



## NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE



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

Your Ref: SSD 8392  
Our Ref: D18/5640  
DA18053013283 AB

ATTENTION: Ellen Jones

8 June 2018

### Agency Comment: Darlington Point Solar Farm (SSD 8392) Environmental Impact Statement; Sturt Highway Darlington Point

Dear Ms Jones

I refer to NSW Planning and Environment correspondence dated 18 May 2018 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 Impact Statement (EIS) and understands the development proposal is for a proposed 275 Megawatt (MW) photovoltaic (PV) solar farm.

The EIS states:

*"Key development and infrastructure components of the DPSF is proposed to include:*

- *Photovoltaic (PV) solar panels*
- *Steel mounting frames with piled foundations*
- *A single-axis tracking system*
- *Direct current (DC) / alternating current (AC) inverter stations*
- *Medium voltage (33kV) electrical reticulation network*
- *A 33/132kV switchyard, including an internal 33kV switch-room*
- *Internal access tracks for operational maintenance and housekeeping, to be largely located in bushfire set-back zones*
- *Security perimeter fencing*
- *Staff car park and small amenities building*
- *Battery energy storage system facility".*

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The subject land is not mapped bush fire prone land by Murrumbidgee Shire Council. However, it is noted that the land contains significant grassland vegetation formations. Further, the NSW RFS is the primary response agency for all structural fires on the land.

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 MIA 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 defendable 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



Martha Dotter

**Acting Team Leader – Development Assessment and Planning**

*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](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au) and search under 'Planning for Bush Fire Protection, 2006'.*