



Nestor Tsambos  
Senior Environmental Assessment Officer  
DPE Planning  
nestor.tsambos@dpie.nsw.gov.au

Dear Nestor

### **Birriwa solar farm – amendment report**

Thank you for your e-mail dated 5 October 2023 to the Biodiversity, Conservation and Science Directorate (BCS) of the Department of Planning and Environment inviting comments on the amendment report for Birriwa solar farm.

BCS notes that the amended project now includes a temporary accommodation facility, increasing the project footprint by 38 ha.

BCS has reviewed the amended biodiversity development assessment report (BDAR) and is pleased that the BDAR has incorporated our recommendations in our advice dated 31 October 2022. The recommendations have been applied across the amended footprint.

### **If the project is approved, staging should be included in consent conditions**

As recommended by BCS in October 2022, the project has been divided into stages, and biodiversity credits calculated accordingly.

#### Recommendation – for the consent authority

If approved, the consent for the project should include a condition specifying the plant community types, zone, and biodiversity credits to be retired for each stage of the development.

### **Breeding habitat for superb parrots could be reviewed**

BCS notes that the BDAR has assumed presence for superb parrot and calculated species credits for the accommodation facility. Presence was assumed as targeted surveys were not conducted for this species in the area impacted by the accommodation facility.

The superb parrot is a dual credit species. Species credits are generated if breeding habitat is present.

The National Recovery Plan for the Superb Parrot (Baker-Gabb 2011) states,

*The breeding range of the Superb Parrot is mostly in the NSW South Western Slopes (NSW) and Riverina (NSW & Vic) bioregions. The three main breeding areas are: (1) bounded by Molong, Rye Park, Yass, Coolac, Cootamundra and Young (NSW); (2) along the Murrumbidgee River, between Wagga Wagga and Toganmain Station (near Bringagee), and farther north at Goolgowi (NSW); and (3) along the Murray and Edward Rivers, from east of Barmah and Millewa State Forest to south of Taylors Bridge (NSW & Vic) (Blakers et al. 1984; Emison et al. 1987; Webster 1988; Davidson & Chambers 1991; Webster & Ahern 1992). There are also scattered records of birds breeding outside this range.*

BCS considers that this information is relevant to determining the likelihood of superb parrot breeding habitat occurring on the site.



Recommendation – for the accredited assessor

The accredited assessor could review the breeding range of superb parrot described in the recovery plan and consider whether breeding habitat is likely to be present on the site.

If you have any questions about this advice, please do not hesitate to contact Liz Mazzer, A/Senior Team Leader Planning, via [liz.mazzer@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:liz.mazzer@environment.nsw.gov.au) or (02) 6883 5325.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sarah Carr".

**Sarah Carr**  
**Director, North West**  
**Biodiversity, Conservation and Science Directorate**

13 October 2023