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Mortlake Energy Hub Hydrology Assessment

Urbis

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Template 2.8.1

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Executive Summary

Eco Logical Australia Pty Ltd (ELA) were engaged by Urbis to assess potential flood impacts at the Mortlake Energy Hub (MEH) Project Site associated with existing hydrologic conditions under the 10%, 2%, 1%, 0.5%, 0.2% and 0.1% Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP) flood events.

Hydrologic and hydraulic modelling of existing conditions at the Project Site were undertaken using the RORB and HEC-RAS software packages to determine flood extents, flood levels and flow velocities associated with each target AEP rainfall design scenario. The modelling methods were calibrated using best initial loss estimates based on previous similar modelling and RFFE analysis for the region.

The existing conditions' flood depths showed that, in general, the flows are concentrated to the waterways and defined overland flow paths in the region with sufficient terrain relief to limit the amount (depth and velocity) of sheet flow. The primary flood features relevant to the MEH comprise Salt Creek to the north, Blind Creek to the southeast and an unnamed tributary to Salt Creek in the southwest. The model predicts that flow in these features stay largely confined to their banks and their defined flood plains and their most significant impact may be to affect access tracks at the site.

Maximum modelled depths outside these channels across the MEH proposed solar array area were generally shallow (<0.4 m) under each AEP scenario and stormwater should pass under the proposed arrays. Shallow inundation (<0.25 m) is predicted in the southwest corner of the battery energy storage system (BESS) area under each modelled scenario and should drain quickly to the west with minimal impact to the BESS area or natural overland flow patterns. Although the proposed BESS layout includes impervious surfaces, the total area was such a small proportion (<0.1%) of the overall catchment that it is not considered to affect the outcomes of hydraulic modelling nor impact existing condition overland flow regimes.

The proposed gravel emergency access track and the underground transmission cable line will intersect an unnamed drainage line located between the MEH BESS/ substation and solar array area boundaries. The proposed emergency access track will not be raised and will therefore not impact natural flow regimes. Although maximum modelled depths within the proposed track alignment may reach between 1 and 5m under flood conditions, modelled velocities indicate erosion is unlikely to occur (<0.4 m/s under 0.1% AEP). The underground transmission line is similarly very unlikely to present impacts to surface water flows as the proposed depth to cabling will be 0.6 m below ground level. This assumes the existing surface is reinstated following completion of underground cable installation earthworks.

Although some access points and tracks within the Project Site boundary intersect the inundation area, the modelled flood extent and maximum depths indicate that these will generally remain passible under flooded conditions (typically <0.25 m).

The modelled velocities show that, in general, velocities across the MEH Project Site (excluding Salt Creek) tend to be low $(1 m/s)$ and below the threshold $(2 m/s)$ where rock armouring to protect waterways and features is required.

Based on results of hydrologic and hydraulic modelling, the proposed layout (as provided by Urbis on 15th April 2024) is considered suitable from a flood risk perspective. Further minor changes to the site layout should not impact the site from a surface water impact perspective but should be reviewed in the context of flood modelling results to confirm suitability of the updated design. It is recommended to include general stormwater management and erosion control measures during construction and operational activities at the Project Site.

1. Introduction

Eco Logical Australia Pty Ltd (ELA) has been engaged by Urbis to assess hydrological conditions associated with the 10%, 2%, 1%, 0.5%, 0.2% and 0.1% Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP) flood events atthe proposed Mortlake Energy Hub (MEH), located approximately 200 km west of Melbourne, Victoria [\(Figure 1-1\)](#page-8-0), 6 km north-east of the confluence of the Hopkins River Catchment (the 'Project Site').

The objective of the flood impact assessment was to provide:

- 1. Estimated peak flow rates for the specified AEP storm events (see Section [5.1\)](#page-26-1).
- 2. Estimated peak flood depths and velocities for the specified AEP storm events (see Section [5.2\)](#page-27-0).

This report details the modelling approach and modelling results that underpin the flood impact assessment.

1.1. Scope of work

The scope of work included:

- Review and collation of data sourced and applied as part of the assessment (Section [2\)](#page-9-0).
- Hydrologic modelling to determine flow rates and verify the hydraulic modelling (Section [3\)](#page-14-0).
- Hydraulic modelling to determine water levels and velocities (Sectio[n 4\)](#page-20-0).
- Presentation and review of hydrologic and hydraulic modelling results (Sectio[n 5\)](#page-26-0).
- Assessment of flood impact results in the context of the Project Site (Section [6\)](#page-33-0).

