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Via Major Projects portal

Oxley Solar Farm, amended (SSD -10346)

Dear Natasha,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the Oxley Solar Farm Amendment Report and related documents as referred via the NSW Major Projects Portal on 14 October 2022.

The NSW Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI) Agriculture provides advice to consent authorities about the protection and growth of agricultural industries and the resources upon which these industries depend.

NSW DPI has reviewed the Amendment Report and understand it is proposed to reduce the scale of the Oxley Solar farm and related infrastructure in response to submissions which raised concerns over cumulative impacts. We support the outcomes of the amended report in particular the proposed retention of a ~200ha parcel of land (Lot A) to continue to be used for agriculture.

Our previous advice in relation to this project provided 19 March 2021 concerned full site rehabilitation where the removal of underground infrastructure to 500mm was recommended. It is preferable that full rehabilitation of the land, including removal of buried infrastructure be undertaken on decommissioning of the project so as not to impede future agricultural practices.

Where full rehabilitation is not possible due to the risk of environmental degradation or there are no alternative installation solutions, buried infrastructure should be installed with consideration of DPI Agriculture's Primefact: *Infrastructure proposals on rural land* in consultation with the land holder.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact me on 0487 023 845.

Yours sincerely



21 October 2022
Nita Scott
A/Manager Agricultural Land Use Planning
Strategic Policy and Initiatives