



Office of the General Manager

SL I A0420176

4 April 2024

Jack Turner
Energy Assessment
Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
Locked Bag 5022
PARRAMATTA NSW 2124

Dear Jack,

SUBJECT: MOOLARBEEN OC3 EXTENSION PROJECT ADVICE ON AMENDMENT REPORT

Thank you for providing Mid-Western Regional Council (Council) with the opportunity to comment on the Moolarbeen OC3 Extension project (SSD-33083358). Council has reviewed the documents and wishes to provide the following comments.

Council supports the reduction in habitat disturbance and increase in revegetation.

Other Project Consultation

Council suggests the proponent also consults with other State Significant Developments in the region (including Solar and Wind projects) due to the likely additional cumulative impacts of these projects. This does not appear to have occurred or mentioned in the Amendment Report.

Water Management

The Amendment Report notes *"The water supply for the Project would be sourced from a combination of rainwater captured from roofs of facilities, suitably treated bore water or **imported water from external sources**"*. These external water sources need to be identified and truck movements further considered in traffic studies. Council requests accurate water usage projections and confirmation on where water will be sourced, prior to consent for all aspects of the project including meeting workforce consumption needs.

Potable Water - Council advises it does not currently have the capacity to support a potable water requirement. Potable water will be required to be sourced from alternate sources and cannot be sourced from local water carters accessing Council's licenced potable supply. The Proponent may require a water license to access additional water for this project.

Construction Water - At this point in time, the Proponent should not depend on Mid-Western Regional Council water sources (directly or through third parties) for construction activities, as the

capacity to supply water is limited. Council is willing to discuss this further with the Proponent to investigate alternative opportunities for construction water sources.

Noise and Blast impact

The reports focuses mainly on blast vibration but does not mention potential damage by fly rock. Munghorn Gap Nature Reserve will have a 100-metre buffer zone, but the exclusion zone for fly rock is 300 metres for machinery and 500 metres for personal. When looking at the Natural Features MSFEC1353-02 Map from Appendix I – Blast Vibration Impact Assessment, several of these natural features are within a blast exclusion zone. Moolarben's Blast Management Plan MUST load to design stipulating correct powder factor for effectiveness as well as efficient stemming to contain fly rock. Moolarben plan to monitor biannually. Initially, these sensitive areas within the blast exclusion zone should have a visual inspection to ensure the Blast Management Plan is satisfactory then proceed to biannual inspections.

Road Transport

There is an additional cumulative impact on the roads from several recently approved and proposed State Significant Development projects in the region. The Road Transport Assessment was done in 2022 and is now considered outdated. This needs to be updated to address the cumulative impacts this project and others may have on the road network.

Approved and/or Proposed SSDs in the Mid-Western Region LGA

EnergyCo Transmission Line	Stubbo Solar	Narragamba Solar	Birriwa Solar
Beryl Solar	Mayfair Solar	Mavis Solar	Tallawang Solar
Barneys Reef Wind	Burrendong Wind	Piambong Wind	Orana Wind
Bellambi Heights Battery	Beryl Bess	Bowden's Silver Mine	Ulan Coal Mine
Wollar Solar			

Within 40 minutes

Valley of the Winds	Liverpool Range Wind	Spicers Creek Wind
Cobbora Solar	Dapper Solar	Sandy Creek Solar
Merriwa Solar	Goulburn River Solar	Dunedoo Solar
Uungula Wind	Yarrabin Phoenix Pumped Hydro Project	

Should you have any further enquiries about this matter, please contact Council on (02) 6378 2850.

Yours sincerely,



BRAD CAM
GENERAL MANAGER