and protection netting for the new playground at the Culcairn Recreation Ground.
- Shade sail and new seating at Jubilee Park.
- Gordon Street – to be completely re-sealed.
- New footpath from McBean Street to stock route (along Balfour Street) – to connect to new subdivision.
- Work on easement between Fahey Cr and Federal St to reduce flooding.
- Subject to grant funding:
 - a. Smart water meters to be investigated.
 - b. Upgrade of water supply. Will involve removal of the Black Street water tower and an additional pumping station/tank at the water tower near Billabong High School (about \$3 Million). This will allow increased water pressure to houses in the long term.

2025-2026:

- More drainage - Stage 4 (there are 9 stages of drainage projects on western side of Culcairn planned)
- Munro Street drainage, as well as kerb and channel for last block of Balfour Street (southern side) heading out Walbundrie Road.
- Plaza idea – Discussion about including a veranda across the Council chambers, as it is the only area without a veranda along that side of the CBD. (It appears that Council might help with cost).

We thanked Greg for his time, and he left.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE CULCAIRN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Ken welcomed all present and gave us his Chairperson's Report and a Treasurer's report (both attached). Ken indicated that he is not seeking re-election for Chairperson.

Ian took the Chair for elections. All positions declared vacant.

Chairperson: Phil McCartney nominated by Ken, seconded Paul. He accepted. All in favour.

Vice Chairperson: Paul Wilksch nominated by Phil, seconded Michelle. He accepted. All in favour.

Treasurer: Ken Scheuner nominated by Michelle, seconded Terry. He accepted. All in favour.

Secretary: Kirsty Wilksch nominated by Phil, seconded by Paul. She accepted. All in favour.

Committee members: Michelle Godde, Terry Weston, Ian Forrest (plus those above) and subject to their acceptance: Jennifer Christensen, Les Fraser, Nicole Pope, Glenice Miller.

Michelle moved a motion of thanks to Ken for his many years of leadership and service as Chairperson. Paul seconded and it was carried with acclamation.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING 19th March 2024**BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:**

1. Toilets at the Station Master's House Museum. Ian to discuss further with Colin Kane. There are 3 - 1 internal and 2 outside - all needing some maintenance. Only the one inside appears to work.
2. Federal Grant - Phil waiting for feedback from Henty CDC and Henty Museum committee.
3. Grain Corp grant - Not successful this time. Phil will approach the Sportsground Committee to see if they will submit for the grant again. As a 355 group they can claim GST. We cannot.
4. Rex Hartwig - Phil to talk to Andrew Fagan (Tennis Club Chair) to see about doing something together so that his achievement in, and contribution to, tennis can be recognised.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Solar farms - the VPA committees for Jindera and Walla have been set up (they are 355 committees and have 2 community members and 2 from Council (Mayor and GM) to represent). We are still unsure how the Culcairn Solar Farm one will be set up - all the companies are different. We will look to have a representative speak at a meeting when closer.
2. Ask Hume Building Society about helping with our next Meet and Greet event.
3. The Council Budget will be on public display in the next week or so.
4. Discussion about the centre island gardens (including boxing around trees, lawn and lighting. A letter to be written requesting this be done immediately (next 2 months) along with the street trees planting. It is believed that prospective buyers driving along Balfour Street to get to the new western subdivision will have their opinion of the town impacted upon by what they see in the centre of town. This may have an impact on their enthusiasm to buy and develop land here. It needs tidying up prontonot left for another 12 months.

MEETING CLOSED 8.15PM**NEXT MEETING 21 MAY 2024 - 7.30PM**

**Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of Holbrook Community Gardens
Held at Holbrook Community Garden
At 9.20am, 8th January, 2024.**

Welcome:

In Attendance: K Hulme, K Newbold, N Rogers, J Golenberg, J Kemp and J Wines.

Apologies: J Kautz and A Cox.

