# Kingswood Battery Energy Storage System

Application Number: **03400** Commencement Date: **08/04/2026** Status: **Locked**

# 1. About the project

## 1.1 Project details

**1.1.1 Project title ***

Kingswood Battery Energy Storage System

**1.1.2 Project industry type ***

Energy Generation and Supply (renewable)

**1.1.3 Project industry sub-type**

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**1.1.4 Estimated start date ***

01/06/2027

**1.1.4 Estimated end date ***

30/11/2048

# 1.2 Proposed Action details

### 1.2.1 Provide an overview of the proposed action, including all proposed activities. *

The proposed action is for the construction, operation and maintenance of a large a large-scale Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) at 744 Burgmanns Lane, Kingswood, New South Wales 2340 (Lot 43 DP1064582). The BESS would have a capacity of up to 270 Megawatts (MW) and provide up to 1,080 Megawatt-hours (MWh) of battery storage capacity. The project area is roughly rectangular in shape, covering 79 hectares and located southeast of and around the Tamworth substation. The Project would be located within a 35.58 hectare development footprint within the project area.

The proposed action involves the construction and operation of the following:

- BESS including battery enclosures, inverters, transformers, switch gear and control building
- Onsite 33/330 kV substation to convert electricity from the medium voltage BESS to the high voltage transmission network
- Transmission connection between the BESS and the Tamworth substation via one of the following solutions:
    - High voltage transmission connection (above ground and/or below ground)
    - Underground cable northern bay alignment or
    - Connection to existing overhead transmission line
- Ancillary infrastructure and mitigative features including:
    - Site access to the BESS from Ascot-Calala Road
    - Additional access point via the existing Tamworth substation access road off Burgmanns Lane
    - Internal site access road and parking
    - Permanent office and staff amenities
    - Operations and maintenance (O&M) building
    - Stormwater management infrastructure
    - Services and utilities
    - Lighting, fencing and security devices
    - Noise acoustic barriers
    - Asset protection zone
    - Landscaping and screening vegetation.

The BESS would operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week and would be monitored remotely, with maintenance of infrastructure periodically undertaken on-site. The estimated life of the initial BESS equipment is 20 years. At the end of operational life, this may be extended subject to the availability of replacement components and/or refurbishment of components and market conditions.

Two 330kV aboveground transmission lines transect the project area. The BESS, BESS substation and ancillary infrastructure are located outside of these easements. The proposed transmission corridor running towards the Tamworth substation crosses a 330kV aboveground transmission line easement.

Below is a breakdown of the construction activities proposed:

- Civil and enabling works:
    - Establishment of temporary environmental and safety controls (such as water management infrastructure and fencing)
    - Establishment of temporary construction compound and laydown areas
    - Establishment of site access point and construction of an internal access road and car park. The internal access road would become the permanent operational access road at the completion of construction
    - Surveying and investigations of on-site condition to implement final design
    - Environmental investigations or protection works
    - Clearing and grubbing to accommodate proposed infrastructure and asset protection zones
    - Earthworks (cut and fill), levelling, compaction and other civil and ground preparation activities to desired design levels (including the removal of spoil)
- Construction of concrete pads / hardstand areas to support the BESS and associated infrastructure

- Delivery, installation and electrical fit-out of components, including control building, battery enclosures, inverters, transformers and associated cabling and infrastructure (BESS components are largely prefabricated and would be lifted directly into place from the delivery vehicle)
- Installation of overhead or underground cabling from the BESS substation to the Tamworth substation, including construction of foundation piles for transmission tower structures (if overhead)
- Construction of ancillary elements including, offices and amenities, installation of services, water and sewage management, fire systems and signage
- Installation of permanent fencing and security system
- Landscaping
- Testing and commissioning
- Removal of construction equipment and rehabilitation of construction areas.

Direct and indirect environmental impacts associated with the proposed action are as follows:

- Direct impacts:
  - Impact on 35.58 hectares (of which 0.22 hectares is mapped as PCT 3396 – Disturbed)
- Indirect impacts:
  - Potential for inadvertent impacts to adjacent habitat and vegetation
  - Potential for introduction and spread of weeds and pathogens.

See Attachment 1 showing the overview of the Project including its location, the location of the Tamworth substation, ancillary infrastructure, and access points.

### 1.2.2 Is the project action part of a staged development or related to other actions or proposals in the region?

No

### 1.2.6 What Commonwealth or state legislation, planning frameworks or policy documents are relevant to the proposed action, and how are they relevant? *

The proposed action meets the definition of State Significant Development (SSD) under Clause 2.6 of the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Planning Systems) 2021*. The proposed action would be for electricity generating works on land that is permitted with development consent under *Clause 2.35 of the State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021* and will have a capital investment value greater than $30 million. Iberdrola Australia Development Pty Limited (Iberdrola) (the Proponent) is seeking SSD approval for the proposed action under Part 4, Division 4.7 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act).

Under Section 7.9 of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (BC Act), the development triggers entry into the NSW Biodiversity Offset Scheme (BOS) and a Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR) has been prepared (see Attachment 2).

The BDAR is based on research and field surveys undertaken in October 2023 and September 2024. The biodiversity impacts and offset requirements for the proposed action were calculated using the Biodiversity Assessment Method Calculator (BAM Calculator) in accordance with the Biodiversity Assessment Method (BAM) (DPIE, 2020a).

In accordance with Sections 67 and 67A of the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act), any works that have the potential to result in an impact on any Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) or on Commonwealth land are considered ‘controlled actions’ and require a referral to the Federal Minister for the Environment for approval. Consideration of the potential for the proposed Project to result in a significant impact to MNES was considered in the BDAR (Section 5). The development footprint, as described in the BDAR (Section 1.4), has increased from 27.95 hectares to 35.58 hectares. The additional area forming the development footprint consists of Category 1 land and the Tamworth substation (see Attachment 3).

The outcome of this review is that the Project is not expected to result in a significant impact on any Matters of National Environmental Significance.

### 1.2.7 Describe any public consultation that has been, is being or will be undertaken regarding the project area, including with Indigenous stakeholders. Attach any completed consultation documentations, if relevant. *

Community and stakeholder engagement for the Project is being undertaken in accordance with *Undertaking Engagement Guidelines for State Significant Projects* (DPE, 2022) and Iberdrola Australia's Community and Stakeholder Engagement Policy (see Attachment 4). Community and stakeholder engagement activities regarding the Project commenced in 2023.

Government and technical stakeholders were consulted during the preparation and assessment of the Project via meetings, telephone conversations, email and/or letter correspondence. Details of the consultation and outcomes of the consultation are provided in the consultation logs included in the Community Engagement Report (Iberdrola Australia, 2024) (see Attachment 5) prepared for the EIS and the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (OzArk, 2024) (see Attachment 6).

Community consultation activities undertaken included:

- Development of a dedicated website (https://www.iberdrola.com.au/our-assets/owned-renewable-energy-assets/kingswood-battery)
- Community newsletters
- Community drop in sessions
- Face to face door knocks and one on one meetings
- Provision of enquiry lines (for phone and email).

Stakeholders consulted for the project include:

- State government:
    - DPHI including the following groups: Water, Hazards, and Biodiversity, Conservation and Science
    - NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA)
    - Transport for NSW
    - Heritage NSW
    - Fire and Rescue
    - NSW Rural Fire Service
    - Department of Primary Industries (DPI) Agriculture
    - Department of Regional NSW
- Local government:
    - Tamworth Regional Council
- Utility providers
    - Transgrid
- Registered Aboriginal Parties
    - Tamworth Local Aboriginal Land Council
    - Gomeroi Applicant
    - Gomery Cultural Consultants
    - AT Gomilaroi Cultural
    - DFTV Enterprises
    - Didge Ngunawal Clan
    - Long Gully Cultural Services
    - Konanggo Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Services
    - Thomas Dahlstrom
    - Cacatua General Service (Catacua Cultural Consultants)
    - AGA Services
    - Bawurra
    - Bill Trewlynn
    - Barraby Cultural Services
    - Galamaay Cultural Consultants.
- Neighbouring landowners
    - 795 Burgmanns Lane Calala 2340 (R2)

    - 781 Burgmanns Lane Calala 2340 (R3)
    - 696 Burgmanns Lane Kingswood 2340 (R4)
    - 156C Roberts Road Kingswood 2340
    - 910 Ascot-Calala Road Calala 2340 (R9)
- Organisations
    - Tamworth Local Aboriginal Land Council
    - Tamworth Business Chamber
    - Farrer Memorial Agricultural High School
    - Tamworth TAFE
    - Tamworth Agricultural Institute
- Community
    - Wider community within the Tamworth Regional LGA

Stakeholders will continue to be identified and consulted during the approvals and response to submission phase, and if approved, during the construction, operation, and decommissioning and rehabilitation phases of the Project.

