

Our ref: OUT22/19018

Natasha Homsey

Planning and Assessment Group  
NSW Department of Planning and Environment

Email:

28 October 2022

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Subject: **Oxley Solar Farm (SSD-10346) Response to Submissions (RTS)**

Dear Natasha Homsey

I refer to your request for advice sent on 14 October 2022 to the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) Water about the above matter.

The proposal, located approximately 14 km south east of Armidale NSW, includes the construction, operation and decommissioning of a ground-mounted PV solar array facility and associated 50MWh lithium-ion Battery Energy Storage System.

DPE Water is concerned that the proponent may have difficulty in obtaining sufficient water entitlement and recommends that the proponent demonstrate the ability to access sufficient water entitlements. Please note our advice in Attachment A.

Should you have any further queries in relation to this submission please do not hesitate to contact DPE Water Assessments [water.assessments@dpie.nsw.gov.au](mailto:water.assessments@dpie.nsw.gov.au), or the following coordinating officer within DPE Water:

Liz Rogers  
Manager Assessments  
M: 0428 600 421

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S Francis".

Simon Francis  
Senior Project Officer, Assessments, Knowledge Division  
**Department of Planning and Environment: Water**

## **Attachment A**

### **Detailed advice to DPE Planning & Assessment regarding the Oxley Solar Farm (SSD-10346) Response to Submissions (RTS)**

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#### **1.0 Licensing**

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##### **1.1 Recommendation – Prior to Determination**

The proponent should demonstrate the ability to access sufficient entitlement by identifying potential willing sellers or available entitlement to trade with. This is to address the issue of limited trading history in the relevant water sources.

##### **1.2 Recommendation – Post Approval**

The proponent must ensure sufficient water entitlement is held in a water access licence/s to account for the maximum predicted take prior to take occurring

##### **1.3 Explanation**

The proponent is yet to demonstrate the ability to acquire a water entitlement to account for potential water take from the unregulated Gara River. Whilst there is sufficient entitlement available in these water sources there are limited licences available and very limited evidence of active trading hence this needs to be addressed to mitigate a potential risk to the project. This can be demonstrated through confirming availability and likelihood of trades.

**End Attachment A**

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