Figure 1-1 Site locality

- MEH development boundary
	- Proposed BESS and substation boundary
	- Catchment boundary
	- Watercourse
		- BoM Gauge 236210
		- Moyne LGA boundary

Datum/Projection: GDA2020 MGA Zone 54

2. Data requirements

The following datasets were sourced for use in this assessment:

- Digital Elevation Model (DEM) to represent the watershed (catchment) that drains the site and any adjacent waterways.
- Site survey within the Project Site boundary, as provided by Urbis.
- Development footprint for the Project Site, as provided by Urbis.
- Gauged rainfall data representing the rainfall falling on the catchment at a sub-daily time step for use in calibration.
- Gauged flow data representing flows in the catchment for calibration of flow rates.
- Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) Intensity Frequency Duration (IFD) data representing the rainfall intensities for design rainfall events for the specified catchment.
- Australian Rainfall and Runoff (AR&R) information for rainfall patterns and loss information for use in the flow rate modelling.
- Regional Flood Frequency Estimation (RFFE) modelling to validate the flow rate model results for design storm events.

2.1. Digital Elevation Model (DEM)

A regional DEM was sourced to determine runoff catchments for waterways that drain to or through the Project Site. Regional elevation information was sourced from the Australian Government's Intergovernmental Committee on Surveying and Mapping (ICSM) Elevation and Depth – Foundation Spatial Data (ELVIS) website. The most detailed DEM available that covered the regional catchment area relevant to the Project Site was at a resolution of 10 metres (m) by 10 m.

The regional DEM was supplemented by the Project Site topographical survey data as provided by Urbis.

The resulting surface elevation used for hydrologic modelling is illustrated in [Figure 2-1.](#page-10-0)

98.2812

2.2. Observed streamflow

Observed streamflow information was available at the Hopkins River gauge at Framlingham (gauge number 236210), located within the same regional catchment as the Project Site but approximately 27 km south (down-stream) (-38.2438˚ S, 142.703˚ E) as shown in [Figure 1-1.](#page-8-0) Data was sourced from the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) from 15 July 1974 to 17 September 2023 as shown in [Figure 2-2.](#page-11-2)

Although useful in providing context for expected peak flows at the Project Site, the Hopkins River subcatchments relevant to the Project Site covers less area than the catchment as measured at the Framlingham gauge and the available observed discharge records (<300 m^3 /s) do not capture a flood event more intense than the 10% AEP. Therefore, the total observed flows at the nearest available gauge station were not considered suitable for calibration of the RORB model, and the relevant Regional Flood Frequency Estimation (RFFE; AR&R, 2019) was utilised instead (see Sectio[n 3.2.3\)](#page-18-0).

Figure 2-2 Observed streamflow at the Hopkins River gauge at Framlingham (236210)

2.3. Observed rainfall

Observed rainfall information was available at the Mortlake Racecourse weather station (gauge 90176). Data was sourced from the BoM from 01 January 1994 to 26 September 2023 as shown in [Figure 2-3.](#page-11-3)

Figure 2-3 Observed daily rainfall at the Mortlake Racecourse station (90176)

2.4. Intensity-Frequency-Duration (IFD) information

The IFD information was sourced from the BoM IFD curves (retrieved 29 September 2023) using the centroid coordinates for the relevant contributing catchment (-37.6446° S, 142.8394° E) [\(Figure 2-1\)](#page-10-0). IFD information is required to produce design (e.g. 1% AEP) flow and flood events from the modelling suite. The IFD data is presented in Appendix [A1.](#page-35-1)

2.5. Australian Rainfall and Runoff (AR&R) data hub information

Information required for parameterising the models was sourced from the AR&R data hub^{[1](#page-12-3)} (retrieved 29 September 2023) at the catchment centroid coordinate location specified in Section [2.4.](#page-12-0) Relevant parameters were sourced from the South-East Coast (Victoria) Division, Barwon River-Lake Corangamite sub-region . Retrieved parameters included:

- Initial loss of 22.0 mm and continuing loss of 4.8 mm/hr.
- Point and areal temporal patterns. Available durations of the point and areal temporal patterns, compared with the IFD durations, are shown in Appendix [A2.](#page-36-0)
- Areal reduction factor (ARF) parameters from the South-East Coast (Victoria) Division:
	- \circ a = 0.158
	- $b = 0.276$
	- $c = 0.372$
	- \circ d = 0.315
	- \circ e = 0.000141
	- \circ f = 0.41
	- \circ g = 0.15
	- $0 h = 0.01$
	- \circ i = -0.0027.

AR&R data hub information imported into the flow modelling software is provided in Appendix [A3.](#page-37-0)

2.6. Regional Flood Frequency Estimation (RFFE) Modelling

The RFFE model^{[2](#page-12-4)} was run on 3 October 2023 and used to provide design flow comparison for the RORB model (Section [3.2.3\)](#page-18-0) for the full catchment domain [\(Figure 2-1\)](#page-10-0). This model uses information from nearby similar catchments to provide an estimation of the peak flow rates. The details required for this are:

- Catchment outlet: 142.6572° (E) and -38.0991° (S)
- Catchment centroid: 142.8394° (E) and -37.6446° (S)
- Catchment area: 4691 km²

¹ http://data.arr-software.org

² http://rffe.arr-software.org

The expected RFFE peak flows and upper and lower confidence limits are presented in [Figure 2-4.](#page-13-0) RFFE analysis is provided in Appendi[x A4.](#page-41-0)

Figure 2-4 RFFE flow estimates including 5% and 95% confidence intervals

3. Hydrologic modelling

This section outlines the hydrologic model approach for determining rainfall-runoff relationships at the Project Site. The flow rate modelling was undertaken using the RORB (version 6.49) software package^{[3](#page-14-2)} to determine sub-catchment flows for the relevant regional catchment shown in [Figure 2-1.](#page-10-0)

The RORB runoff and routing modelling software package simulates rainfall-runoff processes using the unit hydrograph method to predict the temporal distribution of runoff and associated hydrological response of a catchment resulting from a given rainfall event.