# 1.3.1 Identity: Referring party

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### 1.3.1.1 Is Referring party an organisation or business? *

Yes

Referring party organisation details

| | |
|---|---|
| **ABN/ACN** | 76104485289 |
| **Organisation name** | ARCADIS AUSTRALIA PACIFIC PTY LTD |
| **Organisation address** | Level 15, 580 George Street, Sydney New South Wales 2000 |

Referring party details

| | |
|---|---|
| **Name** | Chris Power |
| **Job title** | Environmental Consultant |
| **Phone** | 02 89079000 |
| **Email** | chris.power@arcadis.com |
| **Address** | Level 15/580 George Street |

# 1.3.2 Identity: Person proposing to take the action

### 1.3.2.1 Are the Person proposing to take the action details the same as the Referring party details? *

No

### 1.3.2.2 Is Person proposing to take the action an organisation or business? *

Yes

Person proposing to take the action organisation details

| | |
|---|---|
| **ABN/ACN** | 32137258470 |
| **Organisation name** | IBERDROLA AUSTRALIA DEVELOPMENT PTY LIMITED |
| **Organisation address** | Governor Phillip Tower, Level 22, 1 Farrer Place, Sydney, NSW 2000 |

Person proposing to take the action details

| | |
|---|---|
| **Name** | Jose Opazo |
| **Job title** | Development Manager - BESS |
| **Phone** | 0481353814 |
| **Email** | jose.opazo@iberdrola.com.au |
| **Address** | Governor Phillip Tower, Level 22, 1 Farrer Place, Sydney, NSW 2000 |

### 1.3.2.14 Are you proposing the action as part of a Joint Venture? *

No

### 1.3.2.15 Are you proposing the action as part of a Trust? *

No

### 1.3.2.17 Describe the Person proposing the action's history of responsible environmental management including details of any proceedings under a Commonwealth, State or Territory law for the protection of the environment or the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources against the Person proposing to take the action. *

Iberdrola Australia has a sound record of responsible environmental management. Iberdrola Australia Development Pty Limited does not have any proceedings under a Commonwealth, State or Territory law for the protection of the environment or the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.

Iberdrola Australia Development Pty Limited is a wholly owned company of Iberdrola Australia Limited (Iberdrola Australia).

Iberdrola Australia is a long-term owner, operator and developer of renewable generation in Australia. Iberdrola Australia has renewable and firming assets with a total capacity of 2.4GW and a large pipeline of future opportunities with the aim of driving the country's energy transition. With existing investments made totalling over AU$2 billion, Iberdrola Australia continues to pursue growth through the investment into additional renewables projects.

Previously Infigen Energy, Iberdrola Australia has been operational in the Australian market for over 20 years, successfully developing a number of wind, solar and battery projects. These assets are located across the states of New South Wales, South Australia, Queensland and Western Australia. Iberdrola Australia remain responsible for its assets across their full project lifecycle, with dedicated teams working on the development, construction management, and operations and maintenance of our projects.

Iberdrola Australia has experience implementing and complying with both state and Commonwealth environmental approvals in the pre-construction, construction and operations phases of its previous projects.

Iberdrola Australia is part of the Iberdrola Group, and is ultimately owned by Iberdrola, S.A. (Iberdrola). Iberdrola are one of the leading renewables companies globally with over 44GW of installed renewable capacity as of the end of 2024.

### 1.3.2.18 If the person proposing to take the action is a corporation, provide details of the corporation's environmental policy and planning framework

Iberdrola Australia is part of the Iberdrola Group, and is ultimately owned by Iberdrola, S.A. (Iberdrola). Iberdrola Australia's Environment Policy (refer to Attachment 7) reflects the guidance provided by Iberdrola Group's Policy on Management and Protection of Nature (refer to Attachment 8) to implement the Group's commitment to the environment and boosting environmental sustainability, through the application of the following principles to all its activities:

- Develop a sustainable model that is respectful of nature, biodiversity, and historical
- and cultural heritage.
- Meeting or exceeding legal and applicable environmental standards.
- Apply the principles of avoid, mitigate, or offset in all activities.
- Promote innovation through research and support for the development of new technologies and best environmental practices.
- Use natural capital sustainably.

Conserve, protect and promote the development and growth of natural heritage Iberdrola Group's policies include the Iberdrola Group Environmental Policy detailed further below, and the Biodiversity Policy which is intended to establish a framework of reference for integrating the protection and promotion of biodiversity into the Group-level strategy. This helps to define the principles of conduct for the development of a business model that is sustainable and contributes to a nature-positive society, such that the activities of Iberdrola's companies protect and promote the development and growth of the natural heritage and a global commitment to being "nature positive" by 2030.

Iberdrola Group's policies include the Iberdrola Group Environmental Policy detailed further below, and the Biodiversity Policy which is intended to establish a framework of reference for integrating the protection and promotion of biodiversity into the Group-level strategy. This helps to define the principles of conduct for the development of a business model that is sustainable and contributes to a nature-positive society, such that the activities of Iberdrola's companies protect and promote the development and growth of the natural heritage and a global commitment to being "nature positive" by 2030.

Iberdrola's Environmental Policy, approved by the Board of Directors of Iberdrola, S.A., outlines the company's commitment to environmental protection and sustainability. It establishes guidelines for integrating environmental concerns into the company's strategy, investments, and operations, emphasising the importance of renewable energy, efficiency, emissions reduction, and digital transformation. Key points of the policy include:

- Purpose: The policy aims to integrate environmental protection into the company's strategy, investments, and operations, emphasising the importance of renewable energy and environmental management principles.
- Scope of Application: The policy applies to all companies within the Iberdrola Group and investees over which the company has effective control. It also encourages alignment with the policy for companies in which Iberdrola has an interest.
- Main Principles of Conduct: The policy outlines principles such as respect for nature and biodiversity, compliance with legal provisions and environmental standards, promotion of innovation and sustainable technologies, sustainable use of natural capital, and integration of biodiversity protection into the business model.
- Priority Lines of Action: The policy focuses on three priority areas: climate action, protection of biodiversity, and the circular economy, emphasising the application of the main principles of conduct in these areas.

Overall, the policy underscores Iberdrola's commitment to environmental sustainability, legal compliance, innovation, and stakeholder engagement, with a focus on addressing climate change, protecting biodiversity, and promoting circular economy principles.

Iberdrola’s Biodiversity Policy which is intended to establish a framework of reference for integrating the protection and promotion of biodiversity into the Group-level strategy. This helps to define the principles of conduct for the development of a business model that is sustainable and contributes to a nature-positive society, such that the activities of the Group’s companies protect and promote the development and growth of the natural heritage and a global commitment to being "nature positive" by 2030 (refer Attachment 9 for the full Biodiversity Policy).

Iberdrola Australia's annual sustainability report outlines its environmental and biodiversity policies in the fight against climate change and protection of biodiversity (refer to Attachment 10, Section 2, pp 39-51). As a wholly owned subsidiary within the Iberdrola Group, Iberdrola Australia also reports under the Iberdrola Group’s global Sustainability Report in accordance with the European Union Directive 2022/2464 on Corporate Sustainability Reporting, (refer to Attachment 11, ESRS E4 Biodiversity and ecosystems, pp 130-167: Consolidated Non-Financial Information Statement (NFIS) and the Sustainability Reporting 2024).

