INDEPENDENT AUDIT NO. 3 – AUDIT REPORT

ORANA BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM | SSD 45242780

JANUARY 2026

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ABBREVIATIONS / GLOSSARY

Abbreviation/Term	Description
AES	Accommodation and Employment Strategy
Akaysha	Akaysha Energy Pty Ltd
BCA	Building Code of Australia
BC Act	Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (NSW)
BCF	Biodiversity Conservation Fund
BCS	Biodiversity Conservation and Science Group within NSW DCCEEW
BCT	Biodiversity Conservation Trust
BESS	Battery Energy Storage System
BMP	Biodiversity Management Plan
CC	Construction certificate
CCTV	Closed circuit television
CEMP	Construction Environment Management Plan
Conditions	Minister's conditions of consent
CONVA	Construction & Operational Noise & Vibration Assessment
DCCEEW CPHR	NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water - Conservation Programs, Heritage and Regulation Group
DPHI or Department	Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (former Department of Planning and Environment)
DRC	Dubbo Regional Council
DoE	Department of Education NSW
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EP&A Act	Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (NSW)
EPA	NSW Environment Protection Authority
FRNSW	Fire and Rescue NSW
HBT	Hollow bearing tree
IA	Independent Audit
IAPAR	Independent Audit Post Approval Requirements 2020
kL	Kilolitre or 1,000 litres
MOD	Modification (Modification of the SSD)
NHVR	National Heavy Vehicle Regulator
OOHW	Out of hours work
OSOM	Oversize and/or over mass
the Project	The Development as described in the EIS and approved under SSD 45242780
RFS	Rural Fire Service
RMU	Ring main unit

Abbreviation/Term	Description
RtS	Response to Submissions
SSD	State Significant Development
TfNSW	Transport for NSW
TMP	Traffic Management Plan

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Akaysha Energy Pty Ltd (Akaysha) is developing a large-scale Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) in central-west NSW within the Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zone (REZ). Known as the Orana BESS (the Project), the Project is located approximately two kilometres north-east of Wellington in the Dubbo Regional local government area, will have a capacity of 415MW, and provide 4 hours or 1660MWh of energy storage.

Development Consent for the Project was granted under section 4.38 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act) (State Significant Development (SSD) 45242780) by the Executive Director of Energy, Resource and Industry Assessments of the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (the Department), as delegate of the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces on 22 December 2023, subject to Conditions of Consent (conditions). The Project was modified on the 26 September 2024 (MOD 1) to provide for additional construction laydown area and additional permanent fill batter around the southern extent of the BESS, and on the 3 August 2024 (MOD 2) to amend the development footprint and biodiversity offset requirements.

CPP has been engaged as the principal construction contractor. CPP subcontracted the Goolma Road intersection works to FKG. Construction of the Goolma Road upgrade works started on the 29 August 2024 and other Project works commenced on the 11 September 2024. Construction of the Project is forecasted for completion in mid-2026.

This Audit was undertaken in accordance with the SSD 45242780 Condition C14, and the Department's 2020 document titled *Independent Audit Post Approval Requirements* (IAPAR). The Audit seeks to verify compliance with the relevant conditions and assess the effectiveness of environmental management on the Project. It is consistent with the scope, methodology and reporting requirements of the IAPAR.

This Audit Report presents the outcomes of the third independent audit (IA3) for the construction of the Project covering the period from 5 June 2025 to 10 December 2025 (the 'audit period'). Works undertaken during this period included completion of bulk earth works, completion of Wellington substation works (330 kw installed), all 448 battery units received and placed on slabs, 112 step-up transformers received and tested, internal access roads completed, 16 Ring Main Units delivered and installed, all light poles installed, foundation of Operational & Maintenance Building installed, final perimeter fencing commenced and electrical works ongoing. The site inspection was conducted on 10 December 2025.

The overall outcome of the audit was positive. Compliance records were generally organised and available at the time of the site inspection, during interviews with Akaysha and upon request to the auditee. Relevant compliance documentation and records were being collected and reported as required under the SSD to provide verification of compliance with statutory requirements. No reportable incidents were recorded during the audit period. No complaints reported during the reporting period. Some findings and recommendations were made during the audit and are reported in Appendix A, Section 3.2 and summarised below.

Summary of Findings

In summary:

- There were sixty-five (65) Conditions assessed.
- Forty-eight (48) Conditions were considered by the Auditor to be compliant.

- Three (3) non-compliances were identified during this Audit, related to:
    - Occasional exceedance of light vehicle movements during peak hour (B1);
    - Revision of plans prepared under the SSD (C24); and
    - project website content (C20).

  The three (3) non-compliances were closed prior to completing this audit.
- Five (5) observations were made related to:
    - Four (4) related to the project website content (A3) (two of them were closed prior to completing this audit); and
    - implementation of the erosion and sediment control plan (B27).
- Fourteen (14) Conditions were considered by the Auditor to be not triggered.
- All findings from the second independent audit (IA2) were closed.

Detailed findings are presented in Section 3 and Appendix A, along with the adequacy of management plans and the actions taken by the project team to address the audit findings.

The Auditor would like to thank the auditees for their high level of organisation, cooperation, and assistance during the Audit.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project overview

Akaysha Energy Pty Ltd (Akaysha) is developing a large-scale Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) in central-west NSW within the Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zone (REZ). Known as the Orana BESS (the Project), the Project is located approximately two kilometres north-east of Wellington in the Dubbo Regional local government area, and will have a capacity of 415MW and provide 4 hours or 1660MWh of energy storage.

The site is located in 6945 Goolma Road, Montefiores, NSW 2080, in land described as Lots 1 and 2 DP 1226751, Lot 2 DP 1136578 and part of the Goolma Road corridor. The regional context of the site is shown in Figure 1.

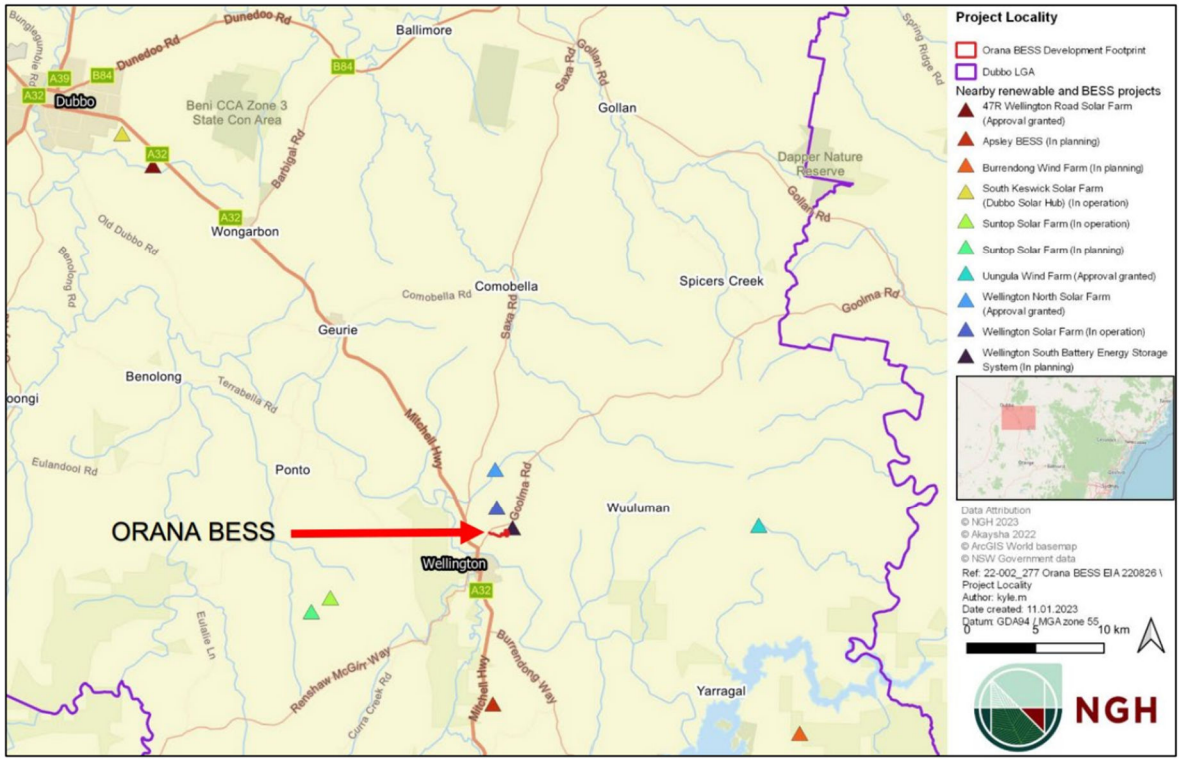


Figure 1: Regional Context Map (Source: Assessment Report, DPHI November 2023)

Development Consent for the Project was granted under section 4.38 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act) (State Significant Development (SSD) 45242780) by the Executive Director of Energy, Resource and Industry Assessments of the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (the Department), as delegate of the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces on 22 December 2023, subject to Conditions of Consent (conditions).

The Project, as approved, includes:

- A BESS, with a nominal capacity of 415 MW / 1660 MWh

- Lithium-ion storage technology
- Approximately 448 BESS units, 112 step-up (MV) transformers, and up to 20 ring main units (RMUs)
- A substation and switchyard, up to two 330 kilovolt (kV) / 33 kV power transformers connecting the BESS to the existing TransGrid substation
- Underground transmission line, rated at 330 kV and approximately 400 metres (m) in length, from the Orana substation to the existing Wellington substation
- Associated operations and maintenance building, site office, switch room and control room
- Site access via Goolma Road
- Internal access tracks
- Security lighting, CCTV and fencing
- Water tanks

The Project was amended on the 26 September 2024 (MOD 1) by the Director Energy Assessments of the Department to provide for additional construction laydown area and additional permanent fill batter around the southern extent of the BESS. A second modification was approved by the Director Energy Assessments on 3 September 2025 (MOD 2) to include the TransGrid substation to which the BESS will connect within the Project footprint and to modify the current offset obligation to replace the species credits for *Prasophyllum sp. Wybong* with an equivalent credit requirement *for Prasophyllum sp. Petilum*.

The General Development Layout (as amended in MOD 2) is shown in Figure 2.

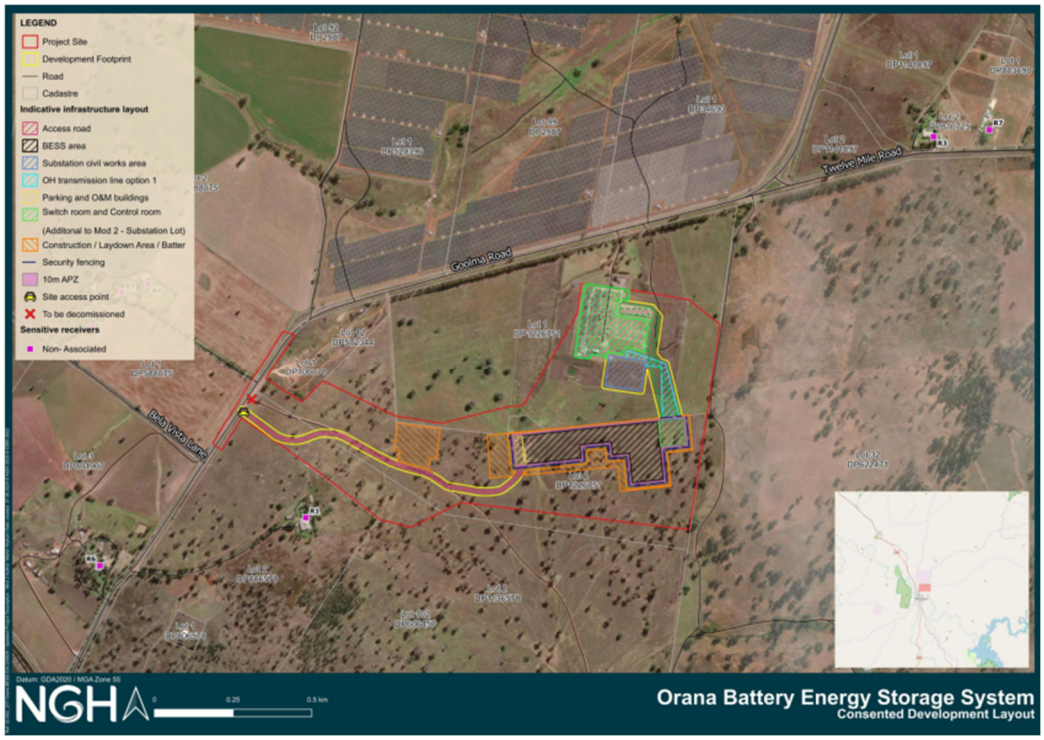


Figure 2: General Development Footprint (Source: NGH's Modification 2 Report, June 2025)

The BESS layout is shown in Figure 3.

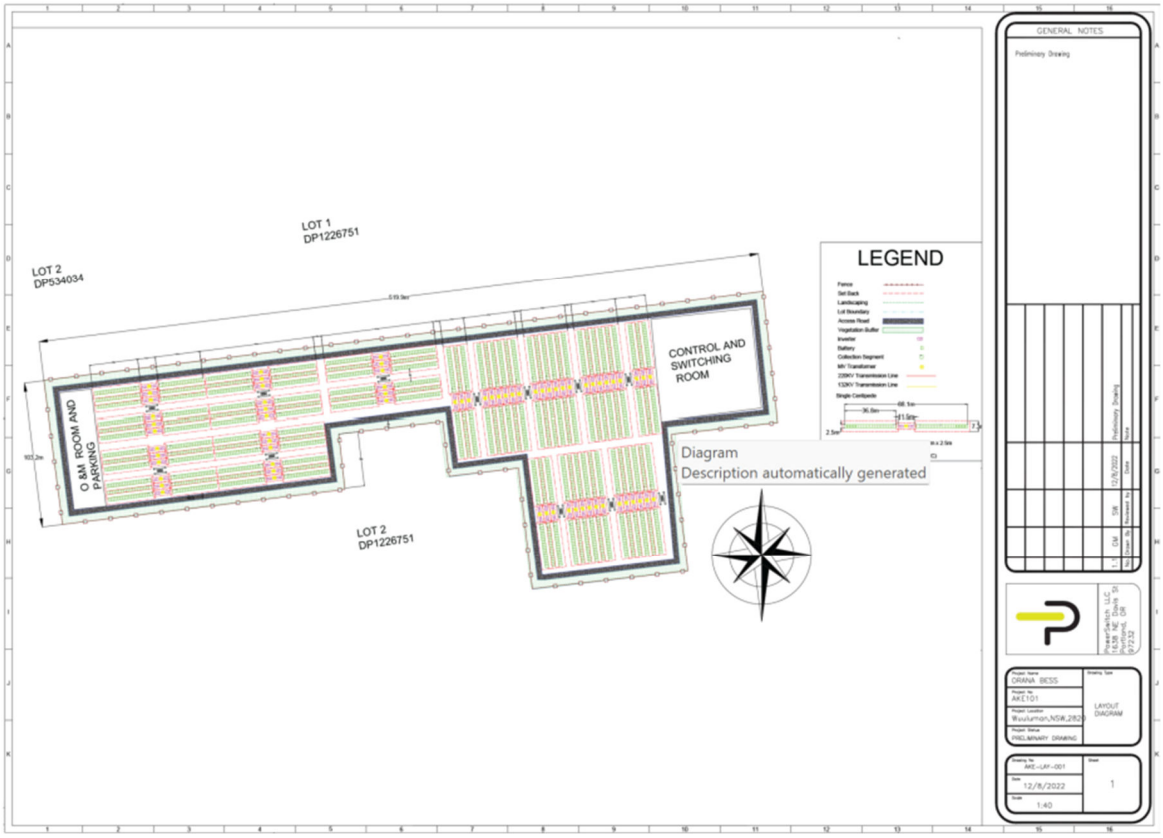


Figure 3: BESS Site Layout (Source: NGH's Modification 2 Report, June 2025)

CPP has been engaged as the principal construction contractor. CPP subcontracted the Goolma Road intersection works, now completed, to FKG. Maltby Certification Group is the Project certifier.

Construction activities commenced in August 2024 and are forecasted for completion in mid-2026.

This Audit Report presents the outcomes of the third independent audit (IA3) for the construction of the Project covering the period from 5 June 2025 to 10 December 2025 (the 'audit period'). Works undertaken during this period included completion of bulk earth works, completion of Wellington substation works (330 kw installed), all 448 battery units received and placed on slabs, 112 step-up transformers received and tested, internal access roads completed, 16 Ring Main Units delivered and installed, all light poles installed, foundation of Operational & Maintenance Building installed, final perimeter fencing commenced and electrical works ongoing.

The site inspection was conducted on 10 December 2025.

1.2 Approval requirements for Independent Audit

SSD 45242780 Conditions set out the requirements for undertaking Independent Audits. The Conditions give effect to the Department's 2020 version of the document titled *Independent Audit Post Approval Requirements* (IAPAR).

1.3 Audit Team

In accordance with Section 3.1 of the IAPAR, Independent Auditors must be suitably qualified, experienced and independent of the Project, and appointed by the Planning Secretary.

The Lead Auditor was approved by the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI or the Department) on the 10 December 2024. The letter of approval is presented in Appendix B and auditor's independence declaration is attached in Appendix F.

The approved Lead Auditor:

- Ricardo Prieto-Curiel (Lead Auditor): Exemplar Global Certified Lead Environmental Auditor (Certificate No 15160). Registered Environmental Assessment Practitioner, Master's in environmental Toxicology.

1.4 Audit Objectives

The objective of this Audit was to undertake the second construction phase independent Audit in accordance with the requirements of the IAPAR and the SSD 45242780 Schedule 2, Condition C14 which states:

> *Independent Audits of the development must be conducted and carried out in accordance with the Independent Audit Post Approval Requirements (2020) or as updated from time to time and published on the Department's website.*

This Audit seeks to fulfill the requirements of Condition C14 verify compliance with the relevant Conditions and assess the effectiveness of environmental management on the Project.

1.5 Audit Scope

This Audit Report presents the outcomes of the third independent audit (IA3) for the construction of the Project covering the period from 5 June 2025 to 10 December 2025(the 'audit period').

This Audit adopts the scope defined within the IAPAR 2020, being:

- "An assessment of compliance with:
  - all conditions of consent applicable to the phase of the development that is being audited; and
  - all post approval and compliance documents prepared to satisfy the conditions of consent, including an assessment of the implementation of Environmental Management Plans and Sub-plans.
- A review of the environmental performance of the development, including but not necessarily limited to, an assessment of:
  - actual impacts compared to predicted impacts documented in the environmental impact assessment
  - the physical extent of the development in comparison with the approved boundary

- incidents, non-compliances and complaints that occurred or were made during the audit period
- the performance of the development having regard to agency policy and any particular environmental issues identified through consultation carried out when developing the scope of the audit, and
- feedback received from the Department, and other agencies and stakeholders, on the environmental performance of the project during the audit period.

- A review of the status of implementation of previous Independent Audit findings recommendations and actions (if any)
- A high-level assessment of whether Environmental Management Plans and Sub-plans are adequate, and
- Any other matters considered relevant by the auditor or the Department, considering relevant regulatory requirements and legislation, knowledge of the development's past performance."

2. AUDIT METHODOLOGY

2.1 Audit Process Overview

The Audit was conducted in a manner consistent with *AS/NZS ISO 19011.2019 – Guidelines for Auditing Management Systems* and the methodology set out in the Department's IAPAR.

2.2 Audit Process Detail

2.2.1 Audit initiation

Prior to the commencement of the Audit the following tasks were completed:

- Establish initial contact with the auditee
- Confirm the audit team
- Confirm the audit purpose, scope and criteria.

2.2.2 Preparing audit activities

The Auditor performed a document review, prepared an audit plan, and prepared work documents (audit checklists) and distributed to the Project team in preparation for the Audit.

2.2.3 Consultation

WolfPeak consulted with the Department on 18 November 2025 to obtain their input into the scope of the Independent Audit and confirmation on whether other stakeholders should be consulted, in accordance with the guidance provided under Section 3.2 of the IAPAR. The Department responded on the 19 November 2025. A summary of feedback provided from the Department is shown in Table 1 and the correspondence with the Department in Appendix C.

In addition, the Department requested that consultation be undertaken with the Local Council (Dubbo regional Council), Environment Protection Authority (EPA), Transport NSW (TfNSW), NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW)'s Conservation Programs, Heritage and Regulation (NSW DCCEEW CPHR), Heritage NSW, Water Group of DCCEEW, NSW Rural Fire Service and Community Consultative Committee (CCC). WolfPeak consulted with the above stakeholders on the 8 May 2025. A summary of the feedback provided from these stakeholders is shown in Table 1 and the corresponding correspondence is provided in Appendix C.

Table 1: Areas of focus raised during consultation

Stakeholder	Areas of Focus	How was addressed
Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure	Requested to address/review the following aspect:	
	– the Audit needs to ensure that it addresses all conditions of consent for the Project and meet the requirements of the Independent Audit Post Approval Requirements (DPIE, 2020). https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/2023-02/independent-audit-par-202005.pdf	Appendix A, Section 1.4
	– Ensure you assess compliance with all conditions of consent applicable to the phase of the development that is being audited and all post approval and compliance documents prepared to satisfy the conditions of consent, including management plans.	Appendix A
	– Review the environmental performance of the development including; actual impacts compared to predicted impacts, incidents, non-compliances, complaints, the physical extent of the development in comparison with the approved boundary.	Sections 3.8, 3.6 and 3.7
	– A high-level assessment and review of Environmental Management Plans and Subplans and whether they are adequate, specifically the Biodiversity Management Plan.	Section 3.3
	– Ensuring all notifications have been carried out, e.g. incident/non-compliance reporting, commencement of construction/operation etc.	Sections 3.7, Appendix A
	– Ensuring all environmental controls have been installed, maintained and are adequate, specifically in relation to managing water, noise and dust.	Section 3.3, Appendix A
	– Biodiversity impacts on site addressed appropriately, particularly prior to commencing constructions activities e.g. clearance protocols met.	Section 3.5, Appendix A, IA1
	– Details of the works that have been undertaken so far at the Project.	Section 1.1, Appendix A
	– Sediment and erosion controls are installed and in accordance with the requirements of Managing Urban Stormwater: Soils and Construction (Landcom, 2004) and the relevant management plans.	Section 3.3, Appendix A (B27)
	– If there are any required development exclusion zones, have they been installed prior to works commencing and are they adequate.	Appendix A (B23, B14)
	– Are accurate records are being kept, specifically in relation to community complaints and actions.	Section 3.6, Appendix A
	– In relation to out-of-hours works and requests ensure the activities have been documented appropriately and undertaken as per the approvals given.	Appendix A (B16, B17)
	– Consult the following agencies: o Local Council – Dubbo Regional Council o Environment Protection Authority o Transport for NSW o NSW DCCEEW CPHR o Heritage NSW o Water Group of DCCEEW	Section 2.2.3, Section 3.5, Appendix C

Stakeholder	Areas of Focus	How was addressed
	○ NSW Rural Fire Service ○ Community Consultative Committee – NSW Planning's Compliance Team has received information from the Project demonstrating they have now achieved compliance with Schedule 2 Condition B12 that was an outstanding item for the previous Audit #2. The project advised this matter has now been closed out noting the following: The project, as modified, allows for the retirement of 13 credits of Prasophyllum Petilum. The second attachment provides confirmation of payment into the Biodiversity Conservation Trust for 13 credits for Prasophyllum Petilum. – To date no other non-compliances and /or incidents have been reported. – This email is to be appended to the Audit Report. – The Proponent should review the Audit Report prior to submission to NSW Planning, to ensure all the requirements of the Consent relating to Independent Environmental Audits have been met. – Lead auditor to attend site inspections and interviews	Noted Noted Appendix C Section 2.2.11 Section 2.2, Appendix D
Dubbo Regional Council	The Dubbo Regional Council was consulted on 24 November 2025 and responded on 7 January 2025. It indicated that Council Officers have reviewed your request and provide the following comments: That the Audit ensures that all required statutory approvals, particularly Construction Certificates and any Section 68 approvals under the Local Government Act have been obtained prior to those works being undertaken. It has been Council's experience that State Significant Developments are notorious for failures by the builder and contractors to obtain the prerequisite approvals. A Planning Agreement was entered into on 19 August 2024, as per Condition A15 https://www.dubbo.nsw.gov.au/Builders-Developers/Planning-Controls-Tools-and-Resources/planning-agreements Council provided comments on the Accommodation and Employment Strategy on 10 April 2024, in accordance with the consultation requirement in Condition B34. The applicant has wanted to meet lately to provide ongoing updates about its implementation, but Council does not have the resources to accommodate their request. That the Audit confirms that all required biodiversity credits were retired prior to the commencement of work, as per Conditions B12 & B13, and that the required Biodiversity Management Plan as per Condition B14 has been prepared.	Section 3.5 and Appendix A Noted Noted Section 3.5 and Appendix A

Stakeholder	Areas of Focus	How was addressed
Environment Protection Authority (EPA)	The EPA was consulted on 24 November 2025 and provided a response on 16 December 2025 noting that they are satisfied with the scope outlined in Section 3.3 of the IAPAR and have no comments or feedback.	Appendix A
Transport for NSW	TfNSW was consulted on 24 November 2025 and provided a response on 16 December 2025, requesting that the following matters be addressed within the audit: – Review of the current operation of the access intersection and compliance with the increase in traffic volume as per the agreed secretary approval dated 16 April 2025. – Compliance with the requirements of the Traffic Management Plan – Compliance with conditions of consent particularly Part B conditions B1 to B10.	Section 3.5, Appendix A
NSW DCCEEW CPHR	NSW DCCEEW CPHR was consulted on 24 November 2025 and a response was provided in letter dated 27 November 2025. CPHR noted that the scope of WolfPeak's audit will include assessment of compliance with the development consent conditions including those relevant to the Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP), Masked Owl Management Plan, biodiversity offset obligations and impact management. These are key issues that CPHR would like investigated. We also suggest that confirmation be provided that the vegetation buffers (landscape screening) at the locations identified in the figure in Appendix 1 of the project consent have been established.	Section 3.5, Appendix A
Heritage NSW	Heritage NSW was consulted on 24 November 2025 and a response was provided on 2 December 2025. Heritage NSW requested to consider as a part of the audit scope any conditions relating to heritage within the Conditions of Consent for the project and any approved Management Plans. It is recommended that the Department of Planning Housing and infrastructure Compliance Team be contacted via compliance@planning.nsw.gov.au to determine if there is any non-compliance with Conditions of Consent for the project.	Section 3.5, Appendix A
Water Group of DCCEEW	NSW DCCEEW Water Group was consulted on 24 November 2025 and a response was provided in letter dated 8 December 2025. NSW DCCEEW Water Group requested that the audit addresses compliance with the following specific elements of the consent conditions and related legislative requirements in a manner consistent with the above audit scope: – The requirement to prepare and implement management plans that relate to water sources and their dependent ecosystems and users, and associated impact management and mitigation. These plans may include:	Section 3.5, Appendix A

Stakeholder	Areas of Focus	How was addressed
	○ Water Management Plans and related sub-plans e.g., Site Water Balance, Erosion and Sediment Control Plan, Stormwater Management Plan, Surface and Groundwater Management Plan. ○ Extraction Plans and related sub-plans e.g., Water Management Plan, Subsidence Management Plan. – The requirement to prepare and implement trigger action response plans for water source impacts which set clearly defined limits and actions. This is to be reported on within annual and exceedance-based reporting. – Water supply availability is clearly defined for the project. – Water take at the site via storage, diversion, interception or extraction is clearly documented and is authorised by a relevant Water Access Licence or exemption under the Water Management (General) Regulation 2025. Consideration is also to be given to the relevance of excluded works at the site with reference to the factsheet at the following link: https://water.dpie.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0008/554444/la-interpreting-excluded-works-dams-fact-sheet.pdf – Water metering at the site is in accordance with the NSW Non-Urban Metering Framework where relevant. – Water Access Licence/s used to account for water take by the project nominates the work where the water is being taken from. – Annual reporting clearly documents; 1) water take, use and water source impacts, 2) compares results with previous years, and 3) identifies exceedances and how these are managed/mitigated.	
NSW Rural Fire Service	NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) was consulted on 24 November 2025 and responses were provided on the 16 December 2025 and on the 23 December 2025. RFS indicated: The approved project involves the development of a 400 megawatt (MW) BESS with 4 hour duration and associated infrastructure. The modification seeks to increase the development footprint of the project within the current site to provide an additional temporary construction laydown area and permanent fill batters around the southern extent of the BESS. The development relates to power generating works which is considered to be hazardous industry and must be addressed against the provisions of Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2019 (in particular section 8.3.9). There is no objection to the proposal subject to assessment against the requirements of Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2019. The NSW Rural Fire Service are not involved in the compliance of applications. 6.5 Hazards - Bushfire of the supporting document Environmental Impact Assessment Orana Battery Energy Storage System, prepared by NGN, Project Number: 22-277, dated April 2023, under the headings Risk and incident management and Mitigation measures, identify risks and appropriate bush fire mitigation measures that consider Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2019. I expect that as part of the audit you will ensure that the identified asset protection zones,	Noted Section 3.5, Appendix A

Stakeholder	Areas of Focus	How was addressed
	access provisions, water supplies and emergency evacuation plans are in place amongst the other listed bush fire mitigation measures the supported the proposal.	
Community Consultative Committee (CCC)	There is no CCC for the project, neither the SSD requires one.	N/A

Note: Consultation records are presented in Appendix C.

2.2.4 Meetings

The opening meeting was held on 10 December 2025 at the construction site project offices with project personnel and the WolfPeak auditor. During the opening meeting, the objectives and scope of the Audit, the resources required, overview of the project and status of the works and methodology to be applied were discussed.

A closing meeting was carried out on the 10 December 2025. The preliminary audit findings were presented, recommendations (as appropriate) were made, and any post-audit actions were confirmed. The opening and closing meetings attendance sheet is provided in Appendix D.

2.2.5 Interviews

The Auditor conducted interviews on 10 December 2025 with key Project personnel during and following the site inspection. During the inspection key personnel involved in on-site Project delivery, including those with responsibilities for environmental management, who could assist on verifying the compliance status of the development were interviewed.

