

The Swallow Tail BESS sits near Bannaby, NSW, on Gundungurra Country in the Upper Lachlan Shire. St Pauls Creek — a tributary of the Wollondilly River — crosses the north-eastern part of the site and an un-named tributary to the Wollondilly passes through Transgrid's land in the southern part of the Project site, where the UG transmission line cable will go.

01 Assessment requirement

NSW planning law requires any development within the Wollondilly River Catchment to have a neutral or beneficial effect on water quality. It is tested using the NSW Government's Neutral or Beneficial Effect Tool, known as the NorBE Tool, and the result must satisfy the consent authority before approval. This fact sheet explains how the project meets that requirement, during construction and in operation.

02 Site boundary and groundwater

The Project occupies a 6-hectare fenced area on a 57-hectare lot. The design layout includes careful drainage design, batter management and soil and water planning.

Geotechnical investigations from a standalone Water Resources Impact Assessment confirmed there is no groundwater at the site, reducing the risk of subsurface contamination and a WRIA confirmed there is no groundwater.

03 How we manage runoff during construction

Erosion and sediment controls will be in place across the footprint before earthworks begin. Measures include:

- Maintaining a 40-metre setback from St Pauls Creek
- Installing bunding and sediment catchment to capture and contain runoff on site
- Managing soil stockpiles to limit sediment reaching waterways
- use of jute mesh, rocks in drain ways to stop sediment
- replanting of batters to prevent run off
- use of rumble grids or other measures to prevent any creek crossings being contaminated by soils carried and dropped by vehicles. preventing soil, chemicals or biosecurity/seeds spreading through the water

Groundwater at the site

Sediment ponds will capture and hold runoff during construction. Following feedback from the NSW Rural Fire Service, these ponds will be retained as permanent on-site water source for local emergency services.



Example of sedimentary pools

04 How we manage runoff during operation

During operations the Project, considered drainage design will manage rainwater that falls on battery enclosures, hardstands and other surfaces.

LOW RISK

Battery enclosures

The battery enclosures are sealed, shipping-container-style units with internal climate control and fire suppression. Rain does not enter them, so the risk of leaching from the batteries in normal operation is low.

MAIN RISK

On-site substation

The more relevant risk is the on-site substation, which holds a 330 kV transformer. Transformers of this type contain insulating oil, a contaminant if spilled. The design addresses this with transformer bunding — a sealed concrete or earthen barrier around the transformer that contains any spill and stops it reaching the wider drainage system.

05 Benefiting the Wollondilly River Catchment

Beyond avoiding direct impacts to the nearby St Pauls Creek, with the compound set back from the creek corridor, landscaping plans also propose fencing the creek to exclude grazing animals, a solar-powered livestock water trough, a dedicated creek crossing and riparian replanting along the banks. which will improve it beyond its current condition