# 1.3.3 Identity: Proposed designated proponent

### 1.3.3.1 Are the Proposed designated proponent details the same as the Person proposing to take the action? *

Yes

Proposed designated proponent organisation details

| | |
|---|---|
| **ABN/ACN** | 32137258470 |
| **Organisation name** | IBERDROLA AUSTRALIA DEVELOPMENT PTY LIMITED |
| **Organisation address** | Governor Phillip Tower, Level 22, 1 Farrer Place, Sydney, NSW 2000 |

Proposed designated proponent details

| | |
|---|---|
| **Name** | Jose Opazo |
| **Job title** | Development Manager - BESS |
| **Phone** | 0481353814 |
| **Email** | jose.opazo@iberdrola.com.au |
| **Address** | Governor Phillip Tower, Level 22, 1 Farrer Place, Sydney, NSW 2000 |

# 1.3.4 Identity: Summary of allocation

## Confirmed Referring party's identity

The Referring party is the person preparing the information in this referral.

| | |
|---|---|
| ABN/ACN | 76104485289 |
| Organisation name | ARCADIS AUSTRALIA PACIFIC PTY LTD |
| Organisation address | Level 15, 580 George Street, Sydney New South Wales 2000 |
| Representative's name | Chris Power |
| Representative's job title | Environmental Consultant |
| Phone | 02 89079000 |
| Email | chris.power@arcadis.com |
| Address | Level 15/580 George Street |

## Confirmed Person proposing to take the action's identity

The Person proposing to take the action is the individual, business, government agency or trustee that will be responsible for the proposed action.

| | |
|---|---|
| ABN/ACN | 32137258470 |
| Organisation name | IBERDROLA AUSTRALIA DEVELOPMENT PTY LIMITED |
| Organisation address | Governor Phillip Tower, Level 22, 1 Farrer Place, Sydney, NSW 2000 |
| Representative's name | Jose Opazo |
| Representative's job title | Development Manager - BESS |
| Phone | 0481353814 |
| Email | jose.opazo@iberdrola.com.au |
| Address | Governor Phillip Tower, Level 22, 1 Farrer Place, Sydney, NSW 2000 |

## Confirmed Proposed designated proponent's identity

The Person proposing to take the action is the individual or organisation proposed to be responsible for meeting the requirements of the EPBC Act during the assessment process, if the Minister decides that this project is a controlled action.

Same as Person proposing to take the action information.

## 1.4 Payment details: Payment exemption and fee waiver

**1.4.1 Do you qualify for an exemption from fees under EPBC Regulation 5.23 (1) (a)? ***

No

**1.4.3 Have you applied for or been granted a waiver for full or partial fees under Regulation 5.21A? ***

No

**1.4.5 Are you going to apply for a waiver of full or partial fees under EPBC Regulation 5.21A?**

No

**1.4.7 Has the department issued you with a credit note? ***

No

**1.4.9 Would you like to add a purchase order number to your invoice? ***

No

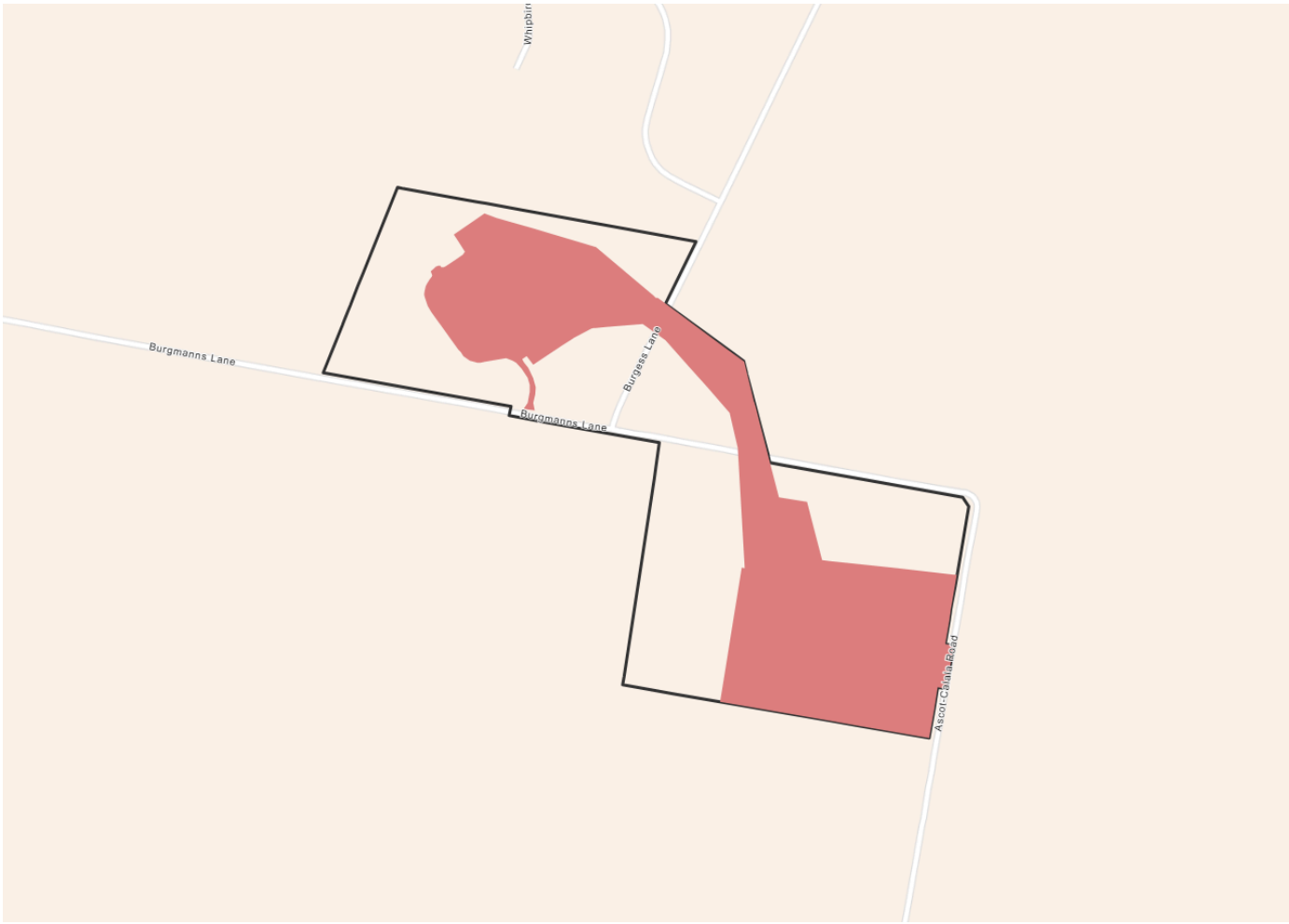
## 1.4 Payment details: Payment allocation

**1.4.11 Who would you like to allocate as the entity responsible for payment? ***

Person proposing to take the action

# 2. Location

# 2.1 Project footprint




**Project Area:** 79.06 Ha **Disturbance Footprint:** 35.77 Ha

## 2.2 Footprint details

**2.2.1 What is the address of the proposed action? ***

744 Burgmanns Lane, Kingswood, New South Wales 2340

**2.2.2 Where is the primary jurisdiction of the proposed action? ***

New South Wales

**2.2.3 Is there a secondary jurisdiction for this proposed action? ***

No

**2.2.5 What is the tenure of the action area relevant to the project area? ***

Freehold land

# 3. Existing environment

# 3.1 Physical description

### 3.1.1 Describe the current condition of the project area’s environment.

***Describe the current condition of each component of the whole environment (not just the native vegetation) relevant to the project area. Please include the ecological condition/level of degradation (e.g., high quality habitat for specified XX and YY species)***

The project area is located within an agricultural landscape adjacent to the suburb of Kingswood. Most land in the immediate area of the project has been cleared for agricultural activities and residential development.

