

Contact Name: Mathew Pringle
Contact No: (02) 6540 1139
Our Reference: OUT-4672/24



14 June 2024

NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
Locked Bag 5022
PARRAMATTA NSW 2124

Attention: Kurtis Wathen

Dear Sir/Madam,

Goulburn River Solar Farm (SSD-33964533) – Amendment Report – Temporary Workers Accommodation Facility

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Temporary Workers Accommodation Amendment Report for the Goulburn River Solar Farm project (SSD-33964533).

Upper Hunter Shire Council has reviewed the report and provides the following comments:

1. We acknowledge that the establishment of a proposed TWA facility on site will result in lower peak and total vehicle movements during the construction phase of the project than those assessed in the Amendment Report (1). Therefore, it is expected that traffic impacts on local roads will be reduced.
2. The amendment report states that the proposed accommodation facility will be serviced by 'a modular sewage treatment plant (STP), consisting of untreated sewerage storage, a treatment plant, and treated sewerage storage will be housed within the TWA Facility to manage wastewater. The STP will be able to process approximately 85,000 L of brown/grey water per day and would be designed to comply with Australian Standard AS1546.3-2017 On-site domestic wastewater treatment units, Part 3: Secondary treatment systems. During the dry months, treated water will be used for dust suppression during construction. During wet months, treated water would be discharge onsite in nominated areas, located at least 50 m from a watercourse and on flat land. These nominated areas would be highlighted throughout the CEMP prepared for the Project, following approval.'

We note that the proposed STP and disposal areas will require approval under section 68 of the *Local Government Act 1993*. The application for approval will need to be accompanied by a geotechnical investigation report together with design specifications and sizing calculations for any onsite effluent disposal areas. We recommend that any disposal areas be located at least 100m from any permanent water courses.

All correspondence to:

General Manager | Upper Hunter Shire Council | PO Box 208, Scone NSW 2337

Phone: Scone Office 6540 1100 | Merriwa Office 6521 7000 | Murrurundi Office 6540 1350

Email: council@upperhunter.nsw.gov.au



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3. We note that an emergency evacuation plan will be prepared for the TWA facility that will outline the evacuation process in the event of a bushfire emergency. We recommend that preparation of the plan be undertaken in consultation with the NSW Rural Fire Service and local brigades to ensure an effective and coordinated response in the event of a bushfire emergency.
4. Council encourages the use of shuttle buses to transport workers to and from Merriwa to access local services, businesses and recreational facilities. This will allow workers to support the local Merriwa economy whilst minimising traffic movements on local roads.

Please do not hesitate to contact Mathew Pringle, Director Environmental & Community Services, should you have any questions regarding the content of this submission.

Yours faithfully



Mathew Pringle
DIRECTOR ENVIRONMENTAL & COMMUNITY SERVICES