# Environmental Management Strategy

## Calala Battery Energy Storage System

Equis Energy (Australia)

30 June 2026

→ **The Power of Commitment**

| Project name | 12646506 - Calala BESS EMS | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Document title | Environmental Management Strategy \| Calala Battery Energy Storage System | | | | | | |
| Project number | 12646506 | | | | | | |
| File name | 12646506_REP_Calala BESS EMS_Tracked Changes.docx | | | | | | |
| Status Code | Revision | Author | Reviewer | | Approved for issue | | |
| | | | Name | Signature | Name | Signature | Date |
| S4 | 0 | B. Slater<br>E. Strauss | B. Luffman | | D. Scott | | 24/04/24 |
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# Terms and abbreviations

| Acronym/ abbreviation | Definition |
|---|---|
| AC | Alternating current |
| ACHA | Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment |
| BC Act | *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* |
| BDAR | Biodiversity Development Assessment Report |
| BESS | Battery Energy Storage System |
| CAA | Controlled Activity Approval |
| dB | Decibels |
| DC | Direct current |
| DCCEEW | Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water |
| DECC | Department of Environment and Climate Change |
| DPHI | Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure |
| EIS | Environmental Impact Statement |
| EMS | Environmental Management System |
| EPA | Environment Protection Authority |
| EP&A Act | *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* |
| EP&A Regulation | *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000* |
| EPL | Environment Protection License |
| ESCP | Erosion and Sediment Control Plan |
| Equis | The Trustee for Equis Energy (Australia) Ngumi 4 Holding Trust |
| ha | Hectares |
| Heritage Act | *Heritage Act 1977* |
| km | Kilometres |
| kV | Kilovolt |
| LGA | Local Government Area |
| m | Metres |
| Megawatt | MW |
| Megawatt hours | MWh |
| OOHW | Out of hours work |
| OSOM | Over-size over-mass |
| Planning Systems SEPP | *State Environmental Planning Policy (Planning Systems) 2021* |
| PHA | Preliminary Hazard Analysis |
| POEO Act | *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* |
| PSI | Preliminary Site Investigation |
| Resilience and Hazards SEPP | *State Environmental Planning Policy (Resilience and Hazards) SEPP 2021* |
| Roads Act | *Roads Act 1993* |
| SEARs | Secretary’s Environmental Assessment Requirements |
| SEPP | State Environmental Planning Policy |
| SSD | State Significant Development |

| Acronym/ abbreviation | Definition |
|---|---|
| SSI | State Significant Infrastructure |
| Tamworth LEP 2010 | *Tamworth Regional Local Environmental Plan 2010* |
| Tamworth Regional DCP | *Tamworth Regional Development Control Plan 2010* |
| WM Act | *Water Management Act 2000* |
| WMP | Waste Management Plan |

# 1. Introduction

The Trustee for Equis Energy (Australia) Ngumi 4 Holding Trust (Equis) has approval for a standalone 300 megawatt (MW) Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and underground 330 kilovolt (kV) transmission cable connecting to the existing Transgrid Tamworth 330 kV substation (the project).

The primary project address is 474 Calala Lane, Calala, NSW 2340 (the project site) and is further described in Section 1.3. The project site is shown in Figure 1.1.

The Calala BESS Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was prepared by Mecone (2023) in accordance with the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs), issued on 30 January 2023. An amendment report was prepared in May 2024 by Mecone (2024) and the project was approved on 28 June 2024 as per Development Consent State Significant Development (SSD) 52786213. The project has since been subject to a Modification Application under Section 4.55 (1A) of the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act 1979).

This Environmental Management Strategy (EMS) has been prepared in response to Condition C1 of the Development Consent SSD 52786213, see Appendix A. In accordance with Condition C3 (a-c) of the consent (SSD 52786213), the Applicant has elected to stage the submission of the EMS to align with the staging of the project. The project stages include:

– Stage 1a: commence road upgrades or maintenance works to the public road network, building/road dilapidation surveys, installation of fencing, artefact survey and/or salvage, overhead line safety marking and geotechnical drilling and/or surveying.
– Stage 1b: commence construction including but not limited to, the carrying out of any earthworks on site and installation of any ancillary infrastructure (excluding the battery storage as defined the development consent).
– Stage 1c: continue construction including works associated with the BESS.
– Stage 1d: continuation of BESS construction including movement of heavy vehicles requiring escort during construction as described in Condition B1 of Schedule 2 of Consent.
– Stage 2: BESS Operation.
– Stage 3: BESS Decommissioning.

The EMS will be staged as follows:

– Stage 1: Construction of the Project
– Stage 2: Operations
– Stage 3: Decommissioning of the Project at end of life

This EMS is for Stage 1 Construction and Stage 2 Operations. The EMS will be updated as necessary prior to the commencement of decommissioning or upgrading. Each staged revision of the EMS will be provided to the Planning Secretary prior to the commencement of each stage.

The Traffic Management Plan was approved by Transport for NSW (TfNSW) for Stage 1a to Stage 1d inclusively, including oversized and/or overmass (OSOM) movements, on 21/05/2026. Prior to commencing construction of the Stage 1c, an addendum to the TMP will be prepared should there be additional traffic vehicle movements required that are not already provided for within the TMP or a change in the anticipated construction timeframe.

The project Fire Safety Study was approved on 17/02/2026.

Staging of the EMS and other management plans was approved on 10 June 2025.

The EMS provides the framework for environmental management of the site construction and operations. The EMS identifies and documents the key environmental risks and mitigation measures implemented to ensure that the environmental objectives and legal obligations are met throughout the project.

This EMS has been prepared with reference to the following documentation:

– Consent to vary high risk OSOM route (31 March 2026)
– S4.55(1A) Modification Report (Tract 2025)

– Calala BESS EIS (Mecone 2023)
– Calala BESS Amendment Report (Mecone 2024)
– ISO14001:2015 – Environmental Management Systems requirements with guidance for use
– NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (2020). Post Approval Guidance - Environmental management plan guideline
– Development Consent (SSD 52786213) dated 28/06/2024
– Relevant legislation (Section 3)

Works will not commence until the EMS is approved by the Planning Secretary.

The EMS applies to all construction and operation activities associated with the Calala BESS. The project will be undertaken in accordance with the requirements specified in the EMS. All employees, subcontractors and visitors must comply with this document at all times.

## 1.1 EMS objectives

The key objectives for this EMS are:

– Compliance with relevant environmental legislation and regulations
– Compliance with the Conditions of the Development Consent (SSD 52786213) and EIS as modified
– Identifying and minimising community and environmental impacts
– Continual improvement of environmental management of the project

The structure of the EMS is:

– Section 1 introduction
– Section 2 describes the project
– Section 3 outlines the statutory requirements
– Section 4 assesses the environmental risks
– Section 5 outlines the environmental management
– Sections 6 – 14 details the management measures
– Section 15 outlines the monitoring
– Section 16 outlines the reporting and review

Other management plans include:

– Traffic Management Plan
– Biodiversity Management Plan
– Fire Safety Study
– Emergency Plan
– Accommodation and Employment Strategy
– Chance Finds Procedure

## 1.2 Scope and limitations

This report has been prepared by GHD for The Trustee for Equis Energy (Australia) Ngumi 4 Holding Trust and may only be used and relied on by The Trustee for Equis Energy (Australia) Ngumi 4 Holding Trust for the purpose agreed between GHD and The Trustee for Equis Energy (Australia) Ngumi 4 Holding Trust as set out in Section 1.1 of this report.

GHD otherwise disclaims responsibility to any person other than The Trustee for Equis Energy (Australia) Ngumi 4 Holding Trust arising in connection with this report. GHD also excludes implied warranties and conditions, to the extent legally permissible.

The services undertaken by GHD in connection with preparing this report were limited to those specifically detailed in the report and are subject to the scope limitations set out in the report.

The opinions, conclusions and any recommendations in this report are based on conditions encountered and information reviewed at the date of preparation of the report. GHD has no responsibility or obligation to update this report to account for events or changes occurring subsequent to the date that the report was prepared.

The opinions, conclusions and any recommendations in this report are based on assumptions made by GHD described in this report. GHD disclaims liability arising from any of the assumptions being incorrect.

GHD has prepared this report on the basis of information provided by The Trustee for Equis Energy (Australia) Ngumi 4 Holding Trust and others who provided information to GHD (including Government authorities), which GHD has not independently verified or checked beyond the agreed scope of work. GHD does not accept liability in connection with such unverified information, including errors and omissions in the report which were caused by errors or omissions in that information.

## 1.3 Site overview

The project is located at 474 Calala Lane, Calala, NSW 2340 (Lot 17 DP629969) with ancillary works included on portions of Lot 16 DP629969, Lot 3 DP244399, Lot 4 DP244399, and Lot 6 DP219993, see Figure 1.1. The site layout is shown in Figure 1.2.

The project site is located approximately 6.5 kilometres (km) southeast of Tamworth. The footprint of the BESS occupies approximately 8.9 hectares (ha). Lot 17 DP629969 has a frontage of approximately 420 metres (m) to Calala Lane. The surrounding development to the north, east, and south consists largely of agricultural uses and primary production, as well as low-density, residential dwellings. Surrounding land uses and sensitive receivers are shown on Figure 1.3.

Farrer Memorial Agricultural High School is located approximately 1.2 km to the east and the NSW Department of Primary Industries is located approximately 1.5 km to the southeast of the project site.

The Transgrid Tamworth 330 kV Substation is located approximately 1 km to the southwest of the BESS site. The proposed transmission line runs along the southern boundary of Lots 16 and 17 in DP629969, the eastern and southern boundary of Lot 3 in DP244399, the southern boundary of Lot 4 in DP244399, and the southeastern portion of Lot 6 in DP219993 to the Transgrid Tamworth 330 kV Substation.

The site is zoned RU4 Primary Production Small Lots under *Tamworth Regional Local Environmental Plan 2010* (Tamworth LEP 2010).

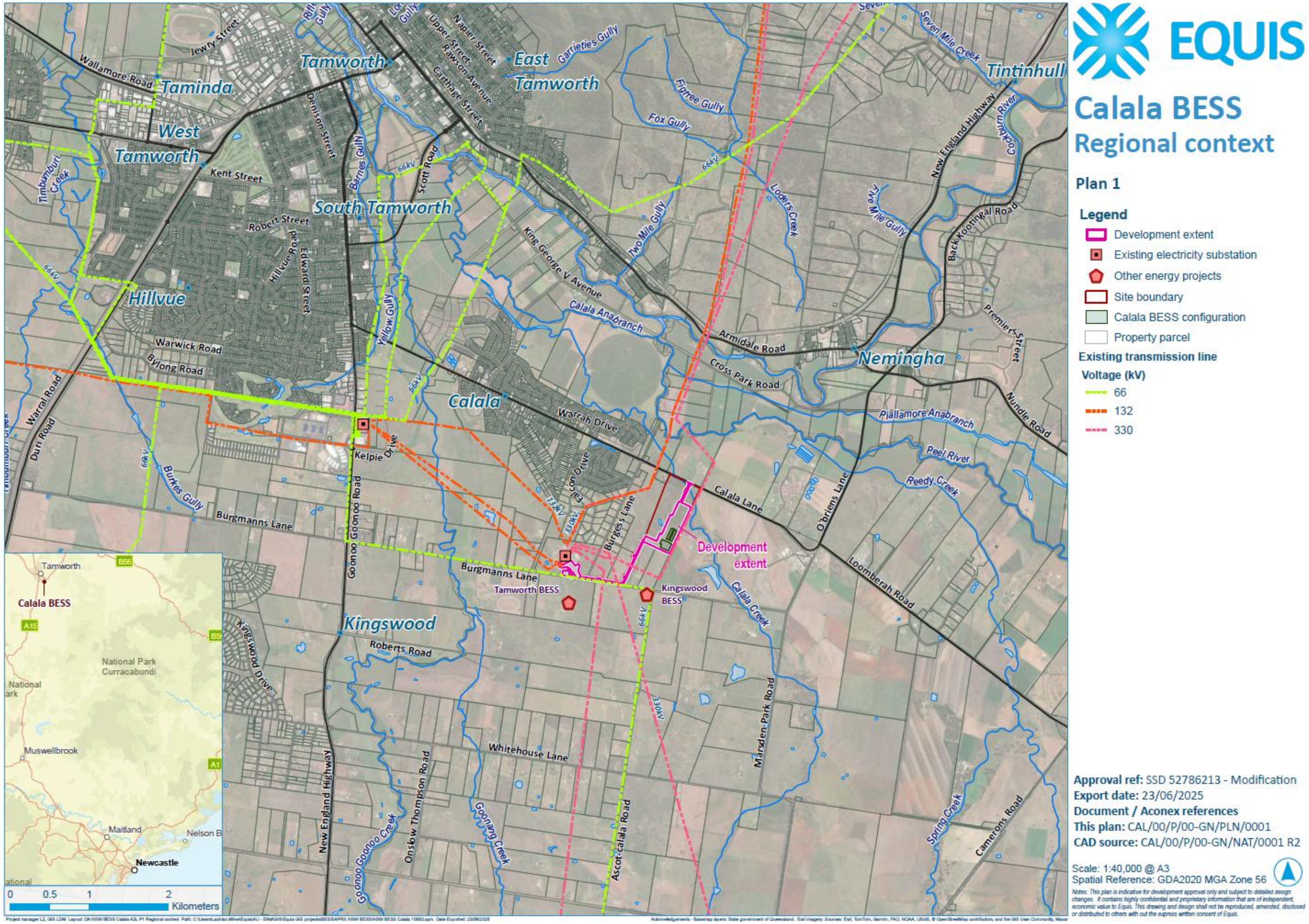


*Figure 1.1* *Regional context*

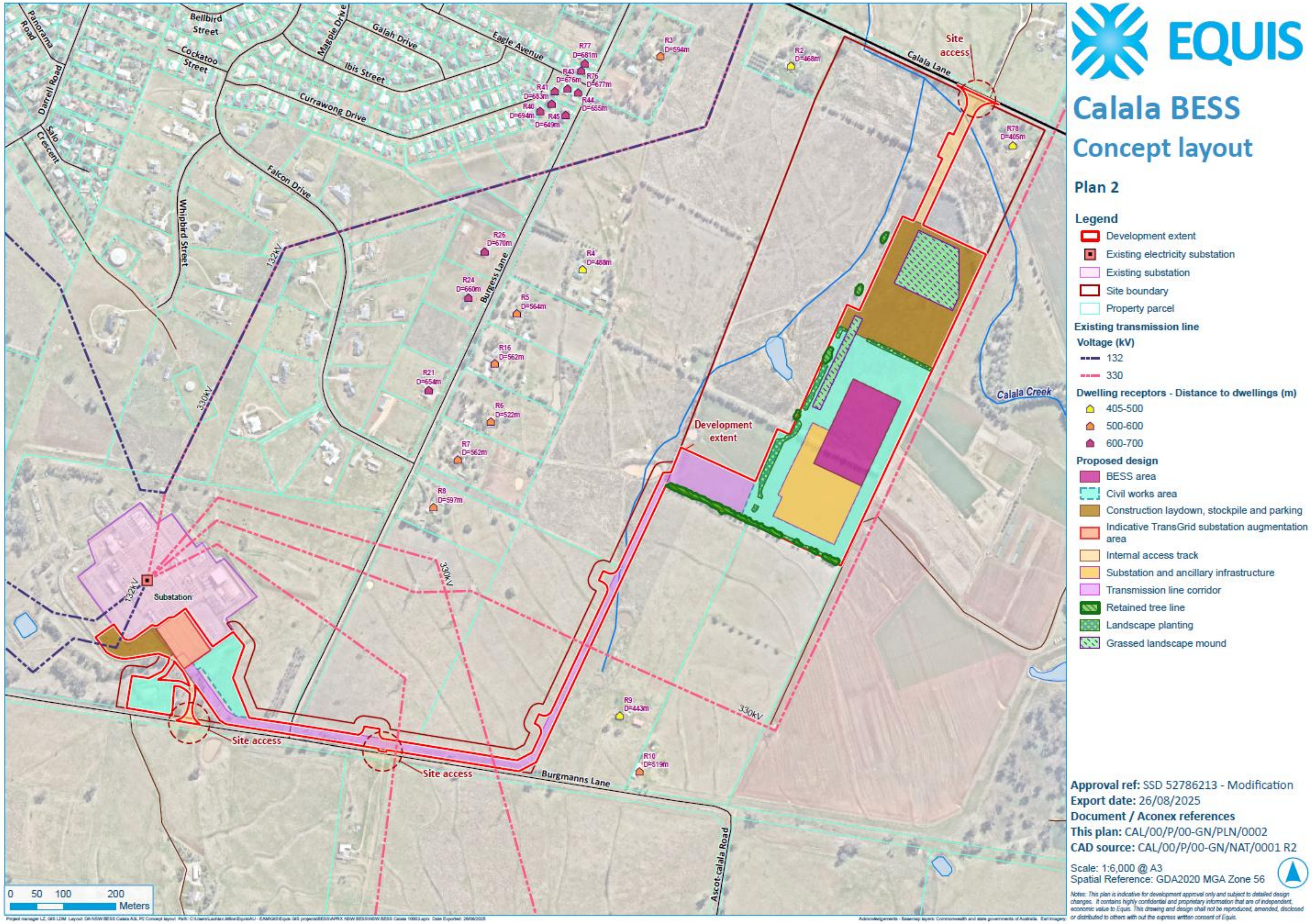


*Figure 1.2* *Site layout*

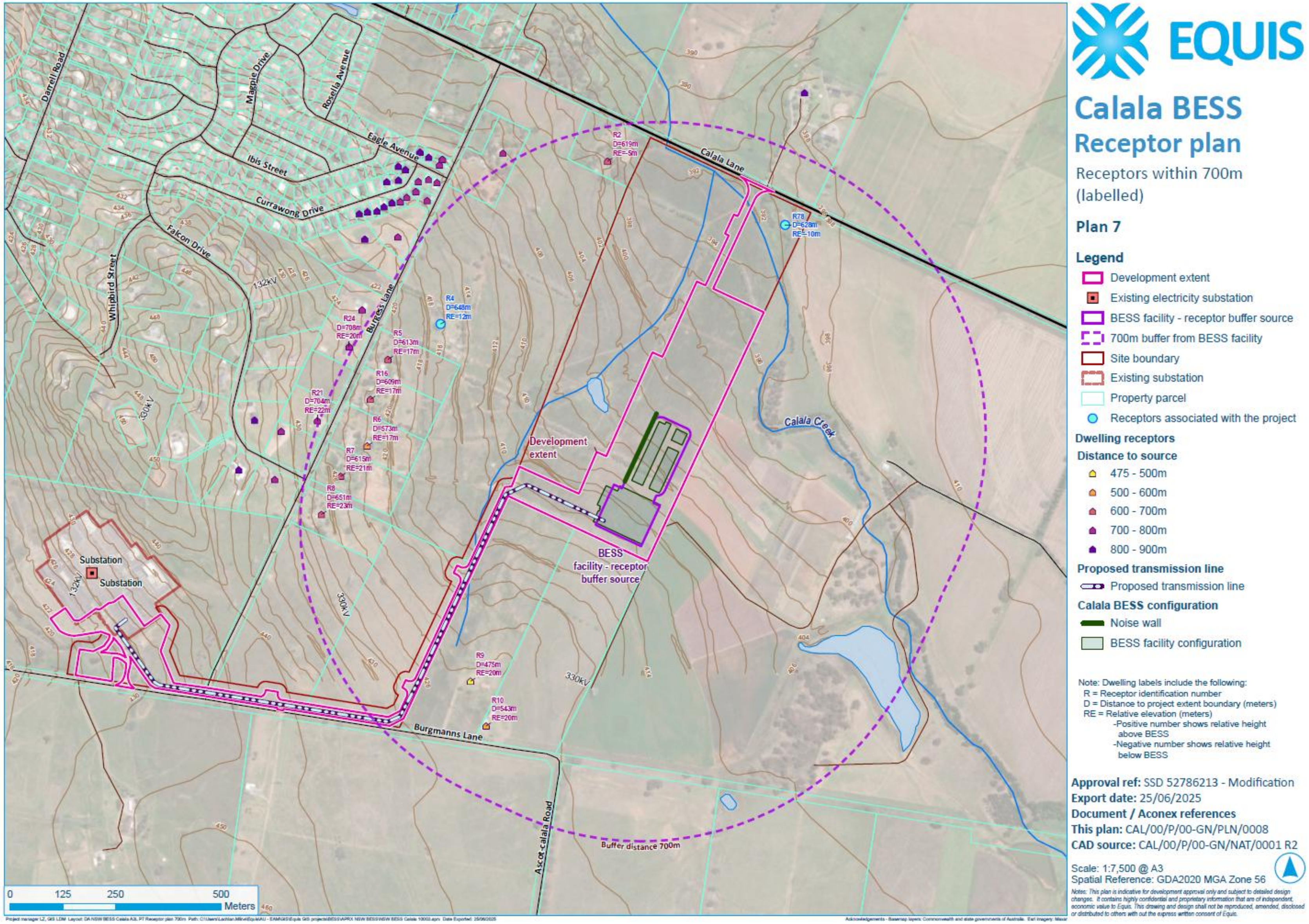


*Figure 1.3* *Sensitive receivers*

# 2. Project description

## 2.1 Overview

The development involves construction of a standalone BESS with storage capacity of up to 300 MW, and connection to Transgrid's Tamworth 330 kV substation via underground transmission cable and ancillary works (the project).

