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TRIM Doc. No: D22/93971
Contact: Station Officer Luke Loseby

26 October 2022

JAVIER CANON
NSW Department of Planning and Environment
Locked Bag 5022
PARRAMATTA NSW 2124

Dear Javier,

Re: Advice on Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) – BIRRIWA SOLAR FARM – BARNEYS REEF ROAD, BIRRIWA (SSD- 29508870)

Fire and Rescue NSW (FRNSW) acknowledge correspondence received on the 12 October 2022, requesting advice on the EIS for BIRRIWA SOLAR FARM – BARNEYS REEF ROAD, BIRRIWA (SSD- 29508870). FRNSW have reviewed the EIS along with the Preliminary Hazards Analysis (PHA).

It has been the experience of FRNSW that BESS facilities pose special problems of firefighting and special hazards exist that may require additional fire safety and management measures. Due to these unique challenges FRNSW make the following recommendations:

1. That a comprehensive Fire Safety Study (FSS) is developed. The FSS is to be developed in accordance with the requirements of Hazardous Industry Planning Advisory Paper (HIPAP) No.2¹ and is to meet the operational requirements of FRNSW.
2. That the development of the FSS consider the operational capability of local fire agencies and the need for the facility to achieve an adequate level of on-site fire and life safety independence. The FSS should consider worst-case fire scenarios including a full BESS unit fire and demonstrate no fire propagation within the facility.
3. That the FSS be submitted, reviewed, and meet the operational requirements of FRNSW prior to any further submission being made to FRNSW; this includes: an Initial Fire Safety Report (IFSR) and / or Performance-Based Design Brief / Fire Engineering Brief Questionnaire (FEBQ).
4. That the development of a FSS be a condition of consent.
5. That a comprehensive ERP is developed for the site in accordance with HIPAP No.1.²

6. That an Emergency Services Information Package (ESIP) be prepared in accordance with FRNSW fire safety guideline – Emergency services information package and tactical fire plans.³

For further information please contact the Operational Liaison and Special Hazards Unit, referencing FRNSW file number BFS22/5333. Please ensure that all correspondence in relation to this matter is submitted electronically to firesafety@fire.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

7914 

A/Superintendent David Absalom
A/Manager
Operational Liaison Special Hazards Unit

Cc: Javier.Canon@planning.nsw.gov.au

¹ <https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/-/media/Files/DPE/Guidelines/fire-safety-study-guidelines-2011-01.pdf?la=en>

² <https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/-/media/Files/DPE/Other/hazardous-industry-planning-advisory-paper-no-1-emergency-planning-2011-01.pdf?la=en>

³ https://www.fire.nsw.gov.au/gallery/files/pdf/guidelines/guidelines_ESIP_and_TFP.pdf