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2026-03-26

ADVERTISED PLAN

Hannah Scott
Acting Principal Planner
Department of Transport and Planning
GPO Box 2392
Melbourne 3001

Dear Hannah,

Proposal: Use and development of land for a proposed Utility Installation (BESS), car parking, vegetation removal, the display of business identification signage, and creation of access to a road in the Transport Zone 2.

Site address: Black Forest Drive, Macedon 3440 (formally known as Lot 2 on Plan of Subdivision 444155)

Aurecon Australasia Pty Ltd (Aurecon) acts for South Energy Pty Ltd on behalf of Macedon BESS Development Pty Ltd in lodging an application for the use and development of a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) at Lot 2 on Plan of Subdivision 444155.

This application follows pre-application meetings with the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP), Macedon Ranges Shire Council, and correspondence with other key stakeholders, including the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA), the Country Fire Authority (CFA) and Melbourne Water. These meetings and correspondence were conducted to confirm application requirements and discuss the anticipated timing of the assessment process.

This application seeks planning approval from the Minister for Planning as Responsible Authority via the Development Facilitation Program under Clause 53.22 (Significant Economic Development) of the Macedon Ranges Planning Scheme. Pre-application meetings were held with DTP in October 2024, December 2024 and August 2025.

To support this application, please find enclosed the following documentation:

- Completed application form and Certificate of Title
- Town Planning Report, including appended application plans, and supporting impact assessment and reports

Aurecon submits that the Proposal does not result in any offsite amenity impacts to adjoining properties, and through a considered design, will have a minimal impact on the surrounding landscape. Furthermore, the Proposal provides large-scale energy storage infrastructure which supports the nation's renewable energy transition. In addition to the notice and review exemptions afforded by the Planning Scheme, we request the Minister for Planning consider that the giving of notice under section 52(1)(a) and (d) of the P&E Act is not required because material detriment to adjoining land or any other person will not occur.

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We trust the information provided enables DTP to commence assessment of this planning application in accordance with the Planning Scheme.

Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me on 0430 110 861 or by email at bez.hasenfratz@aurecongroup.com

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Bez'.

Bez Hasenfratz
Manager, Environment and Planning
Aurecon

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Enc: Certificate of Title

Planning Report, including appended impact assessments as listed below;

- *Ecological Impact Assessment*
- *Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment*
- *Traffic Impact Assessment*
- *Hydrology Assessment*
- *Risk Management Plan (incorporating Bushfire Hazard Assessment)*
- *Noise Assessment Report (prepared by SLR Consulting)*
- *Land Capability Assessment (prepared by Edwards Environmental)*
- *Social and Economic Impact Assessment*
- *Arboricultural Assessment (prepared by Active Green Services)*
- *Letter of Cultural Heritage Advice (prepared by JEM Archaeology)*
- *Consultation Summary Report*

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