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18 September 2023

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Dear 

**Synergy Collie Battery Energy Storage System (CBESS), Native Vegetation Clearing Permit (NVCP) Application**

**Introduction**

Balancing supply and demand in the Wholesale Energy Market is becoming an increasingly challenging task as the penetration of rooftop solar and large-scale renewables continues to grow in the South West Interconnected System. Investment in renewable energy schemes was progressed when, on 14 June 2022, the State Government announced plans to retire the Synergy owned and operated Collie Power Station by 2027. This announcement was accompanied by a commitment by the State government to finance renewable generation and storage assets required to replace the retiring generation.

To support this commitment, Synergy Renewable Energy Developments Pty Ltd (SynergyRED), the Proponent proposes to construct and operate up to a 1000 MW / 4000 MWh Collie Battery Energy Storage System (CBESS; the Proposal) with a 330 / 30 kV switch yard adjacent to the Collie Power Station. SynergyRED is a wholly owned subsidiary of Synergy established to develop and manage renewable and energy storage assets. SynergyRED is developing this asset on behalf of Synergy, the ultimate expected asset owner. The first phase is a 500 MW / 2000 MWh facility, which will be developed to allow for further expansion. This expansion is subject to further consideration and Government approvals. The Proposal will interconnect with the Western Power Shotts 330 kV terminal. Construction of CBESS requires clearing of 8.5 hectares (ha) of native vegetation. Details of the Proponent and proposed clearing are provided in Attachment A. An assessment of the proposed clearing of native vegetation against the Ten Clearing Principles is provided in Attachment B.

**Background information**

The Proposal is located approximately 200 kilometres (km) south east of Perth, adjacent to the Collie Power Station and 2.5 km south west of Western Power owned Shotts 330 kV terminal (Attachment C: Figure 1). While the Proposal is immediately adjacent to the Collie Power Station, it is independent of the Facility.

**Location**

The Development Envelope (DE) shown on Figure 2, (Attachment C) for the Proposal is located on the following the lots, Table 1.

Table 1 Location of the Proposal

Landgate ID	Lot on Plan	Vol/Folio	Description	Registered Owner	Area
3722268	3001 on P051101	2684/108	296 Boys Home Road, Palmer	Electricity Generation & Retail Corporation	525.77 ha
4143625	113 on P070794	2912/613	N/A	Electricity Generation & Retail Corporation	585.06 ha
4007454	74 on P070698	2786/624	N/A	Electricity Generation & Retail Corporation	729.28 ha
3123670	N/A	N/A	Unallocated Crown Land	N/A	91.11 ha

The proposed clearing of 8.5 ha of native vegetation required for this Proposal, is located within Lot 3001 on P051101 and Lot 113 on P070794.

The DE, for this Proposal (Attachment C: Figure 2), is subject to various zonings under the Shire of Collie Local Planning Scheme No. 6 (LPS 6).

These zonings are:

- Lot 3001 being partially zoned 'Industrial Development' and 'Strategic Industry'.
- The portion of Lot 3001 zoned 'Industrial Development' also being subject to an 'ASR4' (Additional Development Requirement).
- Lots 74 and 113 being zoned 'Rural'.
- All lots being subject to Special Control Area 6.

Portions of the DE comprising the Collie River are reserved 'Drainage/Waterway' under the Shire's LPS6.

### Other Relevant Approvals

A Development Application was submitted to the Shire of Collie on 12 September 2023. The source and volume of water required for the construction of the Proposal is yet to be clarified and will be confirmed during the detailed design stage of work.

The Proposal is located on the traditional lands of the Wilman, Noongar people. There is one Aboriginal cultural heritage site within the DE, the Collie River Waugal Site (Place ID 16713), which is a sacred mythological site of the dreaming creation serpent called the Ngarnungudditj Walgu.

In February 2023, Synergy entered into a Noongar Heritage Agreement with the Gnaala Karla Booja Aboriginal Corporation (GKB), who represent the Wilman Noongar people whose country the Proposal is situated. The Agreement sets out the terms in which Synergy and GKB are to cooperate to ensure that activities are carried out in a manner that protects Aboriginal heritage to the greatest extent possible. A heritage survey of the DE was undertaken on 20-21 August 2023, in collaboration with GKB, and included discussion on the proposed stringing of the transmission lines across the Collie River. The Proposal does not directly or indirectly impact the Collie River.

### Native Vegetation Clearing Application Area

The Proposal is located within a largely disturbed/previously cleared area, however up to 8.5 ha of native vegetation is required to be cleared for some infrastructure and temporary laydown areas.

The footprint of the Proposal has been carefully developed to avoid clearing native vegetation where possible and does not include clearing native vegetation identified as:

- 'Good' to 'Excellent' condition.
- Black cockatoo habitat; or
- Vegetation fringing the Collie River.

The 8.5 ha of native vegetation proposed to be cleared comprises:

- 7.4 ha of degraded spearwood shrubland (within a temporary laydown area; and
- 1.1 ha of individual native tree stands/shrubs within a previously cleared paddock.

Figure 3 (Attachment C) shows the following:

- Development Envelope (274.1 ha).
- Disturbance Footprint (131 ha).
- Proposed clearing footprint (8.5 ha) of native vegetation.

### **Ten Clearing Principles Assessment**

Schedule 5 of the *Environment Protection Act 1986* (EP Act) defines the Ten Clearing Principles used to assess an application to clear native vegetation. Clearing required for construction of this Proposal has been assessed against these Principles (Attachment B) in accordance with the Department of Environment Regulation (DER) Guide to the Assessment of Applications to Clear Native Vegetation (DER, 2014). The assessment for the proposed clearing of 8.5 ha of native vegetation has concluded the proposed clearing, is not at variance to all Ten Clearing Principles.

### **Relevant Attachments**

The following is provided in support of this application:

- Attachment A: Application for a new permit or referral to clear native vegetation
- Attachment B: Assessment of the proposed clearing against the Ten Clearing Principles.
- Attachment C: Figures
- Attachment D: Biota, 2023 Collie Battery Energy Storage System Targeted Biological Survey (Attachment D).
- Attachment E: GHD, 2023 CBESS Surface Water Management Plan

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Yours sincerely,

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**Attachments**

Attachment A Application for new permit or referral to clear native vegetation

Attachment B Assessment Against the Ten Clearing Principles

Attachment C Figures

Attachment D Biota, 2023 Collie Battery Energy Storage System Targeted Biological Survey

Attachment E GHD, 2023 CBESS Surface Water Management Plan