All other communication was conducted remotely, which included a detailed request for information and auditee responses to the request. The names of personnel interviewed during the audit are provided in Table 2.

Table 2: Audit meeting personnel interviewed

Name	Role	Organisation
Lachlan Dowling	Project Manager	Akaysha
Rob Meyers	Construction Manager	Akaysha

CPP's Environmental Manager attended the site inspection.

2.2.6 Site inspection

The on-site audit activities included an inspection of the work activities including the completed Goolma Road intersection, the battery units area (with all units in place), boundary fencing and buffer areas, cleared areas, tree protection and heritage protection zones and the like to verify implementation of mitigation measures from the CEMP and subplans relevant to the works taking place at the time of the inspection.

The site inspection was conducted on 10 December 2025 and detailed observations are discussed in Section 3 and Appendix A. Photos taken during the inspections are presented in Appendix E.

2.2.7 Document review

The Audit included investigation and review of Project files, records and documentation that acts as evidence of compliance (or otherwise) with a compliance requirement. The primary documents reviewed are presented in Section 3.1. Evidence gathered during the Audit is referenced in the compliance tables presented in Appendix A.

2.2.8 Generating audit findings

Audit findings were based on verifiable evidence. The evidence included:

- relevant records, documents and reports
- interviews of relevant site personnel
- photographs
- figures and plans
- site inspections of relevant locations, activities and processes.

Section 3 and Appendix A present the general audit findings and recommendations.

2.2.9 Compliance evaluation

The Auditor determined the compliance status of each compliance requirement in the Audit Table in Appendix A, using the descriptors below:

Table 3: Compliance status descriptors

Status	Description
Compliant	The Auditor has collected sufficient verifiable evidence to demonstrate that all elements of the requirement have been complied with within the scope of the audit.
Compliant	WolfPeak considers that it is the role of the Certifier or other authority / expert to verify compliance with this condition and has marked this requirement as compliant on the basis of their assessment or advice.
Non-compliant	The Auditor has determined that one or more specific elements of the conditions or requirements have not been complied with within the scope of the audit.

Not Triggered	A requirement has an activation or timing trigger that has not been met at the time when the audit is undertaken, therefore an assessment of compliance is not relevant.

Observations and notes may also be made to provide context, identify opportunities for improvement or highlight positive initiatives.

2.2.10 Evaluation of post approval documentation

The Auditor assessed whether post approval documents:

- have been developed in accordance with the Conditions and their content is adequate
- have been implemented in accordance with the Conditions.

The adequacy of post approval documents was determined on the basis of whether:

- there are any non-compliances resulting from the implementation of the document
- whether there are any opportunities for improvement.

2.2.11 Completing the audit

The Audit Report was distributed to the Applicant to check factual matters and for input into actions in response to findings (where relevant). The Auditor retained the right to make findings or recommendations based on the facts presented.

The Auditor's findings have been determined independent of the auditees, the Department and any other parties, based on the evidence assessed during the audit.

3. AUDIT FINDINGS

3.1 Approvals and documents audited, and evidence sighted

The documents audited comprised those prepared under the conditions from Schedule 2 of SSD 45242780 applicable to the works being undertaken at the time of the Audit. The primary documents reviewed during the audit are as follows:

- *Development Consent SSD 45242780, dated 22 December 2023 and amended on 26 September 2024 MOD 1 and on 3 August 2025 (MOD 2) (the Consent).*
- *Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Orana BESS, dated April 2023 by NGH.*
- Modification Report Orana Battery Energy Storage System Mod 1, dated June 2024 by NGH
- Modification Application Orana Battery Energy Storage System Mod 2, dated June 2025 by NGH
- Environmental Management Strategy Orana BESS – (rev D dated 30 July 2024 and rev E dated 16 January 2026) prepared by WSP.
- Biodiversity Management Plan Orana BESS (rev H dated 5 March 2025 and rev I dated 21 January 2026) prepared by WSP (the BMP) and attachments including the Masked Owl Management Plan.
- Orana Battery Energy Storage System Accommodation and Employment Strategy (Rev C, dated 15 July 2024) prepared by Consolidated Power Projects (the AES).
- Akaysha Chance Finds Protocol, Version 3 dated 12 July 2024, prepared by Virtus Heritage.
- Stage 1 Traffic Management Plan Rev L 19 September 24 prepared by Amber Traffic & Transportation Direction.
- Stage 2a Traffic Management Plan Rev C 7 March 2025 prepared by Amber Traffic & Transportation Direction.
- Stage 2b Traffic Management Plan Rev A 17 April 2025 prepared by Amber Traffic & Transportation Direction.
- Construction Certificate No. CCMCG40/2025/02 issued on 21 May 2025 by James Maltby of Maltby Certification Group for the Wellington Substation extension and supporting electrical infrastructure associated with the BESS
- Construction Certificate No. CCMCG40/2025 issued on 14 February 2025 by James Maltby of Maltby Certification Group Pty Ltd for the BESS including ancillary Switchgear and Control Buildings
- Project Website https://community.akayshaenergy.com/orana-bess
- Complaints Management System in Project Website.

All records and evidence sighted against each condition are detailed within Appendix A.

3.2 Summary of Compliance

All findings from previous audits that remained open at the completion of the second independent audit (IA2) have been closed during this audit (refer to Table 4).

Table 5, presents the summary of compliance and recommended actions in response to each of the findings from this Audit. Detailed findings against each requirement are presented in Appendix A.

In summary:

- There were sixty-five (65) Conditions assessed.
- Forty-eight (48) Conditions were considered by the Auditor to be compliant.
- Three (3) non-compliances were identified during this Audit, related to:
    - Occasional exceedance of light vehicle movements during peak hour (B1);
    - Revision of plans prepared under the SSD (C24); and
    - project website content (C20).

  The three (3) non-compliances were closed prior to completing this audit.
- Five (5) observations were made related to:
    - Four (4) related to the project website content (A3) (two of them were closed prior to completing this audit); and
    - implementation of the erosion and sediment control plan (B27).
- Fourteen (14) Conditions were considered by the Auditor to be not triggered.

Table 4: Status of previous audit findings during IA3

<table>
<tr><th>Item ID</th><th>Ref.</th><th>Category</th><th>Condition / Requirement</th><th>Finding</th><th>Recommendation[1] / Applicant Action</th><th>Status[2]</th></tr>
<tr>
<td>IA2-01</td>
<td>B12</td>
<td>Non-compliance</td>
<td>
Biodiversity Offsets

Prior to carrying out any development that could directly or indirectly impact the biodiversity values requiring offset, the Applicant must retire biodiversity credits of a number and class specified in Table 1 below. The retirement of these credits must be carried out in accordance with the NSW Biodiversity Offsets Scheme and can be achieved by:
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; or
c)funding a biodiversity conservation action that benefits the entity impacted and is listed in the ancillary rules of the biodiversity offset scheme.

Table 1: Species Credit Requirements
<table>
<tr><th>Species Credit Species</th><th>Credits Required</th></tr>
<tr><td>Pink-tailed Legless Lizard (Aprasia parapulchella)</td><td>49</td></tr>
<tr><td>Superb parrot (Polytelis swainsonii)</td><td>46</td></tr>
<tr><td>Masked Owl (Tyto novaehollandiae)</td><td>33</td></tr>
<tr><td>Key's Matchstick Grasshopper (Keyacris scurra)</td><td>7</td></tr>
<tr><td>Ausfeld's Wattle (Acacia ausfeldii)</td><td>9</td></tr>
<tr><td>Tumut Grevillea (Grevillea wilkinsonii)</td><td>13</td></tr>
<tr><td>Prasophyllum sp. ~~Wybong~~ Petilum</td><td>13</td></tr>
<tr><td>Silky Swainson pea (Swainsona sericea)</td><td>9</td></tr>
<tr><td>Small Purple pea (Swainsona recta)</td><td>9</td></tr>
<tr><td>Euphrasia arguta</td><td>10</td></tr>
</table>
</td>
<td>
Non-compliance: A Non-Compliance Notification Letter (NGH, 14 April 2025) was submitted to the Department, noting that payments made into the Biodiversity Conservation Fund—intended to satisfy the obligations under Condition B12 for the retirement of biodiversity credits—were completed in error, as they did not include Prasophyllum sp. Wybong. It indicated that the Biodiversity Conservation Trust (BCT) had advised that payments to the Biodiversity Conservation Fund can only be accepted for liabilities under the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (BC Act). Prasophyllum sp. Wybong is only listed under the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (and not under the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016) and therefore the BCT cannot accept a payment for this species..

DPHI, in letter dated 1/05/25, responded to the above matter indicating that the non-compliance report generally satisfied the reporting requirements of C11. DPHI acknowledged that a resolution of the issue is still underway at the time of the notification and the Proponent is working with DCCEEW to resolve this matter. It also required that withing 2 months of the DPHI letter, a report be submitted to DPHI outlining the consultations with relevant department to resolve and / or achieve compliance with Condition B12.

Further to the above, prior to completing this audit report the Applicant advised that it agreed with DCCEEW and DPHI to prepare and submit a Modification of the SSI to address this non-compliance by modifying the current offset obligation (refer to Appendix A B12 for further details).
</td>
<td>
No recommendation for this non-compliance required as the Proponent is currently working with the Department and Commonwealth DCCEEW to resolve the non-compliance by means of a Modification Application. The finding remains open until the Modification is submitted and then approved by DPHI.

December 2025 Update: A Modification Application (MOD2) was submitted by the Applicant and subsequently approved by DPHI on 3/08/2025 which amended the offset obligation by replacing Prasoplhyllum sp. for Prasophyllum Petilum. Further, the Department advised the Auditor that it had received confirmation of payment into the Biodiversity Conservation trust for 13 credits for Prasophyllum Petilum (refer to Appendix C). This item is closed
</td>
<td>CLOSED</td>
</tr>
</table>

IA2-04	C20	Non-compliance	***Access to Information*** *The Applicant must:* *a) make the following information publicly available on its website as relevant to the stage of the development:* *i. the EIS;* *ii. the final layout plans for the development;* *iii. current statutory approvals for the development;* *iv. approved strategies, plans or programs required under the conditions of this consent (other than the Fire Safety Study and Emergency Plan);* *v. the proposed staging plans for the development if the construction, operation and/or decommissioning of the development is to be staged;* *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;* *vii. how complaints about the development can be made;* *viii. any independent environmental audit, and the Applicant's response to the recommendations in any audit; and* *ix. any other matter required by the Planning Secretary; and* *b) keep this information up to date.*	**Non-compliance:** The project website does not include a comprehensive summary of the monitoring results for the development or the Applicant's response to the findings of Independent Audit No. 1.	**Recommendation**: Update the project website and include the monitoring results for the development and the applicant's response to the findings of Independent Audit No. 1. **December 2025 Update:** this non-compliance has been transferred to and amended in IA3 (refer to Table 5) as the response to findings to IA2 has not been uploaded in the Project website. This IA2 finding has been closed and a revised non-compliance against C20 has been included in IA3.	**CLOSED**
IA2-05	B28	Observation	***Fire Safety Study*** *Prior to commencing construction of the battery storage, the Applicant must prepare a Fire Safety Study for the development, to the satisfaction of FRNSW and the Planning Secretary in writing. The study must:* *a) be consistent with the Department's Hazardous Industry Planning Advisory Paper No. 2 'Fire Safety Study' guideline;* *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:* *i. adequate fire safety systems and appropriate water supply;* *ii. separation and / or compartmentalisation of battery units; and* *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.* *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.*	**Observation**: The Fire Safety Study (FSS) required under CoA B28 is yet to be endorsed by FRNSW and approved by the Planning Secretary. The interpretation of the timing of this condition made by the Applicant is that approval is required prior to the installation of the Battery Storage (noting that the timing in other conditions is "prior to construction" and not referring specifically to a project item). The auditor notes that the FSS is an operational related plan and that no batteries have been installed to date. Upon request from Akaysha FRNSW indicated on the 13 June 2025 that it supports in-principle the staging of the FSS to allow FRNSW endorsement of the FSS prior to energisation of the Project as long the BESS units are stored in accordance with FRNSW Position Station. .	**Recommendation**: discuss with the Department and agree on the timing of FRNSW endorsement and Department's approval of the FSS **December 2025 Update:** In correspondence dated 24 June 2025, DPHI advised the Applicant that it did not approve the staging of the Fire Safety Study or the storage of battery units on site at this stage as requested by the Applicant in submission dated 16 June 2025. Subsequently, the Fire Safety Study was finalized to the satisfaction of Fire and Rescue NSW and in correspondence dated 25 July 2025 DPHI approved the Fire Safety Study (Rev 9, dated 10 July 2025).	**CLOSED**

IA2-06	B34	Observation	***Accommodation and Employment Strategy*** *Prior to commencing construction, the Applicant must prepare an Accommodation and Employment Strategy for the development in consultation with Council and Mid-Western Regional Council. This strategy must:* *a) propose measures to ensure there is sufficient accommodation for the workforce associated with the development;* *b) consider the cumulative impacts associated with other State significant development projects in the area;* *c) investigate options for prioritising the employment of local workers for the construction and operation of the development, where feasible; and* *d) 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.* *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.*	**Observation**: Project records indicate that the Applicant has not implemented some of the commitments of the Accommodation and Employment Strategy (AES) during the reporting period. There are no records of monthly meetings with Councils, or evidence of attendance to community meetings and liaison with local businesses during the reporting period.	**Recommendation**: Ensure that the AES is implemented during the entire construction period. **December 2025 Update:** As part of the IA3 audit consultation, Council advised that the Applicant has requested Council to meet to discuss the implementation of the AES but that Council has not had the resources to accommodate that request. Project records provided by the Applicant indicate that during the audit period the Applicant attempted on several occasions to meet with Council. It is also noted that, CPP has continued monitoring the implementation of the AES, including engagement with local businesses, as shown in the monthly reports to Akaysha	**CLOSED**

1. Auditor's recommendation. The recommended action does not preclude the need for all non-compliances to be reported by the proponent in accordance with the terms of the consent
2. At the time of finalising this Audit Report

Table 5: Status of findings from the Third Independent Audit (IA3)

Item ID	Ref.	Category	Condition / Requirement	Finding	Recommendation[1] / Applicant Action	Status[2]
IA3-01	B1	Non-compliance	***Vehicle Movements*** *The Applicant must ensure that:* *a) the development does not generate more than:* *i. 35 heavy vehicle movements a day during construction, upgrading or decommissioning;* *ii. 30 light vehicle movements, 5 shuttle bus vehicle movements and 5 heavy vehicle movements during the AM (6-7 am) or PM (5-6 pm) project peak hours during construction, upgrading or decommissioning; and* *iii. 6 movements of heavy vehicles requiring escort during construction, upgrading or decommissioning; and* *b) b) the length of any vehicles (excluding heavy vehicles requires escort) used for the development does not exceed 26 metres,* *unless the Planning Secretary agrees otherwise.*	**Non-compliance**: Traffic movement records indicate that peak hour daily light vehicle movements have occasionally exceeded the approved limit of 50 movements during audit period. These include exceedances on the 22, 23,24, 28, 29, 30 and 31 October 2025 and on the 12 and 27 November 2025. (Note: the Department approved an increase in light vehicle movements during peak hours from 30 to 50 movements on the 16 April 2025)	**Recommendation**: Develop and implement measures to ensure that traffic movements meet the limits approved under Condition B1. **Applicant Action:** Following identification of the traffic exceedances, **t**he auditee implemented a range of control measures (i.e. boom gate, vehicle pass, etc) to maintain light vehicle numbers within approved limits (refer to Appendix A Condition B1). No further vehicle breaches have occurred following mitigation measures implementation. The auditor reviewed traffic movement records for December 2025 and confirmed that no further exceedances have occurred. The auditor considered that the auditee has successfully acted upon the occasional light vehicle movement exceedances and considered that the non-compliance can be closed.	**CLOSED**
!A3-02	C2	Non-compliance	***Revision of Strategies, Plans and Programs*** *The Applicant must:* *c) 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* *d) 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:* *i. submission of an incident report under condition C10 of Schedule 2;* *ii. submission of an audit report under condition C14 of Schedule 2; or* *iii. any modification to the conditions of this consent.*	**Non-compliance**: Project's environmental management documents prepared under SSD 45242780, such as the Biodiversity Management Plan or the Environmental Management Strategy), have not been reviewed and revised (if required) within one month of the approval of MOD 2 or the submission of Independent Audit 2.	**Recommendation**: Review the relevant Project's environmental management documents with consideration of MOD 2 (e.g. changes in project footprint, offset species, etc) and any other any other recent Project changes that may impact on the site's management and revise plans as required **Applicant Action**: Prior to completing this audit report, the Applicant reviewed the management plans and updated the EMS and BMP to incorporate MOD 2. The EMS and BMP were submitted to DPHI under Conditions C1 and B14 as indicated in DPHI's emails to the Applicant both dated 23/01/26. The auditor considers this non-compliance closed.	**CLOSED**
IA3-03	C20	Non-compliance	***Access to Information*** *The Applicant must:* *a) make the following information publicly available on its website as relevant to the stage of the development:* *i. the EIS;* *ii. the final layout plans for the development;* *iii. current statutory approvals for the development;*	**Non-compliance:** The project website does not include the applicant's response to the findings of Independent Audits or a comprehensive summary of the monitoring results for the development.	**Recommendation:** Update the project website and include the Applicant's response to the findings of Independent Audits and a comprehensive summary of monitoring results of the development. **Applicant Action:** prior to completing this audit, the auditee uploaded the applicant's response to the findings of IA2 and recent inspection reports. The Auditor considered this non-compliance has been addressed and	**CLOSED**

Item ID	Ref.	Category	Condition / Requirement	Finding	Recommendation[1] / Applicant Action	Status[2]
			iv. approved strategies, plans or programs required under the conditions of this consent (other than the Fire Safety Study and Emergency Plan); *v. the proposed staging plans for the development if the construction, operation and/or decommissioning of the development is to be staged;* *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;* *vii. how complaints about the development can be made;* *viii. any independent environmental audit, and the Applicant's response to the recommendations in any audit; and* *ix. any other matter required by the Planning Secretary; and* *b) keep this information up to date.*		considered closed, but an observation (IA3-08) has been raised in this regard.	
IA3-04	A3	Observation	***Terms of Consent*** *The Applicant must comply with any requirement/s of the Planning Secretary arising from the Department's assessment of:* *a) any strategies, plans or correspondence that are submitted in accordance with this consent;* *b) any reports, reviews or audits commissioned by the Department regarding compliance with this consent; and* *c) the implementation of any actions or measures contained in these documents.*	**Observation**: The Department's approval of Out of Hours Works (OOHW) up to the 30 June 2026 required that the OOHW approval be made publicly available on the Project website at the earliest convenience. However such approval is not directly uploaded in the Project website but available via a link to the NSW Government Planning Portal.	**Recommendation**: Upload the Department's approval of OOHW to the 30 June 2026 issued on the 11 November 2025 in the Project Website.	**OPEN**
IA3-05	A3	Observation	***Terms of Consent*** *The Applicant must comply with any requirement/s of the Planning Secretary arising from the Department's assessment of:* *a) any strategies, plans or correspondence that are submitted in accordance with this consent;* b) *any reports, reviews or audits commissioned by the Department regarding compliance with this consent; and* c) *the implementation of any actions or measures contained in these documents.*	**Observation**: The Department's approval of the Fire Safety study granted on the 25 July 2025 requires the plan to be publicly available on the project website, however Condition C20 indicates that the Applicant must make approved plans publicly available with the exception of the Emergency Plan and the Fire Safety Study. Note: the Fire Safety Study was not publicly available in the project website during the audit period but available via a link to the NSW Government Planning Portal.	**Recommendation**: Clarify with the Department whether the Fire Safety Study requires to be publicly available in the project website. **Applicant action:** Akaysha sought clarification from the Department on 15 January 2026 and the Department in email dated 16 January 2026 clarified that the Fire Safety Study does not need to be uploaded in the website. It also noted that the Department will ensure that the plan is not published in the Department's Planning Portal. This finding is considered closed.	**CLOSED**
IA3-06	A3	Observation	***Terms of Consent*** *The Applicant must comply with any requirement/s of the Planning Secretary arising from the Department's assessment of:* *a) any strategies, plans or correspondence that are submitted in accordance with this consent;* *b) any reports, reviews or audits commissioned by the Department regarding compliance with this consent; and* *c) the implementation of any actions or measures contained in these documents.*	**Observation**: The Department's approval of the Emergency Plan granted on the 24 November 2025 requires the plan to be publicly available on the project website, however Condition C20 indicates that the Applicant must make approved plans publicly available with the exception of the Emergency Plan and the Fire Safety Study. Note: the Emergency Plan was not publicly available in the project website during the audit period	**Recommendation**: Clarify with the Department whether the Emergency Plan requires to be publicly available in the project website. **Applicant action:** Akaysha sought clarification from the Department on 15 January 2026 and the Department in email dated 16 January 2026 clarified that the Emergency Plan does not need to be uploaded in the website. It also noted that the Department will ensure that the plan is not published in the Department's	**CLOSED**

Item ID	Ref.	Category	Condition / Requirement	Finding	Recommendation[1] / Applicant Action	Status[2]
					Planning Portal. This finding is considered closed.	
IA3-07	B27	Observation	***Erosion and Sediment Controls*** *The Applicant must:* *a) minimise any soil erosion and control sediment generation;* *b) ensure the 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 the relevant requirements in the Managing Urban Stormwater: Soils and Construction (Landcom, 2004) manual, or its latest version;* *c) ensure the battery storage and ancillary infrastructure (including security fencing) are designed, constructed and maintained to reduce impacts on surface water, localised flooding and groundwater at the site; and* *d) ensure the battery storage and ancillary infrastructure are designed, constructed and maintained to avoid causing any erosion on site.*	**Observation**: Sediment basin 3 has been removed given that most of its catchment has been stabilised (with gravel or concrete). A partially exposed slope located upstream of the former Sediment Basin 3 and outside the fenced project area does not appear to have sediment and erosion controls other than some minor bunding and partial mound revegetation (refer to Photo 19 in Appendix E)	**Recommendation**: As required, install sediment and erosion controls to manage stormwater flowing from the exposed mound located upstream of the former Sediment basin 3.	**OPEN**
IA3-08	C20	Observation	***Access to Information*** *The Applicant must:* *c) make the following information publicly available on its website as relevant to the stage of the development:* *i. the EIS;* *ii. the final layout plans for the development;* *iii. current statutory approvals for the development;* *iv. approved strategies, plans or programs required under the conditions of this consent (other than the Fire Safety Study and Emergency Plan);* *v. the proposed staging plans for the development if the construction, operation and/or decommissioning of the development is to be staged;* *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;* *vii. how complaints about the development can be made;* *viii. any independent environmental audit, and the Applicant's response to the recommendations in any audit; and* *ix. any other matter required by the Planning Secretary; and* *keep this information up to date.*	**Observation**: The summary of monitoring results uploaded in the project website are recent inspection reports. The Independent Audit reports are not directly uploaded in the project website but through a link to the Major Project's portal where the Independent Audit reports are available. Although the findings of first independent audit are closed, the Applicant's response to the findings of the first independent audit are not uploaded in the project website.	**Recommendation**: Upload in the project website the Independent Audit Reports, the Applicant response to the findings of the first independent audit and a comprehensive summary of monitoring results reported in accordance with approved management plans.	**OPEN**

1. Auditor's recommendation. The recommended action does not preclude the need for all non-compliances to be reported by the proponent in accordance with the terms of the consent.
2. At the time of finalising this Audit Report.

3.3 Adequacy of Environmental Management Plans, sub-plans and post approval documents

A review of the Project 'management plans, including the Environmental Management Strategy (EMS), the BMP, the Traffic Management Plans (TMPs) and the AES (for references refer to Section 3.1) indicated that the plans are generally compliant with the requirements of the SSD-45242780 and generally appropriate for the works undertaken at the time of the audit. A technical non-compliance was raised in this audit regarding revision of the plans in accordance with Condition C2 (refer to Table 5). This non-compliance relates to the failure to review, and if necessary, revise, plans required under the SSD within one month of a modification or submission on an audit report. MOD 2 was approved on the 3 August 2025 and IA2 was issued on the 29 July 2025. Although these reviews are not considered critical to the management of the site, it was recommended that the auditee reviews the relevant Project's environmental management documents (e.g. BMP, EMS) with consideration of MOD 2 (e.g. changes in project footprint, offset species, etc) and any other any other recent Project changes relevant to the site's management and revise plans as required. In response, the auditee reviewed the management plans and updated the EMS and the BMP prior to completing this audit (refer to Table 5).

During the previous audit period, the auditee made a request to the Department to stage the TMP provisions, including a split of Stage 2 as follows:

- Stage 2a: Onsite Construction activities of the BESS comprising of all remaining works, excluding movements with high-risk heavy vehicles requiring escort.
- Stage 2b: remaining movements with high-risk heavy vehicles requiring escort.

The Department approved the request to stage the TMP provisions in correspondence 10 March 2025, requiring that updates to the TMP are made prior to the commencement of each stage. A Stage 2a TMP (7 March 2025) was prepared by Amber, which was approved by the Department on 13 March 2025. A Stage 2b TMP (17 April 2025) was prepared by Amber, which was approved by the Department on 14 May 2025. The audit site inspection and review of project records indicated that the auditee has implemented the TMPs during the audit period. This is further discussed in Section 3.5. It is noted that the Stage 2b TMP included the amended traffic movements approved by the Department under Condition B1. In this regard, a non-compliance was raised in this audit regarding occasional exceedances of peak hour daily light vehicle movements in October 2025 and November 2025 (refer to Table 5). It was recommended that the auditee develops and implements measures to ensure that traffic movements meet the limits approved under Condition B1. In response the auditee implemented a range of control measures (i.e. boom gate, vehicle pass, etc) to maintain light vehicle numbers within approved limits (refer to Appendix A Condition B1). No further vehicle breaches occurred following mitigation measures implementation. The auditor reviewed traffic movement records for December 2025 and confirmed that no further exceedances have occurred.

No clearing occurred during the reporting period. During site inspection, the implementation of the BMP was observed on site including protection of vegetation retained within the site, boundary fencing to protect vegetation outside the disturbance boundary, the presence of nest boxes installed in trees within and adjacent to the site (refer to photos in Appendix E), environmental inspections and environmental induction training.

Other environmental controls were observed to be implemented in accordance with the management plans, including the management of water, noise and dust. No complaints relating to these issues have been received during the audit period. Two (2) water carts are located on site, available on a full-time basis to suppress dust. No dust was observed during the site inspection. Sediment controls are generally in place in accordance with the Project's Erosion and Sediment Control Plan. It includes 2 active sediment basins. The sediment basins were inspected during the audit site inspection (refer to photos in Appendix E). The basins were observed in good condition and evidence of off-site water pollution could be noted. Other sediment and erosion control measures observed included boundary sediment fencing, bunding and drainage to basins. A minor recommendation has been made regarding the installation of sediment and erosion controls in an exposed area in the catchment of former Basin 3 (refer to Table 5).

3.4 Summary of notices from agencies

To the Auditor's knowledge no formal enforcement notices, orders or penalty notices were issued by the Department or other agencies during the audit period.

The auditees noted that there were no written directions from the Planning Secretary other than the responses to documentation submitted for approval or requests as reported in Appendix A. These primarily include DPHI's approval to increase construction hours (refer to B17), DPHI's approval of the Fire Safety Study (refer to B28) and DPHI's approval of the Emergency Plan (refer to B31). The auditee also indicated that DPHI's representatives visited the site on the 25 September 2025 with no issues identified during the inspection.

Communications with the Department and other agencies as part of the implementation of the consent are discussed in Appendix A.

3.5 Other matters considered relevant by the Auditor or DPHI / Agencies / Council

There were no other matters considered relevant by the Auditor.

Feedback provided by the Department is detailed in Section 2.2.3. Table 1 provides details of the Departments consultation feedback and provides references to the section of the audit where each requirement is addressed.

Consultation was undertaken with Council and agencies as requested by the Department (refer to Section 2.2.3 and Appendix C). The auditor's responses to questions or requests made by Council and agencies are addressed below.

Dubbo Regional Council (DRC)

The Dubbo Regional Council was consulted on 24 November 2025 and responded on 7 January 2025. Items raised to include in the audit scope are discussed below.

"That the Audit ensures that all required statutory approvals, particularly Construction Certificates and any Section 68 approvals under the Local Government Act have been obtained prior to those works being undertaken."

Two Construction Certificates have been issued for the project to date:

- Construction Certificate No. CCMCG40/2025 (CC1 14/02/2025): Battery Energy Storage System (400mW) including ancillary Switchgear and Control Buildings
- Construction Certificate No. CCMCG40/2025/02 (CC2) 21/05/2025: Wellington Substation extension and supporting electrical infrastructure associated with the Orana Battery Energy Storage System.

The approved documents under CC2 that the certifier relied on are:

- Long Service Leave Levy $8,902.00 paid 08/11/2024 (Receipt No. L0000169148)
- Structural Engineering Design Plans prepared by TransGrid Project No. WL1200 including Footing Layout & Details for 4m High Light Pole, Concrete Earth wire Pole, Surge Arrestor Supporter Transformer Support, Circuit Breaker & Post Insulator Support.
- Civil Engineering Design Plans prepared by TransGrid Project No. WL1200 including General Notes, Earthworks Bench Plan & Sections, Grading Layout, Demolition Plan, Drainage Layout & Pit.

The auditee advised that no CCs have been issued or required during the current audit period. The auditee advised that a final certificate will be issued at project completion for the remainder of site structures (e.g. buildings).

Further discussion on CCs is provided under Condition A7 and in IA1 and IA2.

"*That the Audit confirms that all required biodiversity credits were retired prior to the commencement of work, as per Conditions B12 & B13, and that the required Biodiversity Management Plan as per Condition B14 has been prepared*".

All biodiversity credits have been retired as explained in detailed in Appendix A. The Biodiversity Management Plan was prepared and approved by DPHI as discussed in Appendix A.

