

13 February 2024

Mr Iwan Davies
Director – Energy Assessments
NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
12 Darcy St
Parramatta NSW

Dear Mr Iwan Davies

Subject: Birriwa Solar and Battery Project (SSD-29508870) – Response to Request for Additional Information

I refer to your letter dated 25 January 2024 in relation to your request for additional information relating to the Birriwa Solar and Battery Project, and specifically on the potential visual impacts of the project. This letter provides responses to this request.

1 Mitigation measures for receiver R03

The Department requested the following:

- details of mitigation measures proposed for receiver R03, including evaluation of the residual impacts post-mitigation. If setbacks or screening is proposed, this should be shown clearly in figures.

The Visual Impact Assessment (VIA) prepared for the Project (EMM 2023) and appended to the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) recommended a mitigation measure of landscape screening along the boundary of the development footprint adjacent to R03, to reduce the visual amenity impacts of the project at this receiver. This is described in Table 5.2 and indicatively shown on Figure 6.1 of the VIA.

Upon further consideration of the potential visual impacts at this receptor, in addition to the landscape screening proposed along the property boundary, the project design has been revised to include a 300 m buffer between the residence at R03 and the solar panels.

The VIA (EMM 2024) has been updated to include the setback in the vicinity of R03 in the project design. A figure showing the updated project layout is also appended to this letter.

2 Updated analysis for VP1

The Department requested the following:

- an updated analysis for VP1 with viewshed analysis which aligns with the photomontage, and an updated visual impact rating as discussed.

The viewshed analysis and photomontage produced for VP1 both align. However, in checking this, it was identified that the location of VP1 in Figure 5.3 in the VIA (*‘Residences and viewpoint locations’*), was shown slightly to the east of its correct location. It should be shown between R1 and R1a, which is where the viewshed analysis and photomontage were taken from. Figure 5.3 has been updated and replaced in the VIA (EMM 2024).

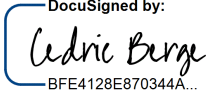
Further, the visual impact rating of receptor R1a (originally assessed as low) has been re-considered, based on its proximity to the development footprint and potential views of project infrastructure. The visual impact rating has been assessed as moderate for this receiver, as documented in the updated VIA (EMM 2024). Notably however, once the proposed landscape screening is accounted for the residual visual impact remains low at this receiver.

An additional photomontage for R1 has also been included in the VIA (as Figure 5.4b), showing the view post-mitigation (i.e. with the introduction of landscaping screening).

If you have any questions, or require further information, please contact me.

Yours sincerely

DocuSigned by:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cédric Bergé". The signature is enclosed in a blue rounded rectangular border.

BFE4128E870344A...

Cédric Bergé

Project Development Manager

ACEN Australia