The project includes:

– Installation of battery enclosure transformers and auxiliary components
– 330/33 kV switchyard
– Underground transmission cable connection between the BESS and the nearby Transgrid Tamworth 330 kV substation
– Transgrid's Tamworth 330 kV substation augmentation and ancillary works
– Ancillary elements including:
  - Site access from Calala Lane to the BESS facility and Burgmanss Lane to the existing Tamworth Substation and underground cabling
  - Internal access roads, associated maintenance and parking
  - Control room and staff amenities
  - Warehouse, stormwater and fire management infrastructure
  - Utilities
  - Signage, fencing and security systems
  - Noise attenuation walls
  - Landscaping, earth mounds and site rehabilitation works

## 2.2 Site layout and design

The physical layout of the project is shown in Figure 1.2 and comprises rows of battery enclosures, medium voltage transformers and ring main unit buildings bisected by access tracks and enclosed by a security fence (refer to Figure 1.2).

A temporary office, water tank and laydown area are located in the northern section of the enclosed area, while a switch room and control room, an operation and maintenance and facility control room, parking space, warehouse, harmonic filters and laydown area are located in the southern section. A stormwater basin is also located outside of the enclosed area to the north. The proposed transmission cable connects to the BESS at the southern end of the site at the high voltage connection asset.

## 2.3 Access and traffic

A new driveway off Calala Lane has been constructed to provide access to the project. Access will also be provided via Burgmanns Lane. Movement within the project area will be via internal, all-weather-trafficable and unsealed access tracks running the full length of, and around, the battery enclosures.

The light and heavy vehicle route was amended during the preparation of the Amendment Report (Mecone 2024). The heavy vehicle routes are shown in Figure 2.1 and will be the only routes and access used by heavy vehicles during construction, upgrading or decommissioning of the site. All heavy vehicles associated with the development will travel to and from the site via New England Highway and Burgmanns Lane or New England Highway, Nundle Road, O'Briens Lane and Calala Lane as identified in Figure 2.1.

All light vehicles associated with the development will travel to and from the site via New England Highway and Burgmanns Lane or New England Highway, Goonoo Goonoo Road and Calala Lane as identified in Figure 2.1.

All heavy vehicles requiring escort associated with the development will travel to and from the site via Kia Ora Lane, Ascot-Calala Road, Burgmanns Lane, Burgess Lane and Calala Lane as identified in Figure 2.1.

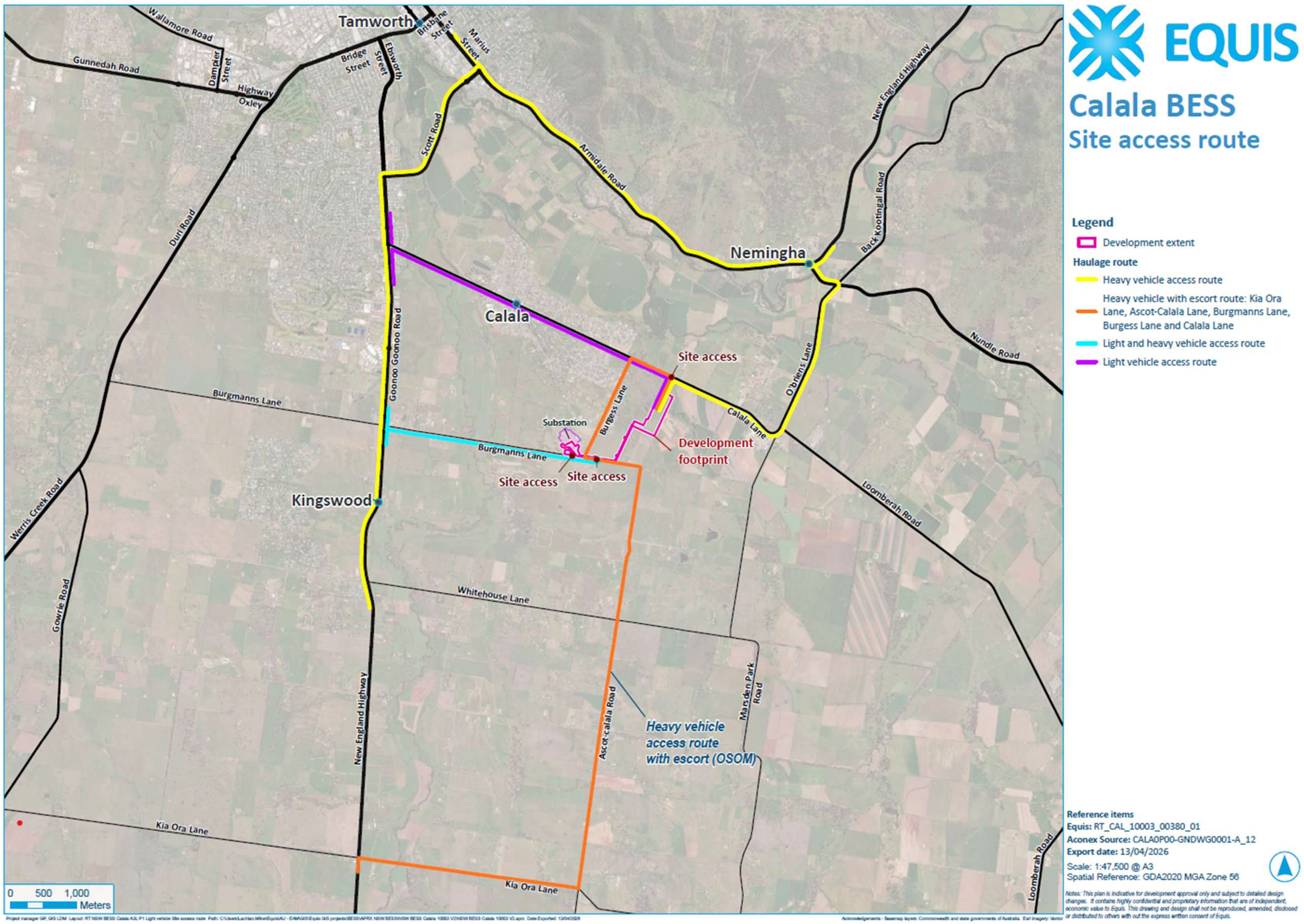


*Figure 2.1* *Site access routes*

Projected traffic volumes during construction, upgrading, or decommissioning are outlined in Table 2.1. This includes a maximum of 22 heavy vehicle movements per hour.

*Table 2.1 Daily Project construction traffic volumes during transmission line works*

| Type of vehicle | Average traffic generation (5-month period) | Peak traffic generation (2 month period) | Approved maximum traffic generation |
|---|---|---|---|
| **via Burgmanns Lane** | | | |
| **Light vehicles** | 60 vehicles/day | 60 vehicles/day | - |
| **Heavy vehicles** | 45 vehicles/day | 50 vehicles/day | - |
| **Total vehicles** | 105 vehicles/day | 110 vehicles/day | - |
| **via Calala Lane** | | | |
| **Light vehicles** | 85 vehicles/day | 85 vehicles/day | 100 vehicles/day |
| **Heavy vehicles** | 50 vehicles/day | 50 vehicles/day | 120 vehicles/day |
| **Total vehicles** | 135 vehicles/day | 135 vehicles/day | 220 vehicles/day |
| **Total Project Traffic** | | | |
| **Light vehicles** | 145 vehicles/day | 145 vehicles/day | 145 vehicles/day |
| **Heavy vehicles** | 95 vehicles/day | 100 vehicles/day | 120 vehicles/day |
| **Total vehicles** | 240 vehicles/day | 245 vehicles/day | 265 vehicles/day |

Reference: Modification Transport Impact Statement (Appendix G) dated 22 Sept 2025, and the RFI Modification Transport Impact Statement dated 8 May 2026

# 2.4 Construction

## 2.4.1 Construction timeframe

Construction of the project will take approximately 18 months. The works will occur as per the following indicative steps (with some overlap):

– Site establishment
– Site preparation
– Delivery of BESS infrastructure
– Installation of BESS infrastructure
– Transmission cable construction and augmentation works with the existing Tamworth Substation
– Testing and commissioning

Peak construction period is assumed to last for five months, as follows:

– Peak traffic generation is approximately a two month period as described in the EIS mod application (Tract).
– Daily construction worker numbers peak over a four month period between months three, four, five and six.

## 2.4.2 Construction working hours

Construction works are to be undertaken during standard working hours:

– Weekdays: 7:00 am to 6:00 pm
– Saturday: 8:00 am to 1:00 pm
– Sundays and public holidays: no work

The following activities may be carried out outside the hours specified above:

a. Commissioning activities that are inaudible at non-associated residences.

b. The delivery or dispatch of materials as requested by the NSW Police Force or other public authorities for safety reasons.
c. Emergency work to avoid the loss of life, property or prevent material harm to the environment.

### 2.4.3 Personnel and equipment

The project will result in 170 employment opportunities during construction of which it is anticipated that a maximum of approximately 85 construction personnel would be required on site during the peak construction period. Workers would be accommodated in existing accommodation.

Equipment used during construction is anticipated to include:

– Earth-moving equipment for civil works
– Diesel generators
– Trucks and cranes
– Smaller handheld power tools

### 2.4.4 Materials

The following general construction materials would be transported to the site from nearby towns and regional centres, including Tamworth:

– Aggregate for BESS area
– Sand for burying of cables
– Concrete for the foundations
– Water for dust suppression (depending on weather conditions), vehicle washdown and drinking water

## 2.5 Operation

Upon completion of the construction works and connection to the Transgrid Tamworth 330 kV substation, the project will commence operation. The project will operate 24 hours, seven days a week however operational activities shall involve routine operations and maintenance by approximately seven personnel, including:

– Routine visual inspections and general maintenance
– Site security
– Replacement of equipment and infrastructure, as required

No staff or vehicles will be present on the site on a permanent basis; there will only be occasional visits by maintenance vehicles. Additional vehicles may visit the site for a limited period during major maintenance operations.

Maintenance operations are to be undertaken during standard working hours (unless emergency works are urgently required):

– Weekdays: 7:00 am to 6:00 pm
– Saturday: 8:00 am to 1:00 pm
– Sundays and public holidays: no work

The operational phase of the project would have a lifespan of up to 25 years. There may be potential for the development to be upgraded to extend the operational life, but any extension will be subject to appropriate approvals.

## 2.6 Decommissioning and rehabilitation

Within 18 months of the end of the operations, the site will be rehabilitated. Key elements of decommissioning and rehabilitation will include:

– Creating a safe, stable and non-polluting site
– Removal of the BESS above and below ground infrastructure

– Restore land capability to pre-existing productive capacity

Management measures relevant to decommissioning and rehabilitation will be provided in future versions of the EMS.

# 3. Statutory requirements

## 3.1 Environmental Planning and Assessment Act

The *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act) provides the statutory basis for planning and environmental assessment in NSW. All development is assessed in accordance with the provisions of the EP&A Act and the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000* (EP&A Regulation).

The project was assessed in accordance with Section 4.12(8) of the EP&A Act and Part 8 of the EP&A Regulation. The project is classed SSD under Part 4 of the EP&A Act 1979 as it meets the requirements of Clause 20 of Schedule 1 of the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Planning Systems) SEPP 2021* (Planning Systems SEPP).

The project was approved on 28 June 2024, subject to conditions, as outlined in Development Consent SSD 52786213. Appendix A provides details of where the conditions of consent, relevant to the EMS, have been addressed.

Other environmental planning instruments developed according to the EP&A Act that were relevant at the time the application was submitted are outlined in Table 3.1.

*Table 3.1 Environmental planning instruments*

| Environmental Planning Instrument | Comment |
| --- | --- |
| *State Environmental Planning Policy (Resilience and Hazards) SEPP 2021* (Resilience and Hazards SEPP) | Section 3.7 of the Resilience and Hazards SEPP requires the consideration of guidelines to determine whether a development is a hazardous storage establishment, hazardous industry or other potentially hazardous industry; or an offensive storage establishment, offensive industry or other potentially offensive industry. Where a conclusion is reached that a project is a potentially hazardous or offensive development, a Preliminary Hazards Analysis (PHA) must be prepared.<br>A PHA has been prepared to consider hazards and risks associated with the installation and operation of batteries on the land (refer to the EIS (Mecone 2023)). Based on the findings of the PHA, the likelihood of offsite impacts is unlikely.<br>Section 4.6(1) of the Resilience and Hazards SEPP states that a consent authority must not consent to the carrying out of development unless it is satisfied that the land is not contaminated.<br>The Preliminary Site Investigation (PSI) contained in Appendix T of the EIS (Mecone 2023) identifies that the site has been used for agricultural purposes, and that a review of the NSW Spatial Services Historical Imagery Viewer confirms that the site has not been used for other potentially contaminating sources. |
| *Tamworth Regional Local Environmental Plan 2010* (Tamworth Regional LEP) | The Tamworth Regional LEP is the principal planning instrument within the Tamworth Local Government Area (LGA).<br>The project is located on land within zone RU4 Primary Production Small Lots.<br>Under the provisions of zone RU4 Primary Production, the project is development permitted with consent, being development for the purposes of “electricity generating works” in Zone RU4 Primary Production Small Lots.<br>The project is considered permissible under the following clauses of the Tamworth Regional LEP:<br>– 4.3 Height of buildings<br>– 4.4 Floor space ratio<br>– 5.21 Flood planning<br>– 7.1 Earthworks |

| Environmental Planning Instrument | Comment |
| --- | --- |
| *Tamworth Regional Development Control Plan 2010* (Tamworth Regional DCP) | Section 2.10 of the Planning Systems SEPP states that development control plans do not apply to SSD. Nonetheless, the Tamworth Regional DCP has been considered during preparation of this EMS. The Tamworth Regional DCP contains no specific controls relating to BESS facilities or other energy infrastructure. Overall, it has been found that the development is consistent with the overall aims of the plan. |

# 3.2 Other relevant legislation

Other State and Federal legislation relevant to the project is outlined in Table 3.2.

*Table 3.2 Relevant legislation*

| Legislation | Comment |
| --- | --- |
| **State legislation** | |
| *Heritage Act 1977* (Heritage Act) | The project will have no adverse impacts on cultural or built heritage values, see Section 6.2 and Section 6.3 of the EIS (Mecone 2023). The risk of encountering unexpected finds during construction and operation is still present and an unexpected finds procedure has been included in the Chance Find Procedure. |
| *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* (POEO Act) | The project does not meet the definition of “electricity works (wind)” or “general electricity works” under Schedule 1 of the POEO Act because it does not generate electricity but rather provides storage for electricity.<br>An environment protection license (EPL) under the POEO Act is not required.<br>Pollution incidents that occur during construction which cause or threaten material harm to human health or the environment must be reported to the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) and all relevant authorities immediately as per Section 5.3.3. |
| *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (BC Act) | Under section 7.9 of the BC Act, any SSD or State significant infrastructure (SSI) application is required to be accompanied by a Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR) unless the Planning and Environment Agency Heads determine that the proposed development is not likely to have any significant impact on biodiversity values.<br>The development is supported by a BDAR prepared by Biosis contained in Appendix H of the EIS (Mecone 2023). The BDAR finds that consideration has been given to avoiding and minimising impacts to biodiversity where possible during the assessment and preliminary and concept design. Mitigation and management measures to adequately address impacts associated with the project are provided in the Biodiversity Management Plan. |
| *Roads Act 1993* (Roads Act) | An approval under section 138 of the Roads Act is required for any road upgrades or works on the public road network. This approval is considered a “consistent” approval (i.e., approvals that cannot be refused if the project is approved and must be substantially consistent with the approval).<br>Approval under section 138 of the Roads Act is required due to the upgrade of the intersection with Calala Lane, and this approval will be sought before construction commences. |
| *Water Management Act 2000* (WM Act) | Water access licences under the WM Act will generally be required to authorise the extraction of the water. However, water for construction and operational stages will be ‘trucked in’ and the development will not rely on groundwater, rivers, or creeks for water sourcing. As such, it is not anticipated that any water access licences under the WM Act will be applicable.<br>A culvert crossing will be constructed to accommodate Calala Creek and the potential erosion and sediment impacts. A Controlled Activity Approval (CAA) is required and the application will include sufficient detail with regard to hydraulic calculations and erosion and sediment controls (refer to Section 6). |

# 4. Environmental risk assessment

The environmental risks have been assessed based on the potential impacts identified in the EIS (Mecone 2023). The risk rating is determined by considering the likelihood and consequence of an activity using the matrix shown in Table 4.1 and applying that rating to select environmental aspects, as shown in Table 4.2.

*Table 4.1 Risk matrix*

| Likelihood | Consequence | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | **Low** | **Medium** | **High** |
| Will occur | M | H | H |
| Likely to occur | L/M | M | H |
| Unlikely to occur | L | L/M | M |
| Will not occur | L | L | L/M |

## 4.1 Evaluating likelihood

The likelihood of an impact occurring can be described in terms of probability. Overlaying this is the need to recognise the uncertainty that may be associated with the potential impacts, particularly during the initial risk assessment process. Where there is scientific uncertainty, a cautious approach would identify a higher level of risk.

Each identifiable impact can be assigned a likelihood between remote and almost certain. In simplifying the possible impacts for the purpose of a risk assessment an element of subjectivity is introduced. The purpose of the risk assessment is not necessarily to agree on the probability of any particular impact, but to facilitate an understanding of the relative probability of different impacts.

To undertake the risk analysis for this project, potential risks were given a ranking with regard to the likelihood of it occurring (assuming that the project is designed and implemented with standard environmental controls) in accordance with the following definitions:

- Will not occur
- Unlikely to occur
- Likely to occur
- Will occur

## 4.2 Evaluating consequence

Assessing the consequences of a potential risk requires a degree of subjective assessment, as the likely consequences of an impact may consist of several elements. To undertake the risk analysis for the project, potential risks were given a number between one and three with regard to the perceived consequence if left unmanaged, in accordance with the following definitions:

- 1 Lower: potential for insignificant to minor environmental change; localised implications; imperceptible or short term cumulative impacts; offsets readily available.
- 2 Medium: potential for moderate adverse environmental change; regional implications; modest or medium term cumulative impacts; offsets available.
- 3 Higher: potential for adverse environmental change; inter-regional implications; serious or long term cumulative impacts; offsets not readily available.

## 4.3 Risk assessment

As shown in Table 4.2, almost all aspects are considered to have a medium risk during construction. Hazards and bushfire, visual and noise are all expected to have medium risk during operation. The mitigation measures presented throughout Section 6 to Section 14 have been identified to manage these risks.

*Table 4.2 Risk assessment*

| Aspect | Construction | Operation | Where addressed |
|---|---|---|---|
| Soil and water | M | L | Section 6 |
| Noise | M | M | Section 7 |
| Air quality | L/M | L | Section 8 |
| Waste | L/M | L | Section 9 |
| Heritage | L | L | Section 10 |
| Visual | M | M | Section 11 |
| Hazard and bushfire | M | M | Section 12 and 15 |
| Traffic and transport | M | L | Section 13 |
| Biodiversity | M | L | Section 14 |

# 5. Environmental management

## 5.1 Roles and responsibilities

Key site personnel and environmental management responsibilities are outlined in Table 5.1.