Environment Protection Authority (EPA)

The EPA was consulted on 24 November 2025 and provided a response on 16 December 2025, noting that *"The EPA are satisfied with the scope outlined in Section 3.3 of the IAPAR and have no comments or feedback."*

Transport for NSW

TfNSW was consulted on 24 November 2025 and a response was provided on 16 December 2025. TfNSW requested that the following matters be addressed within the audit:

- "*Review of the current operation of the access intersection and compliance with the increase in traffic volume as per the agreed secretary approval dated 16 April 2025*
- *Compliance with the requirements of the Traffic Management Plan*
- *Compliance with conditions of consent particularly Part B conditions B1 to B10.*"

The audit site inspection and review of project records indicated that the auditee has generally implemented the TMPs (references in Section 3.2) during the audit period. The traffic movement register for June to November 2025 showed that project vehicle movements were within the limits in Condition B1 and those approved by the Department in correspondence dated 16 April 2025 (traffic movement limits are documented in the TMPs) except for some occasional exceedances of

the peak hour daily light vehicle movements in October 2025 and November 2025, which was raised as non-compliance with Condition B1 (refer to Table 5). It was recommended that the auditee develops and implements measures to ensure that traffic movements meet the limits approved under Condition B1. In response, the auditee implemented a range of control measures (i.e. boom gate, vehicle pass, etc) to maintain light vehicle numbers within approved limits (refer to Appendix A Condition B1). No further vehicle breaches occurred following mitigation measures implementation. The auditor reviewed traffic movement records for December 2025 and confirmed that no further exceedances have occurred.

The site is provided with sufficient parking for all vehicles, with no parking on the public road network observed during the site visit or otherwise recorded during the audit period. Speed limits are applied in internal roads, with signage provided for 10km/h and 25km/h speed limits depending on the site road (refer to photos in Appendix E). Five x 14 seater shuttle buses are reportedly operating on site, which were sighted during the site inspection. The use of shuttle buses is documented in the TMPs. Approved travel routes are documented in the TMPs and are implemented through inductions and notifications to truck companies and employees. The auditee implements a Driver's code of conduct which addresses, amongst other items, drivers fatigue, traffic routes and safe driving practices. The access intersection has achieved practical completion and is fully operational. No issues associated with the operation of the intersection have been reported.

No compliance issues were identified during the audit associated with Conditions B2 to B10 (refer to Appendix A).

NSW DCCEEW CPHR

NSW DCCEEW CPHR was consulted on 24 November 2025 and a response was provided in letter dated 27 November 2025. It requested the following:

"CPHR noted that the scope of WolfPeak's audit will include assessment of compliance with the development consent conditions including those relevant to the Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP), Masked Owl Management Plan, biodiversity offset obligations and impact management. These are key issues that CPHR would like investigated.

We also suggest that confirmation be provided that the vegetation buffers (landscape screening) at the locations identified in the figure in Appendix 1 of the project consent have been established."

Site inspection and project records indicate that the auditee has implemented the BMP, Masked Owl Management Plan and retired the SSD's biodiversity offset obligations (refer to Appendix A).

A Modification Application (MOD2) was submitted by the Applicant and subsequently approved by DPHI on 3/08/2025 which amended the offset obligation by replacing *Prasoplhyllum* sp. for *Prasophyllum Petilum*. Further, the Department advised the Auditor that it had received confirmation of payment into the Biodiversity Conservation trust for 13 credits for *Prasophyllum Petilum* (refer to Appendix C), which is the last set of credits requiring retirement for the project.

No clearing has been undertaken during the current audit reporting period. All clearing was undertaken during previous audit periods (for details refer to IA1 and IA2). It is understood that no further clearing is required for the project. During site inspection, the implementation of the BMP and Masked Owl Management Plan was observed on site including protection of vegetation retained within the site, boundary fending to protect vegetation outside the disturbance boundary,

the presence of nest boxes installed in trees within and adjacent to the site (refer to photos in Appendix E), light orientation away from habitat (noting that lights are yet to be commissioned), environmental inspections and environmental induction training. No unexpected biodiversity finds reported during audit period.

The perimeter 10m buffer (10m APZ) shown in the figure in Appendix 1 of the project consent was observed established during the site inspection as shown in photo 16 in Appendix E. This buffer is required under Condition B30c for purpose of fire protection and unobstructed vehicle access. It is not a landscape screening area.

Heritage NSW

Heritage NSW was consulted on 24 November 2025 and a response was provided on 2 December 2025. It requested the following:

"Please consider as a part of the audit scope any conditions relating to heritage within the Conditions of Consent for the project and any approved Management Plans. It is recommended that the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water Compliance Team be contacted via compliance@planning.nsw.gov.au to determine if there is any non-compliance with Conditions of Consent for the project."

Contact was established with compliance@planning.nsw.gov.au as part of the audit consultation.

Conditions B23 and B24 relate to heritage protection, including requirements for the development not to cause any direct or indirect impacts on Aboriginal heritage items located outside the project footprint, and preparation of a Chance Finds Protocol respectively.

As discussed in Appendix A, no unexpected heritage findings have been reported to date. The construction footprint is fenced, and construction works are contained within the site. An exclusion zone (including fencing) has been installed around the culturally modified tree located outside the site and requiring protection under the EIS (refer to Photos in Appendix E and other details provided in Section 3.8 (Table 6)).

A Chance Finds Protocol, Version 3 dated 12 July 2024, was prepared by Virtus Heritage for Akaysha in accordance with Condition B24. The Department, in correspondence dated 19 July 2024 to Akaysha, noted that no further comments on the Chage Finds Protocol (V3) at this time and instructed that the documents be made publicly available on the project website at the earliest convenience. The document is available on the project website

Water Group of DCCEEW

NSW DCCEEW Water Group was consulted on 24 November 2025 and a response was provided in letter dated 8 December 2025.

NSW DCCEEW Water Group requested that the audit address *compliance with the following specific elements of the consent conditions and related legislative requirements in a manner consistent with the above audit scope*:

- *"The requirement to prepare and implement management plans that relate to water sources and their dependent ecosystems and users, and associated impact management and mitigation. These plans may include:*

- *Water Management Plans and related sub-plans e.g., Site Water Balance, Erosion and Sediment Control Plan, Stormwater Management Plan, Surface and Groundwater Management Plan.*
- *Extraction Plans and related sub-plans e.g., Water Management Plan, Subsidence Management Plan."*

SSD 45242780 requires the preparation of an Environmental Management Strategy (EMS) and includes conditions related water supply (B25), water pollution (B26) and operating conditions (B27) including minimisation of soil erosion and sediment generation, reduce impacts on surface water, localised flooding and groundwater. The SSD does not specifically require the preparation of a Water Management Plan, Surface and Groundwater Management Plan, Site Water Balance, Extraction Plan or Subsidence Management Plan. In addition to the EMS, the auditee's contractor prepared a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) (CPP, March 2025) which includes a Water Management Plan and a Soil Erosion, Sedimentation and Drainage Management Plan. A sediment and erosion control plan has been prepared and implemented as discussed in Section 3.3 and Appendix A.

– *"The requirement to prepare and implement trigger action response plans for water source impacts which set clearly defined limits and actions. This is to be reported on within annual and exceedance-based reporting."*

Refer to above. The CPP's CEMP includes criteria for discharges of stormwater captured in the site's sediment basins. SSD 45242780 does not include requirements for annual reporting but requires that non-compliances and incidents be reported to the Department. No incidents or non-compliances related to water have been reported during the reporting period.

– *"Water supply availability is clearly defined for the project."*

Water supply for the project for the purpose of dust suppression is reportedly provided from the site sediment basins and from a register bore located on site. In addition, it is understood that the auditee also purchases town water from Council for other purposes which is trucked to the site. The licence for the groundwater bore issued to the auditor during the audit was referenced as Certificate of Title Water Management Act 2000 Reference number 80AL719238 - WAL Title references WAL35105, WAL40474, WAL35136, WAL41638 issued in 2014, 2020 and 2021). The conditions for the water access licence were not available in the documentation provided.

– *Water take at the site via storage, diversion, interception or extraction is clearly documented and is authorised by a relevant Water Access Licence or exemption under the Water Management (General) Regulation 2025. Consideration is also to be given to the relevance of excluded works at the site with reference to the factsheet at the following link: https://water.dpie.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0008/554444/la-interpreting-excluded - works-dams-fact-sheet/pdf*

Refer to above. Water consumption data and records were not provided to the auditor. The site's sediment basins have been installed for the construction phase for the purpose of avoiding sediment laden water runoff from the construction site.

– *Water metering at the site is in accordance with the NSW Non-Urban Metering Framework where relevant.*

The auditee advised that there is no water metering for the project.

- *Water Access Licence/s used to account for water take by the project nominates the work where the water is being taken from.*

The bore licence documentation provides details of water source and applicable Water Sharing Plan.

- *"Annual reporting clearly documents; 1) water take, use and water source impacts, 2) compares results with previous years, and 3) identifies exceedances and how these are managed/mitigated."*

As indicated above, SSD 45242780 does not include requirements for annual reporting. The auditor is not aware of any reporting undertaken by the auditee outside the SSD 45242780 approval or that undertaken under legislation such the Water Management Act.

NSW Rural Fire Service

NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) was consulted on 24 November 2025 and responses were provided on the 16 December 2025 and on the 23 December 2025. RFS requested the following:

The NSW Rural Fire Service are not involved in the compliance of applications. 6.5 Hazards - Bushfire of the supporting document Environmental Impact Assessment Orana Battery Energy Storage System, prepared by NGN, Project Number: 22-277, dated April 2023, under the headings Risk and incident management and Mitigation measures, identify risks and appropriate bush fire mitigation measures that consider Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2019. I expect that as part of the audit you will ensure that the identified asset protection zones, access provisions, water supplies and emergency evacuation plans are in place amongst the other listed bush fire mitigation measures the supported the proposal.

A Fire Safety Study was finalized to the satisfaction of RFS and in correspondence dated 25 July 2025 DPHI approved the Fire Safety Study (Rev 9, dated 10 July 2025). DPHI noted that the Fire Safety Study:

- has been prepared in consultation, and to the satisfaction of Fire and Rescue NSW;
- has been prepared generally in accordance with the Department's Hazardous Industry Planning Advisory Paper No. 2 – Fire Safety Study Guidelines;
- considers the installation of Tesla Megapack 2XL batteries;
- outlines a fire intervention strategy that includes the provision of 288,000 litres of firefighting water capacity and a hydrant system; and
- contains the information required by the conditions of approval.

The auditee advised that the requirements of approved Fire Safety Study are being constructed at the site. It includes 288 kL water storage in accordance with the approved Fire Safety Study, which is well in excess of the 20 kL required under B30. The 288 kL water storage includes 2 x 144 kL water tanks on site following the inclusion of a reticulated hydrant system (refer to photos in Appendix E. A buffer perimeter space has been built which separates the site infrastructure from the outside (refer to photos in Appendix E).

3.6 Complaints

In accordance with Condition C20, the project website https://community.akayshaenergy.com/Complaints-Register provides the project's complaint management system with the steps to be undertaken in the event of a complaint, including a complaints form, timeframes for resolving the complaint, investigation, escalation and recording and registering the complaint.

The project maintains a complaint register. Projects records provided by the auditee indicated that no complaints have been received during the reporting period.

3.7 Incidents

The auditee maintains incident records in the platform SureWorkx. During this audit period, no incidents, as defined in SSD-45242780, were recorded. Incidents recorded in the incident platform during the audit period included minor safety or environmental events.

3.8 Actual versus predicted impacts

The Audit considered the actual impacts based on the site inspection and review of records, on whether they are consistent with the relevant impacts predicted in the development consent's environmental assessment documentation.

The EIS and RtS and subsequent modifications (the EIS documents) included a range of studies and predictions that relied on observation, measurement and modelling of the existing environments and potential outcomes arising from the Project. Full assessment of the accuracy of these predictions would also require a significant number of studies involving measurement and modelling using actual data points as inputs. Other than considering the construction requirements specified in the conditions and mitigation measures, to the Auditor's knowledge there are no requirements to undertake such studies and doing so does not form part of this Audit. Any such comparison is qualitative only.

The works observed and the impacts therein appear to be generally consistent with those identified in the EIS documents. A summary of the assessment is presented in Table 6.

Table 6: Summary of Predicted Versus Actual Impacts for key construction assessment issues

Aspect	Summary of Impacts	Actual impacts observed during the audit period	Consistent (Y/N)
Biodiversity	The Project would result in the loss of 14.22 ha of native vegetation being Plant Community Type (PCT) 266 White Box grassy woodland. The Project would result in the removal of 53 hollow bearing trees with 162 hollow bearing trees to be retained on the site. MOD1 predicted an additional impact on 3.6 ha of native vegetation, being PCT 266, but given the low vegetation integrity score of PCT 266, those impacts did not generate any ecosystem credits. Despite that, presence was assumed for some species which resulted in credit changes in the SSD. MOD2 did not predict impacts on biodiversity, but	Project clearing was completed in previous audit periods. As far as the auditor could observe during the site inspection, the clearing has been restricted to the approved project site. Retained vegetation within the site and immediately outside the site is protected with fencing/delineation. It is understood that disturbance of land within the Wellington substation, which did not contain native vegetation or habitat areas but highly disturbed adjoining exotic vegetation, occurred during the audit period. This is consistent with MOD2.	Y

Aspect	Summary of Impacts	Actual impacts observed during the audit period	Consistent (Y/N)
	amended the offset obligation by replacing *Prasoplhyllum* sp. for *Prasophyllum Petilum*. The updated BDR (updated as part of MOD1) included the Masked Owl as a candidate species requiring offset. The Department recommended the preparation of a Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP) in consultation with BSC to ensure remaining biodiversity values on site are appropriately managed and maintained.	No unexpected biodiversity finds reported during the audit period. A BMP was prepared and then revised following approval of MOD1. The revised BMP (Rev G, 8/11/24) included the increased Project footprint from MOD1 and the inclusion of a Masked Owl Management Plan, as the threatened species were observed during a preclearing survey. The BMP has not been revised as a result of MOD2 (refer to Table 5)	
Aboriginal Cultural Heritage	Site surveys undertaken in consultation with Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) identified no Aboriginal cultural heritage items on site. One culturally modified tree was identified approximately 150 m to the south of the development footprint. This site would be avoided and an exclusion zone would be established to avoid any incidental harm. The Department has recommended a condition requiring Akaysha prepare a Chance Finds Protocol for the project.	An exclusion zone (including fencing) has been installed around the culturally modified tree (refer to site photos in Appendix E). A Chance Finds Protocol, Version 3 dated 12 July 2024, was prepared by Virtus Heritage for Akaysha, in consultation with Aboriginal Stakeholders and Heritage NSW.	Y
Historic Heritage	The site and surrounds are not subject to any Commonwealth or State historic heritage listings. While no locally listed heritage items occur within the site, the curtilage of two local heritage listed homesteads (Nanima Homestead and Keston Homestead) adjoin the site boundary. The Nanima Homestead (R1) and its associated buildings would be located around 640 m from the BESS and 200m from the proposed access track, and the Keston Homestead buildings would be 500 m and 1.3 km away. Neither homestead would be physically impacted by the project.	No impacts on the Nanima Homestead and Keston Homestead were observed during the site inspection or noted in project records. No complaints have been received during the audit period on the Project.	Y
Traffic, Transport and Accessibility	The main increase in traffic would occur over the 18-month construction period. A revised Traffic Impact Assessment (Amber, 20 March 25) was prepared to support an application to increase vehicle movements during construction from 35 to 80 heavy vehicle movements per day, from 30 to 50 light vehicle movements and from 5 to 10 heavy vehicle movements during the AM or PM project peak hours, and from 6 to 15 heavy vehicle movements requiring escort. The Department approved the request to increase vehicle movements in correspondence dated 16/04/2025. The Department recommended restricting vehicle movements during peak times (6-7	CPP monitors vehicles movements and prepares Monthly Vehicle Movements reports. Monthly Vehicle Movement reports detailing the number of heavy and light vehicles every day and during peak and off-peak hours are prepared by the auditee. A review of the Monthly Vehicle Movements reports during the reporting period (heavy, light and during peak hours) indicated that the actual project vehicle numbers are in its majority consistent with those reported in the Traffic Impact Assessments and complied with the limits in Condition B1 those subsequently approved by the Department in correspondence dated 16	N

Aspect	Summary of Impacts	Actual impacts observed during the audit period	Consistent (Y/N)
	am and 5-6 pm), to prevent queuing on the public road network and manage the flow of vehicles entering and exiting the site. Heavy vehicles delivering plant during construction would travel from the Port of Newcastle, via the State road network, using Goolma Road to access the site from the north. Heavy vehicles delivering other construction equipment and materials would access the site via Goolma Road from the Mitchell Highway to the south. All roads along these routes are approved B-double routes. Traffic modelling indicated that the proposed transport route has sufficient capacity to accommodate the construction traffic associated with the project. No road upgrades (other than for the site access) are required	April 2025 (refer to Appendix A), except for some occasional exceedances of the peak hour daily light vehicle movements in October 2025 and November 2025, which has been raised as non-compliance with Condition B1 (refer to Table 5). As indicated in Section 3.3, in response the auditee implemented a range of control measures (i.e. boom gate, vehicle pass, etc) to maintain light vehicle numbers within approved limits. No further vehicle breaches occurred following mitigation measures implementation. The auditor reviewed traffic movement records for December 2025 and confirmed that no further exceedances have occurred. The road upgrades required for the Goolma Road intersection have been completed. No significant impacts on traffic routes recorded.	
Noise and Vibration	Nine non-associated residential receivers are located within 1.5 km of the site, with the closest (R1) being located approximately 200m south of the proposed access road and approximately 640 m from the BESS. Noise generated by construction activities was predicted to be below the 'highly noise affected' criterion of 75 dB(A) for all residential receivers under EPA's Interim Construction Noise Guideline (ICNG). Construction noise levels were predicted to comply with the 'noise affected' criterion under the ICNG at all non-associated residential receivers, except for receiver R1, where an exceedance of up to 3 dB(A) is predicted when simultaneous operation of the three noisiest items of equipment occurs within 700 m of the dwelling. This exceedance represents a worst-case scenario which is unlikely to occur for an extended period, and Akaysha has committed to continuing to offer a neighbour agreement to R1 to mitigate impacts. MOD1 noise impact assessment determined that while the modification would result in a minor (1 dB(A)) increase in construction noise, it would generally not alter construction noise impacts assessed under the original project. MOD2 did not predict changes in noise impacts. No vibration impacts are predicted at any vibration sensitive receivers based on separation distances exceeding 200 m.	No noise complaints have been received during the audit period. EnviroScience Solutions undertook unattended environmental noise monitoring at 3 locations around the site for a period of a week from Monday 17/03/25 to Sunday 30/03/25. Two monitoring stations showed exceedances for the night time when no works were taking place. The third station showed some exceedances for the day time and evening periods on two days, however other measures were generally below the criteria.	Y
Water quality	The project is not located on flood prone land and would be designed to transfer catchment flows around the site in a stable manner.	During the audit site inspection sediment controls were observed in place, including sediment fences and 2 sediment basins	Y

Aspect	Summary of Impacts	Actual impacts observed during the audit period	Consistent (Y/N)
	The project would involve minimal excavations, and with the implementation of appropriate contamination controls, groundwater impacts were considered unlikely. Water quality impacts during construction would be managed by contamination controls and erosion and sediment control measures.	covering the different site sub-catchments (refer to photos in Appendix E).	

There were no reportable environmental incidents during the audit period.

The works were within the approved boundary (as best as could be confirmed by visual inspection only).

Based on the site inspection, document review and high degree of compliance, works appear to be consistent with the approved layout plans and the environmental impacts are mostly qualitatively well within that predicted by the EIS, RtS and subsequent modifications.

4. CONCLUSIONS

This Audit Report presents the outcomes of the third independent audit (IA3) for the construction of the Orana BESS Project (State Significant Development SSD-45242780) covering the period from 5 June 2025 to 10 December 2025 (the 'audit period').

The Audit was undertaken in accordance with the SSD-45242780 Condition of Consent C14 and the NSW Government's Independent Audit Guideline Post Approval Requirements (IAPAR),2020.

Works undertaken during this period included completion of bulk earth works, completion of Wellington substation works (330 kw installed), all 448 battery units received and placed on slabs, 112 step-up transformers received and tested, internal access roads completed, 16 Ring Main Units delivered and installed, all light poles installed, foundation of Operational & Maintenance Building installed, final perimeter fencing commenced and electrical works ongoing. The site inspection was conducted on 10 December 2025.

The overall outcome of the audit was generally positive. Compliance records were organized and available at the time of the site inspection, during interviews with Akaysha and upon request to the auditee. Relevant compliance documentation and records were being collected and reported as required under the SSD to provide verification of compliance with statutory requirements. No reportable incidents or complaints were recorded during the audit period. Some findings and recommendations were made during the audit and are reported in Appendix A, Section 3.2 and summarised below.

In summary:

- There were sixty-five (65) Conditions assessed.
- Forty-eight (48) Conditions were considered by the Auditor to be compliant.
- Three (3) non-compliances were identified during this Audit, related to:
    - Occasional exceedance of light vehicle movements during peak hour (B1);
    - Revision of plans prepared under the SSD (C24); and
    - project website content (C20).

  The three (3) non-compliances were closed prior to completing this audit.
- Five (5) observations were made related to:
    - Four (4) related to the project website content (A3) (two of them were closed prior to completing this audit); and
    - implementation of the erosion and sediment control plan (B27).
- Fourteen (14) Conditions were considered by the Auditor to be not triggered.
- All findings from the second independent audit (IA2) were closed.

The Auditor would like to thank the auditees for their high level of organisation, cooperation, and assistance during the Audit.

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The assessment of actual impacts and those predicted in the Environmental Impact Assessment(s) was a high-level assessment qualitative assessment only. The Environmental Impact Assessment(s) include a voluminous number of studies and predictions that relied on observation, measurement and modelling of the existing environments and potential outcomes arising from the Project (including mitigation measures). Full assessment of the accuracy of these predictions would also require a significant number of studies involving measurement and modelling using actual data points as inputs. Other than the requirements specified in the report, to the Auditor's knowledge there are no requirements to undertake such studies and doing so does not form part of this Independent Audit.

Audits of all post approval documents prepared to satisfy the conditions, including an assessment of the implementation of Environmental Management Plans and Sub-plans, adopts a Judgement Based Sampling approach. Judgement Based Sampling is the process of selecting a sample of commitments and evidence from within the total available data set (population) to obtain and evaluate evidence about some characteristic of that population, in order to form a conclusion concerning the population.

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APPENDIX A – SSD 45242780 CONDITIONS OF CONSENT

SSD ID No.	Compliance Requirement	Evidence collected	Independent Audit findings and recommendations	Compliance Status
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, upgrading, operation, decommissioning or rehabilitation of the development.	Evidence referred to elsewhere in this table. Site inspection and interview with auditees 10/12/2025 Site photos – Appendix E	The review of project records and the visual inspection of the site indicated that the applicant have implemented reasonable and feasible measures to prevent environmental impacts.	Compliant
TERMS OF CONSENT				
A2	The development may only be carried out: a) in compliance with the conditions of this consent; b) in accordance with all written directions of the Planning Secretary; c) generally in accordance with the EIS; and d) generally in accordance with the Development Layout in Appendix 1.	Development Consent - Orana Battery Energy Storage System SSD 45242780 approved by Executive Director Energy, Resource and Industry Assessments on 22/12/2023 Mod-1 SSD 45242780 : Additional construction laydown area and permanent fill batters approved on 26/09/2029 by DPHI Mod-2 SSD 45242780: Amendment to approved development footprint and biodiversity offset requirements Environmental Impact Assessment Orana Battery Energy Storage System Final v2.1 18/04/2023 prepared by NGH Construction Certificate No. CCMCG40/2025 issued on 14/02/2025 by James Maltby of Maltby Certification Group Pty Ltd for the BESS including ancillary Switchgear and Control Buildings Construction Certificate No. CCMCG40/2025/02 issued on 21/05/2025 by James Maltby of Maltby Certification Group for the Wellington Substation extension and supporting electrical infrastructure associated with the BESS TfNSW Notice of Provisional Practical Completion dated 13/02/2025, re: WAD Wuuluman CHR(S) BAL MR 633 Goolma Road WST24/00057 Weekly Site Inspection Reports by CPP sighted: – 08/11/2025 – 01/11/2025 – 28/11/2025 – 18/11/2025 – 15/11/2025	The auditees noted that there were no written directions from the Planning Secretary during the audit period other than the responses to documentation submitted for approval or requests as reported elsewhere in this table. These primarily include DPHI's approval to increase construction hours (refer to B17), DPHI's approval of the Fire Safety Study (refer to B28) and DPHI's approval of the Emergency Plan (refer to B31). The auditee also indicated that DPHI's representatives visited the site on the 25 September 2025 with no issues identified during the inspection. Development was observed to be generally carried out in accordance with the EIS, and the approved plans prepared for the project. The Goolma Road intersection works were completed during the IA2 period in accordance with the consent. A notice of Provisional Practical completion was issued by TfNSW on 13/02/2025. Construction Certificates issued to date for the project included: – Construction Certificate No. CCMCG40/2025 (CC1 14/02/2025): Battery Energy Storage System (400mW) including ancillary Switchgear and Control Buildings – Construction Certificate No. CCMCG40/2025/02 (CC2) 21/05/2025: Wellington Substation extension and supporting electrical infrastructure associated with the Orana Battery Energy Storage System. The approved documents under CC2 that the certifier relied on are: o Long Service Leave Levy $8,902.00 paid 08/11/2024 (Receipt No. L0000169148) o Structural Engineering Design Plans prepared by TransGrid Project No. WL1200 including Footing Layout & Details for 4m High Light Pole, Concrete Earth wire Pole, Surge Arrestor Supporter Transformer Support, Circuit Breaker & Post Insulator Support. o Civil Engineering Design Plans prepared by TransGrid Project No. WL1200 including General Notes, Earthworks Bench Plan & Sections, Grading Layout, Demolition Plan, Drainage Layout & Pit.	Compliant

SSD ID No.	Compliance Requirement	Evidence collected	Independent Audit findings and recommendations	Compliance Status
			No Construction Certificates issued for the project during the audit period. Weekly site inspections are being regularly undertaken for the project, covering areas such as housekeeping, tools and equipment, permits/SWMS, quality, mobile plant, and environmental aspects, including sediment controls, water drainage, air quality, solid/liquid waste, stockpiles, and chemical storage. During the site inspection, it was observed that construction works were confined within the site footprint, secured by the installed fence (refer to site photos). BESS and Substation CCs issued as discussed above. The auditee advised that a final sign-off certificate will be issued at the end of construction.	
A3	The Applicant must comply with any requirement/s of the Planning Secretary arising from the Department's assessment of: a) any strategies, plans or correspondence that are submitted in accordance with this consent; b) any reports, reviews or audits commissioned by the Department regarding compliance with this consent; and c) the implementation of any actions or measures contained in these documents.	Letter 04/03/2024 DPHI-Akaysha re: Approval to increase the approved capacity of the battery energy storage system Letter 20/11/2024 DPHI-Akaysha re: Stage 1 Road Upgrade – OOHW Letter 3/03/25 Akaysha-DPHI re: Request to stage the TMP Letter 10/03/25 DPHI-Akaysha re: Revised Traffic Management Plan Staging Orana BESS TMP dated 10/04/25 by CPP Stage 2a Traffic Management Plan Rev C 7/03/25 by Amber Letter 13/03/25 DPHI-Akaysha re: Approval of TMP Stage 2a Stage 2b Traffic Management Plan Rev A 17/04/25 by Amber Letter 14/05/25 DPHI-Akaysha re: Approval of TMP Stage 2b Letter 7/04/25 Akaysha-DPHI re: Request to increase vehicle movements in relation to Condition B1 Letter 16/04/25 DPHI-Akaysha re: request to vary vehicle numbers Letter 28/04/25 Akaysha-DPHI re: Request to vary construction hours Letter 13/05/25 TfNSW-Akaysha re: Review of Out of Hours request for Orana BESS SSD-45242780 Letter 20/05/25 DPHI-Akaysha re: Out of Hours Approval Letter 25/07/25 DPHI-Akaysha re: Orana BESS – Fire Safety Study	On 04/03/2024, the Department approved a 15 MW increase to the total delivery capacity prescribed in Condition A5, bringing the total to 415 MW, with instructions to make this information publicly available on the project website at the earliest convenience. DPHI approval letter is available in the project website. On 3/03/25, the auditees made a request to stage TMP to the DPHI and the Department approved then request on 10/03/25. The revised Traffic Management Plan Staging include: – Stage 1: Construction of the road upgrades at the intersection of the site access and Goolma Road, construction of internal access roads, initial site mobilisation, progress site clearing and civil works for the BESS Bench. – Stage 2a: Onsite Construction activities of the BESS comprising of all remaining works, excluding movements with high-risk heavy vehicles requiring escort. – Stage 2b: remaining movements with high-risk heavy vehicles requiring escort. – Stage 3: Operation of the BESS. – Stage 4: Decommissioning the BESS at end of life. DPHI approved the request to stage the TMP provisions in correspondence 10/03/25. It required that updates to the TMP are made prior to the commencement of each stage. A Stage 2a TMP (7/03/25) was prepared by Amber, which was approved by DPHI on 13/03/25. A Stage 2b TMP (17/04/25) was prepared by Amber, which was approved by DPHI on 14/05/25. TMP stage 2 The CPP's TMP was updated in TMP dated 01/04/25. On 7/04/25, the auditees made a request to increase vehicle movements relation to Condition B1 which include: – from 35 to 80 heavy vehicle movements per day during construction, upgrading or decommissioning. – from 30 to 50 light vehicle movements and from 5 to 10 heavy vehicle movements during the AM (6-7am) or PM (5-6pm) project peak hours during construction, upgrading or	Compliant

SSD ID No.	Compliance Requirement	Evidence collected	Independent Audit findings and recommendations	Compliance Status
		Letter 11/11/25 DPHI-Akaysha re: Out of Hours Approval Letter 24/11/25 DPHI-Akaysha re: Orana BESS – Emergency Plan	decommissioning. There is no proposed change to the 5 shuttle bus movements. – from 6 to 15 heavy vehicle movements requiring escort during construction, upgrading or decommissioning. The Department approved the request on16/04/25 noting that: – increase in vehicle movements must also be incorporated within an updated Traffic Management Plan to be approved prior to any additional movements being undertaken. – there is a change to the high-risk heavy vehicle route to facilitate transformer deliveries to site as detailed in the TIA prepared by Amber (20 March 2025). – original route from Adelaide primarily used the Barrier and Mitchell Highways while the updated route primarily used the Newell Highway before using the Mitchell Highway at Dubbo. In accordance with Condition B4 of Schedule 2, all heavy vehicles requiring escort will still be travelling to and from the site via the Mitchell Highway and Goolma Road – prior to undertaking any heavy vehicle movements requiring escort please provide an updated Traffic Management Plan for Stage 2b of the development, in accordance with the staging request approved by the Department on 8 October 2024 (PA-23) The revised approved traffic movements were documented in the A Stage 2b TMP (17/04/25). On 28/04/25, the auditees submitted a request to the Department to vary the construction hours, with consultation undertaken with TfNSW on 8/05/25. On 20/05/25, the Department approved the request for OOHW on Saturdays (1:00 pm to 5:00 pm) and Sundays (8:00 am to 5:00 pm) until 30/11/25. The DPHI approval is available in the project website. (Note: for other directions issued in previous reporting periods refer to IA1 and IA2) On 25/07/2025, the Department approved the Fire Safety Study prepared under B28. It required some notifications to be made related fire incidents which will need to be made prior to operation. It also required the document to be made publicly available (refer to observation below and B17). On 24/11/2025, the Department approved the Emergency Plan prepared under B31. It also required the document to be made publicly available (refer to observation below and B31). On 11/11/25, the Department approved the request for OOHW on Saturdays (1:00 pm to 5:00 pm) and Sundays (8:00 am to 5:00 pm) until 30/06/25. It required that it make the document publicly available on the project website at the earliest convenience, however the approval to extend OOHW to the 30/06/2026 is only available in the project website via a link to the Planning Portal website where the approval is posted.	

