

Rita Hatem
Senior Environmental Assessment Officer
Department of Planning Housing and Infrastructure
Parramatta, NSW

C/o Major Projects Portal

Burroway Solar Farm - RTS

Dear Ms Hatem

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Response to Submissions for the proposed Burroway Solar Farm - SSD-55968733.

Agriculture plays a vital role in supporting state, regional and local economies and strengthening rural communities' social bonds and character. The NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Agriculture and Biosecurity (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's advice is guided by section 4.15(1) of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act), where a consent authority is required to evaluate a project's potential environmental, social, and economic impacts and the public interest. Sections 1.3(a) and (b) of the EP&A Act emphasise facilitating ecologically sustainable development (ESD) in land use decision-making, promoting responsible resource management that benefits present and future generations.

The Department has reviewed the documents provided and the response to its EIS submission and to issues raised by local government in relation to subdivision, decommissioning and temporary worker accommodation. The Conditions provided for subdivision, maintenance of land capability and decommissioning are also noted.

The Department notes that the updated MITIGATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES now include suitable statements with regard soils and land such as:

- Develop and implement a Grazing Management Plan if the agri-solar practice is adopted during operation. Where agri-solar is not viable, develop and implement a Vegetation Management Plan to commence at completion of construction and into operation to revegetate the groundcover.
- Biosecurity will be managed in accordance with measures outlined in Section 5.4.2 of the Soil and Agricultural Impact Assessment.

- A Rehabilitation and Decommissioning Management Plan will ensure the land can be successfully returned to pre-disturbance land and soil capability and final land use commitments following decommissioning.
- All soil resources are to be managed throughout construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the Project in accordance with recommendations outlined in Section 6.2 of the Soil and Agricultural Impact Assessment.
- All infrastructure, including above and below ground, to be decommissioned and removed, unless the Planning Secretary agrees otherwise.

However these measures should specifically include commitments for:

- an Agricultural Biosecurity Plan as distinct from the Biodiversity requirement for “A Biosecurity Risk Management Plan will be developed and implemented as part of a CEMP (and) OEMP.” As per the Biosecurity legislation, there is a general biosecurity duty, so any Project Environmental Management Strategies (EMS) for construction and operations will need to incorporate Agricultural Biosecurity Management Plans developed by the proponent in consultation with host and adjacent landholders, and the Local Land Services.
- removal of all above and below ground infrastructure as part of site rehabilitation should lead to restoration of the land capability and should not be at the discretion of the Planning Secretary.

Should you require clarification on any of the information contained in this response, please do not hesitate to contact me by email at landuse.ag@dpi.nsw.gov.au

Sincerely

L Parker

Lilian Parker
Agricultural Land Use Planning
Signed 30-5-2025