*Table 5.1 Roles and responsibilities*

| Role | Responsibilities |
|---|---|
| Principal (Equis) | The Principal is responsible for the overall implementation of the EMS and environmental management on site. Key responsibilities include:<br>– Reviewing and endorsing the EMS as required.<br>– Maintaining compliance with relevant legislation, conditions of approval and any licences.<br>– Report to regulatory authorities where appropriate.<br>– Responding to community complaints and enquiries.<br>– Liaison with stakeholder agencies and community groups where required.<br>– Approving any environmental reports required to be submitted to relevant authorities. |
| Site Manager | The Site Manager is responsible for managing the daily activities and implementing environmental controls. Key responsibilities include:<br>– Providing input to EMS reviews.<br>– Communicating environmental management requirements during toolbox talks or other regular meetings.<br>– Delivering environmental training.<br>– Undertaking environmental monitoring and inspections.<br>– Monitoring, recording and reporting heavy vehicles requiring escort and heavy vehicles entering or leaving the site each day.<br>– Monitoring the work of subcontractors on site.<br>– Stop work in the event of a pollution incident and implementing the emergency response procedure.<br>– Leading environmental incident investigations and reporting to the Principal. |
| Construction workers and Site Operators | Construction workers and operators are responsible for implementing environmental control measures associated with their daily work. This includes:<br>– Implementing and maintaining environmental controls.<br>– Reporting to the Manager when an incident occurs and taking measures to respond to the incident.<br>– Completing any reporting and monitoring requirements for their specific role. |

### 5.1.1 Subcontractors

As a minimum, subcontractors and their employees will comply, in full, with the requirements of this EMS as it applies to site environmental management and controls. Subcontractor personnel are considered equivalent to site personnel in all aspects of environmental management and control and their responsibilities in this respect are the same as site personnel.

## 5.2 Environmental training and awareness

Site environmental management requirements are communicated in the site induction to all staff, subcontractors, and visitors. The induction includes the following information:

– Environmental legal context including due diligence and duty of care.
– Site environmental objectives and targets.
– Site environmental setting and sensitive environmental aspects.
– Environmental incident response and management procedure.

– Overview of environmental control measures.
– Requirements of the Drivers Code of Conduct and the approved access routes to site.

There are no specific environmental training requirements beyond the environmental site induction for site operations. Subcontractors engaged to undertake specialist tasks (e.g. water quality monitoring), will be appropriately qualified to conduct the works.

All personnel entering and working on site will be inducted by the Principal Contractor about the contents of the EMS (and the associated Sub-Plans) and their environmental obligations. The Site Manager is responsible for keeping an up-to-date Training and Competence Register, to ensure that all employees, contractors and subcontractors understand their legal obligations to mitigate environmental and amenity impacts.

Other environmental issues are communicated to site staff through toolbox talks and other meetings.

### 5.2.1 Training records

Training records are maintained in a site training register which includes:

– Details of the person being trained (name, role, company)
– Training date
– Type of training

A training register is provided in Appendix B.

## 5.3 Incident/non-compliance response

Incidents and near misses may occur with potential or actual environmental harm. Incidents resulting from normal operations are likely to include:

– Spills or leaks of hazardous substances (oils, fuels, chemicals)
– Excessive noise at sensitive receivers
– Dirty water entering waterways or leaving site
– Clearing vegetation that has not been approved to be cleared
– Dust during windy conditions
– Damage to a heritage item

Non compliances can include incidents or any action that is not in accordance with the consent conditions.

### 5.3.1 Emergency contacts

Details for organisations that may be contacted to respond to an environmental incident are provided below in Table 5.2. These details are to be made available to all site personnel on site signage and induction material.

*Table 5.2 Emergency contact details*

| Agency | Contact |
|---|---|
| Equis Environmental Manager | 0409 429 985 |
| Equis Project Manager | 0409 429 985 |
| Police / Fire / Ambulance | 000 |
| Hospital | Dean Street, Tamworth<br>02 6767 7700 |
| SafeWork NSW | 131 050 |
| EPA | 131 555 |
| Tamworth Regional Council | 02 6767 5555 |
| WIRES Wildlife Rescue | 02 6628 1898 |
| NPWS | 1300 072 757 |
| Heritage NSW | 1300 361 967 |

## 5.3.2 Incident investigation

All incidents are documented, investigations conducted, and action plans established in order that the incident does not occur again. Where lessons are learnt from the investigation or current procedures are identified as being ineffective, the EMS will be revised to include the improved procedures or requirements.

An incident investigation includes the following basic elements:

- The cause, time, and duration of the event.
- Contact details for all personnel involved in the incident and subsequent response.
- Action taken in relation to the event with respect to containment, notification, and residual effects.
- Details of any measure taken or proposed to be taken to prevent a recurrence of such an event.

An Incident Record Form to record incidents and a summary of the investigation is included in Appendix B.

All personnel are required to report all incidents, as it is regarded as a valuable method of addressing shortcomings in procedures, training, or equipment, and is an opportunity for improvement.

## 5.3.3 Notification

### 5.3.3.1 Incident notification

The Principal will be responsible for notifying the relevant authorities and will immediately notify the EPA and Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) of pollution incidents on or around the site which have occurred in the course of activities in the following circumstances:

- If the actual or potential harm to the health or safety of human beings or ecosystems is not trivial.
- If actual or potential loss or property damage (including clean-up costs) associated with a pollution incident exceeds $10,000.

A written incident notification addressing the requirements set out below must be submitted to the Planning Secretary via the Major Projects website and EPA within seven days of the incident. Notification is required to be given under this condition even if the DPHI and EPA are not immediately notified of the incident under condition C10 of Schedule 2 or, having given such notification, subsequently forms the view that an incident has not occurred.

The written notification of an incident must:

a. Identify the development and application number.
b. Provide details of the incident (date, time, location, a brief description of what occurred and why it is classified as an incident).
c. Identify how the incident was detected.
d. Identify when the applicant became aware of the incident.
e. Identify any actual or potential non-compliance with conditions of consent.
f. Describe what immediate steps were taken in relation to the incident.
g. Identify further action(s) that will be taken in relation to the incident.
h. Identify a project contact for further communication regarding the incident.

Within 30 days of the date on which the incident occurred or as otherwise agreed to by the Planning Secretary, the Applicant must provide the Planning Secretary and any relevant public authorities (as determined by the Planning Secretary) with a detailed Incident Report on the incident addressing all requirements below, and such further reports as may be requested.

The Incident Report must include:

a. A summary of the incident.
b. Outcomes of an incident investigation, including identification of the cause of the incident.
c. Details of the corrective and preventative actions that have been, or will be, implemented to address the incident and prevent recurrence.
d. Details of any communication with other stakeholders regarding the incident.

#### 5.3.3.2 Non-compliance notification

The Principal will be responsible for authority notifications and will notify DPHI in writing via the Major Projects website within seven days of a non-compliance. The non-compliance notification will include:

- The development and the application number.
- Set out the condition of consent that the development is non-compliant with the way in which it does not comply.
- The reasons for the non-compliance (if known) and what actions have been, or will be, undertaken to address the non-compliance.

## 5.4 Complaints and disputes

A telephone complaint line and online complaint form will be established to receive complaints from members of the public in relation to activities conducted during the project. The complaints line will be publicly available and advertised on signage at the site entry and on the website.

A legible record (see Appendix B) of all complaints in relation to pollution, noise or traffic arising from any activity must include:

- The date and time of the complaint.
- The method by which the complaint was made.
- Any personal details of the complainant which were provided by the complainant or, if no such details were provided, a note to that effect.
- The nature of the complaint.
- The action taken in relation to the complaint, including any follow-up contact with the complainant.
- If no action was taken, the reason why no action was taken.

### 5.4.1 Dispute resolution

If the complaint cannot be resolved to the satisfaction of the complainant, an independent impartial third party may be appointed to facilitate mediation of the matter.

The details of the process and facilitator will depend on the scope of the complaint, issues involved and appropriateness of the facilitator for the matter to be resolved. Equis will aim to constructively participate in any required mediation process. If the dispute is not resolved within the 30 working days timeframe allowed for internal dispute resolution, the following mediation system shall be triggered:

- The Community Engagement Manager shall contact the complainant and instigate the appropriate mediation process.
- Mediation will normally occur within 10 working days of both parties agreeing to the appointed mediator.
- The appointed mediator shall organise the time, methodology and place for the mediation to occur.
- The parties to the dispute may be required to provide the mediator with a brief statement setting out their position with regard to the issues that need to be resolved in addition to other information requirements.
- At the conclusion of the mediation session, the mediator will prepare a written summary of any resolution for agreement by all affected parties.
- If mediation is not successful, the mediator will report this to the Community Engagement Manager and the complainant will be advised of their rights to pursue the matter further.

# 6. Soil and water management measures

| | |
|---|---|
| **Objective** | – Maintain receiving surface water and groundwater quality and quantity during the project. |
| **Targets** | – Manage erosion associated with operational activities, in accordance with *Managing Urban Stormwater Soil and Construction – Volume 2A Installation of Services* (Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC) 2008) and *Managing Urban Stormwater: Soils and Construction* (Landcom 2004).<br>– No pollution of soil or waterways. |

*Table 6.1 Soil and water management measures*

| No. | Control | Reference | Timing | Responsibility | Record |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| SW1 | Train all staff on soil and water control practices and the requirements of the EMS through inductions, toolboxes, and targeted training. | - | Pre-construction, Construction and Operation | Site Manager | Induction and training records |
| SW2 | Obtain a controlled activity approval (CAA) for the construction of a culvert crossing over Calala Creek. | Section 6.9.3 of the EIS. | Pre-construction | Site Manager | Copy of CAA |
| SW3 | Prepare an Erosion and Sediment Control Plan (ESCP) prior to commencement of the works. | Condition B29 (a) to (e) Operating conditions.<br>Condition B28 Water pollution. | Pre-construction | Site Manager | Copy of ESCP |
| SW4 | Implement soil and erosion management in accordance with the ESCP prior to works commencing and throughout construction. | Section 6.9.3 of the EIS and Condition B29 (a) to (e) Operating conditions.<br>Condition B28 Water pollution. | Construction and operation | Site Manager | Photos, drawings and/or records of inspection |
| SW5 | Construct the culvert crossing over Calala Creek in accordance with the CAA. | Condition B29(f) Operating conditions Section 6.9.3 of the EIS. | Construction | Site Manager | Work as executed design drawings<br>Photos |
| SW6 | Inspect erosion and sediment control measures weekly and following rainfall and maintain by removing accumulated sediment. | Section 6.9.3 of the EIS. | Construction | Site Manager | Completed inspection checklist<br>Photos |
| SW7 | Use water carts on site to control dust generation, when dust is observed to be leaving site, using level 2 watering (> $2L/m^2/h$). | Section 6.9.3 of the EIS. | Construction | Site Manager | Completed inspection checklist |

| No. | Control | Reference | Timing | Responsibility | Record |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| SW8 | Provide temporary toilets during the construction phase.<br>Engage an appropriately qualified sub-contractor to maintain the temporary toilets including pump out and disposal to an appropriately licensed facility. | Section 6.9.3 of the EIS. | Construction | Site Manager | Invoices from sub-contractor |
| SW9 | Maintain sufficient water for all stages of the development by:<br>– Monitoring onsite water resources.<br>– Scale activities in response to water availability.<br>– Establish a legal offsite water source for periods when on site water is not available. | Condition B27 Water supply. | Construction and Operation | Site Manager | Nil |
| SW10 | Maintain water in the firefighting tanks in the event of a fire. | Section 6.9.3 of the EIS. | Operation | Site Manager | Nil |
| SW11 | Install a staged throttle outlet above the permanent water level on the stormwater basin to provide a detention and retention function, to allow contaminants to be intercepted and removed from the basin in the event of fire damage to the battery cells. | Condition B29(g) Operating conditions. | Operation | Site Manager | Work as executed design drawings<br>Photos |

# 7. Noise management measures

| | |
|---|---|
| **Objective** | Minimise disturbance to local residents from construction and operational noise. |
| **Targets** | – No justified complaints from adjacent residents in relation to noise generation.<br>– Meet the noise limits in Table 7.2, in accordance with NSW EPA Noise Policy for Industry (2017).<br>– No out of hours works. |

*Table 7.1* ***Noise management measures***

| No. | Action | Reference | Timing | Responsibility | Record |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| N1 | Train all staff on noise control practices and the requirements of the EMS through inductions, toolboxes, and targeted training. | - | Pre-construction, Construction and Operation | Site Manager | Induction and training records |
| N2 | Construct noise attenuation barrier, as shown on Figure 1.2, from 200 mm Hebel or equivalent material and ensure that noise attenuation walls have enough airborne sound insulation to reduce the sound transmitted directly through the barrier to less than 10 decibels (dB) below the sound diffracted at the top of the barrier. | Section 6.6.3 of the EIS | Construction | Site Manager | Work as executed design drawings<br>Photos |
| N3 | Limit construction activities to standard construction hours as specified in Section 2.4.2. | Section 6.6.3 of the EIS<br>Condition B17<br>Condition B18 (a), (b) and (c) | Construction | Site Manager | Nil |
| N4 | Obtain written approval from the Planning Secretary prior to conducting out-of-hours work (OOHW).<br>Conduct a noise impact assessment consistent with the requirements of the *Interim Construction Noise Guideline* (DECC, 2009) to accompany the OOHW approval.<br>Include in the OOHW request:<br>– Details of the nature and justification for activities to be conducted during the varied construction hours.<br>– Written evidence that appropriate consultation with potentially affected sensitive receivers and notification of Councils (and other relevant agencies) has been or will be undertaken.<br>– Evidence that all feasible and reasonable noise mitigation measures have been put in place. | Section 6.6.3 of the EIS<br>Condition B19 Variation of Construction Hours | Construction | Site Manager | Correspondence from Planning Secretary.<br>Copy of noise impact assessment. |
| N5 | Turn off vehicles and machinery when not in use. | Condition B20(a) Noise | Construction | Site Manager | Completed inspection checklist |
| N6 | Avoid dropping materials from height and metal to metal contact on material, where possible. | Condition B20(a) Noise | Construction | Site Manager | Completed inspection checklist |

| No. | Action | Reference | Timing | Responsibility | Record |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| N7 | Operate and maintain equipment, machinery and vehicles in accordance with manufacturer's specifications.<br>Service equipment identified as being excessively noisy. If problems still remain after servicing, equipment will be fitted with noise attenuation devices or removed from site. | Condition B20(a) Noise | Construction | Site Manager | Service records.<br>Completed pre-start inspection checklists. |
| N8 | Noise generated by the operation of the development will not exceed the noise limits in Table 7.2 below to be determined in accordance with the procedures in the *NSW Noise Policy for Industry* (EPA, 2017) at any non-associated residences unless the Planning Secretary agrees otherwise | B20(b) Noise | Operation | Site Manager | |

*Table 7.2 Operational noise limits*

| Location | Noise limits in dB(A) | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Day | Evening | Night | Night |
| | $L_{Aeq(15min)}$ | $L_{Aeq(15min)}$ | $L_{Aeq(15min)}$ | $L_{AF\ max}$ |
| Any non-associated residence | 40[1] | 35[1] | 35[1] | 52[1] |
| Any non-associated residence | 45[2] | 36[2] | 36[2] | 52[2] |

Notes:

1. To be measured up to, and including, noise enhancing meteorological conditions (as described in Table D1 of the NPfI) and typical operating temperatures that are not expected to be exceeded for more than 10% of any season.
2. To be measured up to, and including, noise enhancing meteorological conditions (as described in Table D1 of the NPfI) and all operating temperatures.

# 8. Air quality management measures

| | |
|---|---|
| **Objective** | – Minimise air quality impacts from site activities. |
| **Targets** | – No visible offsite air quality impacts as a result of site operations.<br>– No justifiable complaints related to air quality attributable to site operations. |

*Table 8.1 Air quality management measures*

| No. | Action | Reference | Timing | Responsibility | Record |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A1 | Train all staff on dust control practices and the requirements of the EMS through inductions, toolboxes, and targeted training. | - | Pre-construction, and Operation | Site Manager | Induction and training records |
| A2 | Minimise exposed areas.<br>Stabilise or revegetate areas that have not been actively used for a month. | Condition B22 Dust | Construction | Site Manager | Completed inspection checklist |
| A3 | Use water carts on site to control dust generation, when dust is observed to be leaving site, using level 2 watering (> 2 $L/m^2/h$). | Condition B22 Dust | Construction | Site Manager | Completed inspection checklist |
| A4 | Operate and maintain equipment, machinery, and vehicles in accordance with manufacturer's specifications. | -Condition A10 | Construction | Site Manager | Service records<br>Completed pre-start inspection checklists |
| A5 | Turn off vehicles and machinery when not in use. | -Condition A10 | Construction | Site Manager | Completed inspection checklist |
| A6 | Cease clearing of vegetation and ground cover in dry windy conditions. | Condition B22 Dust | Construction | Site Manager | Completed inspection checklist |

# 9. Waste management measures

| | |
|---|---|
| **Objective** | – Minimise the volume of waste generated from site operations. |
| **Targets** | – No recyclable products disposed to landfill. |

*Table 9.1 Waste management measures*

| No. | Control | Reference | Timing | Responsibility | Record |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| W1 | Train all staff on waste minimisation and management practices and the requirements of the EMS through inductions, toolboxes, and targeted training. | Section 6.13 of the EIS<br>Condition B35(a) Waste | Pre-construction, Construction and Operation | Site Manager | Induction and training records |
| W2 | Provide bins on site at congregation areas, the temporary site office and toilet facilities. Where possible, co-mingled recycling bins will be provided in common areas for separation of waste streams. | Section 6.13 of the EIS | Construction | Site Manager | Completed inspection checklist<br>Photos |
| W3 | Purchase materials with minimal packaging that is also suitable for reuse or recycling on an as needed basis. | Section 6.13 of the EIS | Construction | Site Manager | Nil |
| W4 | Erect signage on site to ensure waste storage areas and bins are clearly marked. | Section 6.13 of the EIS | Construction and Operation | Site Manager | Completed inspection checklist<br>Photos |
| W5 | Classify, store and handle all waste generated on site in accordance with the *EPA's Waste Classification Guidelines 2014* (or its latest version). | Condition B35(b) Waste and B35(c) Waste | Construction and Operation | Site Manager | Waste register<br>Waste dockets |
| W6 | Remove all waste from site as soon as practicable using licensed waste transport contractors.<br>Reuse or send to an appropriately licensed waste facility for recycling or disposal.<br>Consult with Council regarding the use of Council waste facilities. | Section 6.13 of the EIS<br>Condition B35(a) Waste and Condition B35(e) Waste | Operation | Site Manager | Waste register<br>Waste dockets |
| W7 | Return any failed batteries to the supplier for maintenance, recycling and/or disposal.<br>Transport batteries taking all possible care to minimise the chance of battery failure prior to and during BESS construction. | Section 6.13 of the EIS | Operation | Site Manager | Waste register<br>Incident records |
| W8 | Waste will not be received or disposed of onsite. | Condition B35(d) Waste | Operation | Site Manager | Waste register<br>Waste dockets |
| W9 | Prepare a decommissioning specific Waste Management Plan (WMP) prior to the commencement of the BESS decommissioning. | Section 6.13 of the EIS | Decommissioning | Site Manager | Decommissioning WMP |

# 10. Heritage management measures

| | |
|---|---|
| **Objective** | – Avoid damage or disturbance of heritage items. |
| **Targets** | – No damage to heritage items.<br>– All site staff and contractors trained on unexpected finds protocol. |

*Table 10.1 Heritage management measures*

| No. | Control | Reference | Timing | Responsibility | Record |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| H1 | Train all staff on responsibilities, legislation, location of identified Aboriginal heritage sites, areas of archaeological sensitivity and basic identification skills and the requirements of the EMS through inductions, toolboxes, and targeted training. | - | Construction | Site Manager | Induction and training records |
| H2 | Should unanticipated Aboriginal or historical archaeology be discovered the Chance Find Procedure (Appendix C) will be implemented. | Section 6.3.3 of the EIS and Condition B26 Chance Finds Protocol – Aboriginal Heritage | Construction | Site Manager | Incident records |
| H3 | Erect flagging or fencing to delineate the extent of the development footprint and signs to highlight that the area outside the flagging is a 'no-go' zone. | Condition B25 Protection of Heritage Items | Construction | Site Manager | Photos |
| H4 | Provide a copy of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) to the registered Aboriginal parties.<br>Keep the registered Aboriginal parties informed about the management of Aboriginal cultural heritage sites within the study area throughout the life of the project. | Section 6.2.3 of the EIS | Construction and Operation | Principal | ACHA |

# 11. Visual measures

| | |
|---|---|
| **Objective** | – To minimise impacts on the local community. |
| **Targets** | – Reduce visibility and contrast of the project in the landscape.<br>– Minimise impact to existing landscape character and retain existing screening vegetation.<br>– Enhance the screening of the project. |

