NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water

Our ref: OUT24/17391

Rita Hatem
Planning Group
NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure

Email: Rita.Hatem@planning.nsw.gov.au

7/11/2024

Subject: **Burroway Solar Farm (SSD-55968733) – Environmental Impact Statement**

Dear Rita,

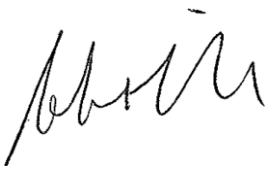
I refer to your request for advice sent on 10 October 2024 to the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) Water Group about the above matter.

The proposed development is for the construction of a 100-megawatt (MW) solar photovoltaic (PV) generator with an estimated 100 MW / 400 MWhr energy storage capacity.

NSW DCCEEW Water Group has reviewed the Environmental Impact Statement and has recommendations regarding water supply, take and licensing. Please see **Attachment A** for more detail.

Should you have any further queries in relation to this submission please do not hesitate to contact the Water Assessments team at water.assessments@dpie.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Rob Brownbill,
Manager, Water Assessments, Knowledge Division
NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water

Attachment A

Detailed advice to DPHI Planning & Assessment regarding the Burroway Solar Farm (SSD-55968733) – Environmental Impact Statement

1.0 Water supply, take and licensing

1.1 Recommendation – pre-determination

The proponent should quantify site water demands during construction and operation of the project and demonstrate there are feasible and reliable sources available to meet these demands.

Explanation

The applicant notes in the EIS that water will be sourced from offsite sources. There is no further detail on options to meet demands or their feasibility. The applicant must provide estimates of maximum potential water demands and identify feasible options to meet these demands. If these are from a third party, it is recommended that the applicant consult with the third party to confirm availability.

1.2 Recommendation – pre-determination

The proponent should confirm the licensing arrangements for any dams on site.

Explanation

The project infrastructure layout identifies several dams which are within a "non-development zone" suggesting these are to be retained, but other sections of the EIS mention that some dams will be removed. Confirmation on which dams are to be retained or removed and details of the proposed licensing arrangements is requested. The proponent should consider relevant exemptions or exclusions under the Water Management (General) Regulation 2000, harvestable rights or entitlement requirements.

2.0 Local water utility water supply impacts

2.1 Recommendation – prior to determination

The proponent should:

- Confirm the volume of potable and non-potable water to be sourced from town water supplies (either directly or by water carting) during construction.
- If town water is proposed, demonstrate that the relevant local water utilities are satisfied that the town water systems can accommodate the water demands without impacting existing services.
- Confirm with the relevant local water utilities, the impact of the project and potential additional costs from infrastructure upgrades or increased operational activities.

- Confirm water carting arrangements by providing detail that there are carting providers available to cart water for the construction phase of the project.

Explanation

Detail should be provided on how water will be supplied for the construction period and whether the proposed water supply for both construction and operation is a viable option. During operation at least two 20,000 litre (L) steel or concrete tanks will be installed at the site to store water for bushfire protection and other non-potable water uses. It is unclear how water will be supplied during the construction period. DCCEEW Water Group encourage the proponent to engage the local water utility or water carting provider early in the process to determine the viability of town water supply to support the project if required.

3.0 Sewage impacts

3.1 Recommendation – prior to determination

The proponent should:

- Confirm the method of disposal/transfer of sewage, effluent and/or septage, including availability of liquid waste contractors, during both the construction and operational phases.
- Confirm with the relevant local water utility which sewerage system will receive and manage the sewage load (if this option is preferred), and if this system can accommodate the wastewater demands without impacting existing services.
- Confirm with the relevant local water utility, the impact of the project and potential additional costs from infrastructure upgrades or increased operational activities.

Explanation

The proponent states that the toilets will be pumped out by a local, licenced waste contractor during construction and that sewage generated during operations will be collected and disposed of off-site. It is unclear if the proponent has made contact with local contractors and/or council to confirm this is a viable option.

4.0 Sediment and Erosion Control

4.1 Recommendation – post approval

The proponent should develop the proposed Sediment and Erosion Control Plan in accordance with industry standards including the guideline, Managing Urban Stormwater: Soils and Construction (Landcom 2004).

End Attachment A