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REFERENCE: Notification No. 1900110097

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Re: 8/2021/21907/1 - 1026 LOVEDALE ROAD ALLANDALE 2320 - Development of 5MW AC solar farm and battery (Electrical Generation works)

I refer to Cessnock City Council development application 8/2021/21907/1.

This letter is Ausgrid's response under clause 45(2) of the State Environmental planning Policy (Infrastructure) 2007.

The assessment and evaluation of environmental impacts for a new development consent (or where a development consent is modified) is undertaken in accordance with requirements of Section 79C of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979. One of the obligations upon consent authorities, such as local councils, is to consider the suitability of the site for the development which can include a consideration of whether the proposal is compatible with the surrounding land uses and the existing environment.

In this regard, Ausgrid requires that due consideration be given to the compatibility of proposed development with existing Ausgrid infrastructure, particularly in relation to risks of electrocution, fire risks, Electric & Magnetic Fields (EMFs), noise, visual amenity and other matters that may impact on Ausgrid or the development.

With Regard to: Development of 5MW AC solar farm and battery (Electrical Generation works) connected to existing Ausgrid 11kV power lines through property. Non habitable storage shed and access track from Lovedale Road to solar farm developed at 1026 LOVEDALE ROAD ALLANDALE 2320

Ausgrid wishes to provide the following information and conditions:-

Method of Electricity Connection

The method of connection will be in line with Ausgrid's Electrical Standard (ES)1 – 'Premise Connection Requirements.

Supply of Electricity

It is recommended for the nominated electrical consultant/contractor to provide a preliminary enquiry to Ausgrid to obtain advice for the connection of the proposed development to the adjacent electricity network infrastructure. An assessment will be carried out based on the enquiry which may include whether or not:

- The existing network can support the expected electrical load of the development
- A substation may be required on-site, either a pad mount kiosk or chamber style and;
- site conditions or other issues that may impact on the method of supply.

Please direct the developer to Ausgrid's website, www.ausgrid.com.au about how to connect to Ausgrid's network.

Proximity to Existing Network Assets

Overhead Powerlines

There are existing overhead electricity network assets in 1026 Lovedale Rd, Allandale.

Safework NSW Document – Work Near Overhead Powerlines: Code of Practice, outlines the minimum safety separation requirements between these mains/poles to structures within the development throughout the construction process. It is a statutory requirement that these distances be maintained throughout construction. Special consideration should be given to the positioning and operating of cranes and the location of any scaffolding.

The “as constructed” minimum clearances to the mains should also be considered. These distances are outlined in the Ausgrid Network Standard, NS220 Overhead Design Manual. This document can be sourced from Ausgrid’s website, www.ausgrid.com.au

Should the existing overhead mains require relocating due to the minimum safety clearances being compromised in either of the above scenarios, this relocation work is generally at the developers cost.

It is also the responsibility of the developer to ensure that the existing overhead mains have sufficient clearance from all types of vehicles that are expected be entering and leaving the site.

For Activities Within or Near to the Electricity Easement:

Purpose Of Easement

This easement was acquired for the 11,000 volt distribution assets currently owned and operated by Ausgrid. The purpose of the easement is to protect the distribution assets and to provide adequate working space along the route of the lines for construction and maintenance work. The easement also assists Ausgrid in controlling works or other activities under or near the distribution lines which could either by accident or otherwise create an unsafe situation for workers or the public, or reduce the security and reliability of Ausgrid’s network.

The Following Conditions Apply for any Activities Within the Electricity Easement:

1. All construction works on or near the easement and/or powerlines must adhere to the Safework NSW – Work Near Overhead Powerlines: Code of Practice, 2006
2. Safework Australia – Excavation Code of Practice, and Ausgrid’s Network Standard NS156 outlines the minimum requirements for working around Ausgrid’s underground cables.
3. Ausgrid is not responsible for the reinstatement of any finished surface within the easement site.
4. Ausgrid requires 24 hour access along the easement for plant and personnel. For the purpose of exercising its rights under the easement, Ausgrid may cut fences and/or walls and install gates in them. Where the easements on a site do not provide practical access to all of Ausgrid’s infrastructure, a suitable right of access at least 5m wide must be provided to each asset.
5. Access gates, minimum 4.5 metres wide, may be required in all fences crossing the transmission line easement.
6. No vehicles, plant or equipment having a height exceeding 4.6 metres are to be brought into the easement site without written approval from Ausgrid.
7. Vehicles brought into the easement, with a height less than 4.6m but having an extension capable of extending greater than 4.6m above ground, must not have that extension operated at all whilst within the easement.
8. No buildings/structures or parts thereof constructed may encroach the easement.
9. The storage of non-flammable materials is allowable provided access is maintained along the easement and subject to height limitations of 2.5 metres if climbable or 4.6 metres if not climbable. Lifting of materials within the easement area must consider the clearance requirements given in Safework NSW Code of Practice.
10. The flying of kites, model aircraft etc. is not permitted within the easement site.
11. Any change to ground levels must be submitted to Ausgrid for approval.
12. Trees, shrubs, or plants which have a mature height of greater than 3.0m, or climbable portions greater than 2.5m above ground, are not permitted within the easement. The planting of other vegetation is to ensure Ausgrid’s access and maintenance requirements are maintained.

Please do not hesitate to contact Jeffrey Lyons on Ph: (02) 4910 1719 (please quote our ref: Trim 2017/12/285) should you require any further information.

Regards, Jeff

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeff Lyons', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jeffrey Lyons
Engineering Officer - Design & Planning - Lower Hunter
Ausgrid - Field Services
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