



INT19/162896

Mr Rob Beckett
Planning and Assessment Group
NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

rob.beckett@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Mr Beckett

Wellington North Solar Farm (SSD-8895)

I refer to your request for advice on 13 August 2019 to the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) regarding the above matter.

DPI provides the following comments for consideration in assessment of the development proposal.

DPI is responsible for considering the risks posed by competing land uses on agricultural industries and the agricultural resources upon which they depend.

On 12 September 2018, DPI requested that the current agricultural productivity of the site be assessed / obtained. For example, crop yields and stocking rates over a minimum of the last 3 years as a baseline data set to assist in providing agricultural indicators to guide the return of land back to agricultural production for decommissioning purposes. This should form part of the criteria for land rehabilitation outcomes to be achieved especially for agricultural purposes. Other criteria to be considered includes physical aspects (depth of topsoil, drainage), as well as chemical aspects (pH, cation exchange capacity, other fertility aspects) that form would be part of the decommissioning and rehabilitation plan.

This information relating to agricultural productivity above has not been provided, and is required to inform rehabilitation parameters. DPI would like to take this opportunity to request this information again.

Any further referrals to DPI can be sent by email to dpi.cabinet@dpi.nsw.gov.au

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cass McNamara'.

Cass McNamara
Manager, Coordination
DPIE DPI – Strategy & Policy
1 October 2019