*Table 11.1 Visual measures*

| No. | Control | Reference | Timing | Responsibility | Record |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| V1 | Train all staff on responsibilities to minimise visual impacts on the community and the requirements of the EMS through inductions, toolboxes, and targeted training. | - | Pre-construction, Construction and Operation | Site Manager | Induction and training records |
| V2 | Maintain the site in a neat and orderly condition throughout construction. | Section 6.5.3 of the EIS | Construction | Site Manager | Inspection records<br>Photos |
| V3 | Retain trees along the southern boundary and the northwestern boundary of the development footprint. | Section 6.5.3 of the EIS | Construction | Site Manager | Photos<br>Record of actions |
| V4 | Protect existing trees that are earmarked for retention from potential damage. This includes taking precautions against harm from vehicle movements, stockpiling, and other construction activities by clearly identifying and marking/flagging these trees. All site personnel will be made aware of the locations of these trees. | Section 6.5.3 of the EIS | Construction | Site Manager | Photos<br>Record of actions |
| V5 | Turn off all lights before leaving the site at the end of the day. | Section 6.5.3 of the EIS | Construction | Site Manager | Nil |
| V6 | Install lighting that complies with AS4228-1997 – Control of Obtrusive Effects of Outdoor Lighting. | Section 6.5.3 of the EIS<br>Condition B24(b) Lighting | Construction | Site Manager | Nil |
| V7 | Maintain and repair non-reflective finishes and colour-treatments when necessary. | Section 6.5.3 of the EIS<br>Condition B23(a) Visual and Condition B23(b) Visual | Construction and Operation | Site Manager | Maintenance records |
| V8 | Establish and maintain a vegetation buffer along the northern and western boundaries (landscape screening and mound) as shown on Figure 1.2:<br>– Planted prior to commencing operation.<br>– Comprised of species that are endemic to the area.<br>– Designed and maintained in accordance with RFS's Planning for Bushfire Protection 2019 (or equivalent).<br>– Properly and actively maintained with appropriate watering and weed control. | Condition B11 Vegetation Buffer | Construction and Operation | Site Manager | Photos<br>Record of actions |

| No. | Control | Reference | Timing | Responsibility | Record |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| V9 | Establish ground cover of the site within three months of completion of construction or upgrading.<br>Maintain ground cover with appropriate perennial species and weed control.<br>Manage grazing for ground cover control within the development footprint, where practicable. | Condition B12 Land management | Construction and Operation | Site Manager | Inspection records<br>Photos |
| V10 | Do not install commercial messages or obtrusive signage at the project entrance on Calala Lane. | Section 6.5.3 of the EIS<br>Condition B23 (c) Visual | Operation | Site Manager | Photos |
| V11 | Use energy-efficient bulbs, asymmetric beams, and direct lights away from reflective surfaces. | Section 6.5.3 of the EIS | Operation | Site Manager | Inspection records<br>Photos |

# 12. Hazard and bushfire measures

| | |
|---|---|
| **Objective** | – To minimise bushfires and hazards |
| **Targets** | – Site construction and operation activities do not cause a fire |

*Table 12.1 Hazard and bushfire measures*

| No. | Control | Reference | Timing | Responsibility | Record |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| HAZ1 | Train all staff on responsibilities to minimise hazards and bushfires and the requirements of the EMS through inductions, toolboxes, and targeted training. | - | Pre-construction, Construction and Operation | Site Manager | Induction and training records |
| HAZ2 | Stop work in the vicinity of the area if signs of contamination such as discoloured soils or odorous soils are encountered, and contact a suitably experienced environmental consultant for advice. Do not recommence work in the area until clearance is provided by the environmental consultant. | Section 6.10.4 of the EIS | Construction | Site Manager | Incident report |
| HAZ3 | Clean up spills using dry absorbent material promptly to contain and neutralise the spill. | Section 6.10.3 of the EIS | Construction and Operation | Site Manager | Incident report |
| HAZ4 | Prepare and implement an Emergency Plan and the Emergency Services Information Package.<br>Maintain two copies of the Emergency Services Information Package on-site in a prominent position adjacent to the site entry points at all times. | Condition B30 Fire Safety Study, B32 Operating Conditions, B33 Emergency Plan and B34 Emergency Plan | Construction and Operation | Principal and Site Manager | Emergency Plan and the Emergency Services Information Package |
| HAZ5 | If batteries rupture during a fire event, contaminated water/sediment in the basins would be pumped out to be treated or disposed of. | Section 6.9.3 of the EIS | Construction and Operation | Site Manager | Incident report |
| HAZ6 | Notify the relevant Local Emergency Management Committee following construction of the development, and prior to commencing operations. | Condition B32(e) Operating Conditions | Pre-operation | Principal | Notification |
| HAZ7 | Store and handle all chemicals, fuels and oils on-site in accordance with the requirements of all relevant Australian Standards and the NSW EPA's Storing and Handling of Liquids: Environmental Protection – Participants Handbook if the chemicals are liquids by:<br>– Storing products in bunds<br>– Signage<br>– Having spill kits available<br>– Having appropriate PPE<br>– Training staff | Condition B31 Storage and Handling of Dangerous Goods | Operation | Site Manager | Photos<br>Written record of receipt and storage requirements of all dangerous goods |

| No. | Control | Reference | Timing | Responsibility | Record |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| HAZ8 | Manage onsite vegetation heights to reduce fuel loads during fire danger periods. | Condition B32(a) Operating Conditions | Operation | Site Manager | Photos |
| HAZ9 | Maintain at least 20,000 L of water in the firefighting tank/s.<br>Fit the water supply tank with a 65 mm Storz fitting and a FRNSW compatible suction connection. | Condition B32(b) Operating Conditions | Operation | Site Manager | Inspection records |
| HAZ10 | Trees are to be separated and the understorey maintained within the asset protection Asset Protection Zones. | Condition B32(b) Operating Conditions | Operation | Site Manager | Maintenance records<br>Photos |
| HAZ11 | Establish and maintain a 10 m defendable space around the perimeter of the site to provide unobstructed vehicle access to assist the RFS and emergency services. | Condition B32(c) Operating Conditions | Operation | Site Manager | Maintenance records<br>Photos |
| HAZ12 | Provide assistance to RFS and emergency services as much as practicable if there is a fire in the vicinity of the site. | Condition B32(d) Operating Conditions | Operation | Site Manager | Nil |

# 13. Traffic and transport measures

Refer to the Traffic Management Plan as approved by the Planning Secretary.

# 14. Biodiversity measures

Refer to the Biodiversity Management Plan as approved by the Planning Secretary.

# 15. Fire Safety measures

Refer to the Fire Safety Study as approved by the Planning Secretary.

# 16. Monitoring

To ensure compliance with the conditions of the consent and legislative requirements, regular monitoring will be undertaken as outlined in Table 16.1.

*Table 16.1 Monitoring summary*

| No. | Control | Reference | Frequency | Responsibility | Reporting |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **General** | | | | | |
| **M1** | Conduct routine weekly inspections in accordance with Section 17.1.1 for the following items:<br>– Soil and water, including monitoring of erosion and sediment controls, water resources.<br>– Noise, including monitoring any ad-hoc noise issues such as faulty equipment or noisy works.<br>– Air, including identifying any air quality issues such as dust emissions.<br>– Waste, including identifying any waste issues.<br>Visual, including identify if there are any issues with the vegetation buffers that require attention or lighting to ensure it is directed away from reflective surfaces. | Condition C1(e)(ii) | Weekly during construction and operation | Site Manager | Checklist is in Appendix B. |
| **Soil and Water** | | | | | |
| **M2** | Install a rain gauge on site.<br>Record rainfall measurements daily. | Condition C1(e)(ii) | Daily | Site Manager | A rainfall register is provided in Appendix B. |
| **M3** | The basin will be monitored and managed in accordance with the detailed design. | Condition C1(e)(ii) | Weekly/following rain | Site Manager | Checklist in Appendix B. |
| **Noise** | | | | | |
| **M4** | Engage a suitably qualified, experienced and independent acoustic consultant to conduct monitoring during the day, evening and night periods during operational, temperature and meteorological conditions that would represent typical worst-case scenarios where reasonable and feasible. | Condition B21 Noise | During commissioning<br>Within 3 months of commencement of operation. | Site Manager | Prepare and submit a Noise Monitoring Report for the development to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary. The report is to include:<br>– Results of the monitoring during the day, evening and night periods during |

| No. | Control | Reference | Frequency | Responsibility | Reporting |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **M5** | Attended noise monitoring will be undertaken in response to a noise complaint or in the case of an identified concern of potential exceedance. All monitoring will be undertaken in accordance with the relevant Australian Standards and EPA guidelines. The results should be reviewed by a noise consultant to determine if additional measures are needed. | Condition B21 Noise | Following a justified noise related complaint or concern of a potential exceedance. | Site Manager | operational, temperature and meteorological conditions that would represent typical worst-case scenarios where reasonable and feasible.<br>– 1/3 octave data and calculated sound power levels along with a discussion of any excessive annoying characteristics and directionality.<br>– An analysis of compliance with the noise limits specified in condition B20.<br>– An outline of implemented at-source and transmission pathway mitigation measures and their effectiveness at reducing operational noise.<br>– A description of contingency measures in the event implemented mitigation measures are not effective at reducing noise levels to comply with limits specified in condition B20 at all times. |
| **Waste** | | | | | |
| **M6** | Record waste quantities (including sewage waste) generated including tracking of receipts from waste recycling or disposal via the appointed waste contractor. | Condition C1(e)(ii)<br>Section 6.13 of the EIS | Construction and Operation | Site Manager | Waste register |
| **M7** | Record waste classification and testing results. | Condition C1(e)(ii)<br>Section 6.13 of the EIS | Construction and Operation | Site Manager | Waste classification reports, as required |
| **M8** | Undertake auditing of waste management across the site as a component of broader environmental site audits. | Condition C1(e)(ii)<br>Section 6.13 of the EIS | Construction and Operation | Site Manager | Checklist is in Appendix B. |
| **Traffic and Transport** | | | | | |
| **M9** | Refer to Section 6 of the Traffic Management Plan | Condition B10(e) | Refer to Section 6 of the Traffic Management Plan as approved by the Planning Secretary, which includes monitoring:<br>– Conditions of access roads to site<br>– Loose material on public road at site entrance<br>– Compliance with approved vehicle routes<br>Compliance with maximum hourly and daily vehicle numbers | | |

| No. | Control | Reference | Frequency | Responsibility | Reporting |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Biodiversity** | | | | | |
| **M10** | Refer to Section 9 of the Biodiversity Management Plan | Condition B16(c) and (e) | Refer to Section 9 of the Biodiversity Management Plan as approved by the Planning Secretary. | | |
| **Accommodation and Employment** | | | | | |
| **M11** | Refer to Section 8 of Accommodation and Employment Strategy | Condition B36(f) | Refer to Section 8 of Accommodation and Employment Strategy as approved by the Planning Secretary. | | |

# 17. Reporting and review

## 17.1 Reporting and records

### 17.1.1 Environmental inspection checklist

The effectiveness of environmental protection measures is assessed weekly. To achieve this, an environmental inspection checklist will be used to address the key mitigation actions as well as any specific approval requirements. A copy of the checklist is in Appendix B.

The purpose of the checklist is to:

- Provide a surveillance tool to ensure that safeguards are being implemented.
- Identify where problems might be occurring.
- Identify where sound environmental practices are not being implemented.
- Facilitate the identification and early resolution of problems.

Any non-conformances identified through the checklist process would be highlighted and an environmental action report or a non-compliance/environmental incident notification report completed. The checklist would remain "open" until:

- The issue has been resolved.
- A new or revised procedure has been established and implemented.
- Training has been provided to relevant personnel/subcontractors.

### 17.1.2 Records

Environmental reporting and records are maintained on site to demonstrate compliance with the EMS. Records to maintain include:

- A copy of Development Consent for SSD 52786213.
- The EIS (Mecone 2023) and supporting documents.
- Amendment Report (Mecone 2024).
- This EMS and approved strategies, plans or programs required under the conditions of the consent.
- Independent Environmental Audit (refer to Section 17.2).
- Induction and training register (refer to Appendix B).
- Environmental inspection and monitoring reports/results (refer to Section 17.1.1 and Appendix B).
- Incident reports and register (refer to Section 5.3).
- Complaints register (refer to Appendix B).
- All regulatory correspondence.
- Noise monitoring report.
- Rainfall data.
- Unexpected finds reports.
- Waste register including waste classification, sampling results and tracking receipts.

The above documents will be made publicly available on the Equis website.

All records are to be:

- Maintained in a legible form.
- Kept for at least four years.
- Produced to any DPHI representative upon request.

## 17.2 Audits

Independent Audits of the development will be conducted and carried out in accordance with the *Independent Audit Post Approval Requirements* (2020).

In accordance with the specific requirements in the *Independent Audit Post Approval Requirements* (2020), the Principal will:

– Review and respond to each Independent Audit Report.
– Submit the response to the Planning Secretary.
– Make each Independent Audit Report, and response to it, publicly available within 60 days of submission to the Planning Secretary. unless otherwise agreed by the Planning Secretary.

## 17.3 Review and improvement

The Principal will review the EMS and its operation and implementation within one month of the:

– Submission of an incident report
– Submission of an audit report
– Any modification to the conditions of this consent
– Approval of any associated plans, such as the TMP, FSS or EP

The purpose of the review is to ensure that the EMS is meeting the requirements of the standards, policies, and objectives. Between the scheduled reviews, a register of issues will be maintained to ensure that any issue raised by internal and external personnel associated with the Calala BESS is recorded.

The review will consider (where available or applicable):

– Site personnel comments
– Agency comments
– Audit findings
– Environmental monitoring records
– Complaints
– Details of corrective and preventative actions taken
– Environmental non-conformances, environmental inspection notices, and inspection reports
– Incident reports
– Changes in organisation structures and responsibilities
– The extent of compliance with objectives and targets
– The effect of changes in standards and legislation

Co-ordination of environmental management of subcontractors. Details of any significant changes made to the EMS, as a result of the review, will be summarised in a table and forwarded in a memo to all site staff, contractors, and DPHI.

# Appendices

# Appendix A

## Conditions compliance table

| Issue | ID | Condition | Where addressed |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Definitions** | | | |
| CPHR | 1 | Conservation Programs, Heritage and Regulation Group of the NSW DCCEEW | Noted |
| EIS | 2 | The Environmental Impact Statement for Calala Battery Energy Storage System dated 3 October 2023, the Submissions Report dated 24 May 2024, the Amendment Report dated 24 May 2024 and the additional information dated 26 June 2024, *as modified by the Calala BESS Modification Report (Mod 1) submitted 10 February 2026 (dated 25 September 2025) and the Calala BESS Modification Transport Impact Statement dated 8 May 2026.* | Noted |
| Heritage NSW | 3 | Heritage NSW Group of the DCCEEW | Noted |
| Incident | 4 | An occurrence or set of circumstances that causes or threatens to cause material harm and which may or may not be or cause a non-compliance. *Note: "material harm" is defined in this consent.* | Noted |
| Material harm | 5 | Is harm that:<br>– Involves actual harm to the environment that may include (but not be limited to) a leak, spill, emission or other escape or deposit of a substance, and as consequence of that environmental harm (pollution), may cause harm to the health or safety of people; or<br>– Results in actual loss or property damage of an amount, or amounts in aggregate, exceeding $50,000 (such loss includes the reasonable costs and expenses that would be incurred in taking all reasonable and practicable measures to prevent, mitigate or make good harm to the environment).<br>*Notes:*<br>*This definition excludes "harm" that is either authorised under this consent or any other statutory approval.*<br>*For the purposes of this definition, material harm excludes incidents captured by Work Health and Safety reporting requirements.* | Noted |
| Maximum Energy Discharge Capacity (MW) | 6 | The rated output active power as defined by 4.3.5 of IEC 62933-1 Ed. 2.0 b:2024, *Electrical energy storage (EES) systems – Part 1* | Noted |
| Maximum Energy Storage Capacity (MWh) | 7 | The Effective Energy Storage Capacity at the Beginning of Service Life as described by Figure 1 of IEC 62933-1 Ed. 2.0 b:2024, *Electrical energy storage (EES) systems—Part 1* | Noted |
| **Part A Administrative conditions** | | | |
| Obligation to minimise harm to the environment | A1 | In meeting the specific performance measures and criteria in this consent, all reasonable and feasible measures must be implemented to prevent, and if prevention is not reasonable and feasible, minimise, any material harm to the environment that may result from the construction, commissioning, operation, upgrading, decommissioning or rehabilitation of the development. | Noted |
| Terms of consent | A2 | The development may only be carried out:<br>(a) in compliance with the conditions of this consent;<br>(b) in accordance with all written directions of the Planning Secretary;<br>(c) generally in accordance with the EIS; and | This document |

| Issue | ID | Condition | Where addressed |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| | | (d) generally in accordance with the Development Layout in Appendix 1. | |
| | A3 | The Applicant must comply with any requirement/s of the Planning Secretary arising from the Department's assessment of:<br>(a) any strategies, plans or correspondence that are submitted in accordance with this consent;<br>(b) any reports, reviews or audits commissioned by the Department regarding compliance with this consent; and<br>(c) the implementation of any actions or measures contained in these documents. | Noted |
| | A4 | The conditions of this consent and directions of the Planning Secretary prevail to the extent of any inconsistency, ambiguity or conflict between them and a document listed in condition A2(c) or A2(d). In the event of an inconsistency, ambiguity or conflict between any of the documents listed in condition A2(c) or A2(d), the most recent document prevails to the extent of the inconsistency, ambiguity or conflict. | Noted |
| Battery storage restriction | A5 | Unless the Planning Secretary agrees otherwise in writing, the battery storage system associated with the development must not exceed a Maximum Energy Discharge Capacity of 300 MW and a Maximum Energy Storage Capacity of 600 MWh.<br>.<br>Note: This condition does not prevent the Applicant from seeking to lodge a separate development application or modify this consent to increase the storage capacity of the battery storage in the future. | Noted |
| Upgrading of battery storage and ancillary infrastructure | A6 | The Applicant may upgrade the battery storage and ancillary infrastructure on site provided these upgrades remain within the approved development footprint of the site. Prior to carrying out any such upgrades, the Applicant must provide revised layout plans and project details of the development to the Planning Secretary incorporating the proposed upgrades. | Noted |
| Structural adequacy | A7 | The Applicant must ensure that all new buildings and structures, and any alterations or additions to existing buildings and structures, are constructed in accordance with the relevant requirements of the Building Code of Australia. Notes:<br>– Under Part 6 of the EP&A Act, the Applicant is required to obtain construction and occupation certificates for the development.<br>– The EP&A Regulation sets out the requirements for the certification of the development. | Noted |
| Demolition | A8 | The Applicant must ensure that all demolition work on site is carried out in accordance with Australian Standard AS 2601-2001: The Demolition of Structures, or its latest version. | Noted |
| Protection of public infrastructure | A9 | Unless the Applicant and the applicable authority agree otherwise, the Applicant must:<br>(a) repair, or pay the full costs associated with repairing, any public infrastructure that is damaged by the development; and<br>(b) relocate, or pay the full costs associated with relocating, any public infrastructure that needs to be relocated as a result of the development.<br>*Note: This condition does not apply to the upgrade and maintenance of the road network, which is expressly provided for in the conditions of this consent.* | Noted |