Within the project area itself, the majority of land is either exotic pasture or the Tamworth substation. Native vegetation makes up less than 10% of the project area and less than 1% of the development footprint.

Native vegetation within the development footprint was classified into one Plant Community Type (PCT) recognised by NSW, PCT 3396 Northwest Slopes Box-Blakelys Red Gum Forest.

- Within the development footprint, PCT 3396 is found in small patches in a highly degraded condition (condition class low), consisting of trees native to the PCT with an almost entirely exotic understorey. The dominant canopy species include *Eucalyptus blakelyi, Eucalyptus melliodora* and *Eucalyptus albens*. The PCT 3396 occupies a total 0.22 hectares within the development footprint.
- The areas of PCT 3396 within the development footprint, forms part of the 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 Bioregion Critically Endangered Ecological Community (CEEC) listed under the BC Act.
- PCT 3396 within the development footprint does not meet the minimum condition threshold for inclusion in the equivalent Threatened Ecological Community (TEC) under the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act).

The remainder of the development footprint comprises of:

- Vegetation in the form of pasture made up of mixed exotic and native grasses.
- Within Lot 43 DP 1064582 where the BESS facility will be located, as well as Lot 6 DP 219993, this vegetation type does not conform to the definition of any PCTs and is categorised as 'category-1 (exempt) land' under the NSW *Local Land Services Act 2013.* The Category 1 land is strongly dominated by exotic grasses.
- Exotic species present in the Category 1 land in Lot 43 DP 1064582 include Vulpia *species* (Rat's-tail Fescue) which is the most common grass, with substantial coverage of *Anthoxanthum odoratum* (Sweet Vernal Grass) as well.
- Exotic species present in the Category 1 land in Lot 6 DP 219993 include grasses dominated by *Avena fatua* (Wild Oats), *Bromus hordaceus* and *Bromus diandra*, with occasional occurrences of *Dichanthium sericeum*
- Grassland within Lots 3 and 4 DP 244399 has better native representation than Category 1 land and is categorised as mixed native/exotic pasture. However, this land does not meet the threshold for offsetting native vegetation under the NSW Biodiversity Assessment Method.
- A second native vegetation community, PCT 4080 Northwest River Oak-Apple Forest, occurs within the project area outside the development footprint. This native vegetation community will not be impacted by the Project.
- There are no rivers, streams, wetlands or groundwater dependent ecosystems within the project area. The development footprint does not support any aquatic habitat, including human-made dams. The nearest natural aquatic habitats are Calala Creek, Goonang Creek and Goonoo Goonoo Creek.
- No nest trees, caves or hollow bearing trees were recorded within the development footprint.
- The TEC White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland has been identified in the project area.
- Under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*, the native vegetation within the project area falls within the listed community

- The native vegetation within the project area does not meet the required thresholds, therefore the native vegetation within the project area is not considered to be part of the EPBC-listed community
- No threatened species were recorded within the development footprint during field survey. Significant impact criteria assessments under the EPBC Act were not required as no Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) were being impacted by the Project.

Refer to Attachment 3 showing the vegetation survey effort and ground-truthed vegetation.

***Identify the distance of the project area to major towns (km or nautical mile).***

The project area is within the Tamworth Regional Local Government Area (LGA), around six kilometres southeast of Tamworth and two kilometres west-south-west of Calala town centre and borders the suburb of Calala.

***Provide details of the project area site's zoning including any changes to zoning to facilitate the proposed development.***

The project area is zoned RU4 – Primary Production Small Lots under the Tamworth Regional LEP 2010 and consists of mostly cleared rural land, existing electrical infrastructure and local council roads. Under the Tamworth Regional LEP 2010 the objectives of the RU4 zone are to:

- Enable sustainable primary industry and other compatible land uses
- Encourage and promote diversity and employment opportunities in relation to primary industry enterprises, particularly those that require smaller lots or that are more intensive in nature
- Minimise conflict between land uses within this zone and land uses within adjoining zones.

***Describe any adjoining zoning and land uses on all boundaries of the project area.***

Surrounding land zoning within two kilometres of the Project includes R5 Large Lot Residential, R1 General Residences, R2 Low Density Residential, RE1 Public Recreation and RU1 Primary Production. The land surrounding the Project consists of rural residential, grazing land and electrical infrastructure.

36 residences are located within one kilometre of the project area, including one associated residence located in the southwest corner of the project area.

***Provide a detailed description of how the existing road infrastructure in and around the project area will be used to provide access. This includes details on how transportation to and from the site will occur within the development, operational and completion stages.***

The proposed site access would be via Ascot-Calala Road on the eastern side of the project area. A perimeter track would be constructed around the BESS facility and within the BESS facility to provide access to the battery enclosures. Internal tracks would also provide access to onsite 33/330 kV substation, buildings and other ancillary infrastructure.

The internal tracks will be constructed of an all-weather gravel surface. The exact position of access tracks will be determined during the detailed design phase.

A car parking area for staff would be provided adjacent to the control and office building and would accommodate up to around ten spaces for operational and maintenance staff and visitors.

### 3.1.2 Describe any existing or proposed uses for the project area.

***Identify existing uses of the project area, including industry use, tourism or small-town community's inhabitancy. e.g.: Farming 30 ha, light agricultural use 20ha, industrial processing plant 30m2. The site has been used this way since 1975 or before and the approach will not be enlarged, expanded or intensified***.

The existing use of the project area is grazing modified pastures and utilities. The land is mostly cleared, with some scattered trees within the project area and along the road reserve.

***Identify the proposed uses including known, future developments.***

The proposed future use of the site is the operation of a Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) and other electrical transmission infrastructure. Once the Project reaches the end of its investment and operational life, the Project infrastructure would be decommissioned and the Project returned to its pre-existing land use, namely suitable for cattle grazing, or another land use as agreed by the Project owner and the landholder at that time.

***Provide a brief description of previous land uses of the proposed project site.***

There are two existing land use activities relevant to the Project, including grazing modified pastures and utilities. The land is mostly cleared, with some scattered trees within the project area and along the road reserve.

## 3.1.3 Describe any outstanding natural features and/or any other important or unique values that applies to the project area.

***Describe the natural features of the project area***

There are no rivers, streams, wetlands or groundwater dependent ecosystems within the development footprint. The development footprint does not support any aquatic habitat. The nearest natural aquatic habitats are Calala Creek, Goonang Creek and Goonoo Goonoo Creek.

No other natural features of the project area, besides those already discussed, have specific values that are protected or significant to the area.

***Describe the project area's important values***

The project footprint does not contain any areas of geological significance, including karst, caves, crevices, cliffs, rocks, and other geological features of significance. The nearest area of geological significance lies approximately 7 kilometres to the north of the site, on the Moonbi Range that adjoins the Northern Tablelands.

The project area does not support any wetlands, including Nationally Important Wetlands or RAMSAR wetlands listed in the Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia (DIWA).

***Describe the project area's unique values***

No Areas of Outstanding Biodiversity Value (AOBV) occur within or surrounding the development footprint. The closest AOBV to the development footprint is the Wollemi Pine declared area (critical habitat of the critically endangered Wollemi Pine in Wollemi National Park), approximately 180 kilometres south of the development footprint.

## 3.1.4 Describe the gradient (or depth range if action is to be taken in a marine area) relevant to the project area.

***Provide a general description of the gradient of the project area considering slope, Australian Height Datum (AHD) etc.***

The project area is located along a ridgeline running north to south near the western lot boundary. The majority of the project area falls towards the east with elevations ranging from 460 metres AHD at the ridge in the southwest to 420 metres AHD in the northeast. A small area of the project area along the western boundary falls from the ridgeline to the north-west. The project area is steepest near the ridgeline with grades around 1:7 flattening out to less than 1:25 for the majority of the project area.

***Identify areas of elevation within the project area's topography compared to sea level.***

The development footprint is located within the Tamworth – Keepit Slopes and Plains Mitchell Landscape. The Mitchell Landscape is characterised by undulating to rolling slopes and plains, with low ranges and low hills that form the western side of the New England plateau.

