



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE



The Secretary
NSW Planning & Environment
GPO Box 39
Sydney NSW 2001

Your Ref: SSD 9358
Our Ref: D18/5842
DA18060613379 AB

ATTENTION: Rob Beckett

17 October 2019

Agency Comment: Silverleaf Solar Farm (SSD 8643) Environmental Assessment; Newell Highway Narrabri

Dear Mr Beckett

I refer to NSW Planning and Environment correspondence dated 26 August 2019 seeking comment from the NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) regarding bush fire protection requirements for the above State Significant Development application.

The NSW RFS has received and reviewed the Environmental Assessment document. NSW RFS understands the development proposal is for a *"proposed 120 Megawatt (MW) photovoltaic (PV) solar farm"* which includes:

- *Solar arrays consisting of about 440,000 single-axis tracking panels up to four metres in height, supported by about 5,150 tracker units.*
- *Construction of a transmission corridor, supporting 132 kV power lines, connecting the proposal site to the existing TransGrid substation located on Stoney Creek Road.*
- *Inverter and transformer stations evenly distributed across the site, with onsite cabling and electrical connections between solar arrays and panel inverters.*
- *Internal solar farm substation.*
- *Cables and trenches.*
- *Internal access tracks including car parking areas.*
- *Operational and maintenance office including staff amenities block.*
- *Perimeter security fencing.*
- *Landscaping around the perimeter of the site where required.*

The subject land is not mapped bush fire prone land by Narrabri Shire Council but may contain unmanaged grasslands. Further, the NSW RFS is the primary response agency for all structural fires on the land.

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The NSW RFS recommends the following conditions be included in any approvals granted:

1. A Fire Management Plan (FMP) shall be prepared in consultation with NSW RFS Namoi Gwydir Fire Control Centre. The FMP shall include:
 - 24 hour emergency contact details including alternative telephone contact;
 - Site infrastructure plan;
 - Fire fighting water supply plan;
 - Site access and internal road plan;
 - Construction of Asset Protection Zones (APZ) and their continued maintenance;
 - Location of hazards (Physical, Chemical and Electrical) that will impact on fire fighting operations and procedures to manage identified hazards during fire fighting operations;
 - Such additional matters as required by the NSW RFS District Office (FMP review and updates).
2. The entire solar array development footprint to be managed as an Asset Protection Zone as outlined within section 4.1.3 and Appendix 5 of 'Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2006' and the NSW Rural Fire Service's document 'Standards for Asset Protection Zones'.
3. A 20,000 litre water supply (tank) fitted with a 65mm storz fitting shall be located adjoining the internal property access road within the required APZ.
4. To allow for emergency service personnel to undertake property protection activities, a 10 metre defensible space (APZ) that permits unobstructed vehicle access is to be provided around the perimeter of each of the solar array development sites including associate infrastructure.

For any queries regarding this correspondence please contact Alan Bawden on 1300 NSW RFS.

Yours Sincerely



Tim Carroll

Manager – Planning and Environment Services

The RFS has made getting information easier. For general information on 'Planning for Bush Fire Protection, 2006', visit the RFS web page at www.rfs.nsw.gov.au and search under 'Planning for Bush Fire Protection, 2006'.