



Your ref: SSD-64834490
Our ref: DOC26/193945-1

Rita Hatem
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Energy and Resource Assessments
Department of Housing, Planning and Infrastructure

By email: rita.hatem@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Rita

Brewongle Solar Farm – SSD-64834490 – Response to submissions

Thank you for your NSW Planning Portal request dated 31 March 2026 to the Conservation Programs, Heritage and Regulation Group (CPHR) of the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) inviting comments on the Response to Submissions (RtS) for Brewongle Solar Farm.

We have reviewed the exhibited RtS against CPHR's advice on the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) provided on 9 July 2025 (DOC25/414257). The proponent's response and amended Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR) address our recommendations and we have no further comments. We note the proponent acknowledges that any future surveys for the Bathurst grasslands earless dragon will be undertaken in accordance with current requirements of the Threatened Biodiversity Data Collection (TBDC).

Regarding evidence for the proponent's proposed land categorisation, CPHR recommends accepting the land categorisation displayed on the draft Native Vegetation Regulatory (NVR) map as it reflects the Department's understanding of the land category based on the *Local Land Services Act 2013*. Records supporting the land categorisation assessment should be retained. Where changes to the draft NVR map land categorisation is proposed, we recommend a [free formal map review](#) is sought to mitigate risk to the proponent.

CPHR's advice on potential serious and irreversible impact (SAII) to *White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Box Woodland and Derived Native Grassland* critically endangered ecological community (Box Gum CEEC) is provided in **Attachment A**. CPHR considers that **SAII is unlikely**.

If you have any further questions about this issue, please contact our Conservation Planning and Assessment - North team at rog.nw@environment.nsw.gov.au.

Yours Sincerely

Allison Treweek
Senior Manager
Conservation Planning and Assessment - North
Conservation Programs, Heritage and Regulation Group (CPHR)

10 April 2026

Attachment A – Serious and Irreversible Impacts

SAIL Entity: *White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Box Woodland and Derived Native Grassland* critically endangered ecological community (Box Gum CEEC)

	Steps	CPHR Recommendation
1	Identify relevant entities at risk of SAIL	The BDAR identifies the Box Gum CEEC at risk of SAIL against SAIL Principle 1 (reduction in geographic extent) and Principle 2 (degradation or disruption to biotic processes).
2	Evaluation of the current extinction risk of the impacted entities	The BDAR identifies the Box Gum CEEC at risk of SAIL against SAIL Principle 1 (reduction in geographic extent) and Principle 2 (environmental degradation or disruption of biotic processes). The Conservation Assessment for Box Gum CEEC¹ states that <i>“available data shows over 90% of the original extent of this ecological community has been cleared. Of the remaining area, a large proportion of it has been modified and occurs as trees over a predominantly exotic understorey. The Committee judge that less than 5% of the original extent of the ecological community remains of sufficient condition and size* to be included in the listed ecological community, having undergone a decline of 95% or more”</i>.
3	Detail measures taken to avoid impacts on the entity	The project site is largely situated within non-native, cultivated, or pasture-improved paddocks, characterised by the absence of paddock trees or other significant habitat features. The direct impact footprint is located to avoid higher quality habitat along an adjacent creek line.
4	Evaluate the impacts from the proposal	The BDAR reports that the proposal will impact 0.48ha of planted vegetation conforming to Box Gum CEEC (Plant Community Type 3376 low – Vegetation Integrity (VI) score 6.7). Historically the study area has been cleared for agricultural activities. Historical imagery indicates the area of planted woodland was established prior to 2003. It is presumed these plantings were not publicly funded as they are not included as category 2 – sensitive regulated on the draft NVR map. CPHR considers that the project site selection is the principal step taken to avoid impacts to the CEEC.
5	Provide advice on whether the proposal is likely or unlikely to result in SAIL	On the basis of the information set out in this table, CPHR considers that the project is unlikely to: • add to the reduction of the ecological function experienced by the Box Gum CEEC • contribute to further decline of a rapidly declining community. SAIL is considered unlikely based on Principles 1 and 2.

¹ NSW Threatened Species Scientific Committee (2020) *Conservation Assessment of White Box – Yellow Box – Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland*. NSW Government.
<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/-/media/OEH/Corporate-Site/Documents/Animals-and-plants/Scientific-Committee/Determinations/2020/white-box-yellow-box-final-determination-conservation-assessment.pdf?la=en&hash=F8E09AABE537A9AB6CBBBD7A38BCEF44956C0D986#:~:text=Summary%20of%20Conservation%20Assessment,under%20Criteria%20A3%20and%20D3.>