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			Observation: The Department's approval of Out of Hours Works (OOHW) up to the 30 June 2026 required that the OOHW approval be made publicly available on the Project website at the earliest convenience. However such approval is not uploaded in the Project website but available via a link to the NSW Government Planning Portal. **Recommendation**: Upload the Department's approval of OOHW to the 30 June 2026 issued on the 11 November 2025 in the Project Website. **Observation**: The Department's approval of the Fire Safety study granted on the 25 July 2025 requires the plan to be publicly available on the project website, however Condition C20 indicates that the Applicant must make approved plans publicly available with the exception of the Emergency Plan and the Fire Safety Study. Note: the Fire Safety Study was not publicly available in the project website during the audit period but available via a link to the NSW Government Planning Portal. **Recommendation**: Clarify with the Department whether the Fire Safety Study requires to be publicly available in the project website **Observation**: The Department's approval of the Emergency Plan granted on the 24 November 2025 requires the plan to be publicly available on the project website, however Condition C20 indicates that the Applicant must make approved plans publicly available with the exception of the Emergency Plan and the Fire Safety Study. Note: the Emergency Plan was not publicly available in the project website during the audit period **Recommendation**: Clarify with the Department whether the Emergency Plan requires to be publicly available in the project website. **Applicant action:** Akaysha sought clarification from the Department on 15 January 2026 and the Department in email dated 16 January 2026 clarified that the Fire Safety Study and the Emergency Plan do not need to be uploaded in the website. It also noted that the Department will ensure that these plans are not published in the Department's Planning Portal. This finding is considered closed.	
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.	Interview with auditees 10/12/2025	No inconsistencies reported or identified during the audit other that those reported under Condition A3.	Compliant
BATTERY STORAGE RESTRICTION				
A5	Unless the Planning Secretary agrees otherwise in writing, the battery storage associated with the development must not exceed a total delivery capacity of 400 MW. Note: This condition does not prevent the Applicant from seeking to lodge a separate development application or modify this consent to increase the capacity of the battery storage in the future.	Akaysha letter to DPHI dated 1/02/2024: Request to marginally exceed 400MW capacity due to technology and performance enhancements DPHI letter to Development ANZ dated 4/03/2024, re: Request to increase the approved capacity of the BESS	DPHI, in correspondence to Development ANZ dated 4/03/2024, approved a 15 MW increase to the total delivery capacity prescribed in Condition A5, to a total of 415 MW. DPHI required that the approval of increase capacity be made publicly available on the project website. The approval to increase capacity is uploaded in the project website No changes to this condition since last audit	Compliant

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		https://akayshaenergy.com/projects/orana-bess		
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.	Interview with auditees 10/12/2025 Eastern BESS Yard Facility Site Plan Rev O 13/12/24 by Consolidated Power Projects Tesla Storage Shed Concept Design 12/02/25	No upgrades reported for the audit reporting period. Design has reportedly remained within the approved development footprint	Not triggered
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: • Under Part 6 of the EP&A Act, the Applicant is required to obtain construction and occupation certificates for the development. • The EP&A Regulation sets out the requirements for the certification of the development.	Email 14/06/2024 CPP-Dubbo Council re: Orana BESS Construction Certificate Email 19/06/2024 Dubbo Council-PCC re: response to query – Construction Certificate for the Project Email osader@conpower.com.au to Council dated 14 June 14 2024, re: Orana BESS construction certificates Construction Certificate No. CCMCG40/2025 approved on 14/02/2025 by James Maltby of Maltby Certification Group Pty Ltd for the BESS including ancillary Switchgear and Control Buildings Construction Certificate No. CCMCG40/2025/02 approved on 21/05/2025 by James Maltby of Maltby Certification Group for the Wellington Substation extension and supporting electrical infrastructure associated with the BESS	Consolidated Power Projects made a query on 14/06/2024 to Dubbo Council regarding the Construction Certificate for the project. In that email it identified the following items requiring construction certificates in accordance with discussions with Council: 1. 2x Transformer bunds including pre-cast fire walls. 2. 448x Tesla Megapack battery blocks including foundations. 3. 1x Control building including foundation and stormwater drainage. 4. 2x Switchgear buildings including foundation and stormwater drainage. 5. 1x Operation & Maintenance building including foundation and stormwater drainage. On 19/06/2024, Dubbo Council responded to the query and noted that in addition, the only building work that would need to be the subject of a Construction Certificate is the perimeter fencing and the water storage tanks. Two Construction Certificates have been issued for the project to date: – Construction Certificate No. CCMCG40/2025 (CC1 14/02/2025): Battery Energy Storage System (400mW) including ancillary Switchgear and Control Buildings – Construction Certificate No. CCMCG40/2025/02 (CC2) 21/05/2025: Wellington Substation extension and supporting electrical infrastructure associated with the Orana Battery Energy Storage System. The approved documents under CC2 that the certifier relied on are: ○ Long Service Leave Levy $8,902.00 paid 08/11/2024 (Receipt No. L0000169148) ○ Structural Engineering Design Plans prepared by TransGrid Project No. WL1200 including Footing Layout & Details for 4m High Light Pole, Concrete Earth wire Pole, Surge Arrestor Supporter	Compliant

SSD ID No.	Compliance Requirement	Evidence collected	Independent Audit findings and recommendations	Compliance Status
			Transformer Support, Circuit Breaker & Post Insulator Support. ○ Civil Engineering Design Plans prepared by TransGrid Project No. WL1200 including General Notes, Earthworks Bench Plan & Sections, Grading Layout, Demolition Plan, Drainage Layout & Pit. The auditee advised that no CCs have been issued or required during the audit period. The auditee advised that a final certificate will be issued at project completion for the remainder of site structures (e.g. buildings).	
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.	Interview with auditees 10/12/2025	No demolition of buildings or infrastructure required.	Not triggered
PROTECTION OF PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE				
A9	Unless the Applicant and the applicable authority agree otherwise, the Applicant must: a) repair, or pay the full costs associated with repairing, any public infrastructure that is damaged by the development; and b) relocate, or pay the full costs associated with relocating, any public infrastructure that needs to be relocated as a result of the development. 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.	Pre-Construction Geotagged Condition Survey OPT-33290, Lot 2 6945 Goolma Road, Montefiores NSW (inspection date: 23/04/2024) prepared by Aus Dilaps	Pre-Construction Geotagged Condition Survey OPT-33290, at Lot 2 6945 Goolma Road, Montefiores NSW of Council assets was undertaken by AusDilaps and include kerbs, gutters, footpaths and roadways. The auditee advised that no repair works or relocation of public infrastructure have been undertaken since the project commenced. No damage of public infrastructure reported during the audit period	Compliant
OPERATION OF PLANT AND EQUIPMENT				
A10	All plant and equipment used on site, or in connection with the development, must be: a) maintained in a proper and efficient condition; and b) operated in a proper and efficient manner.	Orana BESS Equipment Register (82 plant items registered) Mawscode Truck Repairs, Tax Invoice dated 23/07/2025 for repair and maintenance of Iveco rego No. XB88TB Heith Jones Tax Invoice dated 15/11/25, service of Taka Excavator PO 2012845 Service Report Uphire Equipment Specialists dated 27/06/2025, for service on equipment Merlo 4.0T/17M Merlo Telehandler	The Orana BESS Plant List was provided, including the plant ID, plant name, manufacturer, Registration/serial number, contractor company, next maintenance date. Service reports for plant and equipment (3 examples) during the audit period sighted	Compliant
SUBDIVISION				
A11	The Applicant may subdivide land comprising the site for the purposes of carrying out the development as identified in Appendix 3 and in accordance with the requirements of the EP&A Act, EP&A Regulation and the Conveyancing Act 1919 (NSW). Notes: • Under Part 6 of the EP&A Act, the Applicant is required to obtain a subdivision certificate for a plan of subdivision. • Division 6.4 of Part 6 of the Act sets out the application requirements for subdivision certificates.	DP1301494 - Plan of Subdivision of Lot 2 DP1226754 and Right of Access affecting Lot 2 DP1136578, 24/04/2024, Pat Clarkstone Plan Information Notice 24/04/2024 issued by Land Registry Services	Land has been purchased by Akaysha via a land agreement. and the site has been subdivided and registered in the land title office. DP1301494 - Plan of Subdivision of Lot 2 DP1226754 and Right of Access affecting Lot 2 DP1136578 was provided prepared by Pat Clarkstone and was officially registered on 24/04/2024 under Dubbo Regional Council. Plan Information Notice for DP1301494 was issued by Land Registry Services indicating that land was officially registered. No changes during the audit period	Not triggered

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APPLICABILITY OF GUIDELINES				
A12	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.	CEMP and subplans	The management plans appear to reference the current guidelines, standards and protocols relevant to the topics that each document addresses during construction phase.	Compliant
COMPLIANCE				
A13	The Applicant must ensure that all of its employees, contractors (and their sub-contractors) 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.	Orana BESS Specific Induction V3 April 2024 Induction Register to 28/11/2025 Email 26/11/2024 Akaysha-Stemar re: Deliver - MU Incomer BCT200 External Current Transformers Project Directions and Requirement prepared by Akaysha issued to service providers and suppliers Email 4/06/25 CPPA to Conpower re: induction snapshot to encourage carpooling CPP Induction dated 11/12/2025	Orana BESS Specific Induction V3 April 2024 was initially prepared that cover critical information to ensure that workers and visitors understand the site's safety, operational, and compliance requirements. During IA3 the auditee advised that the Induction was revised in April 2025. A copy of the CPP induction was provided during the audit (the actual date in the induction was 11/12/2025). The revised induction covers environmental aspects and risks, as well emergency management and community liaison. The Orana BESS Completed Induction Register, current as of 28/11/2025, was provided. It showed site workers inducted from 25/07/2024 to the 28/11/2025, with a total of 737 workers inducted. Email dated 26/11/2024 from Akaysha was provided, sharing the Traffic Management Plan with the supplier of MU Incomer BCT200 External Current Transformers. The plan is distributed to drivers traveling to the site. The Project Directions and Requirements document, prepared by Akaysha, specifies that delivery drivers must report to the site office upon arrival and complete an induction. Pre-engagement package which is sent to transport companies which includes driver delivery instructions	Compliant
EVIDENCE OF CONSULTATION				
A14	Where conditions of this consent require consultation with an identified party, the Applicant must: a) consult with the relevant party prior to submitting the subject document to the Planning Secretary for approval; and b) provide details of the consultation undertaken including: i. the outcome of that consultation, matters resolved and unresolved; and ii. details of any disagreement remaining between the party consulted and the Applicant and how the Applicant has addressed the matters not resolved.	For evidence of consultation during the audit period refer to B17, B28 and B31	During the audit period, the applicant consulted with TfNSW and residents in relation to OOHWs (refer to B17), with Fire and Rescue NSW (FRNSW) in relation to the Fire Safety Study (refer to B28) and with FRNSW and NSW Rural Fire Services in relation to the Emergency Plan (refer to B31) For details of consultation during IA1 and IA2 refer to the IA1 and IA2 reports	Compliant
COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT				
A15	Prior to commencing construction, or other timeframe agreed by the Planning Secretary, the Applicant must enter into a VPA with Council in accordance with: a) Division 7.1 of Part 7 of the EP&A Act; and	Planning Agreement for Orama BESS and Dubbo regional Council 2/08/2024	The Planning Agreement between Orana BESS and Dubbo Regional Council was sighted. The Execution Agreement was signed by the Mayor and John Mullins, a representative from Wellington Battery	Not triggered

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	b) the terms of the correspondence dated 27 November 2023, which are summarised in Appendix 6.	Letter 10/09/2024 Akaysha to DPHI re: Commencement of Goolma Road and Enabling Site Works – 29/08/2024 Letter DRC-WolfPeak dated 7/01/2025, re: SSD-45242780 Orana BESS 6945 Goolma Road Wuuluman (consultation for IA3)	Project Co P/L, on 2/08/2024, prior to the commencement of construction on 29/08/2024. No updates since last audit. In response to consultation for IA3, Council indicated that A Planning Agreement was entered into on 19 August 2024, as per Condition A15 https://www.dubbo.nsw.gov.au/Builders-Developers/Planning-Controls-Tools-and-Resources/planning-agreements	
PART B ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS - GENERAL				
TRANSPORT				
Heavy Vehicles Requiring Escort and Heavy Vehicle Restrictions				
B1	The Applicant must ensure that: a) the development does not generate more than: i. 35 heavy vehicle movements a day during construction, upgrading or decommissioning; ii. 30 light vehicle movements, 5 shuttle bus vehicle movements and 5 heavy vehicle movements during the AM (6-7 am) or PM (5-6 pm) project peak hours during construction, upgrading or decommissioning; and iii. 6 movements of heavy vehicles requiring escort during construction, upgrading or decommissioning; and b) the length of any vehicles (excluding heavy vehicles requires escort) used for the development does not exceed 26 metres, unless the Planning Secretary agrees otherwise.	Orana BESS Stage 1 Traffic Management Plan Rev L, 19/09/2024 prepared by Amber Orana BESS Traffic Management Plan, 10/04/22025 prepared by CPP Stage 2a Traffic Management Plan Rev C 7/03/25 by Amber Letter 13/03/25 DPHI-Akaysha re: Approval of TMP Stage 2a Stage 2b Traffic Management Plan Rev A 17/04/25 by Amber Letter 14/05/25 DPHI-Akaysha re: Approval of TMP Stage 2b Letter 7/04/25 Akaysha-DPHI re: Request to increase vehicle movements in relation to Condition B1 Letter 16/04/25 DPHI-Akaysha re: request to vary vehicle numbers Monthly Vehicle Movements June to November 2025 by PCC Escorted Vehicle Movements Register Orana BESS (CPP) Oversize and/or Overmass (OSOM) Mass or Dimension Exemption Permit No. 1154161V3 dated 7/05/25 issued by National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR) - permit period 20/05/25-16/08/25 Interview with auditees 10/12/2025	On 7/04/25, the auditees made a request to DPHI increase vehicle movements relation to Condition B1 which include: – from 35 to 80 heavy vehicle movements per day during construction, upgrading or decommissioning. – from 30 to 50 light vehicle movements and from 5 to 10 heavy vehicle movements during the AM (6-7am) or PM (5-6pm) project peak hours during construction, upgrading or decommissioning. There is no proposed change to the 5 shuttle bus movements. – from 6 to 15 heavy vehicle movements requiring escort during construction, upgrading or decommissioning. The Department approved the request on16/04/25 noting that: – increase in vehicle movements must also be incorporated within an updated Traffic Management Plan to be approved prior to any additional movements being undertaken. – there is a change to the high-risk heavy vehicle route to facilitate transformer deliveries to site as detailed in the TIA prepared by Amber (20 March 2025). – original route from Adelaide primarily used the Barrier and Mitchell Highways while the updated route primarily used the Newell Highway before using the Mitchell Highway at Dubbo. In accordance with Condition B4 of Schedule 2, all heavy vehicles requiring escort will still be travelling to and from the site via the Mitchell Highway and Goolma Road – prior to undertaking any heavy vehicle movements requiring escort please provide an updated Traffic Management Plan for Stage 2b of the development, in accordance with the staging request approved by the Department on 8 October 2024 (PA-23) The CPP's construction TMP was updated in TMP dated 01/04/25. In addition and in response to a request to stage the traffic management arrangements (refer to A3), a Stage 2a TMP (7/03/25) was prepared by Amber, which was approved by DPHI on 13/03/25. A Stage 2b	Non-compliant

SSD ID No.	Compliance Requirement	Evidence collected	Independent Audit findings and recommendations	Compliance Status
			TMP (17/04/25) was prepared by Amber, which was approved by DPHI on 14/05/25. TMP stage 2. The Stage 2b TMP provides the updated traffic movements as approved by DPHI on 16/04/25. CPP monitors vehicles movements and prepares Monthly Vehicle Movements reports with details the number of heavy vehicles and light vehicles during both peak and off-peak hours. A review of the Monthly Vehicle Movements reports for June, July, August, September, October and November 2025 (heavy, light and during peak hours) indicates that the Project mostly complied with the approved limits (except as discussed below). CPP keeps a Escorted Vehicle movement register for the project. The Escorted Vehicle Movements register reported in IA2 showed a total of 11 Escorted vehicles to the site since the commencement of works, which is within the approved limits. No OSOM movements requiring escort reported during the audit period. OSOM or Dimension Exemption Permit No. 1154161V3 was issued by NHVR for block-truck towing OSOM load and Block truck, Planform for the period 20 May to 16 August 2025 (refer to IA2). Heavy vehicles that access the site during the reporting period were those to deliver the battery units, and these vehicles are reportedly 24m long. **Non-compliance**: Traffic movement records indicate that peak hour daily light vehicle movements have occasionally exceeded the approved limit of 50 movements during audit period. These include exceedances on the 22, 23,24, 28, 29, 30 and 31 October 2025 and on the 12 and 27 November 2025. (Note: the Department approved an increase in light vehicle movements during peak hours from 30 to 50 movements on the 16 April 2025) Exceedances: largest exceedances on 23/10/25 with 88 movements and 22/10/25 with 72 movements. The rest of the exceedances are just above 50 movements **Recommendation**: Develop and implement measures to ensure that traffic movements meet the limits approved under Condition B1. **Applicant's reported actions to the non-compliance**: Following identification that peak-time vehicle numbers had exceeded the approved limit, a series of staged control measures were implemented to actively manage, reduce, and maintain vehicle numbers within the approved threshold. Control Measures Implemented: - Boom Gate Installation – 25 October A boom gate was installed at the site entry point to enable controlled access and prevent unauthorised or unmanaged vehicle entry during peak periods (refer to Photo 3a). - Vehicle Pass System – 27 October A vehicle pass system was introduced, limiting access strictly to authorised vehicles only. This measure provided immediate control over the number of vehicles permitted on site and resulted in a reduction in peak vehicle numbers. - Additional Bus Service – 3 November	

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			An additional bus service was implemented to reduce reliance on private vehicle use by personnel, further decreasing overall vehicle movements to site during peak times. - Vehicle Identification Stickers – 17 November Vehicle identification stickers were issued and implemented to clearly identify approved vehicles. This provided an additional layer of control and verification at the boom gate, strengthening ongoing compliance. - Outcome: The combination of these measures has proven effective in reducing and maintaining vehicle numbers within the agreed peak-time limit. These controls remain in place and are actively managed to ensure continued compliance. The auditee noted that post these implementations – on the instances of 12th & 27th November – only exceedance by 1 x light vehicle on these days. This movement on both occasions was the landowner and not related to site movements. The auditee advised that no further vehicle breaches have occurred following mitigation measures implementation. The auditor reviewed traffic movement records for December 2025 and confirmed that no further exceedances have occurred. The auditor considered that the auditee has successfully acted upon the marginal light vehicle movement exceedances and considered that the non-compliance can be closed.	
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.	Monthly Vehicle Movements June to November 2025 by PCC Escorted Vehicle Movements Register Orana BESS (CPP) Oversize and/or Overmass (OSOM) Mass or Dimension Exemption Permit No. 1154161V3 dated 7/05/25 issued by National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR) - permit period 20/05/25-16/08/25 Email 22/05/25 Akaysha -TfNSW re: OSOM Movement Notification	CPP monitors vehicles movements and prepares Monthly Vehicle Movements reports with details the number of heavy vehicles and light vehicles during both peak and off-peak hours.. Monthly Vehicle Movements reports for the months of June, July, August, September, October and November 2025 (heavy, light and during peak hours) prepared by PCC, detailing the number of heavy and light vehicles during peak and off-peak hours, were provided to the auditor (refer to B1). Escorted Vehicle Movements 2024 report, prepared by PCC, was presented, highlighting three specific dates that required escorted vehicles (for details refer to IA1 and IA2). Oversize and/or Overmass (OSOM) Mass or Dimension Exemption Permit No. 1154161V3 dated 7/05/25 issued by National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR) - permit period 20/05/25-16/08/25 An OSOM Movement Notification was provided by Akaysha to TfNSW via email on 22/05/25. The first transformer unit (TX1) is scheduled to depart the WTC factory in Victoria on 24/05/25, with delivery and off-loading at Orana BESS planned for 28/05/25. The notification includes a list of items to be moved, along with their weight, length, and height. No OSOM movements during the audit period	Compliant
Access Route				
B3	All heavy vehicles associated with the development must travel to and from the site via: a) Castlereagh Highway and Goolma Road; or b) Mitchell Highway and Goolma Road,	Orana BESS - Heavy Vehicle Route Map Orana BESS Stage 1 Traffic Management Plan Rev L, 19/09/2024 prepared by Amber	The Orana BESS Traffic Management Plan, 10/04/22025 prepared by CPP, the Stage 2a Traffic Management Plan Rev C 7/03/25 by Amber, and the Stage 2b Traffic Management Plan Rev A 17/04/25 by Amber show the traffic routes for heavy vehicles.	Compliant

SSD ID No.	Compliance Requirement	Evidence collected	Independent Audit findings and recommendations	Compliance Status
	as shown in Appendix 4.	Orana BESS Traffic Management Plan, 10/04/22025 prepared by CPP Stage 2a Traffic Management Plan Rev C 7/03/25 by Amber Letter 13/03/25 DPHI-Akaysha re: Approval of TMP Stage 2a Stage 2b Traffic Management Plan Rev A 17/04/25 by Amber Letter 14/05/25 DPHI-Akaysha re: Approval of TMP Stage 2b Project Directions and Requirement prepared by Akaysha issued to service providers and suppliers	Orana BESS - Heavy Vehicle Route Map that provides directions from Selwyn Street, Mayfield North NSW to 6945 Goolma Road, Montefiores NSW 2820, Australia The Project Directions and Requirements document, prepared by Akaysha, includes the route to the site and specifies that delivery drivers must report to the site office upon arrival, complete an induction, and that the document is provided to all service providers and suppliers for guidance and compliance.	
B4	All heavy vehicles requiring escort associated with the development must travel to and from the site via the Mitchell Highway and Goolma Road, as described in the EIS.	Stage 2b Traffic Management Plan Rev A 17/04/25 by Amber Letter 14/05/25 DPHI-Akaysha re: Approval of TMP Stage 2b Project Directions and Requirement prepared by Akaysha issued to service providers and suppliers Oversize and/or Overmass (OSOM) Mass or Dimension Exemption Permit No. 1154161V3 dated 7/05/25 issued by National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR) - permit period 20/05/25-16/08/25 Notification from Akaysha to TfNSW of OSOM to transport a transformer leaving Victoria on 24/05/25 and expected delivery on 28/05/25.	The Orana BESS Traffic Management Plan, 10/04/22025 prepared by CPP, the Stage 2a Traffic Management Plan Rev C 7/03/25 by Amber, and the Stage 2b Traffic Management Plan Rev A 17/04/25 by Amber show the traffic routes for heavy vehicles. The Stage 2b Traffic Management Plan Rev A 17/04/25 by Amber specifically shows the traffic routes for heavy vehicles requiring escort. The Project Directions and Requirements document, prepared by Akaysha, includes the route to the site and specifies that delivery drivers must report to the site office upon arrival, complete an induction, and that the document is provided to all service providers and suppliers for guidance and compliance. Oversize and/or Overmass (OSOM) Mass or Dimension Exemption Permit No. 1154161V3 dated 7/05/25 issued by National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR) - permit period 20/05/25-16/08/25. The permit provides route for the OSOM which complies with B4. A notification to TfNSW was submitted for a OSOM transporting a transformer from Victoria departing on 24/05/25. The auditee advised that that the first OSOM for the project was completed on Monday 2/06/2025. No vehicles requiring escort occurred during the audit period	Not triggered
Site Access				
B5	All vehicles associated with the development must enter and exit the site via the site access point off Goolma Road as identified in Appendix 1.	Site inspection 10/12/2025 Site photos – Appendix E	During the site inspection, it was observed that only one access point to the site was provided off Goolma Road. No other accesses sighted during the audit	Compliant
B6	Prior to commencing construction, the Applicant must close and remove the existing site access servicing Lot 2 DP1136578.	Site inspection 10/12/2025 Site photos – Appendix E	As indicated in IA2, access to Lot 2 was removed prior to the commencement of construction. Refer to the site photos for reference. The previous access was observed closed during the site inspection of IA2. Works completed.	Not triggered

SSD ID No.	Compliance Requirement	Evidence collected	Independent Audit findings and recommendations	Compliance Status
Road Upgrades				
B7	Unless the Planning Secretary agrees otherwise, prior to commencing construction, the Applicant must complete the road upgrades detailed in Appendix 5. Unless the relevant road authority agrees otherwise, these upgrades must comply with the current Austroads Guidelines, Australian Standards and TfNSW supplements, and be carried out to the satisfaction of the relevant roads authority.	Site inspection 10/12/2025 DPHI letter to Akaysha dated 19/07/2024, re: Orana BESS – Road Upgrade and Enabling site works request TfNSW Site Inspection Report for 6945 Goolma Road, prepared by Barker Ryan Stewart (BRS) in the following dates: – Site Inspection No.1: 4/09/2024 – Site Inspection No.2: 20/09/2024 – Site Inspection No.3: 23/09/2024 – Site Inspection No.4: 24/09/2024 – Site Inspection No.5: 25/09/2024 – Site Inspection No.6: 01/10/2024 – Site Inspection No.7: 02/10/2024 – Site Inspection No.8: 02/10/2024 – Site Inspection No.9: 21/10/2024 – Site Inspection No.10: 02/11/2024 – Site Inspection No.11: 04/11/2024 – Site Inspection No.12: 06/11/2024 – Site Inspection No.13: 07/11/2024 – Site Inspection No.14: 14/11/2024 – Site Inspection No.15: 19/11/2024 – Site Inspection No.16: 25/11/2024 – Site Inspection No.17: 29/11/2024 – Site Inspection No.18: 06/12/2024 – Site Inspection No.19: 09/12/2024 Letter 13/02/25 TfNSW to Akaysha re: Notice of Provisional Practical Completion - WAD Wuuluman CHR(S) BAL MR633 Goolma Road WST24/00057 Refer also to B8	During construction of the road upgrades, TfNSW Site Inspection Reports were undertaken by Barker Ryan Stewart (BRS), an independent project verifier working on behalf of TfNSW to ensure compliance. A total of 19 site inspection reports were prepared for the project, as evidenced by the documents provided (refer to IA1 and IA2). Goolman Road works obtained a notice of provisional practical completion from TfNSW on the 13 February 2025. For details of DPHI conditional approval to commence some enabling works in parallel with the Goolman Road upgrade refer to IA1. During the site inspection, the intersection was observed completed and functional. The auditee advised that practical completion documentation is still pending and that minor defects have been rectified.	Compliant
B8	Unless the Planning Secretary agrees otherwise, prior to commencing construction, the Applicant must provide a Strategic Concept Design to TfNSW for approval, detailing the intersection design identified in Appendix 5. The Strategic Concept Design must satisfy the requirements set out in Appendix 6 and the applicable guidelines and standards identified in condition B7.	6945 Goolma Road, Montefiores – Detailed Design Verification (Ref No. 240367) - Schedule 8 - Detailed Design Documents Certificate by Barker Ryan Stewart Letter 30/04/2024 TfNSW-Akaysha re: Post Consent to Condition B7, B8 Letter 13/09/12024 TfNSW-Akaysha re: Approval to Commence Construction Letter 13/09/12024 TfNSW-Akaysha re: Detailed Design Acceptance	Detailed Design Documents were certified by Barker Ryan Stewart. TfNSW approved the strategic concept design and swept paths for the intersection treatments required to facilitate safe turning movements for the project on 30/04/2024. The TfNSW, in its letter dated 13/09/2024, acknowledged receipt of and accepted all pre-construction documentation, authorizing works to commence within the State Road Reserve. TfNSW approved the detailed design documentation on 13/09/2024 and noted that its validity is for 2 years from the date of approval. Completed in IA1.	Not triggered