Rock types of the Tamworth – Keepit Slopes landscape include slate, Silurian-Devonian chert, schist and Carboniferous conglomerate, sandstone, mudstone, andesite and small areas of limestone. In general, elevation is between 500 and 800 metres, with a local relief of 250 metres and peaks reaching 1,100 metres. Subsoils are prone to gully development on lower slopes, with shallow stony soils present on ridges (DECC, 2002).

***Areas of elevation also include comparing the project area's topography to shallow water.***

Areas of shallow water are not abundant within the project area. There are no rivers, streams, wetlands or groundwater dependent ecosystems within the development footprint. The development footprint does not support any aquatic habitat, including human-made dams.

# 3.2 Flora and fauna

### 3.2.1 Describe the flora and fauna within the affected area and attach any investigations of surveys if applicable.

***Summarise the key findings of any research activities undertaken on the flora and fauna, or ecological communities present. Attach or hyperlink any supporting documentation. Include the project area as well as any buffer zones around or adjacent to the project area as you need to cover anything that may be affected by potential indirect impacts, as well as direct impacts.***

Attachment 2 - BDAR, Chapter 3, pp. 19-39 of the Kingswood BDAR describes the vegetation on the site and Chapter 4, pp. 40-46 describes the threatened species (both flora and fauna).

Surveys in the project area were conducted from 25 to 26 October 2023 and 23-25 September 2024 (refer to Attachment 2 - BDAR, Chapter 3, pp. 22-27). This included undertaking:

- Vegetation mapping and plant community type (PCT) identification. This was then compared to recognised and acted PCTs, as described in the BioNet VIS Classification database
- Vegetation integrity plots involving quantitative (quadrat/transect) surveys in accordance with the BAM
- Ground-truthing of one PCT that occurs within the development footprint.

The landscape is characterised by a mix of exotic pastures and remnant woodland, with no water courses present within the project area.

No threatened flora or fauna were identified in the project area during surveys.

Field survey identified one potential EPBC-listed TEC within the development footprint, the White Box-Yellow Box Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland CEEC. This potential CEEC was assessed and determined not to meet condition thresholds for inclusion in the listed community. This TEC is highly degraded and contains very small, disconnected patches. The development footprint does not contain habitat for any threatened species.

### 3.2.2 Describe the vegetation (including the status of native vegetation and soil) within the project area.

***Provide a short summary describing the presence and condition of vegetation (including native vegetation, geology, and soils) relevant to the project area (current condition – consider bushfire, weeds, etc.).***

**Presence and condition of vegetation**

Native and non-native vegetation is described in detail in Attachment 2 – BDAR, Chapter 3, pp. 19-39.

**Native and non-native vegetation communities**

Native vegetation within the development footprint was classified into one Plant Community Type (PCT), PCT 3396 Northwest Slopes Box-Blakelys Red Gum Forest.

- Within the development footprint, PCT 3396 is found in small patches in a highly degraded condition (condition class low), consisting of trees native to the PCT with an almost entirely exotic understorey. The dominant canopy species include *Eucalyptus blakelyi, Eucalyptus melliodora* and *Eucalyptus albens*. The PCT 3396 occupies a total 0.22 hectares within the development footprint.
- The areas of PCT 3396 within the development footprint, forms part of the 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 Bioregion Critically Endangered Ecological Community (CEEC) listed under the BC Act.
- PCT 3396 within the development footprint does not meet the minimum condition threshold for inclusion in the equivalent Threatened Ecological Community (TEC) under the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act).

The remainder of the development footprint comprises of:

- Vegetation in the form of pasture made up of mixed exotic and native grasses.
- Within Lot 43 DP 1064582 where the BESS facility will be located, as well as Lot 6 DP 219993, this vegetation type does not conform to the definition of any PCTs and is categorised as 'category-1 (exempt) land' under the NSW *Local Land Services Act 2013.* The Category 1 land is strongly dominated by exotic grasses.
- Exotic species present in the Category 1 land in Lot 43 DP 1064582 include Vulpia *species* (Rat's-tail Fescue) which is the most common grass, with substantial coverage of *Anthoxanthum odoratum* (Sweet Vernal Grass) as well.
- Exotic species present in the Category 1 land in Lot 6 DP 219993 include grasses dominated by *Avena fatua* (Wild Oats), *Bromus hordaceus* and *Bromus diandra*, with occasional occurrences of *Dichanthium sericeum.*
- Grassland within Lots 3 and 4 DP 244399 has better native representation than Category 1 land and is categorised as mixed native/exotic pasture. However, this land does not meet the threshold for offsetting native vegetation under the NSW Biodiversity Assessment Method.
- A second native vegetation community, PCT 4080 Northwest River Oak-Apple Forest, occurs within the project area outside the development footprint. This native vegetation community will not be impacted by the Project.

**Weeds**

Five exotic species within the project area are listed as High Threat Weeds and/or priority weeds under the NSW *Biosecurity Act 2015* for the North West region, which includes the Tamworth Regional LGA. Of these species, one is also listed as Weeds of National Significance (WoNS) (DPI, 2023c).

***Describe the most observed vegetation characteristics.***

The project area is mostly modified pastures due to grazing and is mostly cleared, with some scattered trees within the project area and along the road reserve.

***Describe the soil types and their condition within the project area.***

**Geology**

The Department of Regional NSW (2023) indicates the project area and surrounding area is likely to be predominantly underlain by Noumea beds sandstone with interbedded massive- and andesitic-lithic wacke, pebbly wacke, laminated siltstone and mudstone. Boulder to pebble Keepit Conglomerate may also be present in the southwest corner of the project area.

Nandewar Regional Assessment Area map (2003) indicates a fault line runs north to south through the middle of the site, dividing the lithology of the project area and surrounding area. The eastern portion is likely to be underlain by grey, thin-bedded laminated and massive Mandowa mudstone with subordinate, thin siltstone and fine sandstone.

**Soils**

The soils landscapes identified for the Project based on the Soil Conservation Service of NSW Sydney 1:100,000 Soil Landscapes Series Tamworth Sheet include Fullwoods Hill and Duri. Sheet erosion is common to these soil landscape. The erosion hazard is considered low for a grazing land with sheet flow and increases to a high hazard for concentrated flows. Based on the typical slopes for the project area the potential erosion hazard was generally found to be low.

A review of the CSIRO Atlas of Australian Acid Sulfate Soils Data Source (Fitzpatrick, Powell & Marvanek, 2013) indicated that the project area is located in an area of ‘low (6-70 percent) probability’ of acid sulfate soils occurring.

Refer to Attachment 12 - EIS, Chapter 6, pp. 115-127 of the Kingswood EIS for more details on soils and geology.

# 3.3 Heritage

### 3.3.1 Describe any Commonwealth Heritage Places Overseas or other places recognised as having heritage values that apply to the project area.

No places listed on either the National or Commonwealth heritage lists are located within the project area.

The nearest heritage item, located about 2.7 kilometres northwest of the project area, is the Original AA Building Site (I321) listed under the Tamworth Regional Local Environmental Plan 2010.

### 3.3.2 Describe any Indigenous heritage values that apply to the project area.

The project area and surrounding area is located within lands occupied by the Gamilaraay (Kamilaroi) language group. Historical records provide accounts of Aboriginal occupation in the area, supported by 80 Aboriginal sites identified through a search of the AHIMS database.

A search of the AHIMS database on 27 October 2023, October 2024 and 14 October 2025 confirmed that there are no recorded Aboriginal sites within one kilometre of the project area.

Site surveys were also conducted for the Project on 12 February 2024, which recorded no Aboriginal sites within the development envelopment.

Furthermore, no landforms within the development envelope were assessed to have the potential for subsurface archaeological deposits. This is attributed to the lack of elevated landforms adjacent to permanent and semi-permanent water.

## 3.4 Hydrology

### 3.4.1 Describe the hydrology characteristics that apply to the project area and attach any hydrological investigations or surveys if applicable. *

The project area is located within the Namoi River Catchment and has a low gradient sloping northeast towards Calala Creek 800 metres to the east.

