

Our Ref: ID 3543
Your Ref: SSD-66542218

4 December 2025

Miranda Bettes
Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
Locked Bag 5022
Parramatta NSW 2124

email: miranda.bettes@dpie.nsw.gov.au
CC: phil.petersen@member.ses.nsw.gov.au; tareque.rahman@ses.nsw.gov.au

Dear Miranda Bettes,

Response to Request for Information SSD Whitehaven Solar Farm

Thank you for the opportunity to review the applicants Response to Request for Information on the State Significant Development Application for RFI Whitehaven Solar Farm located at 17 Kurrajong Creek Road, Baan Baa. It is understood that the proposed development seeks the construction, operation and decommissioning of a solar farm to supply electricity to the Narrabri Mine, with site entry via Kurrajong Creek Road. It is further understood that while the project would provide up to 65 temporary jobs during the construction phase, operation *"would not result in a significant increase to employment numbers"*¹ above the 520 personnel already employed at the adjacent mine site.

We have reviewed the following documents provided as part of the preparation of our advice.

- Whitehaven Coal, 2025. Whitehaven Solar Farm – Response To Requests For Additional Information.

We have no further comments on the Response to Submissions. However, we note that the draft conditions of consent have been provided to NSW SES for advice, and a response is expected 5 December 2025.

The NSW SES refer to previous advice on the Response to Submissions for Whitehaven Solar Farm (SSD-66542218) dated 6 August 2025 which should be included in the overall risk assessment. The points outlined in earlier advice remain relevant and should continue to inform the evaluation. In summary, we appreciate your consideration of the advice provided, along with the mitigation strategies and the inclusion of the recommended management measures.

¹ WRM, 2025, Environmental Impact Statement, Section 2.4.4 Population Centres and Local Community, Page 2-7

The NSW State Emergency Service (NSW SES) is the agency responsible for dealing with floods, storms and tsunami in NSW. This role includes planning for, responding to and coordinating the initial recovery from floods. As such, the NSW SES has an interest in the public safety aspects of the development of flood prone land, particularly the potential for changes to land use to either exacerbate existing flood risk or create new flood risk for communities in NSW.

Please feel free to contact Gillian Webber via email at rra@ses.nsw.gov.au should you wish to discuss any of the matters raised in this correspondence. The NSW SES would also be interested in receiving future correspondence regarding the outcome of this referral via this email address.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Elspeth O'Shannessy'.

Elspeth O'Shannessy
Manager Emergency Risk Assessment
NSW State Emergency Service