The in-built routing equations allow for adjustment of the following parameters to calibrate the hydrologic model to observed streamflow or RFFE in accordance with AR&R guidelines:

- Rainfall-runoff transformation (m) the response time between rainfall input and resulting runoff within the specified catchment area. A higher 'm' value indicates a relatively faster response and shorter duration, while a lower 'm' value results in a broader peaked unit hydrograph with a more prolonged runoff response.
- Channel routing coefficient (kc) the rate at which runoff travels through the defined catchment channels or reaches. A higher 'kc' value indicates faster routing through the channel network, while a lower 'kc' value represents slower routing.
- Initial loss (IL) the amount of rainfall that is removed from the input hydrograph, due to immediate infiltration, transpiration and/or evaporation of water which does not contribute to surface runoff within the specified catchment area.
- Continuing loss (CL) the amount of rainfall that is lost during a storm event after runoff has started due to infiltration, storage and/or evaporation.

The resulting peak flows were used as inputs to the subsequent hydraulic (water level and velocity) modelling for each design AEP scenario (10%, 2%, 1%, 0.5%, 0.2% and 0.1%). The RORB runoff routing software was used to calculate flood hydrographs from rainfall for input to the HEC-RAS hydraulic modelling package (see Sectio[n 3.2.3\)](#page-18-0).

3.1. Catchment and drainage

The DEM presented in [Figure 2-1](#page-10-0) was used as input to create the overall catchment boundary, subcatchment boundaries and drainages for use in the RORB modelling process. The ArcHydro add-in to ArcGIS was applied to generate the catchment, sub-catchments and drainage line features.

³ Monash University and Hydrology and Risk Consultin[g https://www.harc.com.au/software/rorb/,](https://www.harc.com.au/software/rorb/) version 6.49

3.2. Runoff model setup

3.2.1. Catchment input file

The RORB model requires a catchment file to specify how rainfall is applied to the area of interest and how water is routed through the catchment to the outlet. An add-in to ArcGIS, ArcRORB^{[4](#page-15-2)}, was used to develop shapefiles [\(Figure 3-1\)](#page-16-0) that were converted into the catchment input file for RORB [\(Figure 3-2\)](#page-17-1).

The modelled catchment relevant to the Project Site is assumed to be in a natural condition (i.e. no artificially formed waterways/channels/drains) and all reach types within the catchment file were set to 'Natural'. The 'fraction impervious' for the model domain was set to zero. The fraction impervious in this context refers to impervious areas directly connected to waterways. Any impervious regions of the model (e.g. roads) were considered unlikely to be directly connected to the streamlines and any areas that are connected would be such a small proportion (<0.1%) of the overall catchment that they would not affect the modelled outcome.

Reach and sub-catchment details along with the catchment file layout are outlined in [Appendix B.](#page-43-0)

⁴ <https://www.harc.com.au/software/arcrorb/>

Figure 3-1 ArcRORB model layout

- MEH development boundary
	- Proposed BESS and substation boundary
- Drainage lines
	- Catchment boundary
	- Sub-catchment boundary
	- Sub-catchment nodes ◠
		- Reaches

Datum/Projection: GDA2020 MGA Zone 54

Figure 3-2 RORB catchment file structure

3.2.2. Design storm parameter file

Parameter files were created for the RORB model for design storm simulations. The following setup parameterisation was used:

- Separate catchment and generated design storm
- RORB catchment file [\(Figure 3-2\)](#page-17-1)
- Storm file corresponding to the event being modelled
- Single set of routing parameters
- Initial loss / continuing loss model
- DESIGN run
- Parameters of m, kc, IL and CL calibrated to RFFE (Section [3.2.3\)](#page-18-0):
	- \circ m = 0.8
	- \circ kc = 150.68
	- O IL = 10 mm
- O CL = 1 mm/hr
- Print at nodes K (approximately 500 m hydraulically downgradient of the Project Site to the south-west) and Outlet (approximately 10 km hydraulically downgradient of the Project Site to the south-west).

The setup for the design storm simulations run in RORB is shown in

[Table 3-1.](#page-18-3) The Monte Carlo framework was used to examine the impact of different temporal patterns upon the design flow rate results.

