

10 October 2022

Contact: *James Caddey*

Telephone: 0408605316

Our ref: D2022/117478

Ms Julia Green
Energy, Resources and Industry Assessments
Department of Planning & Environment
Locked Bag 5022
PARRAMATTA NSW 2124

Dear Ms Green

WaterNSW Response to EIS for Marulan Solar Farm – SSD 13137914

WaterNSW appreciates the opportunity to provide advice in relation to the proposed Marulan Solar Farm (MSF) (SSD 13137914).

As the proposal is located within the Sydney Drinking Water Catchment (SDWC), clauses 8.7 (1), 8.7(2) and 8.8(1) of the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Biodiversity and Conservation) 2021* (the SEPP) apply to the development.

WaterNSW has reviewed the Environmental Impact Statement (Rev:001E, dated 27 July 2022) prepared by Premise. WaterNSW has the following concerns:

1. The removal of the Catchment Protection Scheme dams at the head of stable gullies. There is a high probability that the removal of these dams will cause the gullies to become active, leading to erosion and impacts on water quality. Advice from SoilCon or Local Land Services should be sought before removal or filling in of those dams.
2. The risk of saturation of soil in sodic areas, especially on the drip lines of the panels, and leading to erosion. Vegetation may not be enough to protect the soil, especially if sheep are allowed to graze in those areas.
3. The MUSIC model has not been supplied therefore WaterNSW cannot comment whether the model shows that the proposal meets the NorBE requirement of the SEPP.

WaterNSW requests that the following be included in approval conditions issued for the proposal:

- WaterNSW shall be consulted in the review and updating of:
 - Further engineering design and modelling
 - Construction Environmental Management Plan
 - Soil and Water Management Plan
 - Operational Environmental Management Plan
 - Any Rehabilitation Plans for the gullies
 - Any proposed on-site effluent management system(s), and
- the above documents shall comply with the requirements of Clause 8.7 of the SEPP, (i.e. Current Recommended Practices).

It is requested that WaterNSW be listed a stakeholder in any further consultation on the project.

If you have any questions, please contact Jim Caddey via email at environmental.assessments@waterNSW.com.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daryl Gilchrist". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

DARYL GILCHRIST
Manager Catchment Protection