The closest non-perennial watercourse to the project area includes Calala Creek located around 800 metres northeast and Goonang Creek located around 1.3 kilometres west.

Calala Creek is a tributary of the Peel River, while Goonang Creek is a tributary of Goonoo Goonoo Creek, both perennial watercourses. Additional perennial watercourses near the Survey Area include the Cockburn River and Piallamore Anabranch, both tributaries of the Peel River. The Peel and Cockburn Rivers were also a source for raw material. Pebbles and cobbles of chert, cherty argillite, andesitic greywacke, quartz, hornfels, basalt and small amounts of chalcedony and petrified wood could also be sources from the banks of these Rivers (Wilson & McAdam 2000).

The majority of stormwater runoff from the project area would drain east across similar rural properties to Calala Creek approximately 800 metres downstream of the project area. Stormwater runoff from a small portion of the project area would drain northwest to Goonoo Goonoo Creek approximately 1.3 kilometres downstream.

No ephemeral watercourses are noted within or immediately downstream of the project area. Both Calala Creek and Goonoo Goonoo Creek drain north approximately six to seven kilometres to the Peel River at Tamworth which ultimately drains to the Namoi River located within the northern basin area of the Murray-Darling Basin.

Similar to other grazing and in the area, small surface channels with parallel downstream bunds have been cut along the contours of the project area to manage stormwater runoff. No other formal drainage infrastructure, including farm dams, are present within the project area. Downstream of the project area stormwater is expected to collect and be beneath the roadways bordering the project area to convey flows to the downstream.

Based on the location of the surface watercourses and project area topography, the inferred groundwater flow direction at the project area is considered likely to be towards the northeast. The aquifer is considered to be porous, extensive and of high productivity.

# 4. Impacts and mitigation

# 4.1 Impact details

**Potential Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) relevant to your proposed action area.**

| EPBC Act section | Controlling provision | Impacted | Reviewed |
|---|---|---|---|
| S12 | World Heritage | No | Yes |
| S15B | National Heritage | No | Yes |
| S16 | Ramsar Wetland | No | Yes |
| S18 | Threatened Species and Ecological Communities | No | Yes |
| S20 | Migratory Species | No | Yes |
| S21 | Nuclear | No | Yes |
| S23 | Commonwealth Marine Area | No | Yes |
| S24B | Great Barrier Reef | No | Yes |
| S24D | Water resource in relation to large coal mining development or coal seam gas | No | Yes |
| S26 | Commonwealth Land | No | Yes |
| S27B | Commonwealth Heritage Places Overseas | No | Yes |
| S28 | Commonwealth or Commonwealth Agency | No | Yes |

## 4.1.1 World Heritage

You have identified your proposed action will likely directly and/or indirectly impact the following protected matters.

A direct impact is a direct consequence of an action taken – for example, clearing of habitat for a threatened species or permanent shading on an ecological community as the result of installing solar panels.

An indirect impact is an 'indirect consequence' such as a downstream impact or a facilitated third-party action.

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### 4.1.1.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on any of these protected matters? *

No

### 4.1.1.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact. *

No listed World Heritage items occur in the project area.

The nearest World Heritage Item, located about 80 kilometres east of the project area, is the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia.

## 4.1.2 National Heritage

You have identified your proposed action will likely directly and/or indirectly impact the following protected matters.

A direct impact is a direct consequence of an action taken – for example, clearing of habitat for a threatened species or permanent shading on an ecological community as the result of installing solar panels.

An indirect impact is an 'indirect consequence' such as a downstream impact or a facilitated third-party action.

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### 4.1.2.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on any of these protected matters? *

No

### 4.1.2.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact. *

No listed National Heritage properties occur in the project area, with the nearest nationally listed heritage item (Warrumbungle National Park) located about 175 kilometres west of the project area.

No historic heritage items or historic archaeological deposits were recorded in the Survey Area. Overall, there was limited potential for historic heritage to be present inside the Survey Area due to the historic land use of the area.

## 4.1.3 Ramsar Wetland

You have identified your proposed action will likely directly and/or indirectly impact the following protected matters.

A direct impact is a direct consequence of an action taken – for example, clearing of habitat for a threatened species or permanent shading on an ecological community as the result of installing solar panels.

An indirect impact is an 'indirect consequence' such as a downstream impact or a facilitated third-party action.

| Direct impact | Indirect impact | Ramsar wetland |
|---|---|---|
| No | No | Banrock Station Wetland Complex |
| No | No | Riverland |
| No | No | The Coorong, and Lakes Alexandrina and Albert Wetland |

### 4.1.3.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on any of these protected matters? *

No

### 4.1.3.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact. *

The development footprint does not support any wetlands, including important wetlands listed in the Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia (DIWA) or wetlands of international importance (Ramsar).

The nearest wetland of international importance, as per Attachment 2 - BDAR, Appendix C of the Kingswood BDAR, is Banrock station wetland complex located about 990 kilometres southwest of the project area.

## 4.1.4 Threatened Species and Ecological Communities

You have identified your proposed action will likely directly and/or indirectly impact the following protected matters.

A direct impact is a direct consequence of an action taken – for example, clearing of habitat for a threatened species or permanent shading on an ecological community as the result of installing solar panels.

An indirect impact is an 'indirect consequence' such as a downstream impact or a facilitated third-party action.

### Threatened species

| Direct impact | Indirect impact | Species | Common name |
|---|---|---|---|
| Yes | | Anomalopus mackayi | Five-clawed Worm-skink, Long-legged Worm-skink |
| Yes | | Anthochaera phrygia | Regent Honeyeater |
| Yes | | Aphelocephala leucopsis | Southern Whiteface |
| Yes | | Aprasia parapulchella | Pink-tailed Worm-lizard, Pink-tailed Legless Lizard |
| Yes | | Botaurus poiciloptilus | Australasian Bittern |
| Yes | | Cadellia pentastylis | Ooline |
| Yes | | Calidris acuminata | Sharp-tailed Sandpiper |
| Yes | | Calidris ferruginea | Curlew Sandpiper |
| Yes | | Callistemon pungens | |
| Yes | | Calyptorhynchus lathami lathami | South-eastern Glossy Black-Cockatoo |
| Yes | | Chalinolobus dwyeri | Large-eared Pied Bat, Large Pied Bat |
| Yes | | Climacteris picumnus victoriae | Brown Treecreeper (south-eastern) |
| Yes | | Dasyurus maculatus maculatus (SE mainland population) | Spot-tailed Quoll, Spotted-tail Quoll, Tiger Quoll (southeastern mainland population) |
| Yes | | Dichanthium setosum | bluegrass |
| Yes | | Eucalyptus nicholii | Narrow-leaved Peppermint, Narrow-leaved Black Peppermint |
| Yes | | Euphrasia arguta | |
| Yes | | Falco hypoleucos | Grey Falcon |
| Yes | | Gallinago hardwickii | Latham's Snipe, Japanese Snipe |
| Yes | | Grantiella picta | Painted Honeyeater |
| Yes | | Hemiaspis damelii | Grey Snake |

| Direct impact | Indirect impact | Species | Common name |
|---|---|---|---|
| Yes | | Hirundapus caudacutus | White-throated Needletail |
| Yes | | Lathamus discolor | Swift Parrot |
| Yes | | Lepidium aschersonii | Spiny Peppercress |
| Yes | | Lepidium monoplocoides | Winged Pepper-cress |
| Yes | | Litoria booroolongensis | Booroolong Frog |
| Yes | | Maccullochella peelii | Murray Cod |
| Yes | | Melanodryas cucullata cucullata | South-eastern Hooded Robin, Hooded Robin (south-eastern) |
| Yes | | Neophema chrysostoma | Blue-winged Parrot |
| Yes | | Nyctophilus corbeni | Corben's Long-eared Bat, South-eastern Long-eared Bat |
| Yes | | Petaurus australis australis | Yellow-bellied Glider (south-eastern) |
| Yes | | Phascolarctos cinereus (combined populations of Qld, NSW and the ACT) | Koala (combined populations of Queensland, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory) |
| Yes | | Polytelis swainsonii | Superb Parrot |
| Yes | | Prasophyllum sp. Wybong (C.Phelps ORG 5269) | a leek-orchid |
| Yes | | Pteropus poliocephalus | Grey-headed Flying-fox |
| Yes | | Rostratula australis | Australian Painted Snipe |
| Yes | | Stagonopleura guttata | Diamond Firetail |
| Yes | | Swainsona murrayana | Slender Darling-pea, Slender Swainson, Murray Swainson-pea |
| Yes | | Thesium australe | Austral Toadflax, Toadflax |
| Yes | | Uvidicolus sphyrurus | Border Thick-tailed Gecko, Granite Belt Thick-tailed Gecko |
| Yes | | Vincetoxicum forsteri | |