Parameter file section	Detail
Data Hub Files	Data hub file as discussed in Section 2.5. \bullet Temporal patterns as discussed in Section 2.5. \bullet Use regional losses is unchecked. \bullet Use ARFs from file is checked. \bullet
Design Rainfall Specification	A user defined IFD as discussed in Section 2.4. \bullet Monte Carlo simulation from 10 minute to 168- \bullet hour durations. Default time increments of 200. \bullet Uniform areal pattern. \bullet No pre burst. \bullet Constant losses. \bullet
Parameter Specification	Adjusted k_c of 150.68. \bullet Adjusted m of 0.7. \bullet Adjusted IL of 10 mm. \bullet Adjusted CL of 1 mm/hr. \bullet
Monte Carlo Specification	Number of rainfall divisions: 50 (default). \bullet Number of samples per division: 20 (default). \bullet Temporal patterns as described above. \bullet Monte-Carlo sample initial loss. \bullet

Table 3-1 RORB parameter file specification for design storms

3.2.3. Calibration

Although observed flows relevant to the Hopkins River catchment downgradient of the Project Site were available for contextual review of peak flow results within the model boundaries, the hydrologic model was calibrated to the RFFE analysis to fit the expected peak flow curve within the confidence limits specified.

The resulting calibration parameters shown in [Table 3-2](#page-18-2) with routing parameter and loss sensitivity analysis presented in [Figure 3-3.](#page-19-0) Comparing the IL and CL values with those from AR&R (22 mm and 4.8 mm/hr, respectively) showed that a reduced IL and CL were required to calibrate the model to expected RFFE results for the catchment.

Table 3-2 Resulting RORB parameters calibrated to RFFE

Event	m	w	IL (mm)	CL (mm)
Adopted for design events		150.68	10	

Figure 3-3 RORB routing parameter and loss sensitivity analysis

[Figure 3-4](#page-19-1) shows the RORB model results calculated relative to the specified catchment size (4,934 km²) compared to weighted design event results for nearby gauged catchments. The results show that the RORB model fits within the mid-range of the nearby gauged catchment results. The storm design events are therefore considered applicable for use in providing target peak flow rates for the hydraulic modelling results in Section [5.2.](#page-27-0)

Figure 3-4 RFFE area weighted nearby catchments comparison

4. Hydraulic modelling

This section outlines the hydraulic modelling approach for determining flow characterisation across the MEH Project Site. Hydraulic modelling was conducted using the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' HEC-RAS^{[5](#page-20-3)} (version 6.5) software package. HEC-RAS models were developed using a two-dimensional (2D) rain-ongrid analysis for the target AEP scenarios (10%, 2%, 1%, 0.5%, 0.2% and 0.1%). The sections below outline the process undertaken to set up the HEC-RAS model.

4.1. Model setup

4.1.1. Precipitation

No inflow hydrographs were required as inputs to this model as the entire catchment is within the model domain and there are no water transfers into the catchment.

The precipitation inputs were derived from the IFD tables sourced from the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM, 2016) on the 10 October 2023.

To define the critical rainfall duration, i.e. the duration which yields the highest flow and depth, the time of concentration for the catchment was calculated using two different methods. The first method used the Friend's formula (Australian Rainfall & Runoff, 2014), which considers the land cover, the length of the main drainage path and the average slope in determining the time of concentration:

Time of Concentration = 107
$$
\times \frac{n \times L^{0.333}}{S^{0.2}}
$$

Equation 1: Friend's time of concentration formula

Where *n* is the Horton's roughness value for the surface, *L* is the flow path length in metres, *S* is the slope of the surface in percentage, and *Time of Concentration* is in minutes.

The second method used the following formula from Pilgrim (1989), which returns the time of concentration in hours and uses only the drainage area in square kilometres as input:

$$
Time\ of\ Concentration = 0.76 \times A^{0.38}
$$

Equation 2: Pilgrim & McDermott's time of concentration formula

The Pilgrim and McDermott method usually results in smaller values than those produced by the Friend method. Therefore, the Friend method was used as a reference for the smallest duration tested whilst the Pilgrim and McDermott was used as a reference for the longest duration, in order to find the critical rainfall duration for the catchment. However, durations higher and lower than the values determined by the Pilgrim and McDermott, and Friends methods, respectively, were also tested to extend confidence in the interpretation of results.

The model results for the rainfall durations (using a 1% AEP) were compared to evaluate which duration would yield the highest flows and depths. For this assessment, the rainfall was distributed across the

⁵ U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' HEC-RAS Version 6.5 (USACE 2023)

temporal patterns downloaded from the AR&R Data Hub and the time series produced were used as an unsteady flow boundary condition for the model.

When the critical duration was found for each target AEP for the catchment, the ten temporal patterns for that duration were compared to choose the pattern that yielded the next highest peak flow from the median for each AEP event. This pattern was then applied to represent the rainfall pattern for the design event/s modelled (10% AEP, 2%, 1% AEP, 0.5% AEP, 0.2% AEP and 0.1% AEP.

The patterns applied are shown in [Figure 4-1](#page-21-0) and a summary of the Temporal patterns and AEP events can be found in [Table 4-1.](#page-21-1) Note 10% AEP, 2% AEP, 0.5% AEP, 0.2% AEP and 0.1% AEP events are 24 hours in duration, and the 1% AEP event is 36 hours in duration, as determined from the RORB results. As the temporal patterns were selected based on each AEP event they vary in their form.