| Issue | | ID | Condition | Where addressed |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Operation of plant and equipment | | A10 | The applicant must ensure that all plant and equipment used on site, or in connection with the development, is:<br>(a) maintained in a proper and efficient condition; and<br>(b) operated in a proper and efficient manner. | Section 8 |
| Applicability of guidelines | | A11 | References in the conditions of this consent to any guideline, protocol, Australian Standard or policy are to such guidelines, protocols, Standards or policies in the form they are in as at the date of this consent. However, consistent with the conditions of this consent and without altering any limits or criteria in this consent, the Planning Secretary may, when issuing directions under this consent in respect of ongoing monitoring and management obligations, require compliance with an updated or revised version of such a guideline, protocol, Standard or policy, or a replacement of them. | Noted |
| Compliance | | A12 | The Applicant must ensure that all of its employees, contractors (and their subcontractors) are made aware of, and are instructed to comply with, the conditions of this consent relevant to activities they carry out in respect of the development. | Section 5.2 |
| Evidence of consultation | | A13 | Where conditions of this consent require consultation with an identified party, the Applicant must:<br>(a) consult with the relevant party prior to submitting the subject document to the Planning Secretary for approval; and<br>(b) provide details of the consultation undertaken including:<br>(i) the outcome of that consultation, matters resolved and unresolved; and<br>(ii) details of any disagreement remaining between the party consulted and the Applicant and how the Applicant has addressed the matters not resolved. | Noted |
| Community enhancement | | A14 | Unless the Planning Secretary agrees otherwise, the Applicant must enter into a VPA with Council in accordance with:<br>(a) Division 7.1 of Part 7 of the EP&A Act; and<br>(b) the terms of the Applicant's VPA letter dated 20 June 2024, which are summarised in Part A of Appendix 5. | Noted |
| | | A15 | Unless the Planning Secretary agrees otherwise, if the Applicant and Council do not enter into a VPA or other agreement prior to the commencement of construction, then within 3 months of the commencement of construction (and annually from the commencement of operation until the cessation of operation of the project), the Applicant must make a Section 7.12 of the EP&A Act contribution to Council for the amount specified in Part B of Appendix 5. | Noted |
| **Part B Environmental Conditions - General** | | | | |
| Transport | Heavy Vehicles Requiring Escort and Heavy Vehicle Restrictions | B1 | The Applicant must ensure that the:<br>(a) development does not generate more than:<br>(i) 120 heavy vehicle movements a day (a maximum of 22 heavy vehicles movements per hour) during construction, upgrading or decommissioning;<br>(ii) 145 light vehicle movements a day during construction, upgrading, or decommissioning; and<br>(iii) 7 movements of a heavy vehicle requiring escort during construction, upgrading, or | Traffic Management Plan<br>See Figure 2.1 |

| Issue | | ID | Condition | Where addressed |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | decommissioning; and | |
| | | | (b) length of any vehicles (excluding heavy vehicles requiring escort) used for the development does not exceed 26 metres,<br>As described in the EIS, unless the Planning Secretary agrees otherwise. | |
| | | B2 | The Applicant must keep accurate records of the number of heavy vehicles requiring escort and heavy vehicles entering or leaving the site each day for the duration of the project. | |
| | Access route | B3 | Unless the Planning Secretary agrees otherwise, all heavy vehicles associated with the development must only travel to and from the site via New England Highway:<br>(a) Nundle Road, O'Briens Lane and Calala Lane; and/or<br>(b) Goonoo Goonoo Road and Burgmanns Lane,<br>as identified in Appendix 3. | |
| | | B3A. | Burgmanns Lane must not be used by vehicles associated with the development, except for:<br>(a) heavy vehicles and light vehicles associated with the construction of ancillary infrastructure within the electricity transmission line corridor and Tamworth substation site; and<br>(b) vehicles used for emergency purposes. | |
| | | B4 | Unless the Planning Secretary agrees otherwise:<br>(a) all heavy vehicles requiring escort associated with the development must travel to and from the site via New England Highway, Goonoo Goonoo Road and Calala Lane; and<br>(b) all light vehicles associated with the development must travel to and from the site via New England Highway, Goonoo Goonoo Road and Calala Lane or Burgmanns Lane,<br>as identified in Appendix 3.<br>. | |
| | Site access | B5 | All vehicles associated with the development must only enter and exit the site via the site access points off Calala Lane and Burgmanns Lane, as identified in Appendix 1. | |
| | Road upgrades | B6 | Unless the Planning Secretary agrees otherwise, the Applicant must:<br>(a) prior to commencing construction, construct the site access point off Calala Lane, as shown in Appendix 4, to cater for the largest vehicle accessing the site; | |

| Issue | | ID | Condition | Where addressed |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | (b) prior to the use of Burgmanns Lane east of the Tamworth Substation site access (other than use by vehicles required to construct the eastern site access point), construct the eastern site access point off Burgmanns Lane, as shown in Appendix 4, to cater for the largest vehicle accessing the site; and<br><br>(c) ensure the upgrades comply with the current *Austroads Guidelines, Australian Standards* (as amended by TfNSW supplements) and are carried out to the satisfaction of Council. | |
| | Access Route and Road Upgrades: Heavy Vehicles Requiring Escort | B7 | Prior to the use of heavy vehicles requiring escort on the public road network, all relevant approvals must be obtained and implemented (including for any road upgrades that may be required), from the point of origin to the New England Highway / Calala Lane intersection. | |
| | Road Maintenance | B8 | The Applicant must:<br>(a) undertake an independent dilapidation survey to assess the:<br>(i) existing condition of Nundle Road, O'Briens Lane, Calala Lane and Burgmanns Lane on the transport route, prior to construction, upgrading and decommissioning activities; and<br>(ii) condition of Nundle Road, O'Briens Lane, Calala Lane and Burgmanns Lane on the transport route, following the completion of construction, upgrading and decommissioning activities; | |
| | | | (b) on completion of the dilapidation reports undertaken in B8(a)(i) and (ii) provide a copy to the relevant roads' authorities; and | |
| | | | (c) repair the roads identified in condition B8(a)(i) and (ii) if dilapidation surveys identify that the roads have been damaged due to development-related traffic during construction, upgrading or decommissioning works in consultation with the relevant road authority.<br>If there is a dispute between the Applicant and the relevant roads authority about repairs required under this condition then either party may refer the matter to the Planning Secretary for resolution. | |
| | Operating Conditions | B9 | The Applicant must ensure:<br>(a) the internal roads are constructed as all-weather roads; | |
| | | | (b) there is sufficient parking on site for all vehicles, and no parking occurs on the public road network in the vicinity of the site; | |
| | | | (c) the capacity of the existing roadside drainage network is not reduced; | |
| | | | (d) all vehicles are loaded and unloaded on site, and enter and leave the site in a forward direction; and | |
| | | | (e) development-related vehicles leaving the site are in a clean condition to minimise dirt being tracked onto the public road network. | |

| Issue | | ID | Condition | Where addressed |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Traffic management plan | B10 | Prior to commencing construction, the Applicant must prepare a Traffic Management Plan for the development in consultation with TfNSW and Council, and to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary. This plan must include:<br>(a) details of the transport route to be used for all development-related traffic; | |
| | | | (b) a reconciliation table to demonstrate all traffic-related management measures and recommendation measures identified in the EIS have been included in the plan; | |
| | | | (c) details of the measures that would be implemented to minimise traffic impacts during construction, upgrading or decommissioning works, including:<br>(i) details of the dilapidation surveys required by condition B8 of this consent;<br>(ii) temporary traffic controls, including detours and signage;<br>(iii) notifying the local community about development-related traffic impacts;<br>(iv) procedures for receiving and addressing complaints from the community about development related traffic;<br>(v) minimising potential for conflict with school buses and other road users as far as practicable, including preventing queuing on the public road network and avoiding road closures during major events, including the Tamworth Country Music Festival, the NSW Koori Knockout and the AELEC Equine Championships;<br>(vi) minimising potential cumulative traffic impacts with other projects in the area during construction, upgrading or decommissioning works;<br>(vii) minimising dirt tracked onto the public road network from development-related traffic, including along Burgmanns Lane;<br>(viii) measures for managing light vehicle peak numbers, including carpooling or ride sharing by employees;<br>(ix) scheduling of heavy vehicle movements to minimise convoy length or platoons, and to minimise conflicts with light vehicles;<br>(x) responding to local climate conditions that may affect road safety such as fog, dust, wet weather and flooding;<br>(xi) responding to any emergency repair or maintenance requirements; and<br>(xii) a traffic management system for managing heavy vehicles requiring escort, including scheduling movements of heavy vehicles requiring escort outside of major events, including the Tamworth Country Music Festival, the NSW Koori Knockout and the AELEC Equine Championships;<br>(xiii) procedures to maintain safe access to residences, including residents that use Burgess Lane to access Burgmanns Lane, unless otherwise agreed with the relevant resident;<br>(xiv) measures to minimise road traffic noise from development-related traffic, including scheduling of heavy vehicle movements along Burgmanns Lane;<br>(xv) enforceable traffic management measures for heavy vehicle construction traffic using the intersection of Goonoo Goonoo Road and Burgmanns Lane, as described in the Transport Impact Statement (dated 8 May 2026); and<br>(xvi) measures to ensure construction traffic using Goonoo Goonoo Road and Burgmanns Lane does not exceed 50 heavy vehicles movements a day and 60 light vehicle movements a day, as described in the Transport Impact Statement (dated 8 May 2026); | |

| Issue | | ID | Condition | Where addressed |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | (d) a driver's code of conduct that addresses:<br>(i) driver fatigue;<br>(ii) procedures to ensure drivers adhere to the designated transport routes and speed limits;<br>(iii) procedures to ensure that drivers implement safe driving practices; and<br>(iv) procedures to ensure that drivers minimise road traffic noise; | |
| | | | (e) a program to ensure drivers working on the development receive suitable training on the code of conduct and any other relevant obligations under the Traffic Management Plan; and | |
| | | | (f) a flood response plan detailing procedures and options for emergency access to and from site in the event of flooding. Following the Planning Secretary's approval, the Applicant must implement the Traffic Management Plan | |
| Landscaping | Vegetation buffer | B11 | Unless the Planning Secretary agrees otherwise, the Applicant must establish and maintain a vegetation buffer (landscape screening and mounds) as described in the EIS and at the locations identified in Appendix 1. The landscape screening and mounds must:<br>(a) be established and planted prior to commencing operation; | Section 11 – V10 |
| | | | (b) be comprised of species that are endemic to the area; | |
| | | | (c) be designed and maintained in accordance with RFS's Planning for Bushfire Protection 2019 (or equivalent); and | |
| | | | (d) be properly and actively maintained with appropriate weed management and replacement of failed plantings; and | |
| | | | (e) be designed in consultation with Council. | |
| | Land management | B12 | The Applicant must maintain the agricultural land capability of the site, including:<br>(a) establishing the ground cover of the site within 3 months following completion of any construction or upgrading; | Section 11 – V11 |
| | | | (b) properly maintaining the ground cover with appropriate perennial species and weed management; and | |
| | | | (c) maintaining grazing within the development footprint, where practicable, unless the Planning Secretary agrees otherwise. | |
| Biodiversity | Vegetation clearing | B13 | The Applicant must not clear any native vegetation or fauna habitat located outside the approved disturbance areas described in the EIS. | Biodiversity Management Plan |
| | Biodiversity offsets | B14 | Prior to carrying out any development that could directly or indirectly impact the biodiversity values requiring offset, the Applicant must retire biodiversity credits as specified in Table 1 below, unless the Planning Secretary agrees otherwise. The retirement of these credits must be carried out in accordance with the NSW Biodiversity Offsets Scheme and can be achieved by:<br>(a) acquiring or retiring 'biodiversity credits' within the meaning of the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016; | |
| | | | (b) making payments into an offset fund that has been developed by the NSW Government; and/or | |

| Issue | | ID | Condition | Where addressed |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | (c) funding a biodiversity conservation action that benefits the entity impacted and is listed in the ancillary rules of the biodiversity offset scheme. | |
| | Biodiversity Management Plan | B15 | Prior to carrying out any development that could directly or indirectly impact the biodiversity values requiring offset, the Applicant must provide evidence to the Planning Secretary that biodiversity credits have been retired. | Section 16 and Biodiversity Management Plan |
| | | B16 | Prior to carrying out any development that could directly or indirectly impact biodiversity values, the Applicant must prepare a Biodiversity Management Plan for the project in consultation with BCS, and to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary. This plan must:<br>(a) be prepared in accordance with the Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (dated 8 May 2024) and the Addendum Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (dated 11 September 2025); | |
| | | | (b) include a description of the measures and timeframes that would be implemented for:<br>(i) protecting vegetation and fauna habitat outside the approved disturbance areas;<br>(ii) minimising clearing and avoiding unnecessary disturbance of vegetation that is associated with the construction and operation of the development;<br>(iii) minimising the impacts to fauna on site and implementing fauna management protocols;<br>(iv) rehabilitating and revegetating temporary disturbance areas with native species that are appropriate to the sites ecology and conditions;<br>(v) maximising the salvage of vegetative and soil resources within the approved disturbance area for beneficial reuse in the enhancement or the rehabilitation of the site; and<br>(vi) controlling weeds, feral pests and pathogens; | |
| | | | (c) include a program to monitor and report on the effectiveness of mitigation measures; | |
| | | | (d) include an incidental threatened species finds protocol to identify the avoid and/or minimise and/or offset options to be implemented if additional threatened species are discovered on site; and | |
| | | | (e) include details of who would be responsible for monitoring, reviewing and implementing the plan. Following the Planning Secretary's approval, the Applicant must implement the Biodiversity Management Plan. | |
| Amenity | Construction, Upgrading and Decommissioning Hours | B17 | Unless the Planning Secretary agrees otherwise, The Applicant may only undertake road upgrades, construction, commissioning, demolition, upgrading or decommissioning activities on site between:<br>(a) 7 am to 6 pm Monday to Friday;<br>(b) 8 am to 1 pm Saturdays; and<br>(c) at no time on Sundays and NSW public holidays. | Section 2.4.2, Section 7, N3 |
| | Exceptions to Construction Hours | B18 | The following activities may be carried outside the hours specified in condition B17 above:<br>(a) commissioning activities that are inaudible at non-associated residences; | Section 2.4.2, Section 7, N3 |
| | | | (b) the delivery or dispatch of materials as requested by the NSW Police Force or other public authorities for safety reasons; and | |

| Issue | | ID | Condition | Where addressed |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | (c) emergency work to avoid the loss of life, property or prevent material harm to the environment | |
| | Variation of Construction Hours | B19 | The hours of construction activities specified in condition B17 of this approval may be varied with the prior written approval of the Planning Secretary. Any request to alter the hours of construction must be:<br>(a) considered on a case-by-case or activity-specific basis; | Section 7, N4 |
| | | | (b) accompanied by details of the nature and justification for activities to be conducted during the varied construction hours; | |
| | | | (c) accompanied by written evidence that appropriate consultation with potentially affected sensitive receivers and notification of Councils (and other relevant agencies) has been or will be undertaken; | |
| | | | (d) accompanied by evidence that all feasible and reasonable noise mitigation measures have been put in place; and | |
| | | | (e) accompanied by a noise impact assessment consistent with the requirements of the Interim Construction Noise Guideline (DECC, 2009), or latest version. | |
| | Noise | B20 | The Applicant must:<br>(a) minimise the noise generated by any construction, upgrading or decommissioning activities on site in accordance with best practice requirements outlined in the Interim Construction Noise Guideline (DECC, 2009) or its latest version; and | Section 7, N6 |
| | | | (b) take all reasonable and feasible steps to minimise operational noise and ensure that the noise generated by the operation of the development does not exceed the noise limits in Table 2 below to be determined in accordance with the procedures in the NSW Noise Policy for Industry (EPA, 2017) at any non-associated residences unless the Planning Secretary agrees otherwise. | Section 7, N7 |
| | | B21 | Unless the Planning Secretary agrees otherwise, within 3 months of the commencement of operation, The Applicant must prepare and submit a Noise Monitoring Report for the development to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary. The Noise Monitoring Report must:<br>(a) be prepared by a suitably qualified, experienced and independent acoustic consultant; | Section 16, M4 |
| | | | (b) demonstrate that noise monitoring:<br>(i) has been carried out in accordance with the procedures in the Noise Policy for Industry (EPA, 2017); and<br>(ii) includes monitoring during the day, evening and night periods during operational, temperature and meteorological conditions that would represent typical worst-case scenarios where reasonable and feasible; and | |
| | | | (c) include:<br>(i) 1/3 octave data and calculated sound power levels along with a discussion of any excessive annoying characteristics and directionality;<br>(ii) an analysis of compliance with the noise limits specified in condition B20;<br>(iii) an outline of implemented at-source and transmission pathway mitigation measures and their effectiveness at reducing operational noise; and | |

| Issue | | ID | Condition | Where addressed |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | (iv) a description of contingency measures in the event implemented mitigation measures are not effective at reducing noise levels to comply with limits specified in condition B20 at all times. The Applicant must undertake further noise monitoring of the development if required by the Planning Secretary. | |
| | Dust | B22 | The Applicant must minimise the dust generated by the development | Section 8, A2 and A3 |
| | Visual | B23 | The Applicant must:<br>(a) minimise the off-site visual impacts of the development, including the potential for any glare or reflection; | Section 11, V7 |
| | | | (b) ensure the visual appearance of all ancillary infrastructure (including paint colours) blends in as far as possible with the surrounding landscape; and | Section 11, V7 |
| | | | (c) not mount any advertising signs or logos on site, except where this is required for identification or safety purposes. | Section 11, V10 |
| | Lighting | B24 | The Applicant must:<br>(a) minimise the off-site lighting impacts of the development; and | Section 11, V6 |
| | | | (b) ensure that any external lighting associated with the development:<br>(i) is installed as low intensity lighting (except where required for safety or emergency purposes);<br>(ii) does not shine above the horizontal; and<br>(iii) complies with Australian/New Zealand Standard AS/NZS 4282:2019 – Control of Obtrusive Effects of Outdoor Lighting, or its latest version. | Section 11, V6 |
| Heritage | Protection of heritage items | B25 | The Applicant must ensure the development does not cause any direct or indirect impacts on Aboriginal heritage items located outside the approved development footprint. | Section 10, H3 |
| | Chance Finds Protocol – Aboriginal Heritage | B26 | Prior to the commencement of construction, The Applicant must prepare a Chance Finds Protocol for the development in consultation with Aboriginal Stakeholders, and reviewed by Heritage NSW. Following approval, The Applicant must implement the Chance Finds Protocol. | Chance Find Procedure, Section 10, H2 |
| Soil and water | Water supply | B27 | The Applicant must ensure that it has sufficient water for all stages of the development, and if necessary, adjust the scale of the development to match its available water supply.<br>Note: Under the Water Act 1912 and/or the Water Management Act 2000, The Applicant is required to obtain the necessary water licences for the development. | Section 6, SW10 |
| | Water pollution | B28 | The Applicant must ensure that the development does not cause any water pollution, as defined under Section 120 of the POEO Act. | Section 6, SW12 |
| | Operations conditions | B29 | The Applicant must:<br>(a) minimise any soil erosion and control sediment generation; | Section 6, SW3 and SW4 |

| Issue | | ID | Condition | Where addressed |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | (b) ensure any battery storage and ancillary infrastructure and any other land disturbance associated with the construction, upgrading or decommissioning of the development has appropriate drainage and erosion and sediment controls designed, installed and maintained in accordance with Managing Urban Stormwater: Soils and Construction (Landcom, 2004) and the Managing Urban Stormwater: Soils and construction – Volume 2A manual (Landcom, 2008), or their latest versions; | |
| | | | (c) ensure the battery storage and ancillary infrastructure are designed, constructed and maintained to reduce impacts on surface water, localised flooding and groundwater at the site; | |
| | | | (d) ensure the battery storage and ancillary infrastructure do not cause any increased water being diverted off the site or alter hydrology off site; | |
| | | | (e) ensure the battery storage and ancillary infrastructure are designed, constructed and maintained to avoid causing any erosion on site; | |
| | | | (f) ensure all works within waterfront land is undertaken in accordance with Guidelines for Controlled Activities on Waterfront Land (DPE, 2022), unless the Planning Secretary agrees otherwise; and | Section 6, SW9 |
| | | | (g) incorporate a staged throttle outlet above the permanent water level on the stormwater basin to provide a detention and retention function, to allow contaminants to be intercepted and removed from the basin in the event of fire damage to the battery cells. | Section 6, SW13 |
| Hazards | Fire safety study | B30 | Prior to commencing construction of the battery storage, The Applicant must prepare a Fire Safety Study for the development, to the satisfaction of the FRNSW and the Planning Secretary in writing. The study must:<br>(a) be consistent with the Department's Hazardous Industry Planning Advisory Paper No. 2 'Fire Safety Study' guideline; | Fire Safety Study |
| | | | (b) describe the final design of the battery storage; | |
| | | | (c) include reasonable worst-case bush fire scenario to and from the battery storage and the associated bush fire management; and | |
| | | | (d) identify measures to eliminate the expansion of any fire incident including:<br>(i) adequate fire safety systems and appropriate water supply;<br>(ii) separation and / or compartmentalisation of battery units; and<br>(iii) strategies and incident control measures specific to the battery storage design. Following approval by the Planning Secretary, The Applicant must implement the measures described in the Fire Safety Study.<br>Note: 'to the satisfaction of FRNSW' above means confirmation in writing from FRNSW that the study meets the requirements of FRNSW as required by the Department's Hazardous Industry Planning Advisory Paper No. 2 'Fire Safety Study' guideline. | |
| | Storage and Handling of | B31 | The Applicant must store and handle all chemicals, fuels and oils used on-site in accordance with:<br>(a) the requirements of all relevant Australian Standards; and | Section 12, HAZ7 |

