

Mr Nestor Tsambos
Senior Environmental Assessment Officer
DPE - Planning
C/- Major Projects Portal

Tallawang Solar Farm (SSD-23700028) (Mid-Western Regional)

Dear Mr Tsambos

Thank you for your correspondence of 27 October 2022 and the opportunity to provide comment on the assessment for the above project.

The NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) Agriculture collaborates and partners with our stakeholders to protect and enhance the productive and sustainable use and resilience of agricultural resources and the environment.

Based on the assessment of the Environmental Impact Statement, the following comments is made in relation to this proposal:

- There is no detail provided on how the groundcover will be managed on the site during operations, particularly as sheep are proposed to be grazed on the site also. Details on the reinstatement of vegetation post construction and how the site will be managed in response to the variability of seasonal conditions etc. To overcome this the following condition is suggested:

Ensure groundcover is maintained at a minimum of 70% to prevent soil erosion by the development of a groundcover management plan This will include detail on final construction reinstatement of land and undertake appropriate vegetation establishment and management that achieves from current and potential impact of the proposal on the site as per Meat and Livestock guide 2.02 (<https://mbfp.mla.com.au/pasture-growth/tool-22-assessing-groundcover/>) or Soil Knowledge Network Inc (<https://www.nswskn.com/Solar%20farms/> and <https://www.nswskn.com/groundcover/>.)

As sheep grazing is considered to assist with groundcover management outcomes, the correlation of grazing, by identifying stocking rates, with climate, groundcover, etc is critical as it can provide relevant data to assist with landsharing arrangements. It can also provide a measure of agricultural productivity that can be achieved with the solar farm operation.

- An assessment of agriculture on the site and region, and the changes due to the solar development on agricultural enterprises and production values during construction and operation are not undertaken. Hence the following requirement is required:

The current agricultural production on the site and region is assessed, and changes to the site productivity from the solar farm is to be quantified. This information can also be used for landsharing arrangements during the solar farm's operation, if grazed, and will assist with

the rehabilitation of the site to achieve the final agricultural landuse. It can also provide a guide to identify the land use metrics for final decommissioning purposes, in addition to the land and soil assessment information that also provides baseline data to achieve final land rehabilitation outcomes.

Should you require clarification on any of the information contained in this response, please do not hesitate to contact me on 0427 949 987 or by email at landuse.ag@dpi.nsw.gov.au.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Kovac". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mary Kovac
Agricultural Land Use Planning Officer
Ag Strategic Initiatives
Central West Orana Region

28 November 2022