

24 June 2024

Contact: Justine Clarke
Telephone: 0457 535 955
Our ref: D2024/48629

James Bellamy
Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
Locked Bag 5022
PARRAMATTA NSW 2124

Narrabri Solar Farm (SSD-71855714) – Request for SEARs

Dear Mr Bellamy,

Thank you for your referral dated 11 June 2024 requesting WaterNSW's input into the SEARs for SSD-71855714. It is understood that the proposal is for the construction, operation and decommissioning of a 140 megawatt (MW) direct current (DC) solar farm, generally comprising solar PV modules, trackers, piles, inverters, transformers, access roads, underground and above ground cables, on-site substation and associated operational facilities including a 100MW Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) with up to 8 hours of storage duration (800MWh).

WaterNSW has reviewed the project Scoping Report (SR) and draft SEARs and found that the project site lies in close proximity to WaterNSW lands (approx. 680m). The provided draft SEARs are expected to cover the required environmental assessment components, however we provide the following comments for consideration in the EIS. We would appreciate detailed consideration of the following:

- A detailed investigation of the infrastructure siting and impact assessment particularly on Spring Creek and downstream environments. It is preferable that infrastructure near Spring Creek be minimised, biodiversity and riparian impacts be avoided and land restoration be considered between the creek and the development footprint.
- A detailed hydrological assessment, including hydrological hazard modelling to ensure protection of the hydraulic function of nearby waterways to avoid flood conflict and prevent stream erosion.

WaterNSW would appreciate being advised when the EIS is exhibited, and requests that the Department continues to consult with WaterNSW for any development that may impact on our assets, infrastructure or land, using the email address Environmental.Assessments@waternsw.com.au.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Justine Clarke at justine.clarke@waternsw.com.au.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alison Kniha", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

ALISON KNIHA
Environmental Planning Assessments & Approvals Manager