Figure 4-1 Rainfall depths applied to 2D flow area for the 10%, 2%, 1%, 0.5%, 0.2% and 0.1% AEP design events

Table 4-1: Event and temporal pattern summary

4.1.2. Losses

A rainfall excess time series (the amount of rain that runs off after the losses) was directly applied to the model through manual removal of initial and continuing losses. An example of this is outlined in [Figure](#page-22-3) [4-2](#page-22-3) for the 1% AEP event using the adjusted initial and continuing losses (10 mm and 1 mm, respectively) determined through calibration of the RORB model to RFFE expected peak and nearby observed flows.

Figure 4-2 1% AEP design event rainfall pattern applied to HEC-RAS after losses are removed

4.1.3. Outflow

Locations where water exits the model domain (outflows) require boundary conditions to be specified. The concentrated flow path that exits the model domain was set to a normal depth boundary condition, using the uniform bed slope of that flow path as the estimated energy slope, as measured from the available terrain data. The normal depth boundary condition applied to the outlet was 0.0005.

4.1.4. Computational mesh

A 2D flow area was delineated in HEC-RAS to coincide with the catchment boundary. A computational mesh spacing of 500 m by 500 m was applied across the regional catchment, as shown in [Figure 4-3.](#page-23-1) HEC-RAS recognises the sub-grid terrain resolution within individual computational cells and the flow transfer calculations between individual grid cells account for the geometry of the underlying surface at the terrain resolution. This computational mesh was applied except as noted surrounding breaklines and the refinement regions.

Breaklines were used to alter the direction of grid cells to align with features within the catchment. Breaklines were implemented in the model for drainage lines as per [Figure 2-1.](#page-10-0)

Refinement regions were used to denote areas where the computation mesh resolution required a finer scale than the overall mesh. The following refinement regions were specified:

- drainage line breaklines with a computational mesh of 100 m by 100 m
- approximately 150 m beyond the extent of the Project Site and immediately adjacent waterways with a computational mesh spacing of 50 m by 50 m.

[Figure 4-3](#page-23-1) outlines an example region of the computation mesh applied to the existing terrain, showing the mesh spacing, break lines and refinement regions applied.

Figure 4-3 Example configuration of HEC-RAS computational mesh (black lines) and breaklines (pink lines)

4.1.5. Roughness

Roughness coefficients are used to define how quickly water moves across the terrain and controls the shape of flow hydrographs resulting from the rainfall and upstream flow. Typical roughness values are defined for the range of flow path extents, i.e. from concrete channels to floodplains. Modelling the full 2D catchment area which extends outside of normal channels and their corresponding slopes requires much larger roughness values than are typically applied to models that just model stream flow.

An initial roughness coefficient of 0.08, representing a natural channel condition, was applied to the whole model. This roughness was used in combination with a 10% AEP rainfall event to define waterway channel extents.

HEC-RAS has the ability to apply different roughness coefficients spatially across the model domain. This is achieved through applying a shapefile of "land cover" regions to the model and assigning a roughness coefficient to those regions independently. To improve accuracy of the hydraulics assessment, a

roughness of 0.06 was applied to the land cover representing the channels adjacent to the Project Site, these regions are shown in [Figure 4-4.](#page-24-2)

Figure 4-4 Manning's n roughness coefficient specification (green is 0.08, blue is 0.06)

4.1.6. Computational setting

An adaptive computational time-step was applied based on a maximum Courant Number of 2.0. This results in a minimum adopted time-step of approximately 2 seconds. The Full Momentum equation set was adopted in the model to account for the varying flow directions. Mass balance errors and water surface elevation convergence errors were checked for model stability and to confirm that imbalances remained below reasonable thresholds for model stability. A 168-hour simulation window was applied to capture critical-duration peak discharges and allow the flood peaks to propagate through the model.

Default threshold depths were decreased by one order of magnitude to capture the flow transfer effects of direct precipitation sheet flow across the catchment. Except where otherwise noted, other program defaults have been applied to all remaining coefficients, options, tolerances and model settings.

4.1.7. Model set-up summary

[Table 4-2](#page-25-0) below summarises the model parameters used for the catchment in this project.

Table 4-2: HEC-RAS parameters

5. Results and discussion

5.1. Hydrology results

5.1.1. Peak flows

The RORB model was run to provide verification flows for the water level modelling. The HEC-RAS model was subsequently calibrated to the RORB results. A summary of the peak flows for each exceedance probability at the catchment outlet from the two modelling methods is provided in [Table 5-1](#page-26-4) and presented in [Figure 5-1.](#page-26-3)

Table 5-1 Summary of design event peak flow rates at specified Hopkins River catchment outlet

Figure 5-1 RORB and HEC-RAS peak discharge results at Hopkins River catchment outlet (approximately 10 km downgradient of Project Site to the south-west)

5.2. Hydraulic results

For each AEP event, site and regional depth and velocity were extracted across the model domain and are discussed below. Maximum flood depths and maximum flood velocities are presented in Appendix [C1](#page-44-1) and Appendix [C2,](#page-53-0) respectively.

