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Contact: Senior Firefighter Barton Hill

30 August 2024

SHANNON BLACKMORE
NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
Locked Bag 5022
PARRAMATTA NSW 2124

Dear Shannon,

Re: Advice on Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) – WEST NYANGAY SOLAR FARM (SSD-74990235)

Fire and Rescue NSW (FRNSW) acknowledge correspondence received on 28 August 2024, requesting input into the preparation of the SEARs for the WEST NYANGAY SOLAR FARM (SSD-74990235). FRNSW have reviewed the SEARs along with the Scoping Report with particular focus to Section 3.1 Project Overview and Section 6 Proposed Assessment of Impacts.

The Scoping Report details a 500MW/2000MWH Battery Energy Storage System (BESS). It has been the experience of FRNSW that BESS facilities present special problems of fighting fire and suitable additional provisions are likely to be required in accordance with E1D17 and E2D21 of the National Construction Code 2022¹.

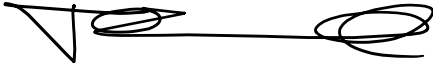
To ensure that the proposed fire prevention, detection, protection and fighting measures are appropriate for the specific fire hazard and adequate to meet the extent of potential fires for the subject development, FRNSW will likely recommend a Fire Safety Study (FSS) be developed in accordance with the Hazardous Industry Planning Advisory Paper No 2² as a condition of consent.

An FSS should be used to guide the design and as such it is FRNSW Position³ that the FSS be developed to the satisfaction of FRNSW prior to any further submission being made to FRNSW; this includes: an Initial Fire Safety Report (IFSR) and / or Performance-Based Design Brief / Fire Engineering Brief Questionnaire (FEBQ).

The FSS should be prepared consistent with the relevant FRNSW Fire Safety Guidelines and FRNSW Technical Information Sheets⁴ with particular focus to Large-scale external lithium-ion battery energy storage systems – Fire safety study considerations⁵.

Project proponents undertaking an FSS are to engage directly with FRNSW by submitting all correspondence electronically to FireSafety@fire.nsw.gov.au and reference FRNSW file number BFS24/5474. Further information regarding FRNSW Meetings⁶ and FRNSW Written Reports⁷ can be found at the FRNSW Building Fire Safety Industry Portal⁸.

Yours sincerely,



Superintendent James O'Carroll
Manager
Operational Liaison and Special Hazards Unit

Cc: shannon.blackmore@dpie.nsw.gov.au

¹ <https://ncc.abcb.gov.au/editions/ncc-2022>

² <https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/2023-03/hazardous-and-offensive-planning-advisory-paper-no-2-fire-safety-study-guidelines.pdf>

³ <https://www.fire.nsw.gov.au/page.php?id=9447&position=51>

⁴ <https://www.fire.nsw.gov.au/page.php?id=9166>

⁵ <https://www.fire.nsw.gov.au/gallery/files/pdf/guidelines/Tech%20info%20sheet%20-%20Large-scale%20external%20LiBESS%20-%20Fire%20safety%20study%20considerations.pdf>

⁶ <https://www.fire.nsw.gov.au/page.php?id=9193>

⁷ <https://www.fire.nsw.gov.au/page.php?id=9156>

⁸ <https://www.fire.nsw.gov.au/page.php?id=9140>