

Our ref: Oxley Solar Farm (SSD-10346)

Mr Rhyson Li
Director
Oxley Solar Development Pty Ltd
By Email: rhyson.li@solarmegawatt.com.au

02/12/2022

Subject: Request for Additional Information

Dear Mr Li

I refer to assessment for the Oxley Solar Farm. After careful consideration, the department is requesting that you provide additional information.

You are requested to submit the following additional information:

- **Biodiversity and National Park:**

- revise the land category assessment in the Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR) to address advice previously provided by Biodiversity Conservation and Science Directorate;
- provide further detail on direct and indirect impacts on World Heritage values of the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) estate; and
- provide further consideration of interactions with the Oxley Wild Rivers National Park (National Park) including:
 - setbacks for bushfire management;
 - species types for, and management of, proposed vegetation buffer adjacent to the National Park;
 - engagement with NPWS on opportunities to improve joint bushfire management; and
 - confirm that direct and indirect management of sediment and erosion controls would be sufficient to avoid impacts on NPWS estate and provide information on how monitoring data would be collected, including baseline data, and how it would inform changes to the project to ensure impacts are avoided or mitigated.

- **Traffic and Transport:**

- provide a scaled strategic design illustrating the full scope of road works at the Armidale Regional landfill access road that demonstrates the required Safe Intersection Sight Distance (110 km/h design speed) and swept path analysis for the largest vehicles accessing the project site;
- clarify the anticipated vehicle numbers, vehicle dimensions and overall mass of containers being transported to site, including swept path for all vehicle dimensions

along the transport route and at the site access point and confirm the predicted vehicle numbers account for the amendments to the project, including the Battery Energy Storage System (BESS); and

- provide written agreement from the relevant roads authority to the scope of the 'Schedule of Proposed Road Works and Upgrades' or any alternate agreed works, including Gara Road causeway upgrade as noted below.

- **Visual:**

- confirm visual impact rating at all non-associated residences, including consideration for cumulative impacts of the project with Stringybark Solar Farm and Olive Grove Solar Farm; and
- provide additional viewpoint analysis from Oxley Wild Rivers National Park to better understand impacts to the National Park.

- **Water, Soil and Erosion:**

- confirm that the upgrade of Gara Road causeway would be in accordance with relevant NSW Fisheries guidelines, including the removal of the existing causeway and the construction of an appropriately designed multi-cell box culvert structure or alternatively a bridge to ensure that fish passage is maintained or enhanced at this site. Provide this information and confirm level of assessment undertaken, including hydrological assessment of the causeway in determining the upgrade specifications to the causeway; and
- confirm sufficient access to water entitlement by identifying potential sellers or available entitlements to trade with.

- **Hazards:**

- prepare a revised Preliminary Hazard Analysis for the BESS that provides adequate detail, including:
 - verification that the proposed BESS would be accommodated within the area designated for the BESS, accounting for separation between BESS subunits (containers, enclosures etc) to prevent propagation (knock-on effects). This verification should examine relevant codes and standards for BESSs; and
 - demonstrate that the fire risks from the BESS can comply with the Department's *Hazardous Industry Advisory Paper No. 4, 'Risk Criteria for Land Use Safety Planning'*.

You are requested to provide the information, or notification that the information will not be provided, to the department by Monday 06 February 2023. If you cannot meet this deadline or do not intend to provide the additional information, please advise the department via the NSW planning portal.

The assessment period ceases to run between the date of this letter and the date you provide the additional information (or notification that the information will not be provided), in accordance with Part 4 Division 4 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021*.

If you have any questions, please contact Natasha Homsey on 02 8275 1264 or via email at natasha.homsey@planning.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Nicole Brewer".

Nicole Brewer
Director
Energy Assessments