5.2.1. Depth and inundation extent

The flood depths for existing conditions at the Project Site (Appendi[x C1\)](#page-44-1) show that, in general, the flows are concentrated to the waterways and defined overland flow paths in the region with sufficient terrain relief to limit the amount of sheet flow.

One significant drainage line, Salt Creek, crosses the project site in the northern corner of the MEH solar array area and will need to be considered in planning infrastructure locations. During all flood events modelled, the flow remained constrained to the channel and well-defined floodplain approximately 100- 150m wide (see Appendi[x C1\)](#page-44-1)[. Table 5-2](#page-28-2) shows the max depth and flow velocity for the Project Site and the Project Site, excluding salt Creek. The maximum depth and velocity for the Project Site in each scenario is within Salt Creek.

Secondary flood features comprise Blind Creek and an unnamed drainage line, located in the southeast and southwest corners of the Project Site, respectively. Modelling indicates Blind Creek only impacts the Project Site during a flood event greater than the 10% AEP scenario.

Shallow inundation (<0.25 m) is predicted in the southwest corner of the BESS area under each modelled scenario, and this should drain quickly to the west following cessation of a storm event, with minimal impact to the BESS area or existing condition overland flow patterns. Although the proposed BESS layout includes impervious surfaces, the total area was such a small proportion (<0.1%) of the overall catchment that it is not considered to affect the outcomes of hydraulic modelling nor impact existing condition overland flow regimes.

The proposed gravel emergency access track and the underground transmission cable will intersect the unnamed drainage line located between the MEH BESS/ substation and solar array area boundaries. The proposed emergency access track will not be raised and will therefore not impact natural flow regimes. Although maximum modelled depths within the proposed track alignment may reach between 1 and 5m under flood conditions, modelled velocities indicate erosion is unlikely to occur (<0.4 m/s under 0.1% AEP). The underground transmission line is similarly very unlikely to present impacts to surface water flows as the proposed depth to cabling will be 0.6 m below ground level. This assumes the existing surface is reinstated following completion of underground cable installation earthworks.

Although minor potential impacts were identified, the flood model is considered a conservative assessment of potential impacts and major inundation is considered unlikely. Nevertheless, access tracks traversing Blind Creek may require installation of a floodway or raised surface with box culvert of sufficient capacity to convey flows down gradient. The unnamed draining line has only a marginal impact on the Project Site but should be considered when finalising design for the access tracks between the Mortlake power station and the MEH solar array area, as maximum flood depths may be above 2 m under 0.1% AEP conditions.

The remaining inundation across the Project Site are generally shallow (<0.4 m), with small isolated pockets of deeper water. Maximum depths for each modelled design storm AEP scenario are presented in [Table 5-2](#page-28-2) and shown in Appendi[x C1.](#page-44-1)

Table 5-2: Maximum modelled depths and flow velocities for each AEP event

*Note: The Project Site includes Salt Creek; therefore, the maximum flows and velocities can be attributed to the creek.

*Note: Within the proposed BESS and substation boundary, the maximum depth and velocity under each modelled scenario was <0.25 m and <0.25 m/s, respectively.

5.2.2. Peak velocities

Outside the channels discussed above, modelled velocities across the Project Site, including the BESS area, as shown in Appendix [C2,](#page-53-0) remain relatively low (generally <0.25 m/s) and below the threshold (< 2 m/s) where rock armouring to protect waterways and features is required. Some isolated higher velocities (> 0.75 m/s) occur along an overland flow path / waterway through the mid-north of the site (south of Salt creek) and at other isolated locations under current conditions. Should erosion form at these locations then mitigation strategies should be implemented. It is noted that existing tracks within the Project Site (inferred by publicly available satellite images) are likely to be passable under these conditions.

5.2.3. Flood mapping

The maximum flood depths and velocities relevant to the Project Site under modelled 1% AEP scenario are presented in [Figure 5-2](#page-29-0) and [Figure 5-3,](#page-30-0) respectively.

A comparison of inundation extent and depth under each modelled AEP scenario (10%, 2%, 1%, 0.5%, 0.2% and 0.1%) is shown in [Figure 5-4,](#page-31-0) with a comparison specifically for the BESS area results presented in [Figure 5-5.](#page-32-0)

Depth and velocity mapping for each modelled AEP scenario are presented in Appendix [C1](#page-44-1) and Appendix [C2,](#page-53-0) respectively.

