

Shannon Blackmore
Principal Planning Officer Assessments
Department of Planning Housing and Infrastructure
Paramatta NSW

c/- Major Projects Portal

West Nyangay Solar Farm – SEARs

Dear Shannon

Thank you for your referral of 11 September 2024 and the opportunity to provide comment on the SEARs for the West Nyangay Solar Farm.

The NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (The Department) collaborates and partners with our stakeholders to protect and enhance the productive and sustainable use and resilience of agricultural resources and the environment.

The Department has reviewed the Scoping Report and draft SEARs and notes that the Scoping report has provided very limited information on key agricultural issues.

The Department confirms that the EIS should include an agricultural assessment, as per the Large Scale Solar Energy Guideline, and a LUCRA for the overall development, as described in the draft SEARs. However, the following matters also need to be addressed:

- A description of lease/impact/access arrangements with the host landholder and adjoining landholders for the duration of the project
- A Rehabilitation and Decommissioning/Closure Management Plan to confirm the commitment to remove all necessary infrastructure to ensure a future return to agricultural land uses.
- Biosecurity (weeds, pests, emergency animal diseases) management during and post construction to be assessed and protocols developed in relation to potential **agricultural impacts**.
- Evidence of how the agrisolar/agrivoltaics (eg sheep grazing) facilities and arrangements are to be incorporated into the solar array design and operation, including groundcover management during and post construction.
- A Land Use Conflict Risk Assessment (LUCRA) should also be undertaken in relation to specific justification for any proposed worker accommodation site. DPIRD has concerns about the

development of extra dwellings/residential accommodation on RU1 Primary Production zoned lands remote from towns or villages due to the potential for land use conflicts.

- Any subdivisions below the MLS should not result in extra dwelling entitlements.

Should you require clarification on any of the information contained in this response, I can be contacted by email at landuse.ag@dpird.nsw.gov.au

Sincerely

L. Parker

Lilian Parker
Agricultural Land Use Planning
Signed 17-9-2024