

Our ref: SWT19/00016
Contact: Maurice Morgan

16 May 2022

Department of Planning Industry & Environment
BY EMAIL: information@planning.nsw.gov.au

Attention: Dominic Crinnion

SSD-9874 MOD 2 – PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO WALLA WALLA SOLAR FARM, BENAMBRA ROAD, WALLA WALLA.

I refer to your correspondence regarding the subject Application which was referred to Transport for NSW (TfNSW), for assessment and comment.

In relation to the proposed modification TfNSW has reviewed the documentation concerning the modifications to the proposed solar farm project. The request is supported by documentation prepared by NGH Consulting dated March 2022.

The key focus of this modification report that relate to traffic issues includes:

- An increase in the solar array and development footprint, of approximately 15.4 ha, within the existing project boundary years - TfNSW notes this request and would raise no objection.
- Construction of an additional vehicle crossing over Back Creek to accommodate heavy vehicles years - TfNSW advises that the road forms part of the local road network for which Council is the road authority,
- An increase in the peak daily heavy vehicle numbers accessing the site from 45 to 110. TfNSW notes that the proposed increase relates to the peak number on any day and that the proponent considers it a conservative volume that may not occur and would not be a continual volume for the whole construction period.

The revised traffic volumes represent a significant increase in the number of heavy vehicles. The Traffic Impact Assessment (TIA) that was previously prepared by Ontoit Consulting for the traffic volumes as per the original application. From the information provided it appears that the assessment, and the recommendations, of this previous TIA have not be revised to assess the newly proposed traffic volumes.

TfNSW acknowledges that the existing intersection of Benambra Road and the Olympic Highway was previously constructed to a higher standard due to the reliance on this route by nearby quarries. Notwithstanding this, TfNSW notes schedule 3 condition 8 of the determination dated 27 November 2020 and requests that the intersection of Benambra Road with the Olympic Highway and its ancillary lanes be included in 8(a) to require an independent dilapidation survey and 8(b) to require repair to the intersection if the dilapidation survey identifies damage as a result of the construction of the solar farm.

TfNSW emphasises the need to minimise the impact of development on the existing public road network and maintain the level of safety, efficiency and maintenance along the road network. TfNSW advises that it would not object to the modified traffic volumes subject to inclusion of the above.

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Note that the transportation of the substation facility may require special approvals for Over-size and Over-mass vehicles to allow for its transportation to the development site.

TfNSW notes that there has been a number of requests for modification of the permitted maximum traffic volumes, particularly heavy vehicles volumes, generated by solar farm developments due to the underestimation of vehicle numbers as part of the original Development Application. It may prove beneficial to request that an assessment of actual traffic volumes, prepared by a haulage contractor, be submitted as part of the Development Application.

Any enquiries regarding this correspondence may be referred to Maurice Morgan, TfNSW (South Region), phone (02) 6923 6611.

Yours faithfully



Maurice Morgan
Team Leader, Development Services South

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