SSD ID No.	Compliance Requirement	Evidence collected	Independent Audit findings and recommendations	Compliance Status
			As indicated in B7, Goolman Road works obtained a notice of provisional practical completion from TfNSW on the 13 February 2025.	
Operating Conditions				
B9	The Applicant must ensure: a) the internal roads are constructed and maintained 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 sealed public road network.	Site inspection 10/12/2025 Pavement Plans (7 sheets) 12/08/2024 prepared by Quanta Services	Pavement plans dated 12/08/2024 prepared by Quanta Services showing internal pavement works for the project. Internal access roads have been constructed to allow all-weather traffic for light and heavy vehicles (refer to photos in Appendix E). All vehicles observed parked on site. Light vehicle carpark have capacity for about 30-40 spaces. All vehicles were observed loaded and unloaded on site, and leaving the site in a forward direction. No dirt from the project site was observed along the public roads during the site inspection.	Compliant
Traffic Management Plan				
B10	Prior to commencing road upgrades identified in condition B7, the Applicant must prepare a Traffic Management Plan for the development in consultation with TfNSW, Council and Mid-Western Regional Council, and to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary. This plan must include: a) details of the transport route to be used for all development-related traffic; b) details of the road upgrade works required by condition B7; c) details of the measures that would be implemented to minimise traffic impacts during construction, upgrading or decommissioning works, including: i. temporary traffic controls, including detours and signage; ii. notifying the local community about development-related traffic impacts; iii. procedures for receiving and addressing complaints from the community about development related traffic; iv. minimising potential cumulative traffic impacts with other projects in the area. v. minimising potential for conflict with school buses and other road users as far as practicable, including preventing queuing on the public road network; vi. minimising dirt tracked onto the public road network from development-related traffic; vii. details of the employee shuttle bus service, including pick-up and drop-off points and associated parking arrangements for construction workers, and measures to encourage employee use of this service as described in the EIS; viii. encouraging car-pooling or ride sharing by employees; ix. scheduling of heavy vehicle movements to minimise convoy length or platoons, and to minimise conflict with light vehicles; x. responding to local climate conditions that may affect road safety such as fog, dust, wet weather and flooding; xi. responding to any emergency repair or maintenance requirements; and xii. a traffic management system for managing heavy vehicles requiring escort;	Site inspection 10/12/2025 Orana Battery Energy Storage System Traffic Management Plan Stage 1 (Rev L, 19/09/2024) prepared by Amber Traffic & Transportation Direction. DPHI letter to Akaysha dated 8/10/2024 re: Orana BESS – Traffic Management Plan Stage 1 DPHI letter to Akaysha dated 8/10/2024 re: Orana BESS – Traffic Management Plan Staging Orana BESS Traffic Management Plan, 10/04/22025 prepared by CPP Stage 2a Traffic Management Plan Rev C 7/03/25 by Amber Letter 13/03/25 DPHI-Akaysha re: Approval of TMP Stage 2a Stage 2b Traffic Management Plan Rev A 17/04/25 by Amber Letter 14/05/25 DPHI-Akaysha re: Approval of TMP Stage 2b Email 4/06/25 CPPA to Conpower re: induction snapshot to encourage carpooling Tesla Maersk Project Logistics Execution Plan (Maersk, 23/06/2025)	DPHI, in correspondence dated 8/10/24, approved the staging of the Traffic Management Plan. DPHI conditioned the approval to Stage 2 works only proceeding after the completion of the Goolma Road intersection. DPHI, in correspondence dated 8/10/24, approved the Traffic Management Plan Stage 1 (Rev L). Consultation records were included in Appendix B of the plan. The auditees provided evidence of consultation conducted via email regarding the Traffic Management Plan (TMP), which was sent to nearby residents, TfNSW, and Dubbo Regional Council. For details of consultation refer to IA1. During the IA2 period, DPHI approved the request to stage the TMP provisions in correspondence 10/03/25. It required that updates to the TMP are made prior to the commencement of each stage. A Stage 2a TMP (7/03/25) was prepared by Amber, which was approved by DPHI on 13/03/25. A Stage 2b TMP (17/04/25) was prepared by Amber, which was approved by DPHI on 14/05/25. The audit site inspection and review of project records indicated that the auditee has generally implemented the TMPs during the audit period. The traffic movement register for June to November 2025 showed that heavy vehicle movements were within the limits in Condition B1 and those approved by the Department in correspondence dated 16 April 2025 (traffic movement limits are documented in the TMPs), with isolated exceedances of the light traffic movements during peak periods in October and November 2025 as discussed in B1. Stage 2b traffic movements, which includes OSOM deliveries, commenced after DPHI approval of the Stage 2b TMP, but none were required during the audit period. The site is provided with sufficient parking for all vehicles, with no parking on the public road network observed during the site visit or otherwise recorded during the audit period. Speed limits are applied in internal roads, with signage provided for 10km/h and 25km/h speed limits depending on the site road (refer to photos in Appendix E). Shuttle	Compliant

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	d) a driver's code of conduct that addresses: i. driver fatigue; ii. procedures to ensure that drivers adhere to the designated transport routes and speed limits; and iii. procedures to ensure that drivers implement safe driving practices; and 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. Following the Planning Secretary's approval, the Applicant must implement the Traffic Management Plan.		buses. Five x 14 seater shuttle buses are reportedly operating on site. The shuttle buses operates during peak hours to bring project personnel to the site (leave Wellington approx. 630-730 am, and leave the site at 5pm). The use of shuttle buses is documented in the TMPs. The shuttle buses were observed parked at the site during the site inspection on 10/12/25 (approximately 110 employee currently work at the site, as reported during IA3). Approved travel routes are documented in the TMPs and are implemented through inductions and notifications to truck companies and employees. The routes and general transport logistics for the transportation of Mega Packs during IA3 are documented in the Tesla Marsk Project Logistics Execution Plan (Maersk, 23/06/2025). The auditee implements a Driver's code of conduct which addresses, amongst other items, drivers fatigue, traffic routes and safe driving practices. The TMPs provide the school bus routes and public transport details and measures to avoid conflict.	
BIODIVERSITY				
Vegetation Clearance				
B11	The Applicant must not clear any native vegetation or fauna habitat located outside the approved disturbance areas described in the EIS.	Site inspection 10/12/2025 Orana BESS Habitat Tree and Pre-Clearance Report June 2024 V2.0 21/06/2024 by NGH Letter 12/09/2024 NGH-Akaysha re: Orana BESS HBT removal and Ecologist supervision Report: Pre-clearing checks for fauna and flora (48 hours prior) prepared by NGH (12,17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 23, 24, 25 September 2024) for Stage 1 Report: Pre-clearing check for fauna and flora (48 hours prior) prepared by NGH (21, 22, 23, 25, 26, 27, 28 November 2024) for Stage 2	No clearing activities reportedly occurred during the current audit period. Trees remaining on site are protected with fencing and no-go flagging. Site footprint fenced off. Refer to photos in Appendix E. For details of clearing refer to IA1 and IA2. During the previous audit periods, pre-clearance surveys were undertaken by ecologist specialists NGH on two occasions. These were documented in Orana BESS Habitat Tree and Pre-Clearance Report June 2024 V2.0 21/06/2024 by NGH and Letter 12/09/2024 NGH-Akaysha re: Orana BESS Letter of Advice HBT clearing for Sept 2024 – Stage 1 The first survey was undertaken between the 8 and10 May 2024 by NGH qualified Ecologist to: • confirm previously identified or new, significant fauna habitat features and breeding places within the disturbance footprint and or/animal activity. • clearly mark all Hollow Bearing Trees (HBTs) planned for removal to prepare for staged clearing. • clearly mark all trees to be retained, to inform the Project Arborist prior to the installation of tree protection zones (TPZ). • identify and mark items that may provide animal habitat, such as hollow logs and rock piles, to be retained and moved outside of the project boundary for use by fauna. • identify current Priority weed infestations. The second survey was undertaken between the 3 and 7 June 2024 by NGH qualified Ecologist and the Project Arborists. This survey was specifically targeted at the HBTs planned for removal and was conducted via elevated work platform (EWP) to;	Not triggered

<table>
<tr><th>SSD ID No.</th><th>Compliance Requirement</th><th>Evidence collected</th><th>Independent Audit findings and recommendations</th><th>Compliance Status</th></tr>
<tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>• assess if wildlife was present within the hollows and if any wildlife breeding had commenced in hollows.

• confirm if previously recorded (from the ground) tree hollows were suitable for wildlife breeding.

• block any unoccupied hollow entrances deemed suitable habitat, to prevent nesting activities in advance of the Spring breeding season (August through to October) when clearing is planned to take place.

In addition, pre-clearing checks for fauna and flora (49 hours prior) were undertaken by NGH (Veronica Philips, an ecologist from NGH P/L) for Stage 1 and Stage 2 to confirm that all relevant measures have been implemented as required.

The evidence provided indicates that the clearing works had been supervised by ecologists from NGH.</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="5">Biodiversity Offsets</td></tr>
<tr><td>B12</td><td>Prior to carrying out any development that could directly or indirectly impact the biodiversity values requiring offset, the Applicant must retire biodiversity credits of a number and class specified in Table 1 below. The retirement of these credits must be carried out in accordance with the NSW Biodiversity Offsets Scheme and can be achieved by:

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; or

c) funding a biodiversity conservation action that benefits the entity impacted and is listed in the ancillary rules of the biodiversity offset scheme.

Table 1: Species Credit Requirements
<table><tr><th>Species Credit Species</th><th>Credits Required</th></tr><tr><td>Pink-tailed Legless Lizard (Aprasia parapulchella)</td><td>49</td></tr><tr><td>Superb parrot (Polytelis swainsonii)</td><td>46</td></tr><tr><td>Masked Owl (Tyto novaehollandiae)</td><td>33</td></tr><tr><td>Key’s Matchstick Grasshopper (Keyacris scurra)</td><td>7</td></tr><tr><td>Ausfeld’s Wattle (Acacia ausfeldii)</td><td>9</td></tr><tr><td>Tumut Grevillea (Grevillea wilkinsonii)</td><td>13</td></tr><tr><td>Prasophyllum sp. ~~Wybong~~ Petilum</td><td>13</td></tr><tr><td>Silky Swainson pea (Swainsona sericea)</td><td>9</td></tr><tr><td>Small Purple pea (Swainsona recta)</td><td>9</td></tr><tr><td>Euphrasia arguta</td><td>10</td></tr></table></td><td>Statement confirming payment into the Biodiversity Conservation Fund for an offset obligation (issued by the Biodiversity Conservation Trust, dated 27/02/2024 (date received) BCT ref: BCF678

Statement confirming payment into the Biodiversity Conservation Fund for an offset obligation (issued by the Biodiversity Conservation Trust, dated 1/11/2024 (date received) BCT ref: BCF794

Charge Quote Q00483 was issued by the BCT to Akaysha on 10 October 2024

Emails from/to BCT to NGH dated 10/10/24, 9/01/25, 10/01/25 and 15/01/25

Letter 14/04/25 NGH-DPHI (Department of Energy, Resource and Industry Assessments) re: Orana BESS SSD 45242780 – DPHI Non-Compliance Notification Letter</td><td>Two Statements issued by the Biodiversity Conservation Trust confirming payment were provided as evidence of payment for the biodiversity credit retirement obligations satisfied by payment to the Biodiversity Conservation Fund under BCT reference numbers BCF678, for $191,834.34 (excluding GST), dated 24/02/2024, and BCF794, for $490,479.79 dated 7/11/24(excluding GST) (for details refer to IA1)

During IA1, an Observation was raised as follows. The above payments included all the species and credits listed in the species credit requirement, except for Prasophyllum sp. Wybong. This appeared to be an administrative mistake as BCT had advised the Applicant that it could not accept payment for Species Prasophyllum sp. Wybong as it is not listed under the BC Act. During this audit, the applicant further consulted with BCT who advised that it could instead provide a quote for Prasophyllum sp. Petilum. In response the applicant submitted in January 2025 an application to BCT for the retirement of credits of Prasophyllum Petilum which is listed under the BCT. IA1 did not recommend any further action other than notifying the Department of the alternative arrangements made for the retirement of credits associated with Prasohyllum sp. in accordance with Condition B12 given that Prasophyllum sp. Wybong is not listed under the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (BC Act).

During IA2, the auditee reported a non-compliance to DPHI in accordance with C11. This non-compliance was documented in IA2, which indicated that a Non-Compliance Notification Letter dated (NGH, 14 April 2025) was submitted to the Department, noting that payments made into the Biodiversity Conservation Fund—intended to satisfy the obligations under Condition B12 for the retirement of biodiversity credits—were completed in error, as they did not include Prasophyllum sp. Wybong. It indicated that the Biodiversity Conservation Trust (BCT) had advised that payments to the Biodiversity Conservation Fund could only be accepted for liabilities under the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016. Prasophyllum sp. Wybong is only listed under the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (and not under the NSW BC Act) and therefore the BCT cannot accept a payment for this species. The Proponent submitted the Charge Quote Application to</td><td>Compliant</td></tr>
</table>

SSD ID No.	Compliance Requirement	Evidence collected	Independent Audit findings and recommendations	Compliance Status
			the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust and retired the credits against the Charge Quote Statement in good faith, believing they were acting in compliance with the conditions of consent. DPHI then, in letter dated 1/05/25, responded to the above matter indicating that the non-compliance report generally satisfied the reporting requirements of C11. DPHI acknowledged that a resolution of the issue was still underway at the time of the notification and the Proponent was working with DCCEEW to resolve this matter. **December 2025 Update**: A Modification Application (MOD2) was submitted by the Applicant and subsequently approved by DPHI on 3/08/2025 which amended the offset obligation by replacing *Prasoplhyllum sp*. for *Prasophyllum Petilum.* Further, the Department advised the Auditor that it had received confirmation of payment into the Biodiversity Conservation trust for 13 credits for *Prasophyllum Petilum* (refer to Appendix C). The non-compliance raised in IA2 is now closed	
B13	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.	Statement confirming payment into the Biodiversity Conservation Fund for an offset obligation (issued by the Biodiversity Conservation Trust, dated 27/02/2024 (date received) BCT ref: BCF678. Statement confirming payment into the Biodiversity Conservation Fund for an offset obligation (issued by the Biodiversity Conservation Trust, dated 1/11/2024 (date received) BCT ref: BCF794. Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP) Orana BESS (rev G, dated 8 November 2024) prepared by WSP.	Appendix C of the BMP attaches the evidence of payment of the credits carried out to date. The BMP was submitted to DPHI and DPHI approved the document. As indicated above, a Modification Application (MOD2) was submitted by the Applicant and subsequently approved by DPHI on 3/08/2025 which amended the offset obligation by replacing *Prasoplhyllum sp*. for *Prasophyllum Petilum.* Further, the Department advised the Auditor that it had received confirmation of payment into the Biodiversity Conservation trust for 13 credits for *Prasophyllum Petilum* (refer to Appendix C). Refer to B12.	Compliant
Biodiversity Management Plan				
B14	Prior to commencing construction, the Applicant must prepare a Biodiversity Management Plan for the development in consultation with ~~**BCS**~~**CPHR**, and to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary. This plan must: a) be prepared in accordance with the revised Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (dated 6 September 2024); b) include a description of the measures and timeframes that would be implemented for: i. protecting vegetation and fauna habitat outside the approved disturbance areas; ii. managing the remnant vegetation and fauna habitat on site; iii. minimising clearing and avoiding unnecessary disturbance of vegetation that is associated with the construction and operation of the development; iv. avoiding the removal of hollow-bearing trees during spring to avoid the main breeding period for hollow-dependant fauna; v. minimising the impacts to fauna on site and implementing fauna management protocols, including design of temporary fencing;	Site inspection 4 June 2025. Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP) Orana BESS (rev G, dated 8 November 2024) prepared by WSP. Biodiversity Management Plan Orana BESS (rev H, dated 5 March 2025) prepared by WSP Biodiversity Management Plan Orana BESS (rev I, dated 21 January 2026) prepared by WSP DPHI letter to Akaysha dated 20/11/2024, re: Orana BESS – Biodiversity Management Plan Orana BESS Habitat Tree and Pre Clearance Report June 2024 V2.0 21/06/2024 by NGH DPHI email to Akaysha date 23/01/26, re: Orana Battery Energy Storage System. - Post	A Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP) Orana BESS was prepared and then revised with MOD 1 (rev H, dated 8 November 2024) and then again revised with MOD 2 (rev I dated 21 January 2026) prepared by WSP. The BMP was prepared in consultation with BCS as per evidence provided in the BMP. DPHI, in correspondence to Akaysha dated 20/11/2024, approved the revised Orana BESS – Biodiversity Management Plan (rev G, dated 8 November 2024) which included the increased footprint from Modification 1 and the inclusion of a Masked Owl Management Plan. The BMP was revised to rev I Jan 26 to include MOD 2. The revised BMP was submitted to DPHI as indicated in DPHI email dated 23/01/26 No clearing has been reportedly undertaken during the current audit reporting period. All clearing was undertaken during the IA1 reporting period (for details refer to IA1). It is understood that disturbance of land within the Wellington substation, which did not contain native vegetation or habitat areas but highly disturbed adjoining exotic vegetation, occurred during the audit period. During site inspection, the implementation of the BMP was observed on site including protection of vegetation retained within the site, boundary fending to	Compliant

SSD ID No.	Compliance Requirement	Evidence collected	Independent Audit findings and recommendations	Compliance Status
	vi. rehabilitating and revegetating temporary disturbance areas with species that are native to the area; 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 vii. 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.	Approval Document Received - (SSD-45242780-PA-49) Letter 12/09/2024 NGH-Akaysha re: Orana BESS HBT removal and Ecologist supervision Report: Pre-clearing check for fauna and flora (48 hours prior) prepared by NGH (12,17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 23, 24, 25 September 2024) for Stage 1 Report: Pre-clearing check for fauna and flora (48 hours prior) prepared by NGH (21, 22, 23, 25, 26, 27, 28 November 2024) for Stage 2 Email DPHI to Akaysha dated 13/09/2024: receival of relevant documentation to support the commencement of HBT removal on 13/09/24 in line with approved BMP <u>Removal of hollow-bearing tree</u> Email 26/03/25 DPHI-Akaysha re: Complaint on tree clearing activity in spring Email 10/04/25 Akaysha-DPHI re: requesting for an extension to submit response relating to Complaint on tree clearing activity in spring (17/04/05) Email 10/04/25 DPHI-Akaysha re: approval on the request for extension on the submission of the response. Email 17/04/255 Akaysha-DPHI re: Submission of the response relating to Complaint on tree clearing activity in spring Email 30/04/25 DPHI -Akaysha re: response on the submission relating to complaint on tree clearing activity in spring <u>Powerful Owl Nest</u> Email 11/02/25 NGH-DPHI re: Orana BESS Pre-clearing and Modification #2 – unexpected find of powerful owl nest Email 12/02/25 DCCEEW-NGH re: Response to Pre-clearing and Modification #2 – unexpected find of powerful owl nest Email 20/02/25 NGH-DCCEEW re: submission of the required information relating to unexpected find. Email 25/0/25 NGH-DCCEEW re: submission of photo of nest and correspondence with QLD Museum	protect vegetation outside the disturbance boundary, the presence of nest boxes installed in trees within and adjacent to the site (refer to photos in Appendix E), environmental inspections and environmental induction training. The implementation of the BMP during clearing activities is discussed in IA1 and IA2. Issues regarding spring clearing and communications with DPHI and CPHR regarding spring clearing which occurred in previous audit periods, are discussed in detailed in IA1 and IA2. No actions for biodiversity management reportedly required under the BMP (during audit period). No unexpected finds during audit period (the unexpected find reported above was associated with the spring clearing reported in the previous audit period in IA1). (No documentation prepared during the audit period related to the BMP)	

SSD ID No.	Compliance Requirement	Evidence collected	Independent Audit findings and recommendations	Compliance Status
		Inquiry Details QMN:00861365 from QLD Museum (submission of photos powerful owl nest) Letter 17/04/25 Akaysha-DPHI re: Orana BESS Project (SSD-45242780) - Complaint - Tree Clearing Activities in Spring		
AMENITY				
Construction Hours				
B15	Road upgrades, construction, commissioning, demolition, upgrading or decommissioning activities (excluding blasting) may only be undertaken between: a) 7 am to 6 pm Monday to Friday; b) 8 am to 1 pm Saturdays; and c) at no time on Sundays and NSW public holidays; unless the Planning Secretary agrees otherwise.	Site inspection and interviews on 10/12/2025 DPHI letter to Akaysha dated 20/11/2024, re: Orana BESS – Stage 1 Road Upgrade – Out of Hours Works Email 30/09/2024 Akaysha-TfNSW re: Request to amend construction hours Email 22/11/2024 TfNSW-Akaysha re: Response to request to amend construction hours Email 26/06/2024 Akaysha-DRC (Dubbo Regional Council) re: Orana BESS queries Email 26/09/2024 Akaysha-DRC re: Orana BESS queries / increasing works hours on Saturdays Email 09/10/2024 DRC-Akaysha re: response / increasing works hours on Saturdays Email 9/09/2024 Akaysha-Palmers Farm re: Road works – Goolma Road on Saturday hours (consultation) Email 10/09/2024 Palmers Farm- Akaysha re: response to consultation Letter 28/04/25 Akaysha-DPHI re: Request to vary construction hours Letter 13/05/25 TfNSW-Akaysha re: Review of Out of Hours request for Orana BESS SSD-45242780 Letter 20/05/25 DPHI-Akaysha re: Out of Hours Approval Letter 9/10/25 Akaysha-DPHI re: Extension Request to vary construction hours Letter 11/11/2025 DPHI-Akaysha re: Orana BESS out of Hours Request	Construction hours are provided in project management documentation (e.g. TMPs) and are communicated to personnel in induction training material. During the construction phase, the auditee has obtained approval from DPHI to amend construction hours on few occasions (refer to B17). Most recently, during the audit period, the Department approved on the 11/11/2025 a request for OOHW on Saturdays 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm) and Sundays (8:00 am to 5:00 pm) until 30/06/2025. The OOHWs were consulted with immediately adjacent residents, Council and TfNSW. In its letter of approval, DPHI noted that the OOHW request was prepared in consultation with immediately adjacent receivers, Council and TfNSW. DPHI required that the approval be made publicly available at the earliest convenience. The approval letter is publicly available in the project website via a link to the major project website. No complaints regarding construction hours have been recorded during the reporting period.	Compliant

SSD ID No.	Compliance Requirement	Evidence collected	Independent Audit findings and recommendations	Compliance Status
Exceptions to Construction Hours				
B16	The following activities may be carried outside the hours specified in condition B15 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; or c) emergency work to avoid the loss of life, property or prevent material harm to the environment.	Site inspection and interviews on 10/12/2025	Variation of construction hours approved by DPHI as discussed in B17. Out of Hours Works undertaken during the audit period included minor civil works, electrical construction and commissioning activities. No complaints received during the audit period.	Compliant
Variation of Construction Hours				
B17	The hours of construction activities specified in condition B15 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: a) considered on a case-by-case or activity-specific basis; 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.	Site inspection and interviews on 10/12/2025 DPHI letter to Akaysha dated 20/11/2024, re: Orana BESS – Stage 1 Road Upgrade – Out of Hours Works Emails Akaysha-residents and residents-Akaysha (several March-April 2025) with consultation on extended hours Letter 28/04/25 Akaysha-DPHI re: Request to vary construction hours TfNSW letter 13/05/25 Review of Out of Hours Request for Orana BESS SSD-45242780 Letter 13/05/25 TfNSW-Akaysha re: Review of Out of Hours request for Orana BESS SSD-45242780 Letter 20/05/25 DPHI-Akaysha re: Out of Hours Approval Letter 9/10/25 Akaysha-DPHI re: Extension Request to vary construction hours Letter 11/11/2025 DPHI-Akaysha re: Orana BESS out of Hours Request Minutes of Team Meetings for Sunday 9/11/25 and 16/11/25	In correspondence dated 20/11/2024 DPHI approved a request from Akaysha (dated 30/10/24) to extend work hours on Saturdays from 1pm to 5pm until the 28 February 2025 associated with Stage 1 the construction of the road upgrades at Goolma Road. The agreement was conditional to TfNSW also providing written agreement to the extended hours (for other details refer to IA1) On 20/05/25, the Department approved the request for OOHW on Saturdays (1:00 pm to 5:00 pm) and Sundays (8:00 am to 5:00 pm) until 30/11/25. DPHI required that the approval be made publicly available at the earliest convenience. The approval letter is publicly available in the project website. During the IA3 audit period, the Department approved on the 11/11/2025 a request for OOHW on Saturdays 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm) and Sundays (8:00 am to 5:00 pm) until 30/06/2025. The OOHWs were consulted with immediately adjacent residents, Council and TfNSW. In its letter of approval, DPHI noted that the OOHW request was prepared in consultation with immediately adjacent receivers, Council and TfNSW. DPHI required that the approval be made publicly available at the earliest convenience. The approval letter is publicly available in the project website via a link to the major project website. The auditee advised that OOHWs undertaken during the reporting period included minor civil works, electrical construction and commissioning activities. The auditee further advised that these OOHWs were undertaken on a need basis. The details of the specific OOHWs are documented in daily progress meeting minutes (sighed for Sunday 9/11/25 and Sunday 16/11/25). No complaints were received during the audit period.	Compliant
Noise				
B18	The Applicant must: 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	Construction & Operational Noise & Vibration Assessment Rev 6, 31/03/2023 prepared by Renzo Tonin & Asso. Environmental Noise Assessment V02 April 25 by Enviro Science Solutions	The Construction & Operational Noise & Vibration Assessment (CONVA)) (Rev 6), dated 31/03/2023 and prepared by Renzo Tonin & Associates, noted that noise emissions from the construction phase of the project are predicted to exceed the nominated criteria at one (1) of the nearest receiver locations when the three (3) loudest items of plant and equipment operate concurrently and at the closest proximity to the receiver. In-principle recommendations are provided in Section 4.4 to limit the potential impact of construction noise to acceptable levels. The assessment determined that the large distance between the site and the nearest affected receivers makes structural damage from construction vibration negligible, with a very low risk of complaints	Compliant

<table>
<tr><th>SSD ID No.</th><th>Compliance Requirement</th><th>Evidence collected</th><th>Independent Audit findings and recommendations</th><th>Compliance Status</th></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>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.

Table 2: Noise Limit Requirements
<table><tr><th rowspan="2">Location</th><th colspan="4">Noise Limits in dB(A)</th></tr><tr><th>Day
$L_{Aeq\ (15min)}$</th><th>Evening
$L_{Aeq\ (15min)}$</th><th>Night
$L_{Aeq\ (15min)}$</th><th>Night
L_{AFmax}</th></tr><tr><td>Non-associated residences</td><td>40</td><td>35</td><td>35</td><td>52</td></tr></table></td><td></td><td>from residents. Additionally, road traffic noise during construction complies with relevant criteria, and operational traffic noise impacts are considered negligible due to minimal traffic movements.

Noise monitoring is required under the Environmental Management Strategy “as relevant to the plant and equipment on site and in response to noise complaints”.

Noise monitoring was undertaken at the site during the IA2 period. It involved EnviroScience Solutions undertaking unattended environmental noise monitoring at 3 locations around the site for a period of a week from Monday 17/03/25 to Sunday 30/03/25. Two monitoring stations showed exceedances for the night time when no works were taking place. The third station showed some exceedances for the day time and evening periods on two days, however other measures were generally below the criteria. The assessment recommended that attended monitoring—utilising 15-minute spot measurements during the Day, Evening, and Night periods at sensitive receiver locations—would be beneficial to the project. This would allow for observations to determine the sources of elevated noise levels during these periods (e.g. traffic, wildlife, construction activities, or vegetation movement).

No noise monitoring undertaken during the reporting period. No noise complaints received during the reporting period.</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>B19</td><td>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:

a) be prepared by a suitably qualified, experienced and independent acoustic consultant;

b) demonstrate that noise monitoring:

i. has been carried out in accordance with the procedures in the Noise Policy for Industry (EPA, 2017); and

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:

i. 1/3 octave data and calculated sound power levels along with a discussion of any excessive annoying characteristics and directionality;

ii. an analysis of compliance with the noise limits specified in condition B18 at R1;

iii. an outline of implemented at-source and transmission pathway mitigation measures and their effectiveness at reducing operational noise; and

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 B18 at R1 at all times.

