

Department of Planning and Environment  
Attn: Cameron Ashe  
Via Major Projects Portal

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Re: Gundry Solar Farm (SSD-48225958; PAE-77853248) (Goulburn Mulwaree)– Advice on EIS

Dear Cameron,

Thank you for your email dated 14 November 2024 requesting NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) – Fisheries advice on the publicly exhibited EIS for the Gundry Solar Farm.

DPIRD Fisheries is responsible for ensuring that fish stocks are conserved and that there is no net loss of key fish habitats upon which they depend. To achieve this, DPIRD Fisheries ensures that developments comply with the requirements of the *Fisheries Management Act 1994* (FM Act) (namely the aquatic habitat protection and threatened species conservation provisions in Parts 7 and 7A of the Act, respectively), and the associated *Policy and Guidelines for Fish Habitat Conservation and Management (2013)* (the Policy). DPIRD Fisheries is also responsible for ensuring the sustainable management of commercial, recreational and Aboriginal cultural fishing, aquaculture, marine parks and aquatic reserves in NSW.

DPIRD Fisheries has reviewed the EIS and relevant appendices for this proposal and provides the following advice:

### **Fish Passage**

The conceptual layout (Figure ES.2 – Appendix 04) shows three crossings of key fish habitat, all of which are described as Type 3 Class 3 waterways.

The design and construction of all waterway crossings over key fish habitat should be in accordance with the document ‘Why do Fish Need to Cross the Road?’ Fish Passage Requirements for Waterway Crossings (NSW Fisheries 2003) and the Policy (s.4.2), which seek to ensure no new fish passage barriers are constructed in NSW.

To comply with DPIRD Fisheries fish passage requirements, box culverts or bed-level crossings (ford) are the preferred crossing types for these waterways. Box culverts should be designed to

allow for a minimum of 300 mm of water to pool in times of low flow to facilitate fish passage. Bed-level crossings should be designed so the deck of the crossing follows the natural bed elevation and not be perched.

Crossing designs should be provided to DPIRD Fisheries for review at both the concept and detailed design phase to ensure they are consistent with the Policy.

### **Riparian Buffer Zones**

DPIRD Fisheries policy advocates the use of terrestrial riparian buffer zones as per the Policy (s. 3.2.4.2) which states that “NSW DPI will generally require riparian buffer zones to be established and maintained for developments or activities in or adjacent to TYPE 1 or 2 habitats or CLASS 1-3 waterways.”

DPIRD Fisheries considers the proposed riparian buffers to be suitable and recommends that riparian buffers be revegetated with suitable native plant species.

If you require any further information, please contact me on 0456 660 757 or [emily.messer@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:emily.messer@dpi.nsw.gov.au).

Sincerely



**Emily Messer**

Fisheries Manager, Coastal Systems

DPIRD Fisheries