

3 July 2024

Contact: Justine Clarke
Telephone: 0457 535 955
Our ref: D2024/51247

Samantha Oyston
Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
Locked Bag 5022
PARRAMATTA NSW 2124

Forbes Solar Farm (SSD-72383210)– Request for SEARs

Dear Ms Oyston,

Thank you for your referral dated 24 June 2024 requesting WaterNSW's input into the SEARs for SSD-72383210. It is understood that the proposal is for the construction, operation and decommissioning of a 166 megawatt (MW) Direct Current (DC) solar farm close to the township of Fobes, NSW. The development is expected to contain solar PV modules, trackers, piles, inverters, transformers, access roads, cabling (above and below ground), onsite substations, associated operational facilities and a 120MW capacity Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) with up to 8 hours (960MWh) of storage duration.

WaterNSW has reviewed the project Scoping Report (SR) and draft SEARs and considers that the proposal as demonstrated in the SR is unlikely to impact on any WaterNSW land, assets or infrastructure, and has no specific comment to make at this stage. We consider that the provided draft SEARs are expected to cover the required environmental assessment components.

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 be "Alison Kniha", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

ALISON KNIHA
Environmental Planning Assessments & Approvals Manager