The Applicant must undertake further noise monitoring of the development if required by the Planning Secretary.</td><td>Interview with auditees 10/12/2025</td><td>The project is in the construction phase, this condition will be addressed during operation phase.</td><td>Not triggered</td></tr>
</table>

SSD ID No.	Compliance Requirement	Evidence collected	Independent Audit findings and recommendations	Compliance Status
Dust				
B20	The Applicant must minimise the dust generated by the development.	Site inspection and interviews 10/12/2025 Environmental Management Strategy Orana BESS (Akaysha, August 2024)	At the time of the audit site inspection the site was observed with the majority of the site covered in gravel, slabs or other infrastructure and minor bare soils exposed,. Two 2 water carts were on site during the site inspection. No dust was observed during the site inspection. Dust generation is managed on site using water carts, speed limits and visual inspections. Dust management measures are provided in the Environmental Management Strategy.	Compliant
Visual				
B21	The Applicant must: a) minimise the off-site visual impacts of the development, including the potential for any glare or reflection; b) ensure the visual appearance of all ancillary infrastructure (including paint colours) blends in as far as possible with the surrounding landscape; and c) not mount any advertising signs or logos on site, except where this is required for identification or safety purposes.	Site inspection 10/12/2025	This is primarily an operational condition. No advertising signs or logos observed during the site inspection.	Compliant
Lighting				
B22	The Applicant must: a) minimise the off-site lighting impacts of the development; and b) ensure that any external lighting associated with the development: i. is installed as low intensity lighting (except where required for safety or emergency purposes); ii. does not shine above the horizontal; and iii. complies with Australian/New Zealand Standard AS/NZS 4282:2019 – Control of Obtrusive Effects of Outdoor Lighting, or its latest version.	Site inspection and interviews 10/12/2025 Orana Lighting Design Report Orana BESS, prepared by CPP (20/12/2024)	There are no lights reportedly at night at the site during construction, except for the site compound which has low intensity lighting for security and safety reasons. No complaints or issues reported to date regarding lighting impacts. Project operational lights have been installed but not commissioned in the BESS site. The Orana Lighting Design Report Orana BESS, prepared by CPP (20/12/2024) requires the project lights to comply with AS/NZS 4282.	Compliant
HERITAGE				
Protection of Heritage Items				
B23	The Applicant must ensure the development does not cause any direct or indirect impacts on Aboriginal heritage items located outside the approved development footprint.	Site inspection and interviews 10/12/2025	No unexpected heritage findings have been reported to date. The construction footprint is fenced, and construction works are contained within the site. An exclusion zone (including fencing) has been installed around the culturally modified tree located outside the site (refer to Photos in Appendix E).	Compliant
Chance Finds Protocol				
B24	Prior to the commencement of road upgrade works, the Applicant must prepare a Chance Finds Protocol for the development in consultation with Aboriginal Stakeholders, and to the satisfaction of Heritage NSW. Following approval, the Applicant must implement the Chance Finds Protocol.	Akaysha Chance Finds Protocol, Version 3 dated 12 July 2024, prepared by Virtus Heritage	A Chance Finds Protocol, Version 3 dated 12 July 2024, was prepared by Virtus Heritage for Akaysha.	Compliant

SSD ID No.	Compliance Requirement	Evidence collected	Independent Audit findings and recommendations	Compliance Status
		Letter 19/070/2024 DPHI-Akaysha re: Akaysha Chance Finds Protocol Consultation Log and Correspondence on Heritage (Stage 1.1) by Akaysha Email 18/08/2022 Heritage NSW-Akaysha re: response to consultation	The Department, in correspondence dated 19/07/2024 to Akaysha, noted that no further comments on the Chage Finds Protocol (V3) at this time and instructed that the documents be made publicly available on the project website at the earliest convenience. The document is available on the project website: https://community.akayshaenergy.com/orana-bess Consultation Log and Correspondence prepared by Akaysha provide details of consultations undertaken with Heritage NSW and other relevant stakeholders. The log includes the name or group of the stakeholder, the date the consultation was sent, the date a response was received, and details of the response. An email dated 18/08/2022 from Heritage NSW to Akaysha provided a list of possible stakeholders within the Dubbo Regional LGA to contact. As indicated in B23, no unexpected heritage findings have been reported to date. No changes since last audit	
SOIL AND WATER				
Water Supply				
B25	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. 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.	Site inspection and interviews 10/12/2025 Certificate of Title Box IW (AI877499) Water Management Act 2000 Certificate of Title Water Management Act WAL35136 Date of issue 1/9/2021	Water for dust suppression is used from the sediment basin (if available) and from a registered bore on site (groundwater). The licence for the groundwater bore was provided during the audit. There is no meter on site . Other water uses at the construction site are provided via town water trucked to the site. No changes to water supply management reported since last audit.	Compliant
Water Pollution				
B26	The Applicant must ensure that the development does not cause any water pollution, as defined under Section 120 of the POEO Act.	Site inspection and interviews 10/12/2025 Erosion and Sediment Control Plan Rev 1, 30/05/2025 by Consolidated Power (Hatch)	Sediment controls are in place generally in accordance with the Project's Erosion and Sediment Control Plan. It includes 2 active sediment basins. The main sediment basin and sediment / erosion controls was inspected during the audit site inspection (refer to photos in Appendix E). The main sediment basin were observed in good condition and evidence of off-site water pollution could be noted. The site has mostly been developed with most surfaces covered in gravel or slabs, and only minor exposed soil surfaces observed during the site inspection.	Compliant
Operating Conditions				
B27	The Applicant must: a) minimise any soil erosion and control sediment generation;	Site inspection and interviews 10/12/2025 Erosion & Sediment Control Plan – BESS Yard Rev 0,12/08/2024 and Rev 1,	Erosion & Sediment Control Plans have been prepared by consulting engineers Hatch for the site and for the Goolma Road works, showing the locations of controls and the types of controls required. As	Compliant

SSD ID No.	Compliance Requirement	Evidence collected	Independent Audit findings and recommendations	Compliance Status
	b) ensure the 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 the relevant requirements in the Managing Urban Stormwater: Soils and Construction (Landcom, 2004) manual, or its latest version; c) ensure the battery storage and ancillary infrastructure (including security fencing) are designed, constructed and maintained to reduce impacts on surface water, localised flooding and groundwater at the site; and d) ensure the battery storage and ancillary infrastructure are designed, constructed and maintained to avoid causing any erosion on site.	30/05/2025) prepared by Hatch for CPP, Drawings 12937-CI-DR-00110 and 12937-CI-DR-00111 Soil and Water Management Plan - Road Remediation & Safety Improvements Soil & Water Management Plan - Goolma Road Rev 1,12/09/2024 prepared by Harch for CPP Drawings 2937-CI-DR-00370 and 2937-CI-DR-00371	indicated above, it includes 4 sediment basins to which the entire site drain to. During the audit site inspection sediment controls were observed in place, with 2 sediment basins active (the catchment for the other two basins has been stabilised with gravel or slabs, and the final stormwater system practically completed), sediment fences, bunding and drainage to the basins (refer to photos in Appendix E). **Observation**: Sediment basin 3 has been removed given that most of its catchment has been stabilised (with gravel or concrete). A partially exposed slope located upstream of the former Sediment Basin 3 and outside the fenced project area does not appear to have sediment and erosion controls other than some minor bunding and partial mound revegetation(refer to Photos in Appendix E) **Recommendation**: Install sediment and erosion controls to manage stormwater flowing from the exposed mound located upstream of the former Sediment basin 3.	
HAZARDS				
Fire Safety Study				
B28	Prior to commencing construction of the battery storage, the Applicant must prepare a Fire Safety Study for the development, to the satisfaction of FRNSW and the Planning Secretary in writing. The study must: e) be consistent with the Department's Hazardous Industry Planning Advisory Paper No. 2 'Fire Safety Study' guideline; f) describe the final design of the battery storage; g) include reasonable worst-case bush fire scenario to and from the battery storage and the associated bush fire management; and h) identify measures to eliminate the expansion of any fire incident including: i. adequate fire safety systems and appropriate water supply; ii. separation and / or compartmentalisation of battery units; and 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. 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.	Fire Hazard and Risk Assessment (FHRA) prepared by NJM Design dated 28 November 2024 (Rev 6) FRNSW written report application for fire safety study by Akaysha (undated) FRNSW Clarification Register Based on the Teams meeting held between Akaysha Energy, NJM and FRNSW on 31/07/2024 prepared by Akaysha Email 18/07/2024 Akaysha-FRNSW re: Orana BESS - FSS Review with FRNSW Request Email 1/08/2024 FRNSW-Akaysha re: response to FSS Review with FRNSW Request Email 29/11/2024 Akaysha-FRNSW re: Submission of documents for Orana BESS - FSS Review Fire Safety Study (FSS) for BESS Rev 7, 14/05/2025 by NJM Design Email 12/05/25 Akaysha- FRNSW, re: Fire Safety Study Email 13/05/25 FRNSW-Akaysha, re: Fire Safety Study	During IA1 a Fire Hazard and Risk Assessment (FHRA) by NJM Design dated 28 November 2024 (Rev 6) had been prepared in response to condition B28. At the time, the FHRA had been submitted and was under review by FRNSW, as the related documentation was submitted on 29/11/2024. Evidence of consultation on the FHRA with FRNSW dates back to 18 July 2024. During IA1, the auditor noted that the Fire Safety Study, submitted it to FRNSW in accordance with B28, was yet to be approved by FRNSW and DPHI. The interpretation of the timing of this condition made by the Applicant was that approval is required prior to the installation of the Battery Storage (noting that the timing in other conditions is "prior to construction" and not referring specifically to a project item). The auditor also noted that the condition refer to operational and design requirements. The Applicant advised then that Revision 6 of the Orana BESS FSS was under review from FRNSW & Approval was expected prior to first BESS arrival. The auditor agreed at the time with the Applicant interpretation and will review compliance with this condition in the next six monthly audit During IA2, the Fire Safety Study (FSS) was revised (rev 7 dated 14/05/2025) and was still pending approval by FRNSW and DPHI. Project correspondence indicated that the FSS was under review by FRNSW, and that Akaysha had requested FRNSW to support a request to DPHI to stage the FSS under CoA C3 so that FRNSW endorsement of the FSS is required prior to energisation of the project. FRNSW, in email dated 13/05/25 indicated that it supported in-principle the staging of the FSS as long the BESS units are stored in accordance with FRNSW Position Station. IA2 raised an observation regarding the FSS and the fact that it was yet to be endorsed by FRNSW. It recommended the applicant to discuss with	Compliant

SSD ID No.	Compliance Requirement	Evidence collected	Independent Audit findings and recommendations	Compliance Status
		Fire Safety Study (FSS) for BESS rev 9, dated 10 July 2025 Letter 25/07/2025 DPHI-Akaysha, re: Orana BESS Fire Safety Study	the Department and agree on the timing of FRNSW endorsement and Department's approval of the FSS. **December 2025 Update:** In correspondence dated 24 June 2025, DPHI advised the Applicant that it did not approve the staging of the Fire Safety Study or the storage of battery units on site at this stage as requested by the Applicant in submission dated 16 June 2025. Subsequently, the Fire Safety Study was finalized to the satisfaction of Fire and Rescue NSW and in correspondence dated 25 July 2025 DPHI approved the Fire Safety Study (Rev 9, dated 10 July 2025). DPHI noted that the Fire Safety Study: - has been prepared in consultation, and to the satisfaction of Fire and Rescue NSW; - has been prepared generally in accordance with the Department's Hazardous Industry Planning Advisory Paper No. 2 – Fire Safety Study Guidelines; - considers the installation of Tesla Megapack 2XL batteries; - outlines a fire intervention strategy that includes the provision of 288,000 litres of firefighting water capacity and a hydrant system; and - contains the information required by the conditions of approval. The Department's approval of the Fire Safety study granted on the 25 July 2025 requires the plan to be publicly available on the project website, however Condition C20 indicates that the Applicant must make approved plans publicly available with the exception of the Emergency Plan and the Fire Safety Study. An observation and associated recommendation has been made on this regard under Condition A3. Note: the Fire Safety Study was not publicly available in the project website during the audit period	
Storage and Handling of Dangerous Goods				
B29	The Applicant must store and handle all chemicals, fuels and oils used on-site in accordance with: a) the requirements of all relevant Australian Standards; and b) the NSW EPA's Storing and Handling of Liquids: Environmental Protection – Participants Handbook if the chemicals are liquids. 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.	Site inspection 10/12/2025 Site photos – Appendix E	Small volumes of chemicals are stored on site in self bunded storages (refer to photos in Appendix E).	Compliant
Operating Conditions				
B30	The Applicant must: a) minimise the fire risks of the development, including managing vegetation fuel loads on-site;	Interview with auditees 10/12/2025	This is considered to be primarily an operational condition.	Compliant

SSD ID No.	Compliance Requirement	Evidence collected	Independent Audit findings and recommendations	Compliance Status
	b) ensure that the development: i. 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 ii. is suitably equipped to respond to any fires on site, including provision of a 20,000 litre water supply tank fitted with a 65 mm Storz fitting and a FRNSW compatible suction connection; c) ensure that the battery storage area: i. includes a 10 metre defendable space around the perimeter that permits unobstructed vehicle access; and ii. is managed as an asset protection zone (including the defendable space); d) assist the RFS and emergency services as much as practicable if there is a fire in the vicinity of the site; and e) notify the relevant Local Emergency Management Committee following construction of the development, and prior to commencing operations.	Fire Safety Study (FSS) for BESS rev 9, dated 10 July 2025 Letter 25/07/2025 DPHI-Akaysha, re: Orana BESS Fire Safety Study	The site is under civil construction, which is in its majority clear of vegetation with minor risk of fire The site includes 288 kL water storage in accordance with the approved Fire Safety Study, which is well in excess of the 20 kL required under B30. This requirement resulted following consultation with FRNSW (refer to B28). The 288 kL water storage includes 2 x 144 kl water tanks on site following the inclusion of a reticulated hydrant system (refer to photos in Appendix E. A buffer perimeter space has been built which separates the site infrastructure from the outside (refer to photos in Appendix E).	
Emergency Plan				
B31	Prior to commencing commissioning, the Applicant must develop and implement a comprehensive Emergency Plan and detailed emergency procedures for the development, and provide a copy of the plan to the NSW RFS Orana Fire Control Centre and FRNSW. The plan must: a) be prepared in accordance with the findings of the Fire Safety Study required under condition B28 of Schedule 2; 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) include details on how the battery storage and sub-systems can be safely isolated in an emergency; d) include bushfire emergency management planning, including: i. details of the location, management and maintenance of the Asset Protection Zone; ii. a list of works that should not be carried out during a total fire ban; iii. details of how RFS would be notified, and procedures that would be implemented, in the event that: – there is a fire on-site or in the vicinity of the site; – there are any activities on site that would have the potential to ignite surrounding vegetation; or – there are any proposed activities to be carried out during a bushfire danger period; and e) include an Emergency Services Information Package in accordance with Emergency services information and tactical fire plan (FRNSW, 2019), to the satisfaction of FRNSW and RFS.	Emergency Response Plan rev 3, dated 14 November 2025), prepared by Akaysha Energy Emergency Services Information Package (rev 4, dated 17 Nov 2025), prepared by Akaysha Energy Letter DPHI-Akaysha dated 24/11/2025, re: Orana BESS Emergency Plan Letter FRNSW-Akaysha dated 18/11/2025, re: Emergency Plan Submission – Orana BESS Email RFS-Akaysha dated 6/11/2025, re: Orana BESS Emergency Response Plan and ESIP	On the 24/11/2025, DPHI approved the Emergency Plan (rev 3, dated 14 November 2025) and associated Emergency Services Information Package (rev 4, dated 17 Nov 2025) in accordance with Condition B31. In its letter, DPHI noted that the Emergency Plan and associated Emergency Services Information Package had been prepared in consultation with, and to the satisfaction of, RFS and FRNSW. In correspondence dated 18/11/25, FRNSW indicated its satisfaction with the Emergency Plan and Emergency Services Information Package as per the condition of consent. The Department's approval of the Emergency Plan granted on the 24 November 2025 requires the plan to be publicly available on the project website, however Condition C20 indicates that the Applicant must make approved plans publicly available with the exception of the Emergency Plan and the Fire Safety Study. An observation and associated recommendation has been made on this regard under Condition A3. Note: the Emergency Plan was not publicly available in the project website during the audit period	Compliant
B32	The Applicant must: a) implement the Emergency Plan and the Emergency Services Information Package for the duration of the development; and b) following commencement of commissioning of the battery storage, keep a copy of the Emergency Services Information Package on-site in a prominent position adjacent to the site entry points at all times	Emergency Response Plan rev 3, dated 14 November 2025), prepared by Akaysha Energy Emergency Services Information Package (rev 4, dated 17 Nov 2025), prepared by Akaysha Energy	The 3 key scenarios considered in the approved Emergency Plan relate to fires, specifically bushfire, battery fire and main power transformer fire. The site is being constructed in accordance with the requirements of the approved Fire Safety Study as discussed under B28, incorporating fire measures (e.g. 288 kL water storage tanks, a reticulated hydrant system, buffer perimeter space, etc) (refer to photos in Appendix E.	Compliant

SSD ID No.	Compliance Requirement	Evidence collected	Independent Audit findings and recommendations	Compliance Status
		Letter DPHI-Akaysha dated 24/11/2025, re: Orana BESS Emergency Plan Site inspection 10 December 2025	Many of the requirements of the Emergency Plan relate to site operations.	
WASTE				
B33	The Applicant must: a) minimise the waste generated by the development; b) classify all waste generated on site in accordance with the EPA's Waste Classification Guidelines 2014 (or its latest version); c) store and handle all waste on site in accordance with its classification; d) not receive or dispose of any waste on site; and 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.	Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) 03/12/2024 by Consolidated Power Projects Orana Waste Register 29/08/2024 to 17/11/2025 Dubbo Regional Council Notice of Determination Liquid Waste Discharge to Seer dated 23/08/2023 (date of approval lapses 23/08/2028) Section 143 Certificate signed by the owner of the property at 6945 Goolma Road on 28/07/2025 for the receival of VENM Virgin Excavated Natural Material Assessment 6945 Goolma Road, Wuuluman NSW, by EP Risk (15 May 2025). Sam Waste Management, Tax Invoice 121779 dated 25/11/25 for removal of 1.18T of construction waste Dubbo Regional Council ticket 10103392, Whylandra Waste and Recycle Facility Cooba Road Dubbo dated 25/11/2025	Section 8.3 of the CEMP provides details on waste minimisation and management Plan. The project maintains a Waste Register showing date, vehicle rego, waste type, disposal location, tonnage. The Waste Register provided during the audit is current to 17/11/2025 No spoil removed to landfill from site to date (cut and fill balanced to date), except for some VENM taken to a neighbouring property (6945 Goolma Road) during the audit period as shown in the Section 143 Certificate signed by the owner of the property on 28/07/2025. A VENM assessment report was prepared by EP Risk (15 May 2025). Liquid waste (septic, portaloo) has been removed during the audit period by Wellington Plant Hire. Wellington Plant Hire has an approval by Council to discharge to sewer (valid to 23/08/2028) (sighted) Other waste generated by the site during the audit period has included general construction waste. Sam Waste Management is the waste contractor engaged to remove project's general construction waste. Dockets and tax invoices sighted.	Compliant
ACCOMMODATION AND EMPLOYMENT STRATEGY				
B34	Prior to commencing construction, the Applicant must prepare an Accommodation and Employment Strategy for the development in consultation with Council and Mid-Western Regional Council. This strategy must: a) propose measures to ensure there is sufficient accommodation for the workforce associated with the development; b) consider the cumulative impacts associated with other State significant development projects in the area; c) investigate options for prioritising the employment of local workers for the construction and operation of the development, where feasible; and d) 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. 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.	Orana Battery Energy Storage System Accommodation and Employment Strategy (Rev C, dated 15 July 2024) prepared by Consolidated Power Projects. DPHI letter to Akaysha Energy dated 23/07/2024, re: Orana BESS – Accommodation and Employment Strategy Industry briefing article – Orana BESS ICN job fair attracts strong regional interest 30/09/2024 Social Licensing Reporting June to Oct 2024 by Akaysha Email 1/10/2024 Akaysha-DRC re: Orana BESS Accommodation and Employment Strategy	In correspondence dated 23/07/2024, DPHI approved the Accommodation and Employment Strategy (Rev C, dated 15 July 2024). An industry briefing session was conducted on 30/09/2024 at Wellington. In that regard, the article titled "Orana BESS ICN Job Fair Attracts Strong Regional Interest," indicated that it had 92 registered attendees representing 61 different businesses from the local community. The Job fair is part of efforts to connect regional business with opportunities related to the Orana BESS project. Consultation records from April to July 2024 provided details on consultation undertaken with the Mid-Western Regional Council and Dubbo Regional Council. Social Licensing Reporting from June to Oct 2024 was provided indicating that 22.7% achievement before commercial operation. An email was sent to DRC on 1/10/2024 by Akaysha regarding the Orana BESS Accommodation and Employment Strategy, requesting a meeting with the Council to discuss and report the key metrics. On	Compliant

<table>
<tr><th>SSD ID No.</th><th>Compliance Requirement</th><th>Evidence collected</th><th>Independent Audit findings and recommendations</th><th>Compliance Status</th></tr>
<tr><td></td><td></td><td>Email 8/10/2024 DRC-Akaysha re: Response to Orana BESS Accommodation and Employment Strategy

Email 9/10/2024 Akaysha-DRC re: Orana BESS Accommodation and Employment Strategy

Email 18/11/2024 Akaysha-DRC re: follow-up Orana BESS Accommodation and Employment Strategy

Email 1/07/25, Akaysha-DRC, re: Orana BESS queries

Email 16/09/2025, re: Orana BESS queries

Email 1/10/2025, re: Orana BESS queries

Email 09/10/2025, re: Orana BESS queries

Email 28/11/2025, re: Orana BESS queries

Project Monthly Report May 2025 by CPP

Project Monthly Report November 2025 by CPP

Akaysha Energy E&S Report Orana BESS 3rd Quarter 2025</td><td>8/10/2024, DRC responded, noting they were short-staffed and suggested discussing the report on key metrics in early November. Akaysha replied to DRC and proposed holding the meeting on 11/11/2024. However, no response was received from DRC. A follow-up email was sent by Akaysha to the Council on 28/11/2024 however, DRC made no response.

CPP reports monthly to Akaysha on key targets. The November 2025 project monthly report, prepared by CPP, provides an update of the monitoring for Accommodation & Employment Strategy. The AES forms part of the engagement and onboarding process with subcontractors and employees. It indicates that it undertakes regular site visits to local suppliers.

An Observation was raised during IA2 regarding the implementation of the AES as follows: Project records indicated that the Applicant had not implemented some of the commitments of the Accommodation and Employment Strategy (AES) during the IA2 reporting period (i.e. no records of monthly meetings with Councils, or evidence of attendance to community meetings and liaison with local businesses during the reporting period).

During IA3, Council advised that the Applicant had requested Council to meet to discuss the implementation of the AES but that Council has not had the resources to accommodate that request. Project records provided by the Applicant indicate that during the audit period the Applicant attempted on several occasions to meet with Council. It is also noted that, CPP has continued monitoring the implementation of the AES, including engagement with local businesses, as shown in the monthly reports to Akaysha. Further, the Akaysha Energy E&S Report Orana BESS 3rd Quarter 2025 provides details of social initiatives Q3 2025 Fest for relief Gold sponsor and Q3 2025 – Akaysha meeting with “Boys to the bush” foundation for future donations post COD – estimated at $50,000</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="5">DECOMMISSIONING AND REHABILITATION</td></tr>
<tr><td>B35</td><td>Within 18 months of the cessation of operations, unless the Planning Secretary agrees otherwise, the Applicant must rehabilitate the site to comply with the objectives in Table 3 below.

Table 3: Rehabilitation Objectives<table><tr><th>Feature</th><th>Objective</th></tr><tr><td>Site</td><td>• Safe, stable and non-polluting.</td></tr><tr><td>Battery Storage and ancillary infrastructure</td><td>• To be decommissioned and removed, unless the Planning Secretary agrees otherwise, with the exception of assets held by the Network Service Provider.</td></tr><tr><td>Land use</td><td>• Restore land to pre-existing use.</td></tr><tr><td>Community</td><td>• Ensure public safety at all times.</td></tr></table></td><td>Site inspection on 10/12/2025</td><td>The project is under construction</td><td>Not triggered</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="5">PARTC ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT, REPORTING AND AUDITING</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="5">ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="5">Environmental Management Strategy</td></tr>
</table>

SSD ID No.	Compliance Requirement	Evidence collected	Independent Audit findings and recommendations	Compliance Status
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: a) provide the strategic framework for environmental management of the development; b) identify the statutory approvals that apply to the development; c) describe the role, responsibility, authority and accountability of all key personnel involved in the environmental management of the development; d) set out the procedures that would be implemented to: i. keep the local community and relevant agencies informed about the operation and environmental performance of the development; ii. receive, handle, respond to, and record complaints; iii. resolve any disputes that may arise; iv. respond to any non-compliance; v. respond to emergencies; and e) include: i. references to any strategies, plans and programs approved under the conditions of this consent; and 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. Following the Planning Secretary's approval, the Applicant must implement the Environmental Management Strategy.	Environmental Management Strategy Orana BESS – (rev D dated 30 July 2024) prepared by WSP Environmental Management Strategy Orana BESS – (rev E dated 16 January 2025) prepared by WSP DPHI letter to Akaysha Energy dated 31/07/2024, re: Orana BESS – Environmental Management Strategy Weekly Site Inspection Reports by CPP sighted: – 08/11/2025 – 01/11/2025 – 28/11/2025 – 18/11/2025 – 15/11/2025 Construction Environmental Management Plan Revision F, 20/03/25 by Consolidated Power Projects (CPP) DPHI email to Akaysha dated 23/01/2026, re: Orana BESS Post Approval Document received SSD-45242780 PA-46	DPHI, in correspondence to Akasha Energy dated 31/07/2024, approved the Orana BESS – Environmental Management Strategy (rev D dated 30 July 2024). Project records indicate that the applicant has generally implemented the EMS during the reporting period. Weekly inspections are undertaken in accordance with the Environmental Management Strategy. CPP undertakes the regular weekly inspections for the project, covering housekeeping, safety, tools and equipment, environmental aspects, permits to work/SWMS, quality, and mobile plant operations, with a different focus area each week. Environmental monitoring has been undertaken during the audit period including vehicle movement (refer to B2), and dust visual monitoring (refer to B20). An Environmental Manager supervises and manages the site's environmental performance. EMS has not been updated during the audit period. The applicant advised that an update of the EMS was not required. The contractor, CPP, has a CEMP prepared for the project under contractual requirements with Akaysha. The CEMP sits under the EMS and is not a document prepared under the Development Consent. The CPP's CEMP was updated on 20/03/2025. The EMS was revised to rev E Jan 26 to include MOD 2. The revised EMS was submitted to DPHI as indicated in DPHI email dated 23/01/26	Compliant
Revision of Strategies, Plans and Programs				
C2	The Applicant must: 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 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: i. submission of an incident report under condition C10 of Schedule 2; ii. submission of an audit report under condition C14 of Schedule 2; or iii. any modification to the conditions of this consent.	Interview with auditees 10/12/2025 Environmental Management Strategy Orana BESS – (rev D dated 30 July 2024) prepared by WSP Environmental Management Strategy Orana BESS – (rev E dated 16 January 2025) prepared by WSP Biodiversity Management Plan Orana BESS (rev H, dated 5 March 2025) prepared by WSP Biodiversity Management Plan Orana BESS (rev I, dated 21 January 2026) prepared by WSP DPHI letter to Akaysha dated 20/11/2024, re: Orana BESS – Biodiversity Management Plan	IA1 indicated that the BMP was revised in response to MOD 1, which amongst other items, included a Masked Owl Management Plan as MOD 1 resulted in Masked Owl needing to be offset. The revised BMP (8 Nov 2024, but initial amended version dated 30/09/2024) was approved by DPHI on the 20/11/2024. Other documents were reportedly reviewed after MOD 1 by the applicant but did not require updating. During the IA2 period, on 3/03/25, the auditees made a request to stage TMP to the DPHI and the Department approved then request on 10/03/25. TMP Stage 2a was approved by DPHI on 13/03/25, TMP Stage 2b was approved on 14/05/25. The TMP was updated to Revision D, dated 21/03/25, by Consolidated Power Projects to reflect changes to project staging and relevant definitions. TMPs were the only documents revised during the audit period Stage 2 Traffic Management Plan (7/02/2025) was revised within a month of the Independent Audit No. 1 (06/02/2025). The auditee advised that other plans required under the Development Consent were reviewed but did not require updating. During the IA3 period a modification (MOD 2) as approved on the 3/08/2025). There is no evidence that the management plans (e.g.	Non-Compliant

SSD ID No.	Compliance Requirement	Evidence collected	Independent Audit findings and recommendations	Compliance Status
		Stage 2a Traffic Management Plan Rev C 7/02/25 by Amber Letter 13/03/25 DPHI-Akaysha re: Approval of TMP Stage 2a Stage 2b Traffic Management Plan Rev A 17/04/25 by Amber Letter 14/05/25 DPHI-Akaysha re: Approval of TMP Stage 2b Traffic Management Plan (TMP) Revision D, 21/03/25 by Consolidated Power Projects DPHI email to Akaysha dated 23/01/2026, re: Orana BESS Post Approval Document received SSD-45242780 PA-46 DPHI email to Akaysha dated 23/01/2026, re: Orana BESS Post Approval Document received SSD-45242780 PA-49	biodiversity management plan) were reviewed during the audit period. Neither the management plans were reviewed following the submission of the previous audit report (IA2) No incidents (as defined in the Development Consent) reported during the reporting period. **Non-compliance**: Project's environmental management documents prepared under SSD 45242780, such as the Biodiversity Management Plan or the Environmental Management Strategy), have not been reviewed and revised (if required) within one month of the approval of MOD 2 or the submission of Independent Audit 2. **Recommendation**: Review the Project's environmental management documents with consideration of MOD 2 (e.g. changes in project footprint, offset species, etc) and any other any other recent Project changes that may impact on the site's management and revise plans as required. **Applicant Actions**: Prior to completing this audit report, the Applicant reviewed the management plans and updated the EMS and BMP to incorporate Mod 2. The EMS and BMP were submitted to DPHI under Conditions C1 and B14 as indicated in DPHI's emails to the Applicant both dated 23/01/26. The auditor considers this non-compliance closed.	
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: 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); 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).	DPHI letter to Akaysha dated 8/10/2024 re: Orana BESS – Traffic Management Plan Staging Stage 2a Traffic Management Plan Rev C 7/02/25 by Amber Letter 13/03/25 DPHI-Akaysha re: Approval of TMP Stage 2a Stage 2b Traffic Management Plan Rev A 17/04/25 by Amber Letter 14/05/25 DPHI-Akaysha re: Approval of TP Stage 2b Letter 24/06/2025 DPHI-Akaysha, re: Orana BESS Fire Safety Study Staging	The project has not been staged, other than the traffic works and Traffic Management Plan. During IA1, DPHI, in correspondence dated 8/10/24, approved the staging of the Traffic Management Plan (refer also to B10). During IA2, on 3/03/25 the auditees made a request to further stage TMP to the DPHI and the Department approved then request on 10/03/25. TMP Stage 2a was approved by DPHI on 13/03/25, TMP Stage 2b was approved on 14/05/25. The TMP was updated to Revision D, dated 21/03/25, by Consolidated Power Projects to reflect changes to project staging and relevant definitions During the reporting period, DPHI in correspondence dated 24/06/2025 rejected a request to stage the Fire Safety Study due to the lack of clarity and information in the application. No other project staging occurred during the reporting period.	Compliant
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.	As above	As above DPHI approvals of the staged TMPs (Stage 2a and 2b) issued on 13/03/25 and 14/05/25 respectively. No other project staging occurred during the reporting period.	Compliant
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.	As above	As above Refer also to B10 (implementation).	Compliant

