

Our Reference: DA:MH:2250661

Your Reference: SSD-66542218

Contact Name: Michelle Castles



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Thursday 27 March 2025

RE: Whitehaven Solar Farm Project (SSD-66542218) – Advice on EIS

Thank you for the opportunity to provide advice on the EIS for the Whitehaven Solar Farm project (SSD-66542218). It is understood that the project includes the construction, operation and decommissioning of a solar photovoltaic energy generating facility with an estimated capacity of 20MW located adjacent to the existing Narrabri Mine on Whitehaven managed land identified as 10 Kurrajong Creek Road, Baan Baa (Lot 9, DP757104).

Council have reviewed the EIS and the following comments are provided for further consideration:

Social Impact

- Further details/ plan for accommodation of any potential construction workforce. Council recognises that the average and peak workforce numbers of 30 and 65 respectively would be able to be easily accommodated in the existing Narrabri Shire Civeo facilities.
- Council would like to re-iterate that in an effort to negate any negative impacts to an already tight rental market, that the existing Civeo accommodation be utilised for the term of construction.
- Council recognises that construction of the Whitehaven Solar Farm Project will be limited in both workforce and timeframe. As there are more and more solar farms being developed, Council highlights the opportunity to employ local Narrabri Shire residents to construct the solar farm. Not only could this be seen as a training opportunity for residents but potentially a platform for a career into the solar industry. Whitehaven may also be able to identify suitable people and transition them to their coal operations.



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Road Transport Assessment

- Construction of the project will generate additional light and heavy vehicle movements on the local road network and should be further investigated in a revised Traffic Impact Assessment report.
- A revised TIA that details further assessment of impacted intersection and level crossing at Kamilaroi Hwy/Kurrajong Creek Road including mitigation of excessive traffic queuing, potential safety issue mitigation from additional traffic volume, further level crossing consideration.
- Potential impact of the proposal on Council's Road assets should be clearly detailed, including cumulative impacts of traffic from existing Mine Operations.
- Potential road upgrades, road maintenance contributions or other traffic control measures should be developed in consultation with Council, and the relevant road authority.
- Further details on operation of proposed shuttle bus for workforce traffic required

Planning Agreement (PA)

Council welcomes early discussions in relation to the composition and extent of a corresponding PA with Narrabri Shire Council, noting that any proposed future PA should be separate to any payments required for the upgrade of local roads or construction of new roads associated with the project. In accordance with standard practice, any upgrades and/or improvements to the local road network required for the project are to be undertaken by the proponent at its own expense prior to the commencement of construction and in accordance with future conditions of consent.

Council thanks you for the opportunity to provide input. Should you have any further questions, please contact Ms Michelle Castles, Council's Manager Planning and Development on (02) 6799 6866 or via council@narrabri.nsw.gov.au.

Kind Regards,



Michelle Castles

Manager Planning and Development.