## Ecological communities

| Direct impact | Indirect impact | Ecological community |
|---|---|---|
| Yes | | Natural grasslands on basalt and fine-textured alluvial plains of northern New South Wales and southern Queensland |
| Yes | | New England Peppermint (Eucalyptus nova-anglica) Grassy Woodlands |
| Yes | | Weeping Myall Woodlands |
| Yes | | White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland |

### 4.1.4.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on any of these protected matters? *

No

### 4.1.4.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact. *

***Clearly state your potential impacts on each identified threatened species and/or ecological community. Consider the nature, scale and duration of potential impacts.***

The total development footprint covers 35.58 hectares:

- of which 0.22 hectares have been mapped as native vegetation (PCT 3396) and
- 2.83 hectares have been mapped as Mixed native/exotic pasture which does not meet the vegetation integrity threshold for offsetting under the NSW Biodiversity Assessment Method.
- 25.31 hectares have been mapped as Category 1 land (vegetation not conforming to any PCTs and containing less than 50% native understorey composition)
- 7.38 hectares of roads and buildings.

The Project would require the removal of this vegetation.

***All Threatened Species and Ecological Communities, separately outline the direct or indirect impacts for each threatened species or ecological community separately. Include both the common and scientific names of all species mentioned in this section can be helpful for the reader.***

A search of the EPBC Protected Matters Search Tool was undertaken to identify any MNES within 10 km of the development footprint. The search identified 4 TECs with potential to occur within the development footprint, 44 threatened species and 10 migratory species.

- Field survey identified one potential EPBC-listed TEC (see below)
- Of the threatened and migratory species, no fauna species were considered to have potential to occur within the development footprint.
- One EPBC listed threatened flora species, *Dichanthium setosum,* was considered to have potential to occur within the development footprint.

**White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland. Critically Endangered (EPBC Act).**

The areas of PCT 3396 within the development footprint, form part of the 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 Bioregion Critically Endangered Ecological Community (CEEC) listed under the BC Act.

It does not meet the minimum condition threshold for inclusion in the equivalent Threatened Ecological Community (TEC) under the EPBC Act.

***Dichanthium setosum (bluegrass)***

This flora species was considered potential to occur within the development footprint due to a record of the species within 10 km of the development footprint. The species was not recorded during field survey, and given the disturbed nature of the site, it is considered unlikely that the species occurs within the development footprint.

**Habitats**

No threatened flora and fauna or their habitats are being cleared as part of this project. The 25.31 hectares of Category 1 land, the 2.83 hectares of Mixed native/exotic pasture and the 0.22 hectares of PCT 3396 are not considered to provide suitable habitat for any threatened flora species as the habitat is too degraded.

**Overall impact**

Impacts associated with the construction of the BESS will be full clearing to allow construction works to take place. During the operation of the facility, the ground cover will have opportunities to re-establish, however the shrub and canopy layers will be maintained and are unlikely to naturally regenerate.

## 4.1.5 Migratory Species

You have identified your proposed action will likely directly and/or indirectly impact the following protected matters.

A direct impact is a direct consequence of an action taken – for example, clearing of habitat for a threatened species or permanent shading on an ecological community as the result of installing solar panels.

An indirect impact is an 'indirect consequence' such as a downstream impact or a facilitated third-party action.

| Direct impact | Indirect impact | Species | Common name |
|---|---|---|---|
| Yes | | Actitis hypoleucos | Common Sandpiper |
| Yes | | Apus pacificus | Fork-tailed Swift |
| Yes | | Calidris acuminata | Sharp-tailed Sandpiper |
| Yes | | Calidris ferruginea | Curlew Sandpiper |
| Yes | | Calidris melanotos | Pectoral Sandpiper |
| Yes | | Gallinago hardwickii | Latham's Snipe, Japanese Snipe |
| Yes | | Hirundapus caudacutus | White-throated Needletail |
| Yes | | Motacilla flava | Yellow Wagtail |

### 4.1.5.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on any of these protected matters? *

No

### 4.1.5.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact. *

No migratory species were recorded or considered to have the potential to occur within the Development footprint. As such impacts to migratory species are not expected to occur.

## 4.1.6 Nuclear

#### 4.1.6.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on this protected matter? *

No

#### 4.1.6.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact. *

Nuclear is not associated with this project.

### 4.1.7 Commonwealth Marine Area

You have identified your proposed action will likely directly and/or indirectly impact the following protected matters.

A direct impact is a direct consequence of an action taken – for example, clearing of habitat for a threatened species or permanent shading on an ecological community as the result of installing solar panels.

An indirect impact is an 'indirect consequence' such as a downstream impact or a facilitated third-party action.

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#### 4.1.7.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on any of these protected matters? *

No

#### 4.1.7.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact. *

No Commonwealth Marine Areas are located in or near the project area, with the nearest Commonwealth Marine Area starting from around three nautical miles off the NSW coast.

### 4.1.8 Great Barrier Reef

#### 4.1.8.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on this protected matter? *

No

#### 4.1.8.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact. *

The Great Barrier Reef is not in the project area.

### 4.1.9 Water resource in relation to large coal mining development or coal seam gas

#### 4.1.9.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on this protected matter? *

No

#### 4.1.9.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact. *

The Project is not a large coal mining development or for coal seam gas.

### 4.1.10 Commonwealth Land

You have identified your proposed action will likely directly and/or indirectly impact the following protected matters.

A direct impact is a direct consequence of an action taken – for example, clearing of habitat for a threatened species or permanent shading on an ecological community as the result of installing solar panels.

An indirect impact is an 'indirect consequence' such as a downstream impact or a facilitated third-party action.

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#### 4.1.10.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on any of these protected matters? *

No

#### 4.1.10.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact. *

No Commonwealth land occurs in the project area.

### 4.1.11 Commonwealth Heritage Places Overseas

You have identified your proposed action will likely directly and/or indirectly impact the following protected matters.

A direct impact is a direct consequence of an action taken – for example, clearing of habitat for a threatened species or permanent shading on an ecological community as the result of installing solar panels.

An indirect impact is an 'indirect consequence' such as a downstream impact or a facilitated third-party action.

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#### 4.1.11.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on any of these protected matters? *

No

#### 4.1.11.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact. *

No Commonwealth Heritage Places Overseas occur in the project area.

### 4.1.12 Commonwealth or Commonwealth Agency

**4.1.12.1 Is the proposed action to be taken by the Commonwealth or a Commonwealth Agency? ***

No

# 4.2 Impact summary

## Conclusion on the likelihood of significant impacts

You have indicated that the proposed action will likely have a significant impact on the following Matters of National Environmental Significance:

*None*

## Conclusion on the likelihood of unlikely significant impacts

You have indicated that the proposed action will unlikely have a significant impact on the following Matters of National Environmental Significance:

- World Heritage (S12)
- National Heritage (S15B)
- Ramsar Wetland (S16)
- Threatened Species and Ecological Communities (S18)
- Migratory Species (S20)
- Nuclear (S21)
- Commonwealth Marine Area (S23)
- Great Barrier Reef (S24B)
- Water resource in relation to large coal mining development or coal seam gas (S24D)
- Commonwealth Land (S26)
- Commonwealth Heritage Places Overseas (S27B)
- Commonwealth or Commonwealth Agency (S28)

# 4.3 Alternatives

### 4.3.1 Do you have any possible alternatives for your proposed action to be considered as part of your referral? *

No

### 4.3.8 Describe why alternatives for your proposed action were not possible. *

***Timeframes***

An alternative timeline was not applicable for the Project as the timeline is dependent on the Proponent and receiving Project approval from the NSW Planning Secretary.

