



Department of Primary Industries

FE20/958

C20/653

29 September 2020

Javier Canon

Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

RE: Tilbuster Solar Farm Project (SSD-9619) - Request for Advice on EIS

DPI Fisheries are responsible for ensuring that fish stocks are conserved and that there is “no net loss” of *key fish habitat* upon which they depend. To achieve this, the Department ensures that developments comply with the requirements of the *Fisheries Management Act 1994* (namely the aquatic habitat protection and threatened species conservation provisions in Parts 7 and 7A of the Act respectively) and the associated *Policy and Guidelines for Fish Habitat Conservation and Management (Update 2013)*.

The EIS states that it is likely that there will be 11 access tracks across watercourses. Construction of waterway crossings or services through waterways should reference DPI Fisheries Policy & Guideline document: *Policy and Guidelines for Fish Habitat Conservation and Management (Update 2013)*. This is to ensure that the works are designed and constructed in accordance with best management practice and with minimal impact on the aquatic environment.

DPI Fisheries policy also advocates the use of riparian buffer zones as per the *Policy and Guidelines for Fish Habitat Conservation and Management (Update 2013)* available on the Department’s website at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/habitat/publications/pubs/fish-habitat-conservation in order to maintain the riparian buffer zone and limit disturbance and susceptibility to bed or bank erosion.

Should you require further clarification on the above issues, please contact David Ward (Fisheries Manager) on 6763 1255 or 0429 908 856.