



INT19/177371

Ms Elisha Dunn  
Planning and Assessment Group  
NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

[Elisha.Dunn@planning.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Elisha.Dunn@planning.nsw.gov.au)

Dear Ms Dunn

**Jindera Solar Farm (SSD-9549) (Greater Hume Shire)**

I refer to the above matter that was distributed to the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) for comment on 14 October 2019.

DPI has reviewed the project proposal and notes that on the 14 September 2018 the then Department of Industry requested this proposal be amended to avoid as much as possible the land classified as highly capable agricultural land (Class 3), as per the map provided. It is noted however that this request was not included in the SEAR's.

DPI also notes that the proposal has a development footprint covering 245ha of class 3 agricultural land with a history of cropping and grazing. It is located outside a priority renewable energy zone, and in an LGA recognised in the Riverina Murray Regional Plan as having economic growth potential based on access to global gateways such as the Port Of Melbourne. DPI does not support the complete loss of agricultural production on productive agricultural land, with access to key export markets.

As the proposal has been submitted on highly capable agricultural land with a history of cropping, DPI recommends that further work should be undertaken to minimise the risks to agricultural production values both directly and in the region.

This should include undertaking an Agricultural Impact Statement, which specifically considers agro-voltaics during the operation of the farm, as well as other means of multifunctional use of the land for agricultural purposes over the life of the development. DPI also requests to be consulted with, and having an approval role in, the Rehabilitation and Decommissioning Plan when developed to ensure the land is returned to a functional state for intensive production.

For more information please contact Lilian Parker on 0427 812 508.

Please distribute further referrals for DPI to the DPI Coordination team via [dpi.cabinet@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:dpi.cabinet@dpi.nsw.gov.au)

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cassandra McNamara', is placed on a light grey rectangular background.

Cassandra McNamara  
Manager, Coordination  
**DPIE DPI – Strategy & Policy**  
31 October 2019