An alternative timeline would not change the impacts to biodiversity from the Project.

***Locations***

Following an assessment of electricity needs across NSW, relevant planning and policy considerations, and forecasted demands, Iberdrola identified the Tamworth region, and more specifically land close to the Tamworth substation, as strategically suitable for the development of a BESS.

The site is located in close proximity (800m) to the Tamworth substation and existing high-voltage transmission infrastructure, enabling and efficient and low impact connection to the grid. The site has been selected to leverage existing grid infrastructure, supporting efficient connection and contributing to energy security, grid reliability and system stability.

No alternative sites were identified as suitable for a BESS proximate to the substation. The key limiting factors to the identification of an alternative site included the potential increased costs and environmental impacts associated with the acquisition of a suitable property and increased extent of connection infrastructure between the BESS and the Tamworth substation.

Additionally, it is considered that the impacts to native vegetation and habitat have been minimised as far as practical.

***Activities***

The Project is a specific facility and the activities needed to construct said facility are unlikely to be changed.

# 5. Lodgement

# 5.1 Attachments

1.2.1 Overview of the proposed action

| | Type | Name | Date | Sensitivity | Confidence |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| #1. | Document | Att 1-Project Overview.pdf<br>Kingswood BESS Project Overview | | No | High |

1.2.6 Commonwealth or state legislation, planning frameworks or policy documents that are relevant to the proposed action

| | Type | Name | Date | Sensitivity | Confidence |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| #1. | Document | Att 2-Kingswood BESS BDAR_Part 1.pdf<br>Kingswood BESS Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (March 2025) Part 1 | 07/03/2025 | No | High |
| #2. | Document | Att 2-Kingswood BESS BDAR_Part 2.pdf<br>Kingswood BESS Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (March 2025) Part 2 | 07/03/2025 | No | High |
| #3. | Document | Att 3-Vegetation Map.pdf<br>Kingswood BESS Vegetation Map | | No | High |

1.2.7 Public consultation regarding the project area

| | Type | Name | Date | Sensitivity | Confidence |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| #1. | Document | Att 4-Community and Stakeholder Engagement Policy.pdf<br>Community and Stakeholder Engagement Policy | 27/04/2023 | No | High |
| #2. | Document | Att 5-Community Engagement Report.pdf<br>Kingswood BESS EIS Community Engagement Report | 05/06/2024 | No | High |
| #3. | Document | Att 6-Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report_Part 1.pdf<br>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report Part 1 | 01/10/2024 | Yes | High |
| #4. | Document | Att 6-Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report_Part 1_REDACTED.pdf<br>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report Part 1 (Redacted) | 01/10/2024 | No | High |
| #5. | Document | ATT 6-Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report_Part 2.pdf<br>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report Part 2 | 01/10/2024 | Yes | High |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| #6. | Document | Att 6-Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report_Part 2_REDACTED.pdf<br>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report Part 2 (Redacted) | 01/10/2024 | No | High |
| #7. | Document | ATT 6-Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report_Part 3.pdf<br>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report Part 3 | 01/10/2024 | Yes | High |
| #8. | Document | Att 6-Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report_Part 3_REDACTED.pdf<br>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report Part 3 (Redacted) | 01/10/2024 | No | High |

1.3.2.18 (Person proposing to take the action) If the person proposing to take the action is a corporation, provide details of the corporation's environmental policy and planning framework

| | Type | Name | Date | Sensitivity | Confidence |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| #1. | Document | Att 10-2023 Sustainability Report_Part 1.pdf<br>2023 Sustainability Report Part 1 | | No | High |
| #2. | Document | Att 10-2023 Sustainability Report_Part 2.pdf<br>2023 Sustainability Report Part 2 | | No | High |
| #3. | Document | Att 11-GSM26 Sustainability Report 2025.pdf<br>Consolidated Non-Financial Information Statement (NFIS) and Sustainability Reporting Financial Year 2025 | | No | High |
| #4. | Document | Att 7-Environmental Policy.pdf<br>Iberdrola Australia Environment Policy | 02/10/2022 | No | High |
| #5. | Document | Att 8-Policy on Management and Protection of Nature.pdf<br>Policy on Management and Protection of Nature | 16/12/2025 | No | High |
| #6. | Document | Att 9-Biodiversity Policy.pdf<br>Biodiversity Policy | 19/03/2024 | No | High |

3.2.2 Vegetation within the project area

| | Type | Name | Date | Sensitivity | Confidence |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| #1. | Document | Att 12-Environmental Impact Statement.pdf<br>Kingswood BESS Environmental Impact Statement | 26/06/2024 | No | High |

# 5.2 Declarations

## Completed Referring party's declaration

The Referring party is the person preparing the information in this referral.

| | |
|---|---|
| ABN/ACN | 76104485289 |
| Organisation name | ARCADIS AUSTRALIA PACIFIC PTY LTD |
| Organisation address | Level 15, 580 George Street, Sydney New South Wales 2000 |
| Representative's name | Chris Power |
| Representative's job title | Environmental Consultant |
| Phone | 02 89079000 |
| Email | chris.power@arcadis.com |
| Address | Level 15/580 George Street |

☑ Check this box to indicate you have read the referral form. *

☑ Check this box to confirm these are the correct identification details. *

☑ By checking this box, I, **Chris Power of ARCADIS AUSTRALIA PACIFIC PTY LTD**, declare that to the best of my knowledge the information I have given on, or attached to this EPBC Act Referral is complete, current and correct. I understand that giving false or misleading information is a serious offence. *

You may receive automated notifications that aim to assist you in tracking the progress of your project. You can opt out of these notifications by updating your communication preferences on your profile.

## Completed Person proposing to take the action's declaration

The Person proposing to take the action is the individual, business, government agency or trustee that will be responsible for the proposed action.

| | |
|---|---|
| ABN/ACN | 32137258470 |
| Organisation name | IBERDROLA AUSTRALIA DEVELOPMENT PTY LIMITED |
| Organisation address | Governor Phillip Tower, Level 22, 1 Farrer Place, Sydney, NSW 2000 |
| Representative's name | Jose Opazo |

| | |
|---|---|
| Representative's job title | Development Manager - BESS |
| Phone | 0481353814 |
| Email | jose.opazo@iberdrola.com.au |
| Address | Governor Phillip Tower, Level 22, 1 Farrer Place, Sydney, NSW 2000 |

☑ Check this box to indicate you have read the referral form. *

☑ Check this box to confirm these are the correct identification details. *

☑ I, **Jose Opazo of IBERDROLA AUSTRALIA DEVELOPMENT PTY LIMITED**, declare that to the best of my knowledge the information I have given on, or attached to the EPBC Act Referral is complete, current and correct. I understand that giving false or misleading information is a serious offence. I declare that I am not taking the action on behalf or for the benefit of any other person or entity. *

You may receive automated notifications that aim to assist you in tracking the progress of your project. You can opt out of these notifications by updating your communication preferences on your profile.

## ✔ Completed Proposed designated proponent's declaration

The Proposed designated proponent is the individual or organisation proposed to be responsible for meeting the requirements of the EPBC Act during the assessment process, if the Minister decides that this project is a controlled action.

Same as Person proposing to take the action information.

☑ Check this box to indicate you have read the referral form. *

☑ Check this box to confirm these are the correct identification details. *

☑ I, **Jose Opazo of IBERDROLA AUSTRALIA DEVELOPMENT PTY LIMITED**, the Proposed designated proponent, consent to the designation of myself as the Proposed designated proponent for the purposes of the action described in this EPBC Act Referral. *

You may receive automated notifications that aim to assist you in tracking the progress of your project. You can opt out of these notifications by updating your communication preferences on your profile.