Figure 5-2 1% AEP maximum flood depth

- **T_T** MEH development boundary
- Proposed BESS and substation boundary
- Proposed emergency access track
- Proposed underground transmission cable
- **Proposed array area**
- \bullet Proposed access point Proposed internal road
- Highway
	- Road

Maximum flood depth (m) 0 - 0.25 $0.25 - 0.5$

0 0.5 1 2 Kilometres Datum/Projection:

GDA2020 MGA Zone 54

Figure 5-3 1% AEP maximum flood velocity

- **L** MEH development boundary
- Proposed BESS and substation boundary
	- Proposed emergency access track
	- Proposed underground transmission cable
- **Proposed array area**
- Highway Road

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Proposed access point Proposed internal road Maximum flood velocity (m/s) 0 - 0.25 0.25 - 0.5

0 0.5 1 2 Kilometres Datum/Projection:

GDA2020 MGA Zone 54 Project: 23SYD5272-ED Date: 4/18/2024

Figure 5-4 MEH maximum flood depth comparison

Figure 5-5 MEH BESS maximum flood depth comparison

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6. Conclusion and recommendations

ELA was engaged by Urbis to assess potential flood impacts at the MEH Project Site associated with hydrologic and hydraulic conditions under the 10%, 5%, 1%, 0.5%, 0.2% and 0.1% AEP flood events to support regulatory approvals for the proposed Project development.

Flow rate modelling was undertaken using the RORB software package to determine sub-catchment flows and verify the flow rates from subsequent water level modelling. Hydraulic modelling was conducted representing existing conditions using the HEC-RAS software package. HEC-RAS models were developed using a 2D rain-on-grid analysis to determine inundation extent, flood depth levels and flow velocities. The modelling methods were calibrated using best initial loss estimates based on previous similar modelling and RFFE analysis for the region.

The flood depths showed that, in general, the flows are concentrated to the waterways and defined overland flow paths in the region, with sufficient terrain relief to limit the amount of sheet flow. The primary flood features relevant to the MEH Project Site comprise: Salt Creek to the north; Blind Creek to the southeast and an unnamed tributary to Salt Creek in the southwest. The model predicts that these features stay largely confined to their banks and their defined flood plains and their most significant impact may be to affect access tracks at the site.

Maximum modelled depths outside these channels across the MEH solar array area were generally shallow (<0.4 m) under each AEP scenario and stormwater should pass under the proposed arrays. Shallow inundation (<0.25 m) is predicted in the southwest corner of the BESS area under each modelled scenario and should drain quickly to the west following cessation of a storm event, with minimal impact to the BESS area or existing condition overland flow patterns.

The proposed underground transmission cable will run beneath the unnamed drainage line located between the MEH BESS/ substation and solar array area boundaries and is unlikely to present impacts to surface water flows as the proposed depth to cabling will be 0.6 m below ground level. This assumes the existing surface is reinstated following completion of underground cable installation earthworks.

Although some access points and tracks within the Project Site boundary intersect the inundation area, the modelled flood extent and maximum depths indicate that these will generally remain passible under flooded conditions (i.e. <0.25 m).

The modelled velocities show that, in general, velocities across the MEH Project Site (excluding Salt Creek) tend to be low $(1 m/s)$ and below the threshold $(2 m/s)$ where rock armouring to protect waterways and features is required.

Based on results of hydrologic and hydraulic modelling, the proposed layout (provided by Urbis on 15th April 2024) is considered suitable from a flood risk perspective. Further minor changes to the site layout should not impact the site from a surface water impact perspective. but should be reviewed in the context of flood modelling results to confirm suitability of the updated design. It is recommended to include general stormwater management and erosion control measures during construction and operational activities at the Project Site.

7. References

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Appendix A AR&R inputs

A1 IFD table

Table 7-1 Rainfall depths for 50% to 0.1% design rainfall events

A2 Available temporal patterns

Available durations of point and areal temporal patterns are shown in [Table 7-2](#page-36-1) and [Table 7-3,](#page-36-2) respectively, compared to available IFD information. The shaded boxes are those where IFD information is available, but for which no temporal pattern durations are available. Areal temporal patterns are typically used for catchments greater than 75 km² in size. Using the point temporal patterns over the areal patterns generally produces a more conservative (higher) estimation of the peak flows within the catchment.

Table 7-2 Available point temporal pattern durations from AR&R

Table 7-3 Available areal temporal pattern durations from AR&R

A3 Data hub results

$D₀$

BOM IFDs

Click here to obtain the IFD depths for catchment centroid from the BoM website

Southern Slopes (Vic/NSW)

Time Accessed

03 October 2023 02:05PM

Median Preburst Depths and Ratios

Note: As this point is in Victoria the advice provided on losses and pre-burst in the VIC specific tab of the ARR Data Hub should be considered.

Values are of the format depth (ratio) with depth in mm

10% Preburst Depths

Values are of the format depth (ratio) with depth in mm

Layer Info

Layer Info

25% Preburst Depths

Values are of the format depth (ratio) with depth in mm

Layer Info

Values are of the format depth (ratio) with depth in mm

75% Preburst Depths

Layer Info

90% Preburst Depths

Interim Climate Change Factors

Layer Info

Layer Info

A4 RFFE Results

Results | Regional Flood Frequency Estimation Model

*The catchment is outside the recommended catchment size of 0.5 to 1,000 km². Results have lower accuracy and may not be directly applicable in practice.

