

Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI)
C/- Planning Portal – Industry Assessments

Attention: Sally Munk

Wagga North Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) (DA26/353)

Dear Ms Munk,

Thank you for your request for advice on the above proposal, as per correspondence of 2 February 2026.

Agriculture plays a vital role in supporting state, regional, and local economies, as well as strengthening the social bonds and character of rural communities. The NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Agriculture and Biosecurity (the Department) collaborates and partners with our stakeholders to protect and enhance the productive and sustainable use and resilience of agricultural resources and the environment.

The Department's advice is guided by the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act)* requirements to evaluate a project's potential environmental, social, and economic impacts, as well as the public interest. The Department emphasises its role in facilitating ecologically sustainable development in land use decision-making and promoting responsible resource management that benefits present and future generations.

The Department has reviewed the Statement of Environmental Effects (SEE) and notes that the proposal is for the construction and operation of a 120-megawatt lithium-ion phosphate BESS in the Rural Activity Zone (RAZ) of the Wagga Wagga Special Activation Precinct (SAP).

Potential impacts on prime agricultural land have been taken into consideration in the SEE. The site possesses suitable biophysical characteristics for agricultural activities, having Class 3 and 5 land identified by the Land and Soil Capability Assessment Scheme (LSC) (Second Approximation).

The SEE expects that agricultural activities within the development footprint would temporarily cease during construction, with only the fenced area surrounding the BESS excluded from agricultural activities during operations. The proposed development is expected to result in a loss of approximately 4.05ha of agricultural land for the duration of the BESS, estimated at approximately 35 years.

The Department notes the mitigation measures outlined in the SEE, including land rehabilitation, decommissioning and site landscaping.

As per our previous response, the Department requires the following to be incorporated into conditions of consent and management plans:

- The key decommissioning activities provided in the SEE are supported along with returning the site to its pre-existing use and land and soil capability per the Land and Soil Capability Assessment Scheme (LSC) (Second Approximation) Classes as identified.
- Rehabilitation plans for all infrastructure during construction and operations should incorporate appropriate groundcover management with local endemic species to mitigate dust and other land-use conflict issues.
- Development of a agricultural biosecurity management plan: Refer to the Biosecurity Risk Management in Land Use Planning and Development Guide for further information and resources.

Should you require clarification on any information provided, please contact me by email at landuse.ag@dpird.nsw.gov.au.

Sincerely

L Parker

Lilian Parker
Agricultural Land Use Planning
Esigned 17-2-2026