Confirmation of Minutes: Minutes of last meeting presented as a true and accurate record. Moved N Rogers, 2nd K Hulme.

Business Arising

From Previous Meeting: FRRR grant application was successful. In addition, the unused balance of the previous grant is still available to be used.

A whiteboard has been mounted on shed door to communicate with visitors and and to guide members regarding what tasks need to be done.

An article promoting the garden has been published in the Holbrook Happenings.

Correspondence In: Advice of success of FRRR grant application.

Correspondence Out: Thank you gift and card to David Smith for his wonderful and ongoing support in establishment of the Community Garden at the new site.

Financial Report: Attached. Presented as a true and accurate record. Moved K Hulme, 2nd N Rogers.

Items on Agenda: Planning of activities and events for the coming year.

January: Provide morning tea for the residents of the Harry Jervis Wing.

February: Bus trip for members and community members to Beechworth, visiting the Chinese Gardens, Beechworth Honey, Beechworth Community Garden and lunch at Bridge Road Brewers.

March: Group to assist with plant/produce section of Holbrook Show.

April: Provide morning tea and garden workshop for members of the community.

May: Bus trip to 'Make it Your Own' at Coolamon for a garden art or craft item class.

June: Wreath making, venue to be determined.

July: Children's school holiday activity at Cookardinia hall.

August: Garden related Bunnings Warehouse workshop to be conducted at the community garden.

September: Bus trip to 'Erin Earth' garden at Wagga Wagga.

October: Kokadama workshop at Holbrook.

November: Craft workshop to be conducted by the group at the community garden.

December: Bus trip to 'Indigo Rose Farm', Chiltern, for a floral decorative art workshop.

General Business: J Papworth has advised bus will be available for Beechworth trip.

K Hulme advised Cookardinia hall is available for craft day.

R Millard has agreed to conduct wreath making workshop.

K Hulme will approach Men's Shed to repair storage box.

Need to purchase poly pipe to create netting arches for garden beds.

Proposal to erect a semi permanent gazebo in front of garden shed. Need to approach Council for approval.

FRRR plaque to be displayed on any activities funded by this grant.

Next Meeting: 9am, 8th April, 2024. At the Community Garden.

Meeting Closed: 10.55 am.

21 MAY 2024

NEXT MEETING MONDAY 3RD JUNE 2024 at 5.30PM

Minutes of Walla Walla Community Hall Committee meeting held Monday 6th May 2024.

Meeting opened by President Jeff Grosse at 5.35pm. Jeff welcomed all.

Present: Jeff Grosse, Duina Hoffmann, Janet Paech, Herb Simpfendorfer, Leon Schoff, Ross & Helen Krause.

Apologies: Karen Ofak. Moved Janet seconded Leon that apologies be accepted. Carried.

Minutes of meeting held 8th April 2024 taken as read. Moved Herb seconded Ross. Carried.

Business out of Minutes.

1. No notification from Council re Hall repairs. We have noticed there is a lock on the door into the Main Hall from the Memorial Hall with an engineer's name and phone number. The ceiling in the Foyer is yet to be repaired.
2. First Aids that had been temporary moved to the Library have been returned to the RTC
3. Updating names on Post World War Two conflicts – Janet to see Noel Wilksch tonight as to who updates the Bowling Club boards' names.
4. Herb reported all heaters are working.
5. P A System – Ross reported the old system would cost \$100 to repair. Duina was keen to keep the old system. Ross to see Ross Schultz.
6. The Council are responsible for maintenance- should minor repairs be referred to them?

Correspondence:

1. Secretary sent letters to Mayor Tony Quinn and Councillor Ian Forrest asking for a Consultant's report on what action is needed to repair the Hall for Community use. Both Councillors assured us that we would get a report on this. No report yet.
2. Meals on Wheels is planning to recommence Sconeversations in Walla and would like to book the Hall. This is taking longer than expected but hopefully in May.

