

26 March 2026

Rita Hatem
NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
Locked Bag 5022
PARRAMATTA NSW 2124

Email: Rita.Hatem@planning.nsw.gov.au

Re: **Garoo Solar Farm (SSD-79747209)**

Dear Ms Hartem,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Garoo Solar Farm SSD-79747209 proposal to construct, operate and decommission a photovoltaic solar facility (133 MW), a battery energy storage system (360 MW / 1440 MWh), and associated infrastructure at a location approximately 40km south of Tamworth.

Hunter New England Local Health District (HNELHD) has reviewed the EIS concentrating on issues for which we are the regulator under the Public Health Act and Regulation, and makes the following comments for your consideration:

Drinking Water

It is noted that the proposal includes the use of rainwater tanks and/or carted water to provide the potable water supply for site amenities and the temporary workforce accommodation camp.

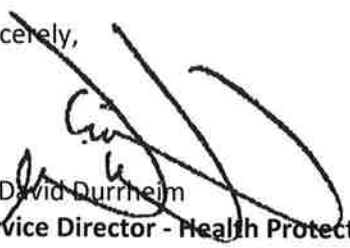
Businesses or facilities that supply drinking water from an independent water supply (i.e. not reticulated town water supply) need to follow the NSW Health Private Water Supply Guidelines (February 2016). The Public Health Act 2010 and the Public Health Regulation 2022 require drinking water suppliers, including private water suppliers, to develop and adhere to a Quality Assurance Program (or drinking water management system). The completed Quality Assurance Program needs to be submitted to HNELHD. Further information and templates can be found at:

<http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/environment/water/Pages/private-supplies.aspx>

NSW Health recommends regular testing of drinking water at facilities with a private supply. If a private water supply is contaminated or is not monitored or not treated, then consumers should be warned.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Carolyn Herlihy, Environmental Health Officer on (02) 4924 6602 or email to HNELHD-PHEnvironmentalHealth@health.nsw.gov.au

Sincerely,



Dr David Durrheim
Service Director - Health Protection
Hunter New England Population Health