



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

Department of Planning and Environment (Sydney Offices)
GPO Box 39
Sydney NSW 2001

Your reference: SSD-29508870
Our reference: DA20211015004459-EIS & DA
Exhibition-1

ATTENTION: Javier Canon

Date: Thursday 1 December 2022

Dear Sir/Madam,

Development Application
State Significant – EIS & DA Exhibition – Electricity Generating Works
Birriwa Solar Farm Castlereagh Highway BIRRIWA NSW, 1//DP1101501

I refer to your correspondence regarding the above proposal which was received by the NSW Rural Fire Service on 12/10/2022.

The NSW Rural Fire Service has reviewed the provided information in relation to the proposed Birriwa Solar & Battery Project and provides the following recommended conditions:

Emergency Management & Planning

Intent of measures: to provide suitable emergency and evacuation arrangements for occupants of the development.

1. A Bush Fire Emergency Management and Operations Plan must be prepared that addresses the following:
 - detailed measures to prevent or mitigate fires igniting;
 - work that should not be carried out during total fire bans;
 - availability of fire-suppression equipment, access and water;
 - storage and maintenance of fuels and other flammable materials;
 - notification of the local NSW RFS Fire Control Centre for any works that have the potential to ignite surrounding vegetation, proposed to be carried out during a bush-fire fire danger period to ensure weather conditions are appropriate; and
 - appropriate bush fire emergency management planning

Asset Protection Zones

Intent of measures: to minimise the risk of bush fire attack and provide protection for emergency services personnel, residents and others assisting firefighting activities.

2. From the start of building works, the property around the solar arrays, battery energy storage system, operational buildings including workshop, storage facility and staff office, construction compound and storage/laydown areas must be managed as an inner protection area (IPA) for a minimum distance of 10 metres

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in accordance with the requirements of Appendix 4 of *Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2019*. When establishing and maintaining an IPA the following requirements apply:

- tree canopy cover should be less than 15% at maturity;
- trees at maturity should not touch or overhang the building;
- lower limbs should be removed up to a height of 2m above the ground;
- tree canopies should be separated by 2 to 5m;
- preference should be given to smooth barked and evergreen trees;
- large discontinuities or gaps in vegetation should be provided to slow down or break the progress of fire towards buildings;
- shrubs should not be located under trees;
- shrubs should not form more than 10% ground cover;
- clumps of shrubs should be separated from exposed windows and doors by a distance of at least twice the height of the vegetation.
- grass should be kept mown (as a guide grass should be kept to no more than 100mm in height); and
- leaves and vegetation debris should be removed.

Construction

Intent of measures: to minimise the risk of bush fire attack and provide protection for emergency services personnel, residents and others assisting firefighting activities.

3. New construction to the battery energy storage system, workshop, storage facility and staff office must comply with Sections 3 and 5 (BAL 12.5) Australian Standard AS3959-2018 *Construction of buildings in bush fire-prone areas* or NASH Standard (1.7.14 updated) *National Standard Steel Framed Construction in Bushfire Areas – 2014* as appropriate and Section 7.5 of *Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2019*.

Water Supply

Intent of measures: to minimise the risk of bush fire attack and provide protection for emergency services personnel, residents and others assisting firefighting activities.

4. The provision of water must comply the following requirements of table 7.4a of *Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2019* and the following:

- A minimum 50,000 litre minimum capacity static water supply must be provided on site;
- a connection for firefighting purposes is located within an inner protection area (IPA) managed part of the site;
- 65mm Storz outlet with a ball valve is fitted to the outlet;
- ball valve and pipes are adequate for water flow and are metal;
- supply pipes from tank to ball valve have the same bore size to ensure flow volume;
- underground tanks have an access hole of 200mm and a hardened ground surface for truck access is supplied within 4m to allow tankers to refill direct from the tank;
- above-ground tanks are manufactured from concrete or metal;
- raised tanks have their stands constructed from non-combustible material or bush fire-resisting timber (see Appendix F of AS 3959);
- unobstructed access can be provided at all times;
- underground tanks are clearly marked;
- all exposed water pipes external to the building are metal, including any fittings; and,
- where pumps are provided, they are a minimum 5hp or 3kW petrol or diesel-powered pump, and are shielded against bush fire attack; any hose and reel for firefighting connected to the pump shall be 19mm internal diameter.

For any queries regarding this correspondence, please contact Marc Ellwood on 1300 NSW RFS.

Yours sincerely,

Nika Fomin
Manager Planning & Environment Services

