



8 June 2022

Mr Andy Nixey  
Team Leader  
Energy Assessments  
Department of Planning and Environment

Dear Mr Nixey

**Re: Walla Walla Solar Farm Mod 2 (SSD 9874 Mod 2)**  
**Response to Submissions**

Thank you for your letter dated 17<sup>th</sup> May 2022 requesting a response to submissions received in relation to the Walla Walla Solar Farm Modification 2 application.

### **1. The Project**

Walla Walla Solar Farm (the Project) is an approved 300 MW<sub>AC</sub> solar farm, located approximately 5 km northeast of the township of Walla Walla.

The development consent (SSD 9874) was granted under Part 4 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act) by the Independent Planning Commission on 27 November 2020.

The project has been modified once, on 3 March 2022 since consent for the project was originally granted.

### **2. Modification 2**

Modification 2 seeks to modify the Development Consent under s4.55(1A) of the EPA&A Act, in order to:

- Increase the maximum daily construction heavy vehicle movements from 45 to 110.
- Increase the solar array development footprint from 390 ha to 406 ha.
- Changes to the site layout, including an additional crossing over Back Creek; and
- Amendments to the biodiversity offset requirements

An assessment of the Modification's environmental impact was submitted to the Department on 30 March 2022. The assessment was publicly exhibited by the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) from 3 May 2022 until the 16 May 2022.

### **3. Submissions Received**

During the exhibition period, DPE received a total of 35 public submissions in relation to the proposed modification. Of these submissions:

- 34 objected to the modification
- 1 was in support of the modification

Of the public submissions received:

- 16 were received from members of the local community (within 10 km of the project), including the one submission in support of the project.



- 0 were received from elsewhere in the region (within 80 km)
- 19 were received from submitters located 80 km or more from the project.

#### **4. Response to the Issues Raised in Submissions**

Appendix A contains a summary of the submissions received during the public exhibition period. Appendix B provides a summary of the issues raised, and FRV's detailed response to these matters.

FRV notes that most submissions received from members of the public objected to project on the basis of merit or regarding issues that have previously been considered by DPE, and are not entirely relevant to the changes proposed as part of the subject modification.

#### **5. Amendments to the Project**

Based on submissions and on conversations with DPE and agencies, minor changes to the project have been proposed. These changes include:

- Discontinuing the use of the Substation Access and the unsealed section of Benambra Road for Heavy Vehicles during construction
- Including the Olympic Highway and Benambra Road intersection in the project's dilapidation surveys
- Amendment to the definition of "over-dimensional vehicles".

These amendments have been detailed in Appendix C.

#### **6. Additional Information**

BCD requested an updated BDAR be provided, addressing concerns regarding the way in which data was presented within the report.

It is noted that BCD advised that these changes were procedural in nature, and did not influence its view on the subject modification.

An updated BDAR has been included, under Appendix D.

#### **7. Conclusion**

The modification is required to ensure the viability and constructability of the Walla Walla Solar Farm.

The modification would increase the reliability of energy production associated with the solar farm, and would serve to reduce overall impacts to members of the community by bringing all project related traffic within the site, as opposed to along the unsealed section of Benambra Road.

Yours Faithfully

**Rob Beckett**  
Project Development



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APPENDIX A – Summary of Submissions Received

APPENDIX B – Response to Submissions

APPENDIX C – Project Amendments

APPENDIX D – Updated BDAR