



Mr Stuart Joyner
Project Director
DCI Data Centers
90 Peter Brock Drive
EASTERN CREEK NSW 2766

Attention: Mr Phil Jones, PJEP Environmental Planning

29/10/2021

Dear Mr Joyner

**DCI Poplars Data Centre Project (SSD-30530183)
Planning Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements – Industry-Specific**

Please find attached a copy of the Planning Secretary's environmental assessment requirements (SEARs) for the preparation of an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the DCI Poplars Data Centre Project.

Based on the information provided in your application, industry-specific SEARs have been issued for your project.

Please contact the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (the Department) as soon as possible if your project changes, such that consultation is required with public authorities (under Schedule 2, clause 3(4) to the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000 (the Regulation)). Your SEARs may need to be reissued and a scoping report may also be required.

If required, the Planning Secretary may modify your SEARs to ensure the environmental assessment of the project covers all relevant matters and is consistent with contemporary assessment practice.

Your SEARs will expire two years from the date of issue (or the date they were last modified) unless the Planning Secretary has granted an extension. If you would like to seek an extension, you should contact the Department at least three months prior to the expiry date.

If your development application (DA) and EIS is not submitted by the date of expiry (or by the agreed extension date), you will need to make a new application for SEARs to progress your project.

Additional assessment requirements

The Department has identified assessment requirements additional to those attached. These requirements, in addition to the industry-specific SEARs, are provided below and should be taken to be the collective SEARs for the project.

- **Architectural plans** – Your application should include a staging plan which clearly outlines how the data centre would be progressively built.
- **Visual impacts** – Your visual impact assessment should document how views of the development would change as the data centre is progressively built (including any associated staging of on-site landscaping).

Preparing your EIS

Your EIS must be prepared having regard to the Department's new *State Significant Development Guidelines* (DPIE, 2021), including Appendix B to the Guidelines – *Preparing an environmental impact statement*. All relevant guides for State significant projects that are referenced in the SEARs are available at www.planning.nsw.gov.au/Policy-and-Legislation/Planning-reforms/Rapid-Assessment-Framework.

During the preparation of your EIS, you are required to consult with various parties, including the Department and any relevant agencies, in accordance with the *Undertaking Engagement Guidelines for State Significant Projects* (DPIE, 2021). For more information, including agency contact details, please visit the guide to agency engagement available at <https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/assessment/state-significant-development/ssd-process/guide-agency-engagement>.

Note: *If you submit your EIS after 31 December 2022, a Registered Environmental Assessment Practitioner (REAP) will need to declare that your EIS meets certain standards in relation to compliance, completeness, accuracy and legibility.*

Lodging your development application (DA)

Once you submit your EIS, we will check it for completeness to confirm it addresses the requirements in Schedule 2 to the Regulation. We will also notify you of the DA fee for your project.

Please note that **your DA is not taken to be lodged until the DA fee has been paid.**

To minimise lodgement delays, **please contact the Department at least two weeks before you submit your DA and EIS** to confirm the DA fee payment arrangements. This will give us sufficient time to ensure your fees can be determined.

Information needed to determine the DA fee

Your application will need to be accompanied by a Quantity Surveyor's (QS) Report supporting the estimated cost of works for your project. You must ensure that the information in the report is consistent with the information provided in your DA form.

If your project involves marinas, extractive industries or any subdivision of land, you must also ensure that the QS report includes a breakdown of estimated costs for any other component of your project.

Public exhibition requirements

When you contact us, regarding the applicable DA fee, we will also advise whether hard and/or electronic copies of the DA and EIS will be required for public exhibition.

Matters of National Environmental Significance

Any development likely to have a significant impact on matters of National Environmental Significance will require approval under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) (EPBC Act). This approval is in addition to any approvals required under NSW legislation.

It is your responsibility to contact the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment to determine if you need approval under the EPBC Act (<http://www.environment.gov.au> or (02) 6274 1111).

Your assigned planning officer is Patrick Copas. If you have any questions, please contact Patrick on (02) 9274 6273 or via email at patrick.copas@planning.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely,



Chris Ritchie
Director
Industry Assessments
as delegate for the Planning Secretary

Attachment 1: Industry-specific SEARs

