## Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure



Our ref: SSD- 61842974

ipcn@ipcn.nsw.gov.au

Andrew Mills
Chair
Independent Planning Commission
GPO Box 3415
Sydney NSW 2001

## 14/11/2025

Subject: Hume North Energy Storage System – Referral to the Independent Planning Commission Dear Mr Mills,

The Department has completed its assessment of the merits of the application for the Hume North Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) (SSD- 61842974).

The application is referred to the Independent Planning Commission for determination as there were more than 50 unique submissions objecting to the project.

Infrastructure Capital Services Pty Ltd as trustee for Australian Renewable Investment Fund Hume BESS Holdings Trust (a wholly owned special purpose entity of Foresight Australia Fund Management) (Foresight) proposes to develop a new State significant BESS located near Lake Hume Village approximately 10 kilometres (km) east of Albury, in the Albury City local government area.

The BESS would have a delivery and storage capacity of approximately 75 megawatts (MW) / 150 MW-hour (MWh) respectively. The project would connect to the existing Transgrid Albury to Hume 132 kilovolt (kV) transmission line that traverses the eastern portion of the site.

During the exhibition of the environmental impact statement (EIS) the Department received a total of 76 unique submissions from the community, in addition to advice from 17 government agencies, including Albury City Council who objected to the project. Of the public submissions received during exhibition of the EIS, 63 objected to the project and one supported the project.

The Department notes that two objections were made from within 5 km of the site, 7 submissions (4 objections and 3 comments) were received from between 5 and 15 km of the site and the remaining 67 submissions (66 objections and 1 support) were received from over 100 km of the site (18 of which were interstate).

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## Department of Planning and Environment



The Department considers there is a low level of local interest or concern towards the project and that there are relatively low levels of residual impacts associated with the proposal.

Albury City Council have in-principle agreed to the terms provided in Foresight's Letter of Offer regarding entering into a Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA).

In assessing the merits of the project, the Department has considered the environmental, social and economic impacts of the project, submissions on the EIS, relevant environmental planning instruments, the suitability of the site, and the public interest, in accordance with the requirements of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

During the assessment process the Department visited the site and consulted with Council and relevant government agencies.

Based on this assessment, the Department concludes that the project is approvable, subject to the recommended conditions of consent.

I have attached a copy of the Department's assessment report and other relevant documents for the Commission's consideration.

If you have any questions, please contact me on ( or via email at

Yours sincerely,

Iwan Davies

Director

**Energy Assessments**