

OUT18/7826

Ms Ellen Jones  
Resource and Energy Assessments  
NSW Department of Planning and Environment

By email: [ellen.jones@planning.nsw.gov.au](mailto:ellen.jones@planning.nsw.gov.au)

Dear Ms Jones

**Darlington Point Solar Farm (SSD 8392)  
Comment on the Environmental Impact Statement**

I refer to the email of 17 May 2018 to the Department of Industry in respect to the above matter. Comment has been sought from relevant branches of Lands & Water and Department of Primary Industries. Any further referrals to Department of Industry can be sent by email to [landuse.enquiries@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:landuse.enquiries@dpi.nsw.gov.au).

The department provides the following recommendations for consideration in assessment of the proposal. Detailed comments are provided at **Attachment A**.

**Recommendations prior to project approval**

- Further details should be provided regarding the management of existing on site dams during construction and operation of the project. Where they are to be removed an assessment is requested of the impacts of removing the dams on aquatic habitat and the impacts of discharging water stored in the dams.
- Further details should be provided regarding the quantities, sources and security of water required during the construction and operation of the project.

**Recommended conditions of approval**

- That the proponent prepares a Soil and Water Management Plan as part of the Construction Environmental Management Plan in consultation with the Natural Resources Access Regulator, prior to commencement of activities.
- That the proponent undertakes a full soil survey prior to construction.
- That all underground cables and infrastructure be removed once the site is decommissioned.

Yours sincerely



Alex King  
**Director Cabinet and Legislation Services**  
15 June 2018

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**Water resources**

- There are a number of small farm dams on site that the proponent indicates will be either filled or retained depending on the final design layout. There has been no assessment of the impacts of removing these dams on aquatic habitat or on the environment where discharge of water may be required. Rehabilitation of dams will be needed to ensure adequate reconstruction and stabilisation of the existing drainage channel.
- The proponent indicates that there is no intent or need for any volumetric water licensing requirements for the proposed development and no water entitlement is needed or required to be purchased. Potential water sources have been identified as existing on site dams and truck deliveries from local sources (unspecified). The water demands and security of accessing these supplies has not been addressed. Water in on site dams may be insufficient for the requirements of the project and a viable source of water should be identified.

**Agricultural resources**

- The department recommends that a full soil survey be undertaken prior to construction starting. In addition to soil erosion risk the survey should consider current conditions to assist future rehabilitation activities on decommissioning and aiding the restoration of land and soil capability to current or better value, and to aid in gaining full productive agricultural values.
- The department recommends the removal of all underground infrastructure following decommissioning of the site. This is important if the land is returned to cropping in the future, as buried cables may become a nuisance during cultivation. The department does not consider the retention of buried cables consistent with the return of the site to its existing land capability.
- The department encourages the use of grazing animals for the management of vegetation and weed control during the operation phase. This will keep a vegetative cover over the soil surface and provide opportunities for local graziers to access an alternative food source.
- The department notes the management strategies outlined in Table 45 Recommended mitigation measures to address potential land use impacts in response to the land use conflict risk assessment, however as highlighted above the removal of all underground infrastructure is recommended to ensure that the site could be cultivated in the future if conditions allow that to happen.
- The department recommends that screening vegetation along property boundaries be planted to minimise visual amenity impacts on surrounding sensitive receptors.

**END ATTACHMENT A**