Statistics

Appendix B RORB details

Table 7-4 RORB reach details

Table 7-5 RORB sub-catchment area details

Appendix C HEC-RAS results

C1 Flood depth

10% AEP maximum flood depth

- **T_T** MEH development boundary
- Proposed BESS and substation boundary
- Proposed emergency access track
- Proposed underground transmission cable
- **Proposed array area**
- \bullet Proposed access point Proposed internal road
- Highway
	- Road

Maximum flood depth (m) 0 - 0.25

0 0.5 1 2 Kilometres Datum/Projection:

GDA2020 MGA Zone 54

Project: 23SYD527-ED Date: 4/18/2024

.d

2% AEP maximum flood depth

- **T_T** MEH development boundary
- Proposed BESS and substation boundary
- Proposed emergency access track
- Proposed underground transmission cable
- **Proposed array area**
- \bullet Proposed access point Proposed internal road
- Highway
- Road

Maximum flood depth (m) 0 - 0.25

0 0.5 1 2 Kilometres

Datum/Projection: GDA2020 MGA Zone 54

Project: 23SYD527-ED Date: 4/18/2024

.d

1% AEP maximum flood depth

- **T_T** MEH development boundary
- Proposed BESS and substation boundary
- Proposed emergency access track
- Proposed underground transmission cable
- **Proposed array area**
- \bullet Proposed access point Proposed internal road
- Highway
- Road

Maximum flood depth (m) 0 - 0.25

0 0.5 1 2 Kilometres Datum/Projection:

GDA2020 MGA Zone 54

0.5% AEP maximum flood depth

- **T_T** MEH development boundary
- Proposed BESS and substation boundary
- Proposed emergency access track
- Proposed underground transmission cable
- **Proposed array area**
- \bullet Proposed access point Proposed internal road
- Highway
	- Road

Maximum flood depth (m) 0 - 0.25

0 0.5 1 2 Kilometres

Datum/Projection: GDA2020 MGA Zone 54

Project: 23SYD527-ED Date: 4/18/2024

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0.2% AEP maximum flood depth

- **T_T** MEH development boundary
- Proposed BESS and substation boundary
- Proposed emergency access track
- Proposed underground transmission cable
- **Proposed array area**
- \bullet Proposed access point Proposed internal road
- Highway
- Road

Maximum flood depth (m) 0 - 0.25

 $1 - 2$ >2

GDA2020 MGA Zone 54

0.1% AEP maximum flood depth

- **T_T** MEH development boundary
- Proposed BESS and substation boundary
- Proposed emergency access track
- Proposed underground transmission cable
- **Proposed array area**
- \bullet Proposed access point Proposed internal road
- Highway
	- Road

Maximum flood depth (m) 0 - 0.25

0 0.5 1 2 Kilometres

Datum/Projection: GDA2020 MGA Zone 54

Project: 23SYD527-ED Date: 4/18/2024

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MEH maximum flood depth comparison

MEH BESS maximum flood depth comparison

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C2 Velocities

10% AEP maximum flood velocity

- **L** MEH development boundary
- Proposed BESS and substation boundary
	- Proposed emergency access track
- Proposed underground transmission cable
- **Proposed array area**
- Road

Highway

- **Proposed access point** Proposed internal road Maximum flood velocity (m/s) 0 - 0.25
	- 0.25 0.5

>2

2% AEP maximum flood velocity

- **L** MEH development boundary
- Proposed BESS and substation boundary
	- Proposed emergency access track
- Proposed underground transmission cable
- **Proposed array area**
-

- Highway
- Road
- Maximum flood velocity (m/s) 0 - 0.25

1% AEP maximum flood velocity

- **L** MEH development boundary
-
- Proposed BESS and substation boundary Proposed emergency access track
	- Proposed underground transmission cable
- **Proposed array area**
-

Proposed access point

Road

Maximum flood velocity (m/s) 0 - 0.25 0.25 - 0.5

0 0.5 1 2 Kilometres Datum/Projection: GDA2020 MGA Zone 54

0.5% AEP maximum flood velocity

- **L** MEH development boundary
- Proposed BESS and substation boundary
	- Proposed emergency access track
	- Proposed underground transmission cable
- **Proposed array area**
-
- Proposed access point Proposed internal road
- Highway

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- Road
- Maximum flood velocity (m/s) 0 - 0.25

0 0.5 1 2 Kilometres Datum/Projection: GDA2020 MGA Zone 54

0.2% AEP maximum flood velocity

- **L** MEH development boundary
- Proposed BESS and substation boundary
	- Proposed emergency access track
	- Proposed underground transmission cable
- **Proposed array area**
- Road

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Highway

Proposed access point Proposed internal road Maximum flood velocity (m/s) 0 - 0.25

0.1% AEP maximum flood velocity

- **L** MEH development boundary
- Proposed BESS and substation boundary
	- Proposed emergency access track
	- Proposed underground transmission cable
- **Proposed array area**
-
- **O** Proposed access point Proposed internal road Maximum flood velocity (m/s)
	- Highway
	- Road

>2