SSD ID No.	Compliance Requirement	Evidence collected	Independent Audit findings and recommendations	Compliance Status
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.	As above	As above	Compliant
NOTIFICATIONS				
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. 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.	Letter 17/06/2024 Akaysha to DPHI re: Request to commence limited construction activities prior to completion of Goolma road upgrades Letter 19/07/2024 DPHI-Akaysha re: Orana BESS road upgrade and enabling works request Letter 10/09/2024 Akaysha to DPHI re: Commencement of Goolma Road and Enabling Site Works Stage 2a Traffic Management Plan Rev C 7/02/25 by Amber Letter 13/03/25 DPHI-Akaysha re: Approval of TMP Stage 2a Stage 2b Traffic Management Plan Rev A 17/04/25 by Amber Letter 14/05/25 DPHI-Akaysha re: Approval of TP Stage 2b Letter 13/03/2025 Akaysha to DPHI, re: Commencement of Stage 2A construction activities Letter 10/06/25 Akaysha to DPHI, re: Commencement of Stage 2B construction activities Letter 11/06/25 DPHI to Akaysha, re: Orana BESS Construction Commencement Stage 2b	IA1: Akaysha, in its email dated 17/06/2024, made a request to the Department to commence limited construction activities prior to the completion of Goolma Road upgrades. On 19/07/2024, The Department approved the request. Akaysha, in correspondence dated 10/09/2024, notified DPHI of the commencement of Goolma Road upgrade road on the 29/08/2024 and the development plans to commence construction in line with the parallel works approval on the 11/09/2024. IA2: The TMP has been staged as discussed in B10 The notification of commencement of Stage 2a on the 14/03/25 to the Department was provided in letter dated 13/03/25. IA3: no notification required during the audit period.	Not triggered
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, showing comparison to the approved layout and including details on the siting of battery storage and ancillary infrastructure. The Applicant must ensure that the development is constructed in accordance with the Final Layout Plans.	DRW No. 12937-EL-DR-10000 Overall Site Layout Rev A 29/05/2024 by Consolidated Power Projects DRW No. 12937-EL-DR-10001 Facility Plan Rev B 29/05/2024 by Consolidated Power Projects DRW No. 12937-EL-DR-11100 General Arrangement Rev A 29/05/2024 by Consolidated Power Projects	Sighted an email from DPHI dated 9/07/2024 acknowledging the submission of the final layout drawings to the Department. No changes since last audit, noting that the Fire Safety Study prepared in consultation with RFNSW required some fire related design changes to accommodate water tanks. The Fire Safety Study was submitted to and approved by DPHI on the 25/07/2025. The auditee advised that these amendments will be further communicated to DPHI in due course.	Compliant

SSD ID No.	Compliance Requirement	Evidence collected	Independent Audit findings and recommendations	Compliance Status
		Email 9/07/2024 DPHI-Akaysha re: Acknowledgement receipt for the submission of Final Layout Drawings Fire Safety Study (FSS) for BESS rev 9, dated 10 July 2025 Letter 25/07/2025 DPHI-Akaysha, re: Orana BESS Fire Safety Study		
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 to Council.	Interview with Auditees 10/12/2025	The project is in the construction phase, this condition will be addressed during final phase.	Not triggered
Incident Notification				
C10	The Applicant must notify the Department within 24 hours of becoming aware of an incident. The notification must be made via the NSW planning portal (Major Projects) and address details of the incident including: a) date, time and location; b) a brief description of what occurred and why it has been classified as an incident; c) a description of what immediate steps were taken in relation to the incident; and d) identifying a contact person for further communication regarding the incident.	Interview with Auditees 10/12/2025 SureWorx records July to November 2025 Refer to B10	The auditee maintains incident records in the platform SureWorkx. Incidents reported during the audit period included minor safety or environmental events. SureWorkx incidents records from 1/07/25 to 28/11/2025 were sighted by the auditor No incidents as defined in the Development Consent were reported under C10 during the audit period. .	Compliant
C10A	The Applicant must provide the Department with a subsequent incident report in accordance with Appendix 8 (Incident Notification and Reporting Requirements).	Interview with Auditees 10/12/2025 Refer to B10	Refer to above	Not triggered
Non-Compliance Notification				
C11	Within seven days of becoming aware of a non-compliance, the Applicant must notify the Department of the non-compliance. The notification must be in writing and must be submitted via the NSW planning portal (Major Projects). The notification must identify the development (including the development application number and name), set out the condition of this consent that the development is non-compliant with, why it does not comply, the reasons for the noncompliance (if known), and what actions have been undertaken, or will be undertaken, and when, to address the non-compliance. Note: A non-compliance which has been notified as an incident does not need to also be notified as a non-compliance.	Interview with Auditees 10/12/2025 Letter 1/05/2025 DPHI-Akaysha – Re: Orana BESS Biodiversity Offset Non-compliance Letter 14/04/25 NGH-DPHI (Department of Energy, Resource and Industry Assessments) re: Orana BESS SSD 45242780 – DPHI Non-Compliance Notification Letter	No non-compliance notifications issued to the Department during the reporting period. Response to findings to IA2, which included to non-compliances, were provided to DPHI as indicated in C14. For non-compliance reporting during previous audits refer to IA1 and IA2.	Compliant
C12	Deleted	Mod-1 SSD 45242780 : Additional construction laydown area and permanent fill batters approved on 26/09/2029 by DPHI	This requirement was removed in Modification 1.	
C13	Deleted	Mod-1 SSD 45242780 : Additional construction laydown area and permanent fill batters approved on 26/09/2029 by DPHI	This requirement was removed in Modification 1.	
INDEPENDENT ENVIRONMENTAL AUDIT				

SSD ID No.	Compliance Requirement	Evidence collected	Independent Audit findings and recommendations	Compliance Status
C14	Independent Environmental Audits of the development must be conducted and carried out in accordance with the Independent Audit Post Approval Requirements (2020) or as updated from time to time and published on the Department's website.	IAPAR 2020 Independent Audit 1 by WolfPeak dated 6/02/25 Post Approval dated 14/02/25 re: submission of Orana BESS Independent Audit No. 1 Rev 3, 6/02/25 by WolfPeak and response to audit findings. Letter 26/02/2025 DPHI-Akaysha re: Response to submission of IA1 Orana BESS Proponent response to audit findings (IA1). Independent Audit 2 by WolfPeak dated 29/07/2025 Letter 14/08/2025 DPHI-Akaysha re: Orana BESS – Independent Environmental Audit No. 2 Orana BESS Proponent response to audit findings (IA2).	WolfPeak was engaged by Akaysha to undertake the independent audits for the project. Independent Audit No. 1 Rev 3, dated 06/02/25, was prepared by WolfPeak, and the response to the audit findings was submitted to DPHI on the same date, within the required timeframe specified in the IAPAR 2020. DPHI provided its response on 26 February 2025 regarding the submission of IA1 and considered the IEA report to generally satisfy the reporting requirements of the consent and IAPAR 2020. Independent Audit No. 2 Rev 2, dated 29/07/25, was prepared by WolfPeak, and the response to the audit findings was submitted to DPHI on the 4/08/25, within the required timeframe specified in the IAPAR 2020. DPHI provided its response on 14 August 2025 regarding the submission of IA2 and considered the IEA report to generally satisfy the reporting requirements of the consent and IAPAR 2020. The current audit has been undertaken in accordance with IAPAR (2020), and within the timeframes required under IAPAR (2020)	Compliant
C15	Deleted	Mod-1 SSD 45242780 : Additional construction laydown area and permanent fill batters approved on 26/09/2029 by DPHI	This requirement was removed in Modification 1.	
C16	Deleted	Mod-1 SSD 45242780 : Additional construction laydown area and permanent fill batters approved on 26/09/2029 by DPHI	This requirement was removed in Modification 1.	
C17	Deleted	Mod-1 SSD 45242780 : Additional construction laydown area and permanent fill batters approved on 26/09/2029 by DPHI	This requirement was removed in Modification 1.	
C18	Deleted	Mod-1 SSD 45242780 : Additional construction laydown area and permanent fill batters approved on 26/09/2029 by DPHI	This requirement was removed in Modification 1.	
C19	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.		The project is under construction	Not Triggered
ACCESS TO INFORMATION				
C20	The Applicant must: a) make the following information publicly available on its website as relevant to the stage of the development: i. the EIS;	There are two project websites with information about the project: https://community.akayshaenergy.com/orana-bess	The website https://community.akayshaenergy.com/orana-bess contains the following or access to that information via links to the major projects website: i. EIS	Non-compliant

SSD ID No.	Compliance Requirement	Evidence collected	Independent Audit findings and recommendations	Compliance Status
	ii. the final layout plans for the development; iii. current statutory approvals for the development; iv. approved strategies, plans or programs required under the conditions of this consent (other than the Fire Safety Study and Emergency Plan); v. the proposed staging plans for the development if the construction, operation and/or decommissioning of the development is to be staged; 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; vii. how complaints about the development can be made; viii. any independent environmental audit, and the Applicant's response to the recommendations in any audit; and ix. any other matter required by the Planning Secretary; and b) keep this information up to date.	https://akayshaenergy.com/projects/orana-bess	ii. A Final Layout Plan is uploaded iii. The SSD approval is available in the Major Projects link provided in the website iv. Environmental Management Strategy, Biodiversity Management Plan, Traffic Management Plans and Accommodation and Employment Strategy uploaded v. Traffic Management Plan Stages uploaded vi. Monitoring results not updated at the time of this audit vii. Community feedback form and contact details provided viii. The first and second audits are available in the Major Projects link provided in the website. Response to audit findings were not uploaded at the time of this audit. ix. The approved capacity increase to 415 MW and the Chance Finds Protocol are uploaded in the website in accordance with Planning Secretary requests (DPHI correspondences dated 4/03/2024 and 19/07/24 respectively). Refer also to A3 findings **Non-compliance:** The project website does not include the applicant's response to the findings of Independent Audits or a comprehensive summary of the monitoring results for the development. The Independent Audits are not directly uploaded in the Project website but instead there is a link to the Major Project's portal which has the Audit reports. **Recommendation:** Update the project website and include the Applicant's response to the findings of Independent Audits and a comprehensive summary of monitoring results of the development. It is also recommended that the Independent Audit Reports be directly uploaded in the project website. **Applicant Action**: prior to completing this audit, the auditee uploaded the applicant's response to the findings of IA2 and recent inspection reports. The Auditor considered this non-compliance has been addressed and considered it closed, but an observation has been raised in this regard. **Observation**: The summary of monitoring results uploaded in the project website are recent inspection reports. The Independent Audit reports are not directly uploaded in the project website but through a link to the Major Project's portal where the Independent Audit reports are available. Although the findings of first independent audit are closed, the Applicant's response to the findings of the first independent audit are not uploaded in the project website. **Recommendation**: Upload in the project website the Independent Audit Reports, the Applicant response to the findings of the first independent audit and a comprehensive summary of monitoring results reported in accordance with approved management plans.	

APPENDIX B – PLANNING SECRETARY AGREEMENT OF INDEPENDENT AUDITORS

Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure

NSW GOVERNMENT

NSW Planning ref: SSD-45242780-PA-26

Timothy Hoban
GM Development
Akaysha Energy Pty Ltd
Everlane Building, Level 7 22 Gordon Street
Cremorne, VIC, 3121
10/12/2024

Sent via the Major Projects Portal only

Subject: Orana BESS - IEA Team Agreement

Dear Mr Hoban

Reference is made to your post approval matter, SSD-45242780-PA-26, request for the Planning Secretary's agreement of suitably qualified, experienced, and independent persons to conduct an Independent Audit of the (Orana BESS SSD-45242780).

NSW Planning has reviewed the independent auditor nominations and based on the information you have provided is satisfied that the proposed person/s are suitably qualified, experienced, and independent.

In accordance with Schedule 2, Condition C15 of the Development Consent and the NSW Planning, *Independent Audit Post Approval Requirements* (2020), as nominee of the Planning Secretary, I agree to the following independent audit team:

- Mr Ricardo Prieto-Curiel
- Mr Steve Fermio

Please ensure this correspondence is appended to the Independent Audit Report.

The Independent Audit must be prepared, undertaken, and finalised in accordance with the conditions of the Development Consent and the *Independent Audit Post Approval Requirements* (2020). Failure to meet these requirements will require revision and resubmission.

Should you wish to discuss the matter further, please contact Wayne Jones on (02) 6575 3406.

Yours sincerely

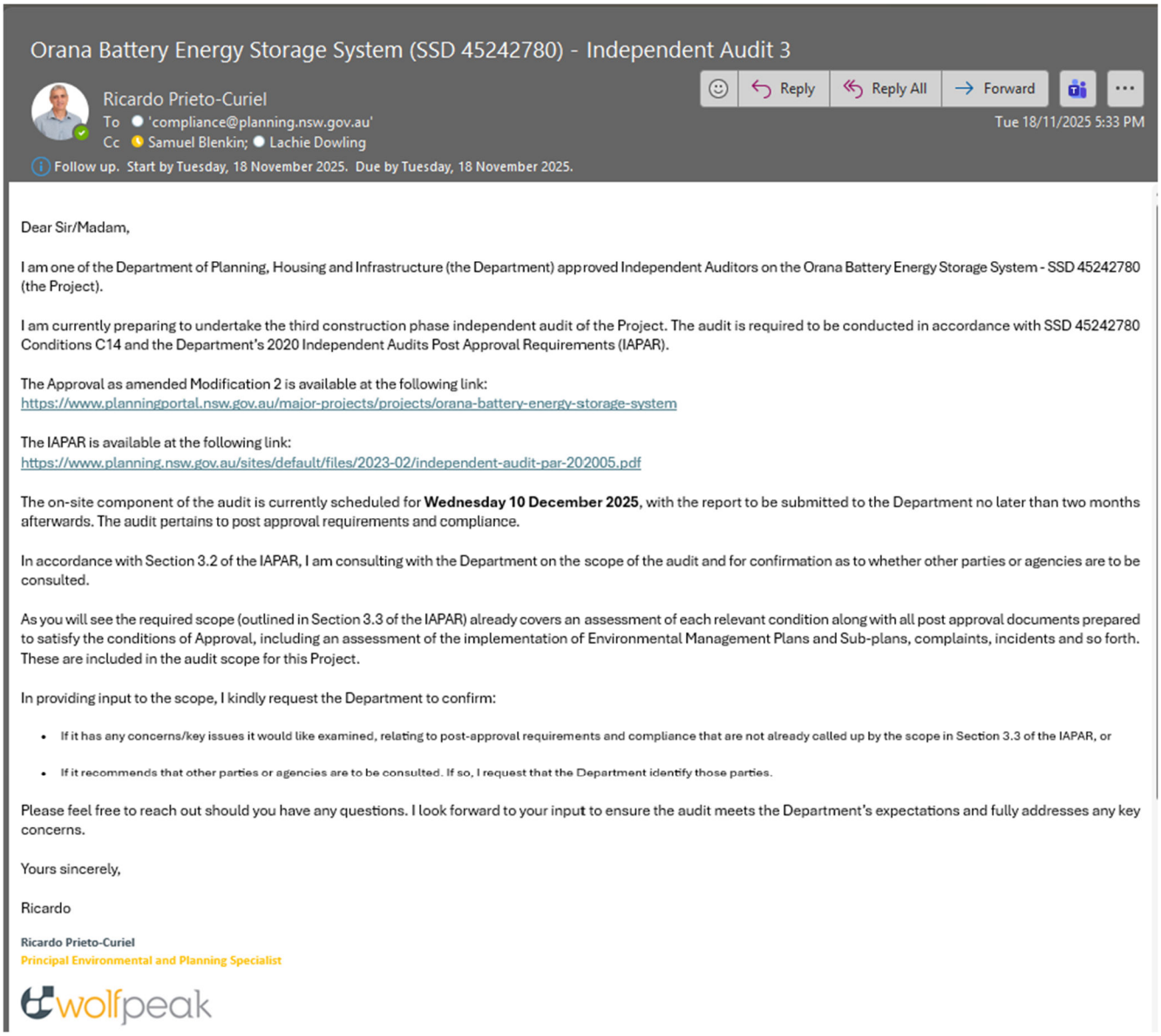


Iwan Davies
Director
Energy Assessments

As nominee of the Planning Secretary

APPENDIX C – CONSULTATION RECORDS

Consultation to DPHI



Orana Battery Energy Storage System (SSD 45242780) - Independent Audit 3

Ricardo Prieto-Curiel
To 'compliance@planning.nsw.gov.au'
Cc Samuel Blenkin; Lachie Dowling

Reply | Reply All | Forward

Tue 18/11/2025 5:33 PM

Follow up. Start by Tuesday, 18 November 2025. Due by Tuesday, 18 November 2025.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am one of the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (the Department) approved Independent Auditors on the Orana Battery Energy Storage System - SSD 45242780 (the Project).

I am currently preparing to undertake the third construction phase independent audit of the Project. The audit is required to be conducted in accordance with SSD 45242780 Conditions C14 and the Department's 2020 Independent Audits Post Approval Requirements (IAPAR).

The Approval as amended Modification 2 is available at the following link:
https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/projects/orana-battery-energy-storage-system

The IAPAR is available at the following link:
https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/2023-02/independent-audit-par-202005.pdf

The on-site component of the audit is currently scheduled for **Wednesday 10 December 2025**, with the report to be submitted to the Department no later than two months afterwards. The audit pertains to post approval requirements and compliance.

In accordance with Section 3.2 of the IAPAR, I am consulting with the Department on the scope of the audit and for confirmation as to whether other parties or agencies are to be consulted.

As you will see the required scope (outlined in Section 3.3 of the IAPAR) already covers an assessment of each relevant condition along with all post approval documents prepared to satisfy the conditions of Approval, including an assessment of the implementation of Environmental Management Plans and Sub-plans, complaints, incidents and so forth. These are included in the audit scope for this Project.

In providing input to the scope, I kindly request the Department to confirm:

- If it has any concerns/key issues it would like examined, relating to post-approval requirements and compliance that are not already called up by the scope in Section 3.3 of the IAPAR, or
- If it recommends that other parties or agencies are to be consulted. If so, I request that the Department identify those parties.

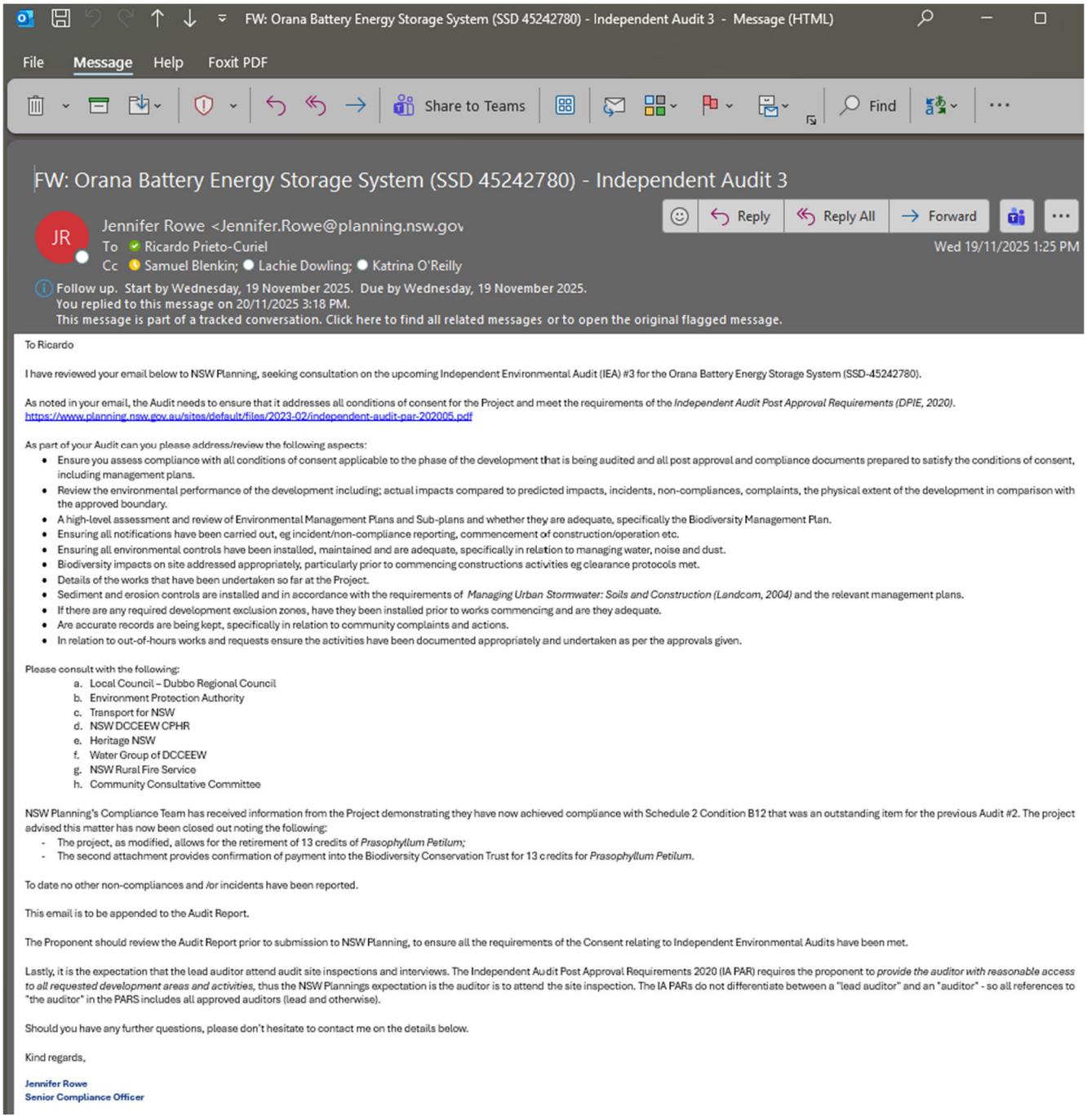
Please feel free to reach out should you have any questions. I look forward to your input to ensure the audit meets the Department's expectations and fully addresses any key concerns.

Yours sincerely,

Ricardo

Ricardo Prieto-Curiel
Principal Environmental and Planning Specialist

wolfpeak



FW: Orana Battery Energy Storage System (SSD 45242780) - Independent Audit 3 - Message (HTML)

File Message Help Foxit PDF

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FW: Orana Battery Energy Storage System (SSD 45242780) - Independent Audit 3

JR

Jennifer Rowe <Jennifer.Rowe@planning.nsw.gov

To Ricardo Prieto-Curiel

Cc Samuel Blenkin; Lachie Dowling; Katrina O'Reilly

Reply Reply All Forward

Wed 19/11/2025 1:25 PM

Follow up. Start by Wednesday, 19 November 2025. Due by Wednesday, 19 November 2025.
You replied to this message on 20/11/2025 3:18 PM.
This message is part of a tracked conversation. Click here to find all related messages or to open the original flagged message.

To Ricardo

I have reviewed your email below to NSW Planning, seeking consultation on the upcoming Independent Environmental Audit (IEA) #3 for the Orana Battery Energy Storage System (SSD-45242780).

As noted in your email, the Audit needs to ensure that it addresses all conditions of consent for the Project and meet the requirements of the *Independent Audit Post Approval Requirements (DPIE, 2020)*.
https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/2023-02/independent-audit-par-202005.pdf

As part of your Audit can you please address/review the following aspects:

- Ensure you assess compliance with all conditions of consent applicable to the phase of the development that is being audited and all post approval and compliance documents prepared to satisfy the conditions of consent, including management plans.
- Review the environmental performance of the development including; actual impacts compared to predicted impacts, incidents, non-compliances, complaints, the physical extent of the development in comparison with the approved boundary.
- A high-level assessment and review of Environmental Management Plans and Sub-plans and whether they are adequate, specifically the Biodiversity Management Plan.
- Ensuring all notifications have been carried out, eg incident/non-compliance reporting, commencement of construction/operation etc.
- Ensuring all environmental controls have been installed, maintained and are adequate, specifically in relation to managing water, noise and dust.
- Biodiversity impacts on site addressed appropriately, particularly prior to commencing constructions activities eg clearance protocols met.
- Details of the works that have been undertaken so far at the Project.
- Sediment and erosion controls are installed and in accordance with the requirements of *Managing Urban Stormwater: Soils and Construction (Landcom, 2004)* and the relevant management plans.
- If there are any required development exclusion zones, have they been installed prior to works commencing and are they adequate.
- Are accurate records are being kept, specifically in relation to community complaints and actions.
- In relation to out-of-hours works and requests ensure the activities have been documented appropriately and undertaken as per the approvals given.

Please consult with the following:

a. Local Council – Dubbo Regional Council
b. Environment Protection Authority
c. Transport for NSW
d. NSW DCCEEW CPHR
e. Heritage NSW
f. Water Group of DCCEEW
g. NSW Rural Fire Service
h. Community Consultative Committee

NSW Planning's Compliance Team has received information from the Project demonstrating they have now achieved compliance with Schedule 2 Condition B12 that was an outstanding item for the previous Audit #2. The project advised this matter has now been closed out noting the following:

- The project, as modified, allows for the retirement of 13 credits of *Prasophyllum Petilum;*
- The second attachment provides confirmation of payment into the Biodiversity Conservation Trust for 13 credits for *Prasophyllum Petilum.*

To date no other non-compliances and /or incidents have been reported.

This email is to be appended to the Audit Report.

The Proponent should review the Audit Report prior to submission to NSW Planning, to ensure all the requirements of the Consent relating to Independent Environmental Audits have been met.

Lastly, it is the expectation that the lead auditor attend audit site inspections and interviews. The Independent Audit Post Approval Requirements 2020 (IA PAR) requires the proponent to *provide the auditor with reasonable access to all requested development areas and activities*, thus the NSW Plannings expectation is the auditor is to attend the site inspection. The IA PARs do not differentiate between a "lead auditor" and an "auditor" - so all references to "the auditor" in the PARS includes all approved auditors (lead and otherwise).

Should you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to contact me on the details below.

Kind regards,

Jennifer Rowe
Senior Compliance Officer

Consultation with Council – Dubbo Regional Council

SSD-4542780
AD25/718

7 January 2025

DUBBO REGIONAL COUNCIL

WOLFPEAK
Level 1, 180 George Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

rprietocuriel@wolfpeak.com.au

Ricardo Prieto-Curiel

RE: SSD-45242780(MOD 1) ORANA BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM
6945 GOOLMA ROAD WUULUMAN

I refer to your recent email dated 13 December 2024 regarding an Independent Environmental Audit for the Orana Battery Energy Storage System approval and your request for any concerns/key issues in this regard.

Council Officers have reviewed your request and provide the following comments:

- That the Audit ensures that all required statutory approvals, particularly Construction Certificates and any Section 68 approvals under the Local Government Act have been obtained prior to those works being undertaken.

  It has been Council's experience that State Significant Developments are notorious for failures by the builder and contractors to obtain the prerequisite approvals.

- A Planning Agreement was entered into on 19 August 2024, as per Condition A15 https://www.dubbo.nsw.gov.au/Builders-Developers/Planning-Controls-Tools-and-Resources/planning-agreements

- Council provided comments on the Accommodation and Employment Strategy on 10 April 2024, in accordance with the consultation requirement in Condition B34. The applicant has wanted to meet lately to provide ongoing updates about its implementation, but Council does not have the resources to accommodate their request.

- That the Audit confirms that all required biodiversity credits were retired prior to the commencement of work, as per Conditions B12 & B13, and that the required Biodiversity Management Plan as per Condition B14 has been prepared.

If you have any enquiries in this matter, please do not hesitate to contact Council's Manager Building & Development Services, Darryll Quigley during normal office hours, on 6801 4656.

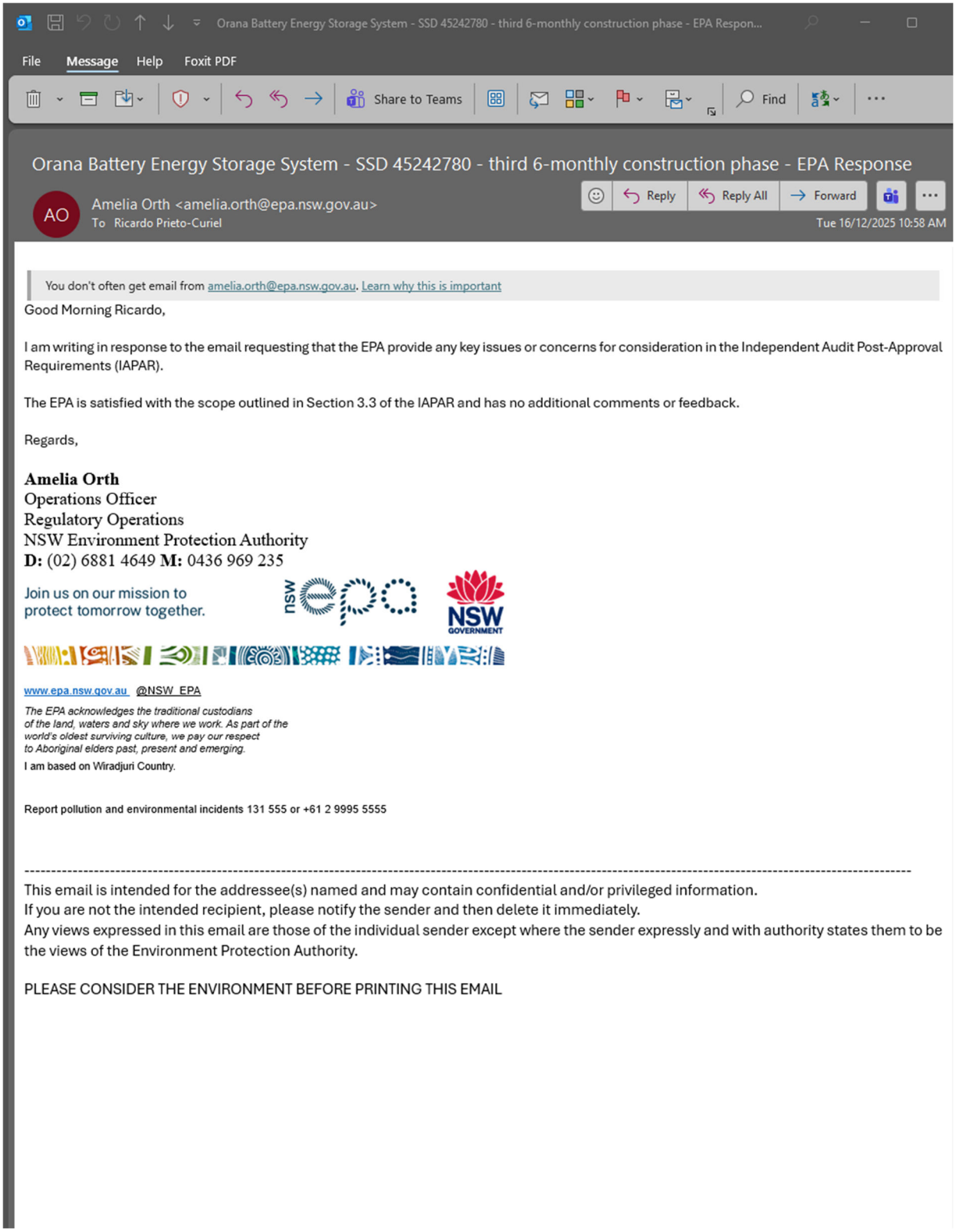
All communications to: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
ABN 53 539 070 928
PO Box 81 Dubbo NSW 2830
T (02) 6801 4000 F (02) 6801 4259 E council@dubbo.nsw.gov.au
Civic Administration Building Church St Dubbo NSW 2830
W dubbo.nsw.gov.au

Yours faithfully



Darryll Quigley
Manager Building and Development Services

Consultation with EPA



Orana Battery Energy Storage System - SSD 45242780 - third 6-monthly construction phase - EPA Respon...