| Issue | | ID | Condition | Where addressed |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Dangerous Goods | | (b) the NSW EPA's Storing and Handling of Liquids: Environmental Protection – Participants Handbook if the chemicals are liquids.<br>In the event of an inconsistency between the requirements (a) and (b) above, the most stringent requirement must prevail to the extent of the inconsistency. | |
| | Operating Conditions | B32 | The Applicant must:<br>(a) minimise the fire risks of the development, including managing vegetation fuel loads on-site; | Section 12, HAZ8 |
| | | | (b) ensure that the development:<br>• complies with the relevant asset protection requirements in the RFS's Planning for Bushfire Protection 2019 (or equivalent) and Standards for Asset Protection Zones; and<br>• is suitably equipped to respond to any fires on site, including provision of a minimum 20,000 litre water supply tank adjoining the internal property access road within the required Asset Protection Zone. The water supply tank must be fitted with a 65 mm Storz fitting and a FRNSW compatible suction connection, with the water level of the tank(s) maintained at an appropriate level, at all times; | Section 12, HAZ9 and HAZ10 |
| | | | (c) ensure that the battery storage area and ancillary infrastructure:<br>• includes a 10 metre defendable space around the perimeter that permits unobstructed vehicle access to assist the RFS and emergency services as much as practicable if there is a fire in the vicinity of the site; and<br>• is managed as an asset protection zone (including the defendable space); | Section 12, HAZ11 |
| | | | (d) assist the RFS and emergency services as much as practicable if there is a fire in the vicinity of the site; and | Section 12, HAZ12 |
| | | | (e) notify the relevant Local Emergency Management Committee following construction of the development, and prior to commencing operations | Section 12, HAZ6 |
| | Emergency Plan | B33 | Prior to commencing commissioning of the battery storage, The Applicant must develop and implement a comprehensive Emergency Plan (including an emergency responders induction package) and detailed emergency procedures for the development, and provide a copy of the plan to the local NSW RFS Fire Control Centre and FRNSW. The plan must:<br>(a) be prepared in accordance with the findings of the Fire Safety Study required under Condition B30 of Schedule 2; | Section 12, HAZ4 |
| | | | (b) be consistent with the Department's Hazardous Industry Planning Advisory Paper No. 1, 'Emergency Planning' and RFS's Planning for Bushfire Protection 2019 (or equivalent); | |
| | | | (c) be consistent with the NSW RFS document: A Guide to Developing a Bush Fire Emergency Management and Evacuation Plan. | |
| | | | (d) include details on how the battery storage and sub-systems can be safely isolated in an emergency; | |
| | | | (e) identify the fire risks and hazards and detailed measures for the development to prevent fires igniting; | |

| Issue | ID | Condition | Where addressed |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| | | (f) include availability of fire suppression equipment, access and water; | |
| | | (g) detail access provisions for emergency vehicles and contact details for both a primary and alternative site contact who may be reached 24/7 in the event of an emergency; | |
| | | (h) include bushfire emergency management planning, including:<br>(i) details of the location, management and maintenance of the Asset Protection Zone;<br>(ii) a list of works that should not be carried out during a total fire ban;<br>(iii) details of how RFS would be notified, and procedures that would be implemented, in the event that:<br>• there is a fire on-site or in the vicinity of the site;<br>• there are any activities on site that would have the potential to ignite surrounding vegetation; or<br>• there are any proposed activities to be carried out during a bushfire danger period; and | |
| | | (i) detail specific response measures in the case of flood to ensure site safety; | |
| | | (j) describe the specific emergency exit routes to be used in the case of flood and include evidence of access agreements with relevant landowners (e.g. right of carriageway); and | |
| | | (k) include an Emergency Services Information Package in accordance with Emergency services information and tactical fire plan (FRNSW, 2019), to the satisfaction of FRNSW. | |
| | B34 | The Applicant must:<br>(a) implement the Emergency Plan and the Emergency Services Information Package for the duration of the development; and | Section 12, HAZ4 |
| | | (b) following commencement of commissioning of the battery storage, keep two copies of the Emergency Services Information Package on-site in a prominent position adjacent to the site entry points at all times | |
| Waste | B35 | The Applicant must:<br>(a) minimise the waste generated by the development; | Section 9 |
| | | (b) classify all waste generated on site in accordance with the EPA's Waste Classification Guidelines 2014 (or its latest version); | Section 9, W6 |
| | | (c) store and handle all waste on site in accordance with its classification; | |
| | | (d) not receive or dispose of any waste on site; and | Section 9, W9 |
| | | (e) remove all waste from the site as soon as practicable, and ensure it is reused, recycled or sent to an appropriately licensed waste facility for disposal (in consultation with Council for use of Council waste facilities and any other relevant licensed facilities likely to receive the waste). | Section 9, W7 |
| Accommodation and employment strategy | B36 | Prior to commencing construction, The Applicant must prepare an Accommodation and Employment Strategy for the development. This strategy must: | Noted |

| Issue | | ID | Condition | Where addressed |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | (a) be prepared in consultation with Council and informed by consultation with local accommodation and employment service providers; | |
| | | | (b) propose measures to ensure there is sufficient accommodation for the workforce associated with the development; | |
| | | | (c) consider the cumulative impacts associated with other State significant development projects in the area | |
| | | | (d) investigate options for prioritising the employment of local workers and use of local businesses during the construction and operation of the development, where feasible; | |
| | | | (e) give consideration to strategies that leave a positive community legacy and maximise local economic contribution; and | |
| | | | (f) include a program to monitor and review the effectiveness of the strategy over the life of the development, including regular monitoring and review during construction, upgrading and decommissioning.<br>The Applicant must provide a copy of the Accommodation and Employment Strategy to the Planning Secretary prior to commencement of construction, and implement the plan throughout construction. | |
| Decommissioning and rehabilitation | | B37 | Within 18 months of the cessation of operations, unless the Planning Secretary agrees otherwise, The Applicant must rehabilitate the site to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary. This rehabilitation must comply with the objectives in Table 3. | Section 2.6 |
| **Environmental management, reporting and auditing** | | | | |
| Environmental Management | Environmental Management Strategy | C1 | Prior to commencing construction, The Applicant must prepare an Environmental Management Strategy for the development to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary. This strategy must:<br>(a) provide the strategic framework for environmental management of the development; | This document |
| | | | (b) identify the statutory approvals that apply to the development; | Section 3 |
| | | | (c) describe the role, responsibility, authority and accountability of all key personnel involved in the environmental management of the development; | Section 5.1 |
| | | | (d) set out the procedures that would be implemented to:<br>(i) keep the local community and relevant agencies informed about the operation and environmental performance of the development;<br>(ii) receive, handle, respond to, and record complaints;<br>(iii) resolve any disputes that may arise;<br>(iv) respond to any non-compliance;<br>(v) respond to emergencies; and | Section 5.3 and 5.4 |
| | | | (e) include:<br>(i) references to any strategies, plans and programs approved under the conditions of this consent; and<br>(ii) a clear plan depicting all the monitoring to be carried out in relation to the development, including a table summarising all the monitoring and reporting obligations under the conditions of this consent. | Section 16<br>Fire Safety Study<br>Traffic Management Plan |

| Issue | | ID | Condition | Where addressed |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Following the Planning Secretary's approval, The Applicant must implement the Environmental Management Strategy. | Biodiversity Management Plan |
| | Revision of Strategies, Plans and Programs | C2 | The Applicant must:<br>(a) update the strategies, plans or programs required under this consent to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary prior to carrying out any upgrading or decommissioning activities on site; and | Section 17 |
| | | | (b) review and, if necessary, revise the strategies, plans or programs required under this consent to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary within 1 month of the:<br>(i) submission of an incident report under condition C10 of Schedule 2;<br>(ii) submission of an audit report under condition C14 of Schedule 2; or<br>(iii) any modification to the conditions of this consent. | |
| | Staging, Combining and Updating Strategies, Plans or Programs | C3 | With the approval of the Planning Secretary, the development may be staged and The Applicant may:<br>(a) prepare and submit any strategy, plan or program required by this consent on a staged basis (if a clear description is provided as to the specific stage and scope of the development to which the strategy, plan or program applies, the relationship of the stage to any future stages and the trigger for updating the strategy, plan or program); | Not applicable |
| | | | (b) combine any strategy, plan or program required by this consent (if a clear relationship is demonstrated between the strategies, plans or programs that are proposed to be combined); and | |
| | | | (c) update any strategy, plan or program required by this consent (to ensure the strategies, plans and programs required under this consent are updated on a regular basis and incorporate additional measures or amendments to improve the environmental performance of the development). | |
| | | C4 | If the Planning Secretary agrees, a strategy, plan or program may be staged or updated without consultation being undertaken with all parties required to be consulted in the relevant condition in this consent. | |
| | | C5 | If approved by the Planning Secretary, updated strategies, plans or programs supersede the previous versions of them and must be implemented in accordance with the condition that requires the strategy, plan or program. | |
| | | C6 | If the Planning Secretary agrees, a strategy, plan or program may be staged without addressing particular requirements of the relevant condition of this consent if those requirements are not applicable to the particular stage. | |
| Notification | Notification of department | C7 | Prior to commencing the construction, operations, upgrading or decommissioning of the development or the cessation of operations, The Applicant must notify the Department in writing via the Major Projects website portal of the date of commencement, or cessation, of the relevant phase.<br>If any of these phases of the development are to be staged, then The Applicant must notify the Department in writing prior to commencing the relevant stage, and clearly identify the development that would be carried out during the relevant stage. | Not applicable |

| Issue | | ID | Condition | Where addressed |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Final Layout Plans | C8 | Prior to commencing construction, The Applicant must submit detailed plans of the final layout of the development to the Department via the Major Projects website and to Council, showing comparison to the approved layout and including details on the siting of battery storage and ancillary infrastructure.<br>The Applicant must ensure that the development is constructed in accordance with the Final Layout Plans. | |
| | Work as Executed Plans | C9 | Prior to commencing operations or following the upgrades of any battery storage components or ancillary infrastructure, The Applicant must submit work as executed plans of the development showing comparison to the final layout plans to the Department via the Major Projects website and also to Council. | |
| | Incident Notification | C10 | The Department must be notified in writing via the Major Projects website immediately after The Applicant becomes aware of an incident. The notification must identify the development (including the development application number and the name of the development if it has one) and set out the location and nature of the incident. Subsequent notification requirements must be given, and reports submitted in accordance with the requirements set out in Appendix 6. | Section 5.3.2 |
| | Non-Compliance Notification | C11 | The Planning Secretary must be notified in writing via the Major Projects website within seven days after The Applicant becomes aware of any non-compliance. | Section 5.3.3 |
| | | C12 | A non-compliance notification must identify the development and the application number for it, set out the condition of consent that the development is non-compliant with, the way in which it does not comply and the reasons for the non-compliance (if known) and what actions have been, or will be, undertaken to address the non-compliance. | Section 5.3.3 |
| | | C13 | A non-compliance which has been notified as an incident does not need to also be notified as a non-compliance. | Section 5.3.2 |
| Independent environmental audit | | C14 | Independent Audits of the development must be conducted and carried out at the frequency and in accordance with the Independent Audit Post Approval Requirements (2020). | Section 17.2 |
| | | C15 | In accordance with the specific requirements in the Independent Audit Post Approval Requirements (2020), The Applicant must:<br>(a) review and respond to each Independent Audit Report prepared under condition C14 of Schedule 2 of this consent, or condition C16 of Schedule 2 where notice is given by the Planning Secretary; | |
| | | | (b) submit the response to the Planning Secretary; and | |
| | | | (c) make each Independent Audit Report, and response to it, publicly available within 60 days of submission to the Planning Secretary. unless otherwise agreed by the Planning Secretary. | |
| | | C16 | Independent Audit Reports and The Applicant's response to audit findings must be submitted to the Planning Secretary within 2 months of undertaking the independent audit site inspection as outlined in the Independent Audit Post Approvals Requirements (2020) unless otherwise agreed by the Planning Secretary. | |
| | | C17 | Notwithstanding the requirements of the Independent Audit Post Approvals Requirements (2020), the Planning Secretary may approve a request for ongoing independent operational audits to be ceased, where it has been demonstrated to the Planning Secretary's satisfaction that independent operational audits have demonstrated operational compliance. | |

| Issue | ID | Condition | Where addressed |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Access to information | C18 | The Applicant must:<br>(a) make the following information publicly available on its website as relevant to the stage of the development:<br>(i) the EIS;<br>(ii) the final layout plans for the development;<br>(iii) current statutory approvals for the development;<br>(iv) approved strategies, plans or programs required under the conditions of this consent (other than the Fire Safety Study and Emergency Plan);<br>(v) the proposed staging plans for the development if the construction, operation and/or decommissioning of the development is to be staged;<br>(vi) a comprehensive summary of the monitoring results of the development, which have been reported in accordance with the various plans and programs approved under the conditions of this consent;<br>(vii) how complaints about the development can be made;<br>(viii) any independent environmental audit, and The Applicant’s response to the recommendations in any audit; and<br>(ix) any other matter required by the Planning Secretary; and | Section 17.1.2 |
| | | (b) keep this information up to date. | Noted |

# Appendix B

## Records

## Complaints record

| Date | Time | Complainant# | Method of Complaint | Complaint description | Pollution complaint category | | | | | Response |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | Air | Water | Noise | Waste | Other | |
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| **Total** | | | | | **0** | **0** | **0** | **0** | **0** | |

# Incidents record

| Date | Time | Reported by | Construction/ operation/ decommissioning | Incident description | Incident category | | | | | Response | Reported to | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | Air | Water | Noise | Waste | Other | | EPA | Council |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| | | | | | **Total** | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | **0** | **0** | **0** | **0** | **0** | | | |

# Training record

| Name | Company | Date | Training type |
|---|---|---|---|
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# Environmental Inspection Checklist

| | |
|---|---|
| Inspection Date : | Inspection Conducted By: |
| Weather Conditions: Dry ☐ Slight Wind ☐ Calm ☐ Rain☐ Strong Wind☐ | |
| Rainfall – Past 24 hrs: | Past 5 Days: |

| Item | Observation | Action required & location | Responsibility | Closed |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Soil and Water** | | | | |
| ☐ | Erosion and sediment controls installed & in good working order? | | | ☐ |
| ☐ | Do erosion and sediment controls require maintenance or replacement? | | | ☐ |
| ☐ | Are stockpiles located and maintained in accordance with the EMS? | | | ☐ |
| ☐ | Are basins full and requiring treatment and discharge? If yes, check water quality. | | | ☐ |
| ☐ | Are monitoring points discharging? If yes, check water quality. | | | ☐ |
| ☐ | Do sediment basins require maintenance? | | | ☐ |
| ☐ | Are clean and dirty water separated? | | | ☐ |
| ☐ | Are site access locations free from mud or excessive dirt on the local roads? | | | ☐ |
| ☐ | Is there sufficient water for upcoming works? | | | ☐ |
| **Air Quality** | | | | |
| ☐ | Is dust from construction works visible during inspection? | | | ☐ |
| ☐ | Are dust suppression measures in place? And effective? | | | ☐ |
| ☐ | Is any machinery emitting smoky exhaust? | | | ☐ |
| ☐ | Are truck loads leaving site covered? | | | ☐ |
| **Flora and Fauna** | | | | |
| ☐ | Is the extent of the disturbance area marked/fenced? Is fencing in good repair? | | | ☐ |
| ☐ | Are there any weeds? | | | ☐ |
| ☐ | Have any unexpected species of fauna been identified / relocated / injured in the past week? | | | ☐ |
| ☐ | Do plants on the visual bunds or offset area require watering, new tree guards, replacement? | | | ☐ |
| **Heritage** | | | | |
| ☐ | Have any unexpected finds of heritage items or human remains occurred in the past week? | | | ☐ |
| **Traffic** | | | | |

| Item | Observation | Action required & location | Responsibility | Closed |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| ☐ | Are trucks operating within the restricted hours? | | | ☐ |
| ☐ | Is the internal road sealed and in good condition? | | | ☐ |
| **Noise & Vibration** | | | | |
| ☐ | Are noise controls installed and effective? | | | ☐ |
| ☐ | Have all activities occurred within permitted hours in the last week? | | | ☐ |
| ☐ | Do plant/equipment have appropriate mitigation measures installed? | | | ☐ |
| **Hazardous Substances & Dangerous Goods** | | | | |
| ☐ | Are spill kits available in all work areas and in stock? | | | ☐ |
| ☐ | Is there evidence of hydraulic/vehicle oil spills on site? | | | ☐ |
| ☐ | Are stored chemicals in bunded areas with at least 110% storage capacity of the largest container? Is the bunded area free from accumulated storm water or spilled chemicals? | | | ☐ |
| **Waste Management** | | | | |
| ☐ | Is the site free from litter and waste bins available? | | | ☐ |
| ☐ | Are appropriate and segregated waste bins available? | | | ☐ |
| **Visual** | | | | |
| ☐ | Is lighting is directed away from reflective surfaces? | | | ☐ |
| ☐ | Are vegetation buffers effectively screening the site? | | | ☐ |
| **Complaints** | | | | |
| ☐ | Have any complaints relating to environmental issues been received in the past week? If so, please detail. | | | ☐ |

| | |
|---|---|
| **Additonal Items/ Opportunities for improvement/ Innovations** | |
| **Inspection By** | |
| **Signature** | |

# Appendix C

## Chance find procedure

# Calala Battery Energy Storage System: Unexpected Finds Protocol

Prepared for The Trustee for Equis Energy (Australia) Ngumi 4 Holding Trust

31 October 2025

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## Document information

| | |
|---|---|
| **Report to:** | The Trustee for Equis Energy (Australia) Ngumi 4 Holding Trust |
| **Prepared by:** | Rhiannon Whitton<br>Bronte Baonza |
| **Biosis project no.:** | 41066 |
| **File name:** | 43732.Calala.BESS.Unexpected.Finds.Protocol.FIN06.20251031 |
| **Citation:** | Biosis 2024. Calala Battery Energy Storage System: Unexpected Finds Protocol. Prepared for The Trustee for Equis Energy (Australia) Ngumi 4 Holding Trust. Whitton, R. Baonza, B. Biosis Pty Ltd. Sydney, NSW. 41066 |

**Document control**

| Version | Internal reviewer | Date issued |
|---|---|---|
| Draft 01 | Anthea Vella | 19/08/2024 |
| Final 01 | Samantha Keats | 31/10/2024 |
| Final 02 and 03 | Minor updates | 22/11/2024 |
| Final 04 | Anthea Vella | 15/01/2025 |
| Final 05 | Minor updates | 17/01/2025 |

# Contents



## Tables



## Figures

## Photos

# 1 Overview

Biosis Pty Ltd (Biosis) was commissioned by The Trustee for Equis Energy (Australia) Ngumi 4 Holding Trust to undertake archaeological heritage services, including the production of an unexpected finds protocol for works at Lot 3, 4 and 6 DP 244399 and Lot 16 and 17 DP 629969 (known as 474 Calala Lane, Calala) (Figure 1 and Figure 2).

The development footprint contains no Aboriginal sites registered on the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) database (Figure 3). There are also no listed historic heritage items within or in the immediate vicinity of the development footprint (Figure 4).

## 1.1 Recommendations and conditions to be addressed

This unexpected finds protocol has been produced to meet recommendations 2 – 6 of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) (Biosis 2023a), recommendation 2 of the Historical Archaeological Impact Statement (HAIS) (Biosis 2023b), and Condition B25 and B26 of State Significant Development (SSD) (SSD-52786213) approval. The ACHA (Biosis 2023a), HAIS (Biosis 2023b), and an addendum ACHA and HAIS letter (Biosis 2024)assessed a larger area, inclusive of the modified impact area. This study area was assessed as an SSD (SSD-52786213) under Part 4.7 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act* 1979 (EP&A Act). See the ACHA (Biosis 2023a) and HAIS (Biosis 2023b) for more information on recommendations.

The conditions, outlined below, relate to the unexpected discovery of Aboriginal cultural material and historical relics. Should any unexpected Aboriginal items or relics be identified during work, the protocols below **must** be followed in order to ensure that works are in compliance with the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NPW Act) and *Heritage Act 1977* (Heritage Act).

