

Javier Cannon  
Senior Environmental Assessment Officer  
DPE - Planning

C/- Major Projects Portal

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Birriwa Solar Farm (SSD-29508870) (Mid-Western Regional, Warrumbungle Shire)

Dear Mr Canon

Thank you for your correspondence of 12 October 2022 and the opportunity to provide comment on the above proposal

The NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) Agriculture collaborates and partners with our stakeholders to protect and enhance the productive and sustainable use and resilience of agricultural resources and the environment.

Based on the assessment of the Environmental Impact Statement, there is only one outstanding issue in relation to the land management of the site during operations. It is stated that sheep grazing at about 25% of current stocking for groundcover management is proposed. However, there are no specific details on the reinstatement of vegetation post construction or how the site will be managed because of seasonal conditions etc. agriculturally.

To overcome this the following condition is suggested:

*Establish and maintain groundcover at a minimum of 70% to prevent soil erosion by the development of a groundcover management plan This will include detail on final construction reinstatement of land and undertake appropriate vegetation establishment and management that achieves from current and potential impact of the proposal on the site as per Meat and Livestock guide 2.02 (<https://mbfp.mla.com.au/pasture-growth/tool-22-assessing-groundcover/>) or Soil Knowledge Network Inc ( <https://www.nswskn.com/Solar%20farms/> and <https://www.nswskn.com/groundcover/>.)*

We consider the reviews that include the landuse, soils and erosion assessment, including the agricultural productivity aspect and the impact on neighbouring lands have addressed the requirements related to agricultural impact.

Should you require clarification on any of the information contained in this response, please do not hesitate to contact me on 0427 949 987 or by email at [landuse.ag@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:landuse.ag@dpi.nsw.gov.au).

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Kovac". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the letter 'y'.

Mary Kovac  
Agricultural Land Use Planning Officer  
Ag Strategic Initiatives  
Central West Orana Region

9 November 2022