

I am writing to express my strong objection to the proposed development of a battery energy storage system on Burgmans Lane, Tamworth. While I am a staunch supporter of sustainable energy solutions, this project is not appropriately cited, given its proximity to residential areas and the negative impacts it will have on the local community. The placement of such an industrial facility in a rural-residential zoned area is inappropriate and ill-conceived, considering the detrimental effects on neighbouring properties, residents, and the environment.

Impact on Property Values and Lack of Compensation

The proposed battery plant poses a significant threat to the value of properties in the vicinity. I know several homeowners on Burgmann's Lane who have been informed that their property values could decrease by over \$500,000 if this project goes ahead. This potential devaluation is not just a number, but a substantial financial burden on these residents who have invested their life savings into their homes. Despite this, there appears to be no provision for financial compensation from the government or industry for those most vulnerable and affected by this development. It is only fair that property evaluations be conducted before and after the installation of the plant, with homeowners compensated for any shortfall. The lack of care and compensation for those impacted highlights a grave oversight in the planning of this project.

Environmental and Visual Pollution

The proposed development will dramatically alter the environmental landscape of the area. The mass installation of industrial plants in what is currently a rural residential area will create an eyesore, detracting from the natural beauty that residents and visitors value. The visual pollution caused by the battery storage system, with its stark industrial appearance, is incompatible with the existing aesthetic of the area. This change will not only affect the residents' quality of life but also potentially diminish the area's attractiveness for future buyers, further exacerbating the issue of property devaluation.

Increased Traffic and Road Damage

The construction and operation of the battery storage system will inevitably lead to increased traffic on Burgmann's Lane and surrounding dirt roads. These roads are already in poor condition, and the additional burden of heavy vehicles will exacerbate their deterioration, leading to more potholes and road damage. This poses a significant safety risk to all road users, including local residents, school buses, and emergency services. The current infrastructure is not equipped to handle the increased traffic, and the subsequent road maintenance costs will likely fall on the local government and taxpayers.

Dust, Noise, and Visual Pollution

The proposed development will generate significant dust, noise, and visual pollution during the construction, delivery, and implementation phases. This will disrupt the peaceful, rural environment that residents currently enjoy. The noise from construction activities and ongoing operations, including the hum of transformers and cooling systems, will disturb the area's tranquillity. While soundproofed windows may be suggested as a mitigation measure, they are insufficient for a community that values fresh country air and the ability to enjoy outdoor spaces without constant noise.

Insufficient Mitigation Measures

The proposed mitigation measures, such as soundproofed windows, do not adequately address the concerns of the affected residents. Country living is synonymous with open windows and fresh air, not being confined indoors to escape noise pollution. A more effective solution would include the construction of noise walls around the entire site, with massive

trees planted in front to blend the facility into the natural landscape it will otherwise mar. However, even this measure does not fully mitigate the impacts on the community. The best solution would be to relocate the plant to a less intrusive location, further away from residential areas, where it would not affect neighbours within at least a one-kilometre radius.

Negative Impact on Agricultural Land

The development will also ruin valuable agricultural farming land. This area is not just a residential zone but also a hub for agricultural activities. The construction of the battery plant will take away land that could otherwise be used for farming, impacting local food production and the livelihoods of those who depend on agriculture. The rural residential zoning of the area is intended to support both residential and agricultural uses, and the introduction of an industrial facility contradicts this purpose.

Risk of Fires

One of the most critical concerns associated with the proposed battery storage farm is the risk of fires. Battery energy storage systems, particularly those using lithium-ion technology, are known to have a risk of thermal runaway, which can lead to fires that are extremely difficult to control. Such fires can burn intensely, release toxic fumes, and potentially result in explosions. Given the rural nature of the area and the potential delay in emergency response times, a fire at this facility could have catastrophic consequences. Local firefighting resources may not be adequately equipped to handle such incidents, further exacerbating the risk to residents and the environment. The difficulty in managing these types of fires cannot be overstated and adds a significant hazard to the proposed development.

Lack of Consideration for Community Welfare

One of the most pressing unanswered questions is what steps are being taken to support those most affected by the development. The community deserves a detailed plan outlining how the negative impacts will be mitigated and how residents will be compensated for their losses. This includes not only financial compensation but also practical measures to ensure their quality of life is not unduly compromised.

In conclusion, while the development of a battery energy storage system is a step towards sustainable energy, the chosen location on Burgmann's Lane, Tamworth, is highly inappropriate. The negative impacts on property values, the environmental landscape, road conditions, noise levels, and agricultural land far outweigh any potential benefits. I urge the planning committee to reconsider the placement of this project and to explore alternative locations that would not impose such significant burdens on the local community. Relocating the plant to a more suitable site, further away from residential areas, would demonstrate a commitment to both sustainable energy and the community's well-being.

Thank you for considering my objection.