**Table 1 Relevent conditions for the study area**

| Condition | Requirements |
|---|---|
| ***B25*** | *The Applicant must ensure the development does not cause any direct or indirect impacts on Aboriginal heritage items located outside the approved development footprint.* |
| ***B26*** | *Prior to the commencement of construction, the Applicant must prepare a Chance Finds Protocol for the development in consultation with Aboriginal Stakeholders, and reviewed by Heritage NSW. Following approval, the Applicant must implement the Chance Finds Protocol.* |

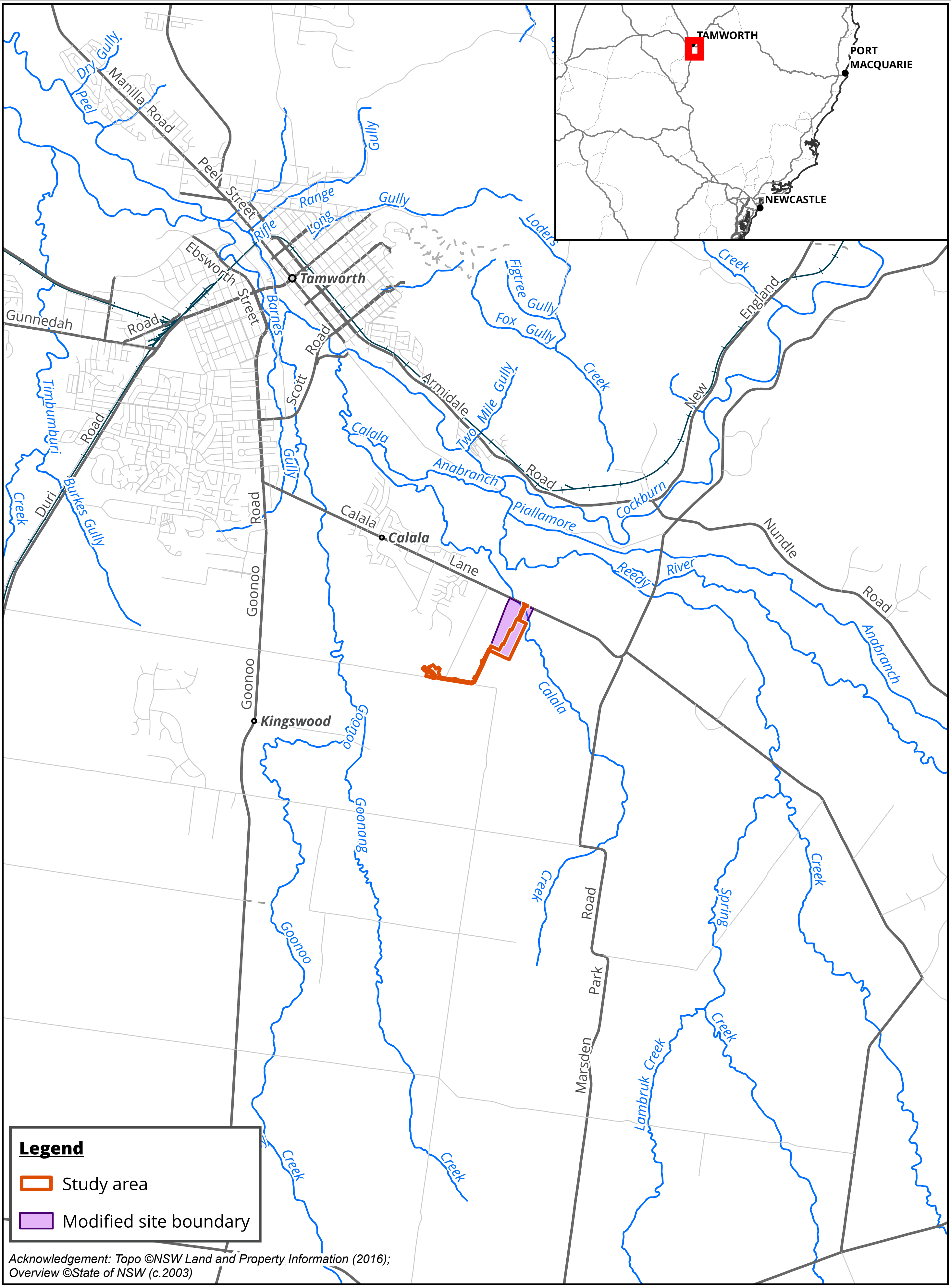
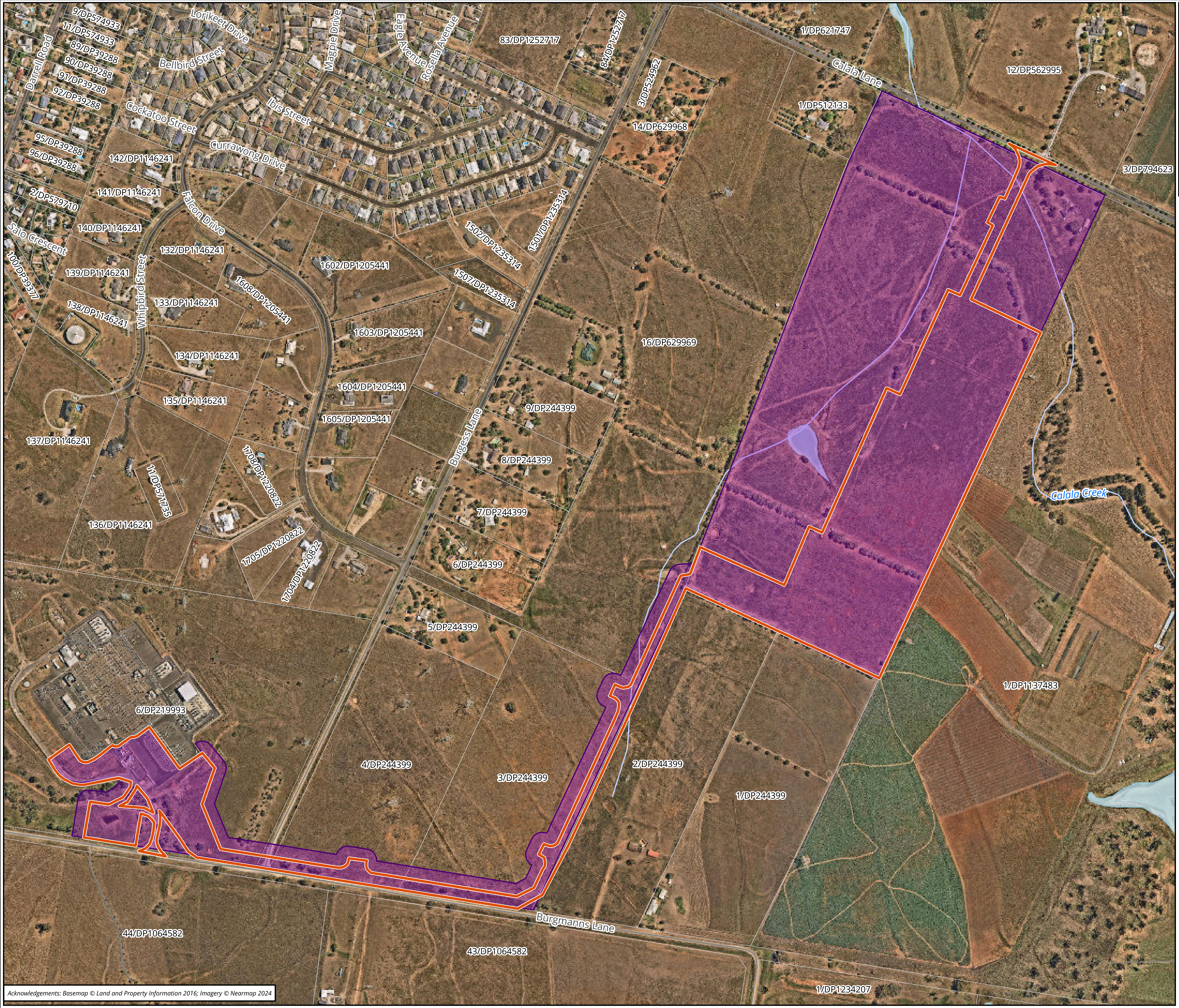


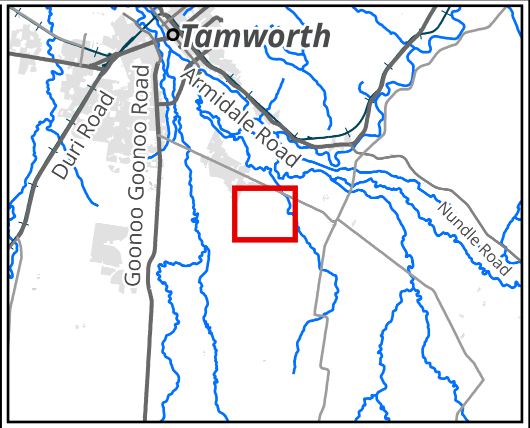

**Figure 1 Location of the development footprint**

Matter: 41066, Date: 29 October 2025,
Prepared for: BB, Prepared by: OW, Last edited by: owilliams
Location: P:\43700s\43732\Mapping\
43732_Calala_BESS_HER_UnexpectedFinds_Updates
Layout: 41066_F1_Locality

Scale 1:80,000@ A4, GDA2020 MGA Zone 56

biosis
APEMGroup




**Legend**

- Study area
- Modified site boundary
- Lot

## Figure 2 Development footprint detail

0 50 100 150 200

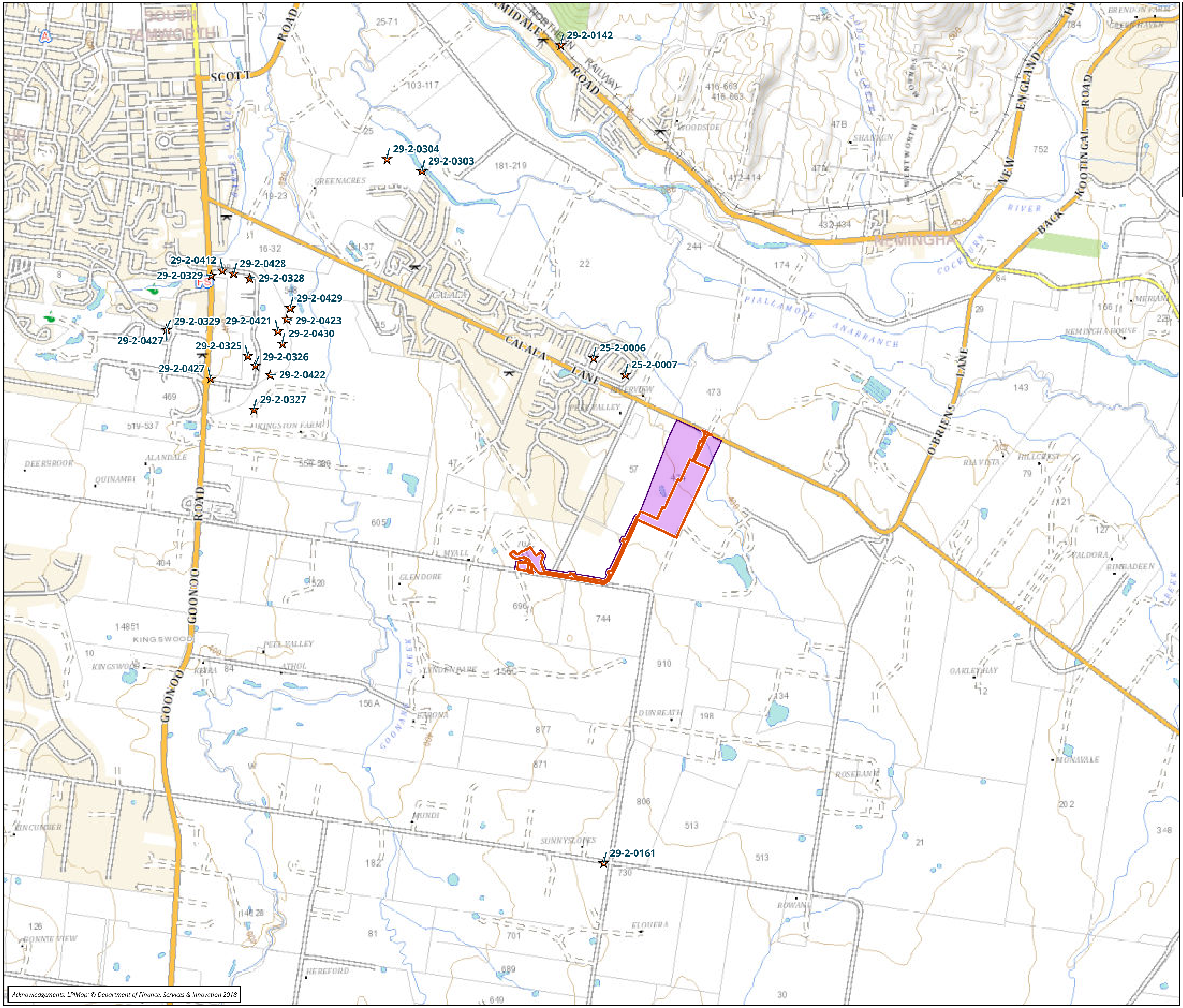
Metres

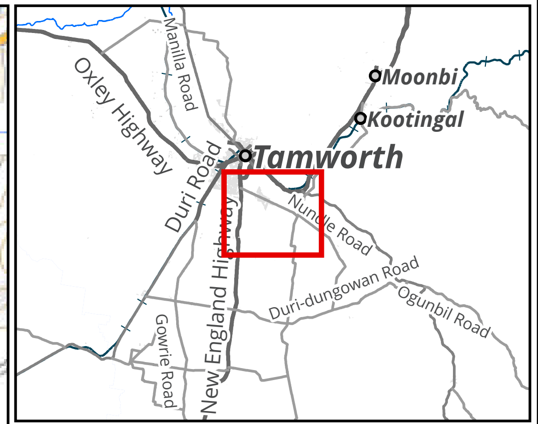
Scale: 1:6,000@ A3

*Coordinate System:*
*GDA2020 MGA Zone 56*

N

Matter: 41066, Date: 29 October 2025,
Prepared for: BB, Prepared by: OW, Last edited by: owilliams
Location: P:\43700s\43732\Mapping\
43732_Calala_BESS_HER_UnexpectedFinds_Updates,
Layout: 41066_F2_StudyArea




**Legend**

- Study area
- Modified site boundary
- AHIMS

**NOT TO BE MADE PUBLIC**

**Figure 3 AHIMS sites within the vicinity of the development footprint**

0 250 500 750 1,000

Metres

Scale: 1:30,000@ A3

*Coordinate System: GDA2020 MGA Zone 56*

biosis APEM Group

Matter: 41066, Date: 29 October 2025,
Prepared for: BB, Prepared by: OW, Last edited by: owilliams
Location: P:\43700s\43732\Mapping\
43732_Calala_BESS_HER_UnexpectedFinds_Updates,
Layout: 41066_F3_AHIMS

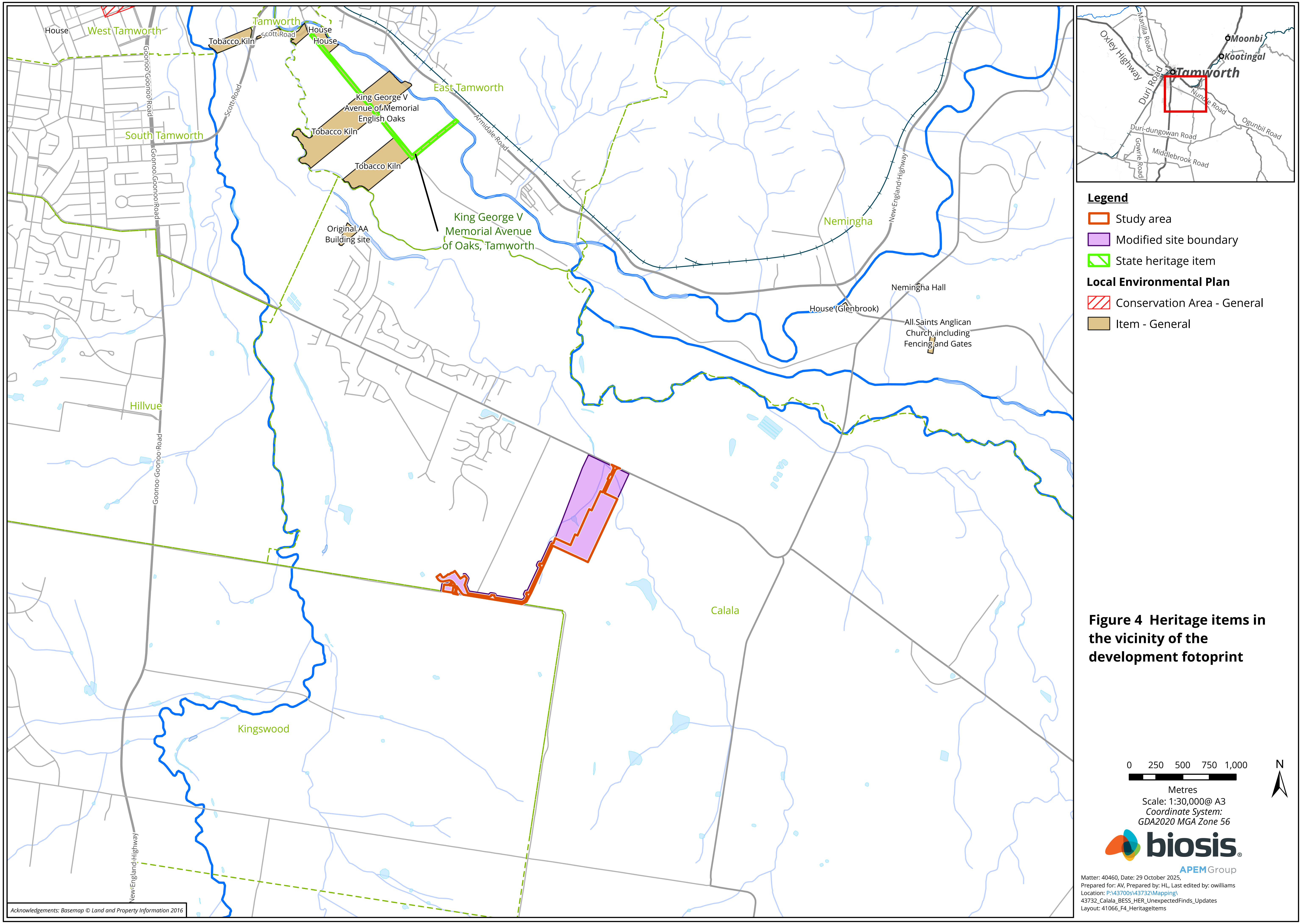



**Figure 4 Heritage items in the vicinity of the development fotoprint**

Scale: 1:30,000@ A3
*Coordinate System: GDA2020 MGA Zone 56*

biosis
APEM Group

Matter: 40460, Date: 29 October 2025,
Prepared for: AV, Prepared by: HL, Last edited by: owilliams
Location: P:\43700s\43732\Mapping\
43732_Calala_BESS_HER_UnexpectedFinds_Updates
Layout: 41066_F4_HeritageItems

# 2 Relevant legislation and guidelines

Legislation relevant to heritage management includes:

- EP&A Act.
- NPW Act.
- Heritage Act.

The main guidelines, specifications and policy documents relevant to the unexpected find protocol include:

- *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010a).
- *Code of Practice for the Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales 2010* (DECCW 2010b).
- *The Burra Charter: The Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance* (Australia ICOMOS 2013) (non-statutory best practice guidelines).
- *Assessing Significance for Historical Archaeological Sites and 'Relics' Guide to Investigation* (NSW Heritage Branch, Department of Planning 2009).
- *Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW* (Office of Environment and Heritage, Department of Premier and Cabinet 2011).
- *Historical Archaeology Code of Practice* (Heritage Office & Department of Planning 2006).

## 2.1 Roles and responsibilities

### 2.1.1 Aboriginal heritage

All Aboriginal objects and Places are protected under Part 6 the NPW Act. It is an offence to disturb an Aboriginal site without a consent permit issued by Heritage NSW, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (Heritage NSW). Table 2 sets out the offences related to harming an Aboriginal object.

