

From: Fire Safety
To: [Anthony Ko](#)
Subject: Wollar Solar Project (SSD 9254) - EIS Exhibition
Date: Thursday, 2 May 2019 11:02:42 AM
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[image003.png](#)
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Dear Anthony,

In regards to your email correspondence dated the 10th of April 2019, Fire & Rescue NSW confirms receipt of the request for agency input for Wollar Solar Farm (SSD 9254) EIS Exhibition.

It is FRNSW experience that small and large scale photovoltaic installations present unique electrical hazard risks to our personnel when fulfilling their emergency first responder role. Due to the electrical hazards associated with large scale photovoltaic installations and the potential risk to the health and safety of firefighters, both FRNSW and the NSW Rural Fire Service must be able to implement effective and appropriate risk control measures when managing an emergency incident at the proposed site.

Due to the emerging hazards and risks associated with battery storage facilities, FRNSW recommends the following:

1. That a comprehensive ERP is developed for the site.
2. That the ERP specifically addresses foreseeable on-site and off-site fire events and other emergency incidents (e.g. fires involving solar panel arrays, bushfires in the immediate vicinity) or potential hazmat incidents.
3. That the ERP detail the appropriate hazard control measures that would need to be implemented to safely mitigate potential risks to the health and safety of firefighters and other first responders (including electrical hazards). Such measures would include the level of personal protective clothing required to be worn, the minimum level of respiratory protection required, decontamination procedures, minimum evacuation zone distances and a safe method of shutting down and isolating the photovoltaic and battery storage systems (either totally or partially, as determined by risk assessment).
4. Other risk control measures that may need to be implemented in a fire emergency (due to any unique hazards specific to the site) should also be included in the ERP.
5. That two copies of the ERP (detailed in recommendation 1 above) be stored in a prominent 'Emergency Information Cabinet' located in a position directly adjacent to the site's main entry point/s.
6. Once constructed and prior to operation, that the operator of the facility contacts the relevant local emergency management committee (LEMC). The LEMC is a committee established by Section 28 of the State Emergency and Rescue Management Act 1989. LEMCs are required to be established so that emergency services organisations and other government agencies can proactively develop comprehensive inter agency local emergency procedures for significant hazardous sites within their local government area. The contact details of members of the LEMC can be obtained from the relevant local council.
7. To ensure that the facility's existing and proposed fire prevention, detection, protection and firefighting measures are appropriate to the specific fire hazards and adequate to meet the extent of potential fires, a comprehensive fire safety study (FSS) is recommended to be undertaken.
8. That the FSS is developed in accordance with the requirements of Hazardous Industry Planning Advisory Paper No.2 (HIPAP No.2).
9. That the FSS is required to be approved by FRNSW. **We request FRNSW approval of the FSS is a condition of consent.**
10. That the development of the FSS considers the limited operational capability of local fire agencies and the need for the facility to achieve an adequate level of on-site fire and life safety independence.
11. To achieve a satisfactory level of fire safety, it is our recommendation that the FSS is developed in close consultation with FRNSW.

If you have any further queries regarding this matter, please contact the Fire Safety Branch on 9742 7434 quoting your reference number.

Regards,



Administration Officer
Fire Safety Administration Unit
Community Safety Directorate | Fire and Rescue NSW
T: (02) 9742 7434
1 Amarina Ave, Greenacre, NSW 2190 | Locked Bag 12, Greenacre, NSW 2190



www.fire.nsw.gov.au



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