Leon moved, Janet seconded that the Secretary take appropriate action on all correspondence. Carried

Treasurer's Report:

Interest Bearing Deposit	\$16,639.38
S 18 Account	<u>\$11,718.27</u>
Total Funds	\$28,357.65

Herb asked Jeff does the Hall Committee charge the Anzac Day committee for Hall hire? No.

Jeff moved this report be adopted, seconded Duina. Carried

General Business:

1. Herb advised the Anzac Day celebrations went well. Herb was last to leave – all tidy.

There being no further business Jeff closed the meeting at 5.55pm and thanked all for attending.

Bookings:

Meals on Wheels Sconeversations- to be advised

26th May – Generation Life Riverina

3th June - Walla Community Development meeting 7.00pm

AGM Wedmerragatta Hall

5.3.24

Present: Sarah, Bahr Withers, Morgan Archer, Tania Dengate, Peggy Eastwood, Kymbaleigh Livermore, David Morley, Greg Webb, Kerry Morley, Jacob Walki, Finn Walki, Laura Harrison, Kate Hejse, Raelene Webb, Trish Shea, Sandy O'Flanagan, Maree Corrigan, Julie Adams

Apologies: Tim Shea, Jane Webb, Abi Webb

Julie Adams moved the 2022 minutes of AGM
see Raelene Webb

Summary Read by Sandy O'Flanagan of past achievements
and improvements to the Hall and surrounds.
Kerry Morley moved that a vote of thanks be given to the
past committee for their dedication and commitment to the Hall
and community.
see Julie Adams

Treasurer Report: Tabled and moved by Maree Corrigan
see Sandy O'Flanagan
The reconciliation is for two years 2022, 2023 as there was
no AGM in 2023

David Morley chaired the meeting at this point and
declared all positions vacant.

President: Trish Shea nominated Raelene Webb
see Kerry Morley
Accepted.

Maree Conway nominated by Sandy O'Donoghue
see Maree Webb

Sarah Bahlmann nominated by Greg Webb
see Margaret Archer
see Irish Sea

Iona Duggan nominated by Paul Webb
see Irish Sea

Kym Kivimae nominated by Paul Webb
see Laura Harrison

Karla Harrison nominated by Kate Hejse
see Margaret Archer

Ann Welfel nominated by Irish Sea
see Margaret Archer

Greg Webb nominated by Kerry Newton
see Laura Harrison

Kery Newton nominated by Paul Webb
see Laura Harrison

Committee Members:

President Irish Sea
Secretary Paul Webb
Treasurer Kate Hejse

The Executive is

Treasurer: Kate Hejse nominated by Irish Sea
see Kym Kivimae

Kerry Newton (Vice) has nomination.

Accepted.

Kerry Newton nominated by Kate Hejse
see Irish Sea

Accepted.

Paul Webb nominated by Laura Harrison
see Kerry Newton

Secretary:

Meeting closed 6:45 pm

David Merton nominated Raelene Webb
 set Laura Harrison
 Meryon Archer nominated David Merton Webb
 set Greg Webb
 Peggy Eastwood nominated Tim Sheu
 set Larry Manton.

WOOMARGAMA HALL Financial Report

1st June 2023 - 31st January 2024

Bank Reconciliation

Opening Balance	(Brought forward)	1/06/2023		\$13,360.91
Income/Receipts				\$1,550.00
			TOTAL	\$14,910.91
Expenditure/Payments				\$5,550.00
Total Cash Book Balance 31/01/2024				\$9,360.91
Statement 269				

Income

Greater Hume Shire (maintenance)				\$1,550.00
			TOTAL	\$1,550.00

Expendure

Chairs	26/07/2023 - 60 chairs	Cheque no. 200161	No GST	\$5,400.00
Cleaning of Hall	22/12/2023	Cheque no. 200162	No GST	\$150.00
			TOTAL	\$5,550.00