**Table 2 Summary of *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* offences***

| Offence | Maximum Penalty: Individual | Maximum Penalty: Corporation |
|---|---|---|
| **Section 86(1) A person must not knowingly harm or desecrate an Aboriginal object** | 2500 penalty units ($275,000) or imprisonment for 1 year or both | 10,000 penalty units ($1,100,000) |
| | 5000 penalty units ($550,000) or imprisonment for 2 years or both (in circumstances of aggravation) | |
| **Section 86(2) A person must not harm an Aboriginal object (strict liability)*** | 500 penalty units ($55,000) | 2000 penalty units ($220,000) |
| | 1000 penalty units ($110,000) (in circumstances of aggravation) | |
| **Section 86(4) A person must not harm or desecrate an Aboriginal place (strict liability)** | 5000 penalty units ($550,000) or imprisonment for two years or both | 10,000 penalty units ($1,100,000) |

| Offence | Maximum Penalty: Individual | Maximum Penalty: Corporation |
|---|---|---|
| **Section 89A Failure to notify DPIE of the location of an Aboriginal object** | 100 penalty units ($11,000); in the case of a continuing offence, a further maximum penalty of 10 penalty units ($1100) for each day the offence continues | 200 penalty units ($22,000); in the case of a continuing offence, a further maximum penalty of 20 penalty units ($2200) for each day the offence continues |
| **Section 90J Contravention of any condition of an AHIP** | 1000 penalty units ($110,000) or imprisonment for 6 months, or both; In the case of a continuing offence, a further penalty of 100 penalty units ($11,000) for each day the offence continues | 2000 penalty units ($220,000); in the case of a continuing offence, a further penalty of 200 penalty units ($22,000) for each day the offence continues |
| **Section 156A(c) Damage any object or place of cultural value on or in land reserved or acquired under the NPW Act** | 1000 penalty units ($110,000) or 6 months imprisonment, or both | 10,000 penalty units ($1,100,000) |

*As taken from Table A.1 Operational Policy: Protecting Aboriginal cultural heritage Version 2, (DECC NSW 2011).

### 2.1.2 Historical heritage

Relics are historical archaeological resources of local or State significance and are protected in NSW under the Heritage Act. Relics cannot be disturbed without an Excavation Permit in accordance with Section 139 of the Heritage Act or Approval in accordance with Section 57 (if the relics are of State heritage significance or are part of a heritage item listed on the Stage Heritage Register). The Heritage Act imposes substantial penalty infringements and/or imprisonment for the unauthorised destruction of archaeological resources, regardless of whether or not such archaeological resources are known to exist on the site. Penalties for harm to a historical relic can consist of the following:

- A person guilty of an offence against the Heritage Act shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding 10,000 penalty units (one penalty unit is equal to $110, therefore 10,000 units = $1,100,000) or imprisonment for a period not exceeding 6 months, or both.
- A person guilty of an offence against the *Heritage Regulation 2012* shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding 50 penalty units (one penalty unit is equal to $110, therefore 50 units = $5,500).

## 2.2 Contacts

| | |
|---|---|
| **NSW Police Assistance Line** | 131 444 |
| **Heritage NSW** | (02) 9873 8500 |
| **Site Manager** | Johan Mouton – 0409 429 985 |
| **Project Manager** | Johan Mouton – 0409 429 985 |
| **Principal** | The trustee for Equis Energy (Australia) Ngumi 4 Holding Trust |
| **Archaeologist** | Anthea Vella – 0427 463 834 |

# 3 Consultation

## 3.1 Aboriginal community consultation

This Unexpected Finds Protocol was provided to the Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) for review for 14 days (14 October 2024 – 28 October 2024). No comments were received during this time. A copy of the correspondence sent out is included in Appendix 2.

## 3.2 Agency consultation

The Unexpected Finds Protocol was provided to Heritage NSW on 25 November 2024. Minor comments were received on 6 December 2024 to amend the unexpected finds procedures. Minor comments were also received on 10 January 2025 from the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI). A copy of correspondence with Heritage NSW is included in Appendix 3 and is summarised in Table 3.

**Table 3 Agency feedback**

| No. | Feedback raised | Description of change | Where addressed |
|---|---|---|---|
| **1** | Clearly define roles and responsibilities for the management of Unexpected Finds | Roles and responsibilities clearly identified in a table | Section 2.2 |
| **2** | Increase no-go zone around any unexpected finds to at least 20m | No-go zone increased from 5m to 20m | Section 4.1& 4.2 |
| **3** | Any unexpected finds to also be reported to compliance@planning.nsw.gov.au | Additional reporting obligation introduced for all unexpected finds | Section 4.1, 4.2& 4.3 |
| **4** | Expand the first box in Chart 1 to show the rest of the wording | Updated the formatting | Section 4 |
| **5** | Removal of study area from figures and replace with development footprint | Figures updated | Section 1.1 |

# 4 Unexpected finds procedures

This section details the procedures that should be followed in the event that unexpected Aboriginal, non-Aboriginal or human remains are found during works. In this section, Equis Energy Australia (Calala A1 Asset CT) Pty Ltd ACN 679 229 586 as trustee for Calala A2 Asset Trust or Equis Energy Australia (Calala A2 Asset CT) Pty Ltd ACN 679 229 586 as trustee for Calala A1 Asset Trust and may include any of their related bodies corporate (together, Equis), herein referred to as the Principal. Refer to Section 2.2 for the defined roles and contacts for the below procedures.

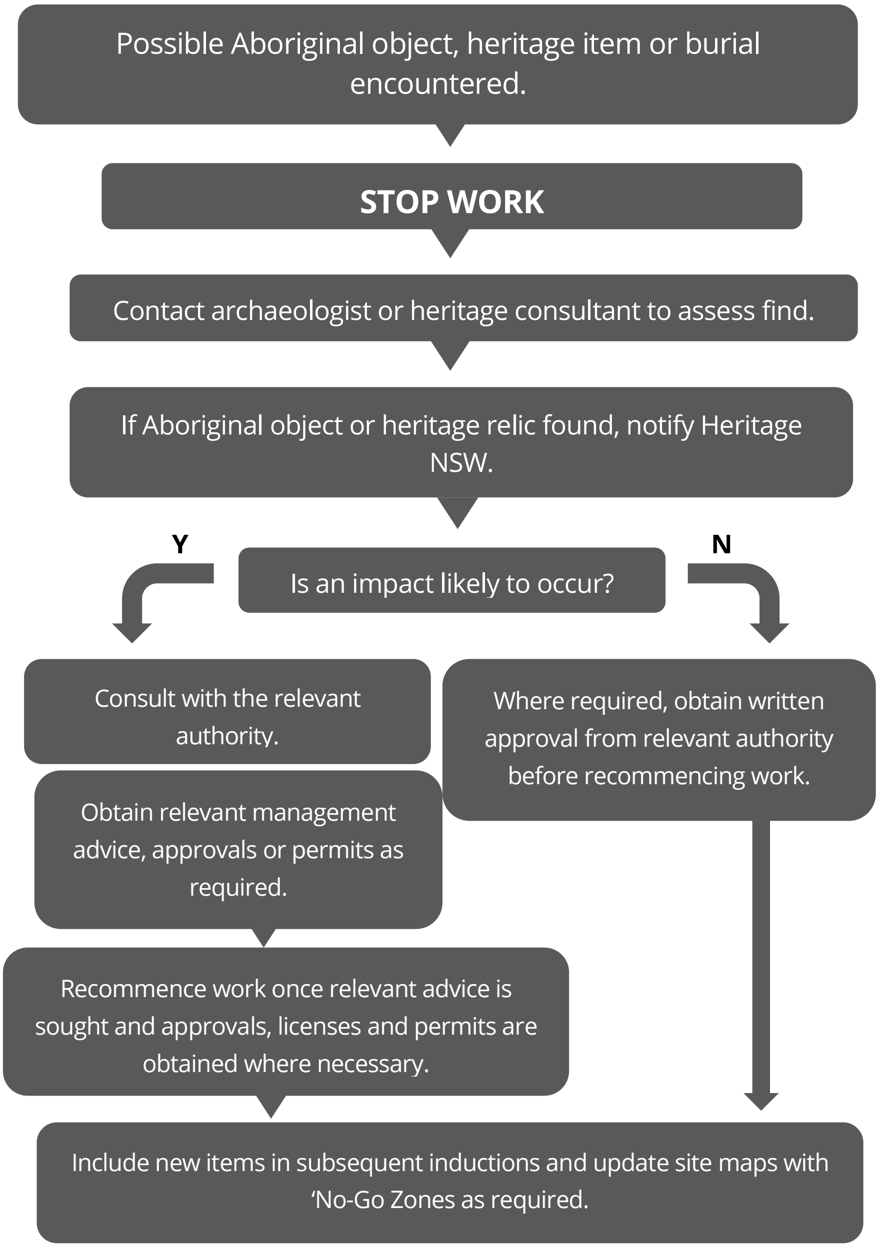



**Chart 1 Unexpected find protocol flow chart**

## 4.1 Discovery of unanticipated Aboriginal cultural material

In the event that unexpected Aboriginal objects or sites are located, an assessment will need to be made as to the significance of the object. Section 6 of the NPW Act defines an Aboriginal object as:

> *…any deposit, object or material evidence (not being a handicraft made for sale) relating to the Aboriginal habitation of the area that comprises New South Wales, being habitation before or concurrent with (or both) the occupation of that area by persons of non-Aboriginal extraction, and includes Aboriginal remains…*

An example of Aboriginal objects can be found in Appendix 1.

The following process is to be followed should any Aboriginal objects (or potential object) be encountered during works:

1. **Cease work** in the vicinity, the find should not be moved until assessed by a qualified archaeologist.
2. **Establish a no-go zone** within twenty metres of the unexpected find until the area can be inspected.
3. **Contact a qualified archaeologist**. The archaeologist will investigate to determine if the find is an Aboriginal object, the nature, extent and significance of the find. This will enable recommendations to be provided on how work can proceed and whether any further work is required. The archaeologist must supply written advice to the Project Manager stating:
    a. Determination of whether the find is an Aboriginal object.
    b. Advice on how the project is to proceed and whether the establishment of any no-go areas is necessary.
    c. Recommendation on further works that may be required and timeframes for completion of these works.
4. **Contractor to notify the Principal** including a statement concerning the find, management measures implemented and notification of any further works arising.
5. **Principal to notify Heritage NSW and Aboriginal stakeholders** if required. This will include a statement concerning the find, management measures implemented and notification of any further works arising. Aboriginal stakeholders are to be involved in any further assessments or works as required. Heritage NSW can be contacted through the Environmental Line on 131 555 as soon as practical. Any unexpected finds to also be reported to compliance@planning.nsw.gov.au.

    **AND**

    **Principal to register the site on AHIMS** if required. If the find is determined to be an Aboriginal object a site card will need to be created on AHIMS. This will need to include the management outcome for the site.

6. **Hold works.** Works will not be able to recommence within the location of the find until written approval confirmation from Heritage NSW is obtained.

Information regarding the identification of Aboriginal site types and objects can be found in Appendix 1.

## 4.2 Discovery of unanticipated historical relics

Non-Aboriginal heritage remains may include archaeological 'relics' or other historical items (i.e. works, structures, buildings or movable objects). Section 4 of the Heritage Act defines a relic as:

> *…any deposit, artefact, object or material evidence that relates to the settlement of the area that comprises NSW, not being Aboriginal settlement; and is of State or local heritage significance…*

This includes non-Aboriginal human remains with heritage value. Headstones, grave enclosures, grave goods and associated objects may also be considered relics under the Heritage Act.

The following process must be followed with respect to unexpected historical heritage items:

1. **Immediately cease work in the vicinity** if any suspected historical heritage remains are encountered during works associated with this development. The find should not be moved until assessed by a qualified archaeologist.
2. **Secure the location** by cordoning off an appropriate exclusion zone within twenty metres of the unexpected find. A qualified archaeologist will assess the find.
3. **Photograph the find** and send the photograph to the project archaeologist.
4. **The project archaeologist will investigate** and assess the remains to determine the nature, extent and significance of the find. This will enable recommendations to be provided on how work can proceed and whether any further work is required. A site visit by the archaeologist to inspect the find may be required.
5. **Contractor to notify the Principal** including a statement concerning the find, management measures implemented and notification of any further works arising.
6. **Principal to notify Heritage NSW** in accordance with Section 146 of the Heritage Act if the find is a relic. This will include a statement concerning the find, its significance, and the established management measures to avoid further impact. Any unexpected finds to also be reported to compliance@planning.nsw.gov.au.
7. **Relevant approvals** may need to be obtained under the Heritage Act before works can recommence.
8. **An archaeological assessment and management strategy may be required** before further works can continue in that area. Depending on the results of the archaeological assessment and approvals required, Heritage NSW may need to provide written approval for the works to recommence.

Information regarding the identification of non-Aboriginal site types and objects can be found in Appendix 1.

## 4.3 Discovery of unanticipated human remains

Human remains may be found in a variety of landscapes in NSW. While no burials are recorded within the study area, there is the possibility that unrecorded burials may be present. The following contingency plan describes the actions that must be taken in instances where human remains, or suspected human remains are discovered. Any such discovery in the study area must follow these the following process:

1. **Immediately cease all work** at that location and not further move or disturb the remains.
2. **Establish a no-go zone** as appropriate until the area can be inspected. This will need to be established in consultation with NSW Police, Heritage NSW and if necessary, a qualified archaeologist.
3. **Notify the NSW Police** Assistance Line on 131 444. Tamworth Police Station (02) 6768 2999.
4. **Contractor to notify project archaeologist**.
5. **Contractor to notify the Principal** including a statement concerning the find, management measures implemented and notification of any further works arising.
6. **Principal to notify Heritage NSW** as soon as practicable. This will include a statement concerning the find, management measures implemented and notification of any further works arising. Heritage NSW can be contacted through the Environmental Line on 131 555. Any unexpected finds to also be reported to compliance@planning.nsw.gov.au.
7. **Notify Aboriginal stakeholders** if required. Aboriginal stakeholders are to be involved in any further assessments or works as required.
8. **Prepare Plan of Management.** Works in the vicinity of the find will only be able to commence once the plan of management has been established and approval has been obtained from all relevant parties.

# 5 References


Australia ICOMOS 2013, *The Burra Charter: the Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance*, Australia ICOMOS, Burwood, VIC.

Biosis 2020, *35-55 Tenth Avenue Austral Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Due Diligence Assessment*, Report prepared for Crownland. Authors: Tetlaw.M, Bridge.A, Biosis Pty Ltd, Sydney, NSW. Project no.31067.

Biosis 2023a, *Calala Battery Energy Storage System, Calala (SSD-52786213). Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment.*, Report prepared for Equis Energy (Australia) Projects (NGUMI4) Pty Ltd as trustee for the Equis Energy (Australia) Ngumi 4 Asset Trust. Authors: Vella. A and Bridge. A, Biosis Pty Ltd, Newcastle, NSW. Project no. 37807.

Biosis 2023b, *Calala Battery Energy Storage System, Calala (SSD – 52786213): Historical Archaeological Impact Statement*, Report prepared for Equis Energy (Australia) Projects (NGUMI4) Pty Ltd as trustee for the Equis Energy (Australia) Ngumi 4 Asset Trust. Authors: Bridge. A, Vella. A and Bezzina. D, Biosis Pty Ltd, Newcastle, NSW. Project no. 38103.

Biosis Pty Ltd 2024, *ACHA and HAIS Addendum Letter for the Calala Battery Energy Storage System, Tamworth, NSW*, Letter prepared for Equis Energy (Australia) Projects (NGUMI4) Pty Ltd as trustee for the Equis Energy (Australia) Ngumi 4 Asset Trust. Author: Vella, A. Biosis Pty Ltd, NSW. Project number 40460/37807/38103.

DECC NSW 2011, 'Operational Policy: Protecting Aboriginal Cultural Heritage', <Department of Environment and Climate Change NSW, Sydney South, NSW. https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/cultureheritage/09122ACHOpPolicy.pdf>.

DECCW 2010a, *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents*, New South Wales Government Department of Environment and Climate Change., Sydney, NSW.

DECCW 2010b, 'Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW', <Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water NSW, Sydney, NSW. https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/research-and-publications/publications-search/code-of-practice-for-archaeological-investigation-of-aboriginal-objects-in-nsw>.

Heritage Office & Department of Planning 2006, 'Historical Archaeology Code of Practice'.

NSW Heritage Branch, Department of Planning 2009, 'Assessing Significance for Historical Archaeological Sites and "Relics"', <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/heritagebranch/heritage/ArchSignificance.pdf>.

Office of Environment and Heritage, Department of Premier and Cabinet 2011, 'Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW', <Office of Environment and Heritage, Department of Premier and Cabinet>.

# Appendix 1 Basic heritage object identification

## Identification of Aboriginal objects and site types


**Photo 1 Isolated stone artefact**

Stone artefacts are any items of stone material made or modified by people, including any debris left behind when such tools were made. Materials used to make stone artefacts may be found locally or traded across long distances.

**Photo 2 Stone artefact scatter**

Stone artefact scatter sites comprise groups of stone tools, debris and the tools used in manufacture (i.e. stone anvils and hammerstones). Artefact scatters can range from high-density concentrations of flaked stone and ground stone artefacts to sparse, low-density 'background' scatters and isolated finds.

**Photo 3 Shell midden**

Shell middens are the remains of food production and processing areas, where people would have sat down to eat, cook or prepare food. Shell middens occur commonly in coastal areas: however, they also occur near inland watercourses where freshwater mussels and other edible mollusc species may be present.

**Photo 4 Modified tree**

A modified tree is any tree from which the back has been cut or harvested for the manufacture of containers (coolamon), canoes, shields, weapons and medicines. Scarring also occurred where toeholds were cut to allow people to climb trees to hunt possums, reptiles, birds or harvest wild honey.

**Photo 5 Aboriginal gathering and resource location**

Resource gathering locations are places where food, medicines and plant material used as twine, in weaving or tool making by Aboriginal people exist. Many such locations are still accessed by contemporary Aboriginal people.

**Photo 6 Hearth**

A hearth is the remains of a campfire, an oven or other food cooking and processing areas. Hearths commonly contain baked clay, termite mound fragments broken up and used as 'heat retainers', small stones used in cooking, charcoal, burnt bone, shell and other food remnants.

**Photo 7 Waterhole**

A waterhole is a source of fresh water for Aboriginal groups which may have traditional ceremonial or dreaming significance. May also be used to the present day as a resource gathering place (e.g. waterbirds, eels, clays, reeds etc).

**Photo 8 Grinding grooves**

Grooves created in stone platforms through ground stone tool manufacture.

### Burials

Burials comprise any traditional Aboriginal human skeletal remains, intact or fragmentary. If any suspected human remains are encountered, the procedure set out in Section 4.3 must be followed.

## Identification of historical heritage items

Non-Aboriginal heritage items may include archaeological 'relics' or other historical items (i.e. works, structures, buildings or movable objects). Historical relics can consist of single items, dense archaeological deposits, built structures (timbers, stone and/or brick) and landscapes. Historical heritage items/objects can consist of the following materials:

- Ceramic.
- Glass.
- Organic material.
- Leather.
- Metal.
- Synthetic.


**Photo 9 Ceramic plate fragments**


**Photo 10 Glass artefacts**


**Photo 11 Ceramic artefacts**

**Photo 12 Cesspit filled with ash**

**Photo 13** **A drainage system incorporating historical and modern drains**

**Photo 14** **Wall footings (stone/sandstone)**

**Photo 15 Historic well**

**Photo 16 Beehive well**


**Photo 17 Dense artefact deposits**

# Appendix 2 Aboriginal community consultation

This Unexpected Finds Protocol was provided to the RAPs for review for 14 days (14 October 2024 – 28 October 2024). No comments were received during this time.

A copy of the correspondence provided is included following this table.

| No. | Organisation contacted | Date and type of contact | Date and type of response | Response details |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **1** | Tamworth Local Aboriginal Land Council | 14/10/2024, email | - | - |
| **2** | Gomeroi Applicant c/o NTSCorp | 14/10/2024, email | - | - |
| **3** | Confidential Party #1 | 14/10/2024, email | - | - |
| **4** | Confidential Party #2 | 14/10/2024, email | - | - |
| **5** | Didge Ngunawal Clan | 14/10/2024, email | - | - |
| **6** | AT Gomilaroi Cultural Consultancy | 14/10/2024, email | - | - |
| **7** | Konanggo Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Services | 14/10/2024, email | - | - |
| **8** | RAW Cultural Healing | 14/10/2024, email | - | - |
| **9** | Rona Slater | 14/10/2024, email | - | - |
| **10** | Thomas E Dahlstrom | 14/10/2024, email | - | - |
| **11** | Vicky Duncan | 14/10/2024, email | - | - |
| **12** | D F T V Enterprises | 14/10/2024, email | - | - |

# Appendix 3 Agency consultation

The Unexpected Finds Protocol was provided to Heritage NSW on 25 November 2024. Minor comments were received on 6 December 2024 to amend the unexpected finds procedures.

Minor comments were received on 10 January 2025 from DPHI to amend the figures and formatting.

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