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Orana Battery Energy Storage System - SSD 45242780 - third 6-monthly construction phase - EPA Response

AO Amelia Orth <amelia.orth@epa.nsw.gov.au>
To Ricardo Prieto-Curiel

Reply Reply All Forward

Tue 16/12/2025 10:58 AM

You don't often get email from amelia.orth@epa.nsw.gov.au. Learn why this is important

Good Morning Ricardo,

I am writing in response to the email requesting that the EPA provide any key issues or concerns for consideration in the Independent Audit Post-Approval Requirements (IAPAR).

The EPA is satisfied with the scope outlined in Section 3.3 of the IAPAR and has no additional comments or feedback.

Regards,

Amelia Orth
Operations Officer
Regulatory Operations
NSW Environment Protection Authority
D: (02) 6881 4649 **M:** 0436 969 235

Join us on our mission to protect tomorrow together.

www.epa.nsw.gov.au @NSW_EPA

The EPA acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land, waters and sky where we work. As part of the world's oldest surviving culture, we pay our respect to Aboriginal elders past, present and emerging.

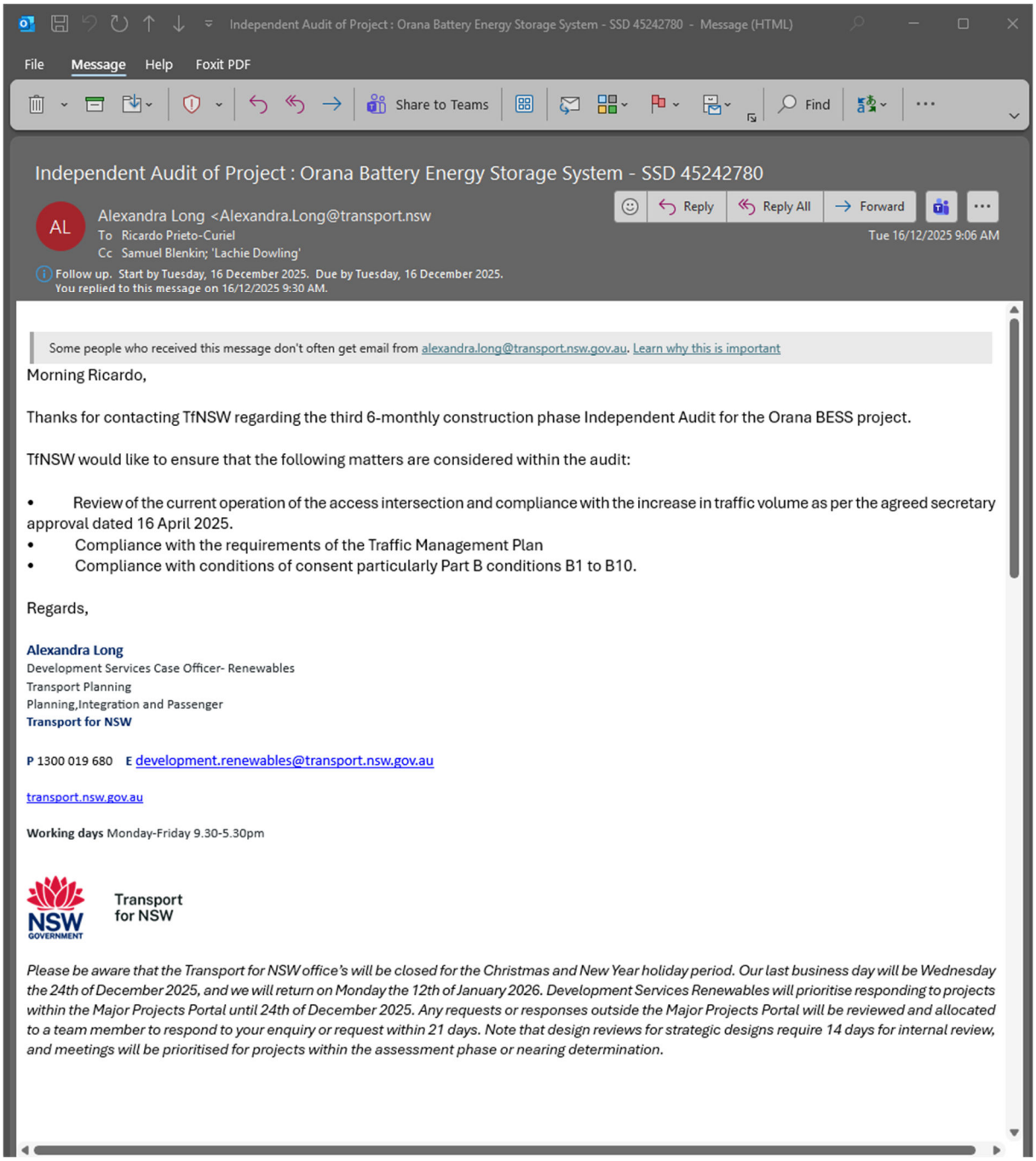
I am based on Wiradjuri Country.

Report pollution and environmental incidents 131 555 or +61 2 9995 5555

This email is intended for the addressee(s) named and may contain confidential and/or privileged information.
If you are not the intended recipient, please notify the sender and then delete it immediately.
Any views expressed in this email are those of the individual sender except where the sender expressly and with authority states them to be the views of the Environment Protection Authority.

PLEASE CONSIDER THE ENVIRONMENT BEFORE PRINTING THIS EMAIL

Consultation with Transport NSW



Independent Audit of Project : Orana Battery Energy Storage System - SSD 45242780 - Message (HTML)

File Message Help Foxit PDF

Share to Teams Find

Independent Audit of Project : Orana Battery Energy Storage System - SSD 45242780

Reply Reply All Forward

AL Alexandra Long <Alexandra.Long@transport.nsw

To Ricardo Prieto-Curiel

Cc Samuel Blenkin; 'Lachie Dowling'

Tue 16/12/2025 9:06 AM

Follow up. Start by Tuesday, 16 December 2025. Due by Tuesday, 16 December 2025.
You replied to this message on 16/12/2025 9:30 AM.

Some people who received this message don't often get email from alexandra.long@transport.nsw.gov.au. Learn why this is important

Morning Ricardo,

Thanks for contacting TfNSW regarding the third 6-monthly construction phase Independent Audit for the Orana BESS project.

TfNSW would like to ensure that the following matters are considered within the audit:

- Review of the current operation of the access intersection and compliance with the increase in traffic volume as per the agreed secretary approval dated 16 April 2025.
- Compliance with the requirements of the Traffic Management Plan
- Compliance with conditions of consent particularly Part B conditions B1 to B10.

Regards,

Alexandra Long
Development Services Case Officer- Renewables
Transport Planning
Planning,Integration and Passenger
Transport for NSW

P 1300 019 680 **E** development.renewables@transport.nsw.gov.au

transport.nsw.gov.au

Working days Monday-Friday 9.30-5.30pm

NSW GOVERNMENT Transport for NSW

Please be aware that the Transport for NSW office's will be closed for the Christmas and New Year holiday period. Our last business day will be Wednesday the 24th of December 2025, and we will return on Monday the 12th of January 2026. Development Services Renewables will prioritise responding to projects within the Major Projects Portal until 24th of December 2025. Any requests or responses outside the Major Projects Portal will be reviewed and allocated to a team member to respond to your enquiry or request within 21 days. Note that design reviews for strategic designs require 14 days for internal review, and meetings will be prioritised for projects within the assessment phase or nearing determination.

Consultation with NSW DCCEEW CPHR

Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water

Our ref: DOC25/1018495
Your ref: SSD-45242780

Ricardo Prieto-Curiel
Principal Environmental and Planning Specialist
WolfPeak
rprietocuriel@wolfpeak.com.au

Dear Richardo

Orana Battery Energy Storage System – Independent Environmental Audit

Thank you for your e-mail dated 24 November 2025 to the Conservation Programs, Heritage and Regulation Group (CPHR) of the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (NSW DCCEEW) seeking input into an independent environmental audit of the Orana Battery Energy Storage System (BESS).

CPHR notes that the scope of WolfPeak's audit will include assessment of compliance with the development consent conditions including those relevant to the Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP), Masked Owl Management Plan, biodiversity offset obligations and impact management. These are key issues that CPHR would like investigated.

We also suggest that confirmation be provided that the vegetation buffers (landscape screening) at the locations identified in the figure in Appendix 1 of the project consent have been established.

CPHR is interested in the outcomes of this audit of the project and are willing to meet with you to provide any further background if needed.

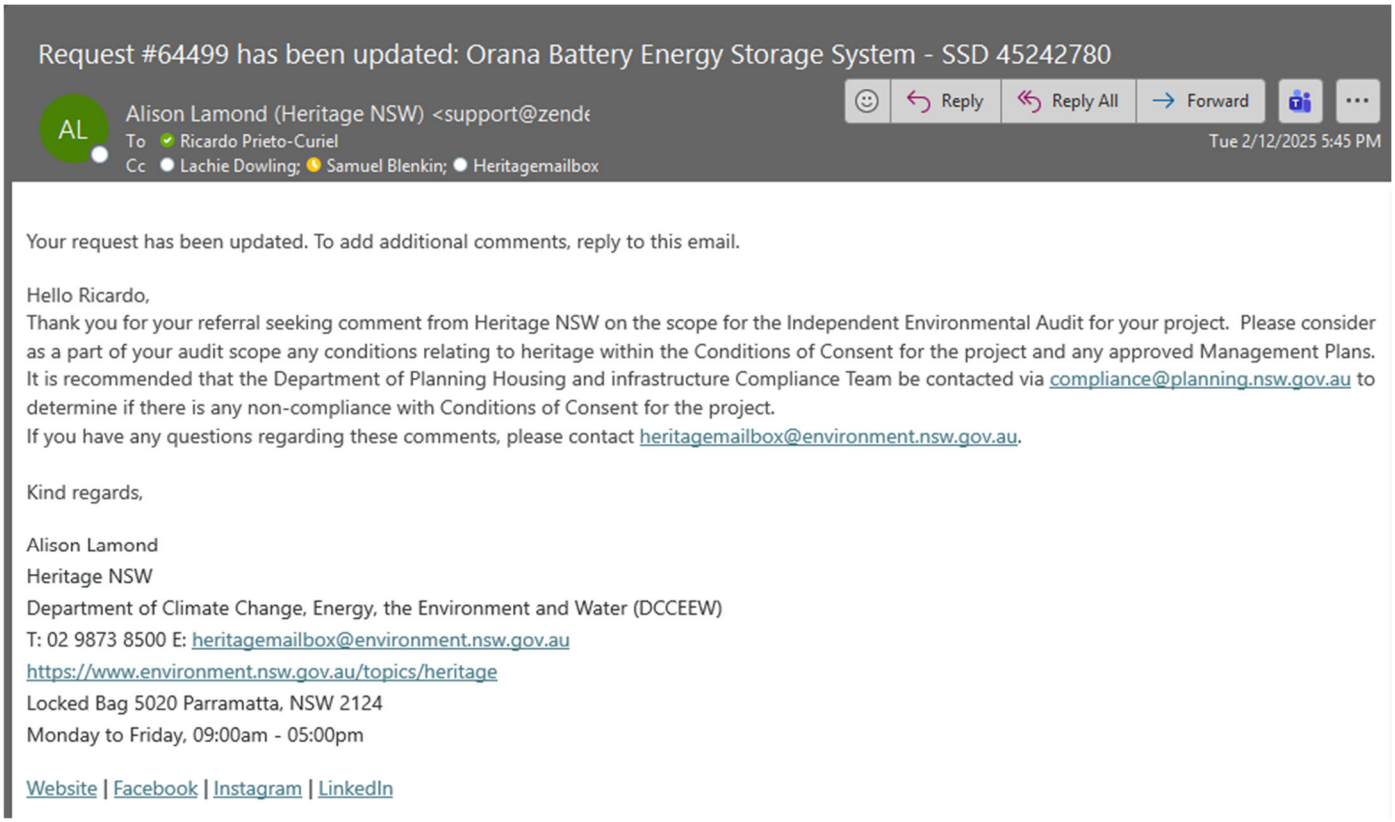
If you have any questions about this advice, please do not hesitate to contact David Geering, Senior Conservation Planning Officer, via david.geering@dcceew.nsw.gov.au or (02) 6883 5335.

Yours sincerely

Candice Larkin
A/Senior Team Leader Planning North West
Conservation Programs, Heritage and Regulation Group

27 November 2025

Consultation with Heritage NSW



Request #64499 has been updated: Orana Battery Energy Storage System - SSD 45242780

AL

Alison Lamond (Heritage NSW) <support@zende

To Ricardo Prieto-Curiel

Cc Lachie Dowling; Samuel Blenkin; Heritagemailbox

Reply | Reply All | Forward

Tue 2/12/2025 5:45 PM

Your request has been updated. To add additional comments, reply to this email.

Hello Ricardo,
Thank you for your referral seeking comment from Heritage NSW on the scope for the Independent Environmental Audit for your project. Please consider as a part of your audit scope any conditions relating to heritage within the Conditions of Consent for the project and any approved Management Plans. It is recommended that the Department of Planning Housing and infrastructure Compliance Team be contacted via compliance@planning.nsw.gov.au to determine if there is any non-compliance with Conditions of Consent for the project.
If you have any questions regarding these comments, please contact heritagemailbox@environment.nsw.gov.au.

Kind regards,

Alison Lamond
Heritage NSW
Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW)
T: 02 9873 8500 E: heritagemailbox@environment.nsw.gov.au
https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/heritage
Locked Bag 5020 Parramatta, NSW 2124
Monday to Friday, 09:00am - 05:00pm

Website | Facebook | Instagram | LinkedIn

Consultation with Water Group of DCCEEW

NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water

Our ref: OUT25/15791

Ricardo Prieto-Curiel
Wolfpeak
Email: rprietocuriel@wolfpeak.com.au

8/12/2025

Subject: Orana Battery Energy Storage System - Independent Environmental Audit (SSD-45242780)

Dear Ricardo Prieto-Curiel,

I refer to your request seeking advice from the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) Water Group on an upcoming audit for the above matter. It is understood this consultation is in accordance with conditions of approval for the project.

NSW DCCEEW Water Group understands that the scope of the audit as outlined under the development consent and the reference guideline, "Independent Audit Post Approval Requirements (2020)" extends to at least the following:

- Identification of compliance requirements and documentation of any non-compliances.
- Assessment of the adequacy and implementation of management plans and sub plans.
- Assessment of compliance against relevant regulatory requirements and legislation.
- Assessment of compliance between actual and predicted impacts in the environmental assessment.
- Reporting requirements for management plans.
- Identification of strengths of the project in environmental management and opportunities for improvement.

NSW DCCEEW Water Group requests that the audit address compliance with the following specific elements of the consent conditions and related legislative requirements in a manner consistent with the above audit scope:

- The requirement to prepare and implement management plans that relate to water sources and their dependent ecosystems and users, and associated impact management and mitigation. These plans may include:
    - Water Management Plans and related sub-plans e.g., Site Water Balance, Erosion and Sediment Control Plan, Stormwater Management Plan, Surface and Groundwater Management Plan.
    - Extraction Plans and related sub-plans e.g., Water Management Plan, Subsidence Management Plan.

4 Parramatta Square, 12 Darcy Street, Parramatta NSW 2150
Locked Bag 5022, Parramatta NSW 2124
https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/dcceew

NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water

NSW GOVERNMENT

- The requirement to prepare and implement trigger action response plans for water source impacts which set clearly defined limits and actions. This is to be reported on within annual and exceedance-based reporting.
- Water supply availability is clearly defined for the project.
- Water take at the site via storage, diversion, interception or extraction is clearly documented and is authorised by a relevant Water Access Licence or exemption under the Water Management (General) Regulation 2025. Consideration is also to be given to the relevance of excluded works at the site with reference to the factsheet at the following link: https://water.dpie.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0008/554444/la-interpreting-excluded-works-dams-fact-sheet.pdf
- Water metering at the site is in accordance with the NSW Non-Urban Metering Framework where relevant.
- Water Access Licence/s used to account for water take by the project nominates the work where the water is being taken from.
- Annual reporting clearly documents; 1) water take, use and water source impacts, 2) compares results with previous years, and 3) identifies exceedances and how these are managed/mitigated.

Should you have any further queries in relation to this submission please do not hesitate to contact the Water Assessments team at water.assessments@dcceew.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely,

Tim Baker
Senior Project Officer
Water Assessments
NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water

4 Parramatta Square, 12 Darcy Street, Parramatta NSW 2150
Locked Bag 5022, Parramatta NSW 2124
https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/dcceew

Consultation with RFS

RFS

NSW GOVERNMENT

Ricardo Prieto-Curiel
Level 1, 180 George Street Sydney, NSW, 2000

Our reference: DA20251203005078-Original-1

ATTENTION: Ricardo Prieto-Curiel

Date: Tuesday 16 December 2025

Dear Sir/Madam,

Development Application
Other – Other Assessment – Electricity Generating Works
6945 Goolma Road Wuuluman NSW 2820, 102//DP606457

I refer to your correspondence regarding the above proposal which was received by the NSW Rural Fire Service on 24/11/2025.

The approved project involves the development of a 400 megawatt (MW) BESS with 4 hour duration and associated infrastructure. The modification seeks to increase the development footprint of the project within the current site to provide an additional temporary construction laydown area and permanent fill batters around the southern extent of the BESS.

The development relates to power generating works which is considered to be hazardous industry and must be addressed against the provisions of *Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2019* (in particular section 8.3.9).

There is no objection to the proposal subject to assessment against the requirements of *Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2019*.

For any queries regarding this correspondence, please contact Joshua Calandra on 1300 NSW RFS.

Yours sincerely,

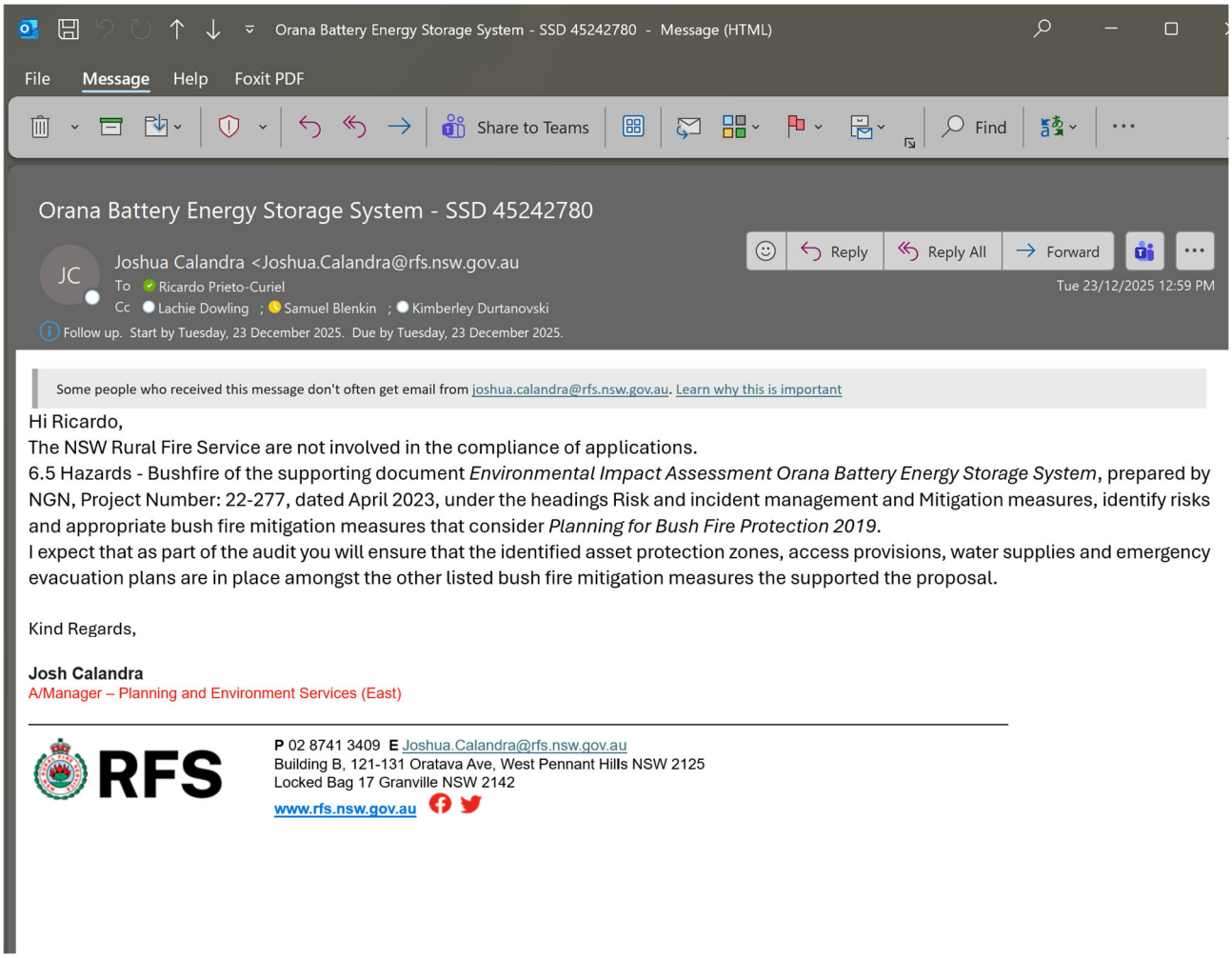
Adam Small
Supervisor Development Assessment & Plan
Built & Natural Environment

1

Postal address
NSW Rural Fire Service
Locked Bag 17
GRANVILLE NSW 2142

Street address
NSW Rural Fire Service
4 Murray Rose Ave
SYDNEY OLYMPIC PARK NSW 2127

T (02) 8741 5555
F (02) 8741 5550
www.rfs.nsw.gov.au



Orana Battery Energy Storage System - SSD 45242780 - Message (HTML)

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Orana Battery Energy Storage System - SSD 45242780

JC

Joshua Calandra <Joshua.Calandra@rfs.nsw.gov.au>

To Ricardo Prieto-Curiel

Cc Lachie Dowling ; Samuel Blenkin ; Kimberley Durtanovski

Follow up. Start by Tuesday, 23 December 2025. Due by Tuesday, 23 December 2025.

Reply Reply All Forward

Tue 23/12/2025 12:59 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from joshua.calandra@rfs.nsw.gov.au. Learn why this is important

Hi Ricardo,

The NSW Rural Fire Service are not involved in the compliance of applications.

6.5 Hazards - Bushfire of the supporting document *Environmental Impact Assessment Orana Battery Energy Storage System*, prepared by NGN, Project Number: 22-277, dated April 2023, under the headings Risk and incident management and Mitigation measures, identify risks and appropriate bush fire mitigation measures that consider *Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2019*.

I expect that as part of the audit you will ensure that the identified asset protection zones, access provisions, water supplies and emergency evacuation plans are in place amongst the other listed bush fire mitigation measures the supported the proposal.

Kind Regards,

Josh Calandra

A/Manager – Planning and Environment Services (East)

RFS

P 02 8741 3409 **E** Joshua.Calandra@rfs.nsw.gov.au

Building B, 121-131 Oratava Ave, West Pennant Hills NSW 2125

Locked Bag 17 Granville NSW 2142

www.rfs.nsw.gov.au

APPENDIX D – ATTENDANCE SHEET

wolfpeak

INDEPENDENT AUDIT MEETING ATTENDANCE RECORD

PROJECT (NAME AND APPROVAL NUMBER)	ORANA BESS - SSD 45242780		
LOCATION:	GOOLMA RD, WELLINGTON, NSW		
DATE/TIME (Opening Meeting):	10/12/2025 9:00 am	DATE/TIME (Closing Meeting):	10/12/2025 2:30 pm
Lead Auditor:	RICARDO PRIETO-CURIEL	Audit Scope:	SSD 45242780

NAME	POSITION / TITLE	ORGANISATION	SIGNATURE	
			Opening Meeting	Closing Meeting
RICARDO PRIETO-CURIEL	LEAD AUDITOR	WOLFPEAK		
LACHLAN DOWLING	PROJECT MANAGER	AKAYSHA ENERGY		
ROBERT MEYERS	SITE CONSTRUCTION MANAGER	AKAYSHA ENERGY		

wolfpeak

WolfPeak Group Pty Ltd | ABN 48 675 605 688

www.wolfpeak.com.au
Sydney
Newcastle
Port Macquarie

APPENDIX E – SITE PHOTOS

Observations from the site inspection are provided in the table below. The Auditor was escorted around the site by Project personnel who made themselves available for this purpose.

Site inspection photographs

No.	Comment	Photograph
1	Goolma Road upgraded intersection access	
2	Stabilised and delineated access road and speed limit sign	
3	Site access cattle grid at access road	

No.	Comment	Photograph
3a	Boom gate installed at access rod	
4	Internal access road leading to construction site, speed limit sign	
5	Site's car park	

No.	Comment	Photograph
6	Site identification signage and contact details	
7	Daily prestart planning boards	 
8	Constructed stormwater system leading to main sediment basin	

No.	Comment	Photograph
9	Main sediment basin (empty)	
10	Minor and localised service excavation near water tanks	
11	Batteries installed over concrete slabs	

No.	Comment	Photograph
12	Site building under construction	
13	Concrete washout bay and water tanks at the back (for dust suppression)	
14	Flagging around trees retained on site (located outside working areas) and installed boxes for protected species	

No.	Comment	Photograph
15	Water cart	
16	Site boundary's gravelled buffer zone	
17	Site electrical works	

No.	Comment	Photograph
18	Waste bins	 
19	Exposed mound located upstream of the former Sediment basin 3.	 

No.	Comment	Photograph
20	Installed batteries and other electrical infrastructure	
21	Boundary water main ring next to fence	
22	View of lower part of the site	

No.	Comment	Photograph
23	Self bunded chemical storage	
24	Spill kits	
25	Fenced off heritage protection area in the distance (located outside the Project site)	

No.	Comment	Photograph
26	Shuttle buses parked on site used to transport employees	

APPENDIX F – AUDITOR DECLARATION

Independent Audit Report Declaration

Project Name:	Orana Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)
Consent Number:	SSD-45242780
Description of Project:	Construction and operation of the Orana Battery Storage System
Project Address:	6945 Goolma Road, Wellington. Lot 1 & 2 DP 1226751, Lot 2 DP 1136578, Road Corridor (Goolma Road)
Proponent:	Akaysha Energy Pty Ltd
Title of Audit	Independent Audit 3 Orana BESS
Date:	10 December 2025

I declare that I have undertaken the Independent Audit and prepared the contents of the attached Independent Audit Report and to the best of my knowledge:

i. → the audit has been undertaken in accordance with relevant condition(s) of consent and the *Independent Audit Post Approval Requirements (Department 2020)*;

ii. → the findings of the audit are reported truthfully, accurately and completely;

iii. → I have exercised due diligence and professional judgement in conducting the audit;

iv. → I have acted professionally, objectively and in an unbiased manner;

v. → I am not related to any proponent, owner or operator of the project neither as an employer, business partner, employee, or by sharing a common employer, having a contractual arrangement outside the audit, or by relationship as spouse, partner, sibling, parent, or child;

vi. → I do not have any pecuniary interest in the audited project, including where there is a reasonable likelihood or expectation of financial gain or loss to me or spouse, partner, sibling, parent, or child;

vii. → neither I nor my employer have provided consultancy services for the audited project that were subject to this audit except as otherwise declared to the Department prior to the audit; and

viii. → I have not accepted, nor intend to accept any inducement, commission, gift or any other benefit (apart from payment for auditing services) from any proponent, owner or operator of the project, their employees or any interested party. I have not knowingly allowed, nor intend to allow my colleagues to do so.

Notes:

a) → Under section 10.6 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* a person must not include false or misleading information (or provide information for inclusion in) in a report of monitoring data or an audit report produced to the Minister in connection with an audit if the person knows that the information is false or misleading in a material respect. The proponent of an approved project must not fail to include information in (or provide information for inclusion in) a report of monitoring data or an audit report produced to the Minister in connection with an audit if the person knows that the information is materially relevant to the monitoring or audit. The maximum penalty is, in the case of a corporation, $1 million and for an individual, $250,000; and

b) → The *Crimes Act 1900* contains other offences relating to false and misleading information: section 307B (giving false or misleading information – maximum penalty 2 years imprisonment or 200 penalty units, or both)

Name of Proposed Auditor:	Ricardo Prieto-Curiel
Signature:	
Qualification:	Bachelor of Biological Sciences Masters in Environmental Toxicology Registered Environmental Assessment Practitioner (REAP - 46189) Exemplar Global Lead Environmental Auditor (No. 15160)
Company:	WolfPeak Group Pty Ltd