

Mr Andy Nixey
Department of Planning and Environment
C/o Major Projects Portal

Andy.nixey@planning.nsw.gov.au

Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements – Dumaresq Solar SSD-61740963

Dear Mr Nixey

Thank you for your correspondence of 30 August 2023 and the opportunity to provide input to the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) for the proposed solar development at 3500 Bonshaw Road, Bonshaw (SSD-61740963).

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

NSW DPI Agriculture has reviewed the scoping report and notes that the proposal is for a 190MW solar development, battery energy storage system and associated infrastructure.

To assess the potential impacts of the proposed development on the agricultural production of surrounding land, NSW DPI Agriculture requests that the following matters be included in the SEARs for the Dumaresq Solar Project:

- A Land Use Conflict Risk Assessment (LUCRA) should be undertaken for the proposed development. The LUCRA should detail any potential impacts from the proposed development on neighbouring agricultural land uses and potential impacts of neighbouring agricultural land uses on the operation of the proposed development. The LUCRA should be informed by consultation with neighbouring landowners to confirm adjoining land uses and identify potential impacts. For the identified impacts the LUCRA should detail mitigation measures to reduce the potential risk. The consideration of impacts should include those during operation of the facility and not just construction.
- A biosecurity management plan should be prepared to detail the likely weed and pest animal risks the proposed development may pose to agricultural land uses in the locality. The relevant weed or pest animals for a region are addressed in the regional plans or strategies issued by NSW Local Lands Services. The management plan should include details of how the proposal will deal with identified biosecurity risks from weeds and pest animals as well as contingency plans for any failures. It should also include monitoring and mitigation measures for weed and pest management.
- A Decommissioning and Rehabilitation Management Plan should be prepared which describes the final land use and landform and details how to return of the land back to agricultural production at the end of the life of the facility. The plan should detail an expected timeline for the decommissioning and rehabilitation program. The plan should

also include a commitment to remove all infrastructure above and below ground, to a depth of 500mm to enable future agricultural production to be undertaken on the site.

Industry guidelines and resource information (**Attachment A**) should also be provided to the proponent for their consideration when preparing the Environmental Impact Statement.

Should you require clarification on any of the information contained in this response, please do not hesitate to contact me on 0429 864 501 or by email at landuse.ag@dpi.nsw.gov.au.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Garnett', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Paul Garnett
Agricultural Land Use Planning Officer
Ag Strategic Initiatives
New England and North West Region

31 August 2023

Encl: Attachment A: Industry guidelines and resource information

Attachment A: Industry guidelines and resource information

Solar Farms

Title	Website link
Land Use Conflict Risk Assessment Guide	https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/lup/development-assessment2/lucra
Infrastructure Proposals on Rural Land	https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/lup/development-assessment2/infrastructure-proposals
The land and soil capability assessment scheme: second approximation 2012 (OEH)	https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/research-and-publications/publications-search/land-and-soil-capability-assessment-scheme
Australian Soil and Land Survey Handbook (CSIRO)	https://ebooks.publish.csiro.au/content/australian-soil-and-land-survey-field-handbook
Guidelines for Surveying Soil and Land Resources (CSIRO)	https://ebooks.publish.csiro.au/content/guidelines-surveying-soil-and-land-resources