

### Goulburn River Solar Farm

The Department of Planning and Environment – Crown Lands has reviewed the proposal.

**Crown Roads** - As per Section 17 of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), Crown Lands notes that there are a significant number of Crown roads within the Project Area and Development Footprint. The EIS states that the proponent has “commenced the process for closure of these roads”. The impact of the proposal is likely to render the Crown Roads unsuitable for public access as the public’s access to the site will be restricted, and sections Crown roads will be burdened by infrastructure such as Battery Energy Storage System and the Substation. The aim is for the Crown Road corridors to be closed and purchased as private land and incorporated into the development site to avoid the need for additional authorisations.

If part or all the Crown roads are not closed and purchased there is no alternative option other than authorisation under the *Roads Act 1993* for works (s138) and a licence to occupy [s152A(2)(b)]. Any Roads Act authorisations will require the roads to remain available for public access if required or an alternative access option provided. Crown Lands’ Policy and Guidelines provide an overview on the administration of Crown roads and is available at <https://www.crownland.nsw.gov.au/licences-leases-and-permits/information-about-crown-roads>.

**Crown Reserve** - Section 1.7 of the EIS identifies that a Crown Reserve, being Travelling Stock Reserve 44841, exists along Wollara Road adjoining the proposal. The three access points required for the proposal are dependent on access through this TSR (Section 3.3.4 and Figure 3.1).

Table 4.1 states “the Project intends to exercise its rights of access over the TSR as an adjoining occupier, in accordance with Section 75 of the *Local Land Services Act 2013*. No infrastructure is proposed to be installed along this TSR”. However, Figure 1.3 shows the proposed access tracks through the TSR as being within the Project Area. Section 6.11.3.3 of the EIS states that “internal access roads consisting of compacted gravel would be constructed... throughout the project area”. Also, the Draft Landscape Plan, shown at Figure 6-16 of the EIS, shows solar arrays and “Planting Area C”, being a proposed dense screen to reduce visual impacts of the solar panels, installed on the TSR. The Conceptual Project Layout shown at Figure 3.1 shows the site Compound Area encroaching onto the TSR.

Section 1.7 states that the Proponent intends to “close the TSR within the Project Area” and the Development Footprint shown in Figure 3.1 appears to bisect the TSR. Section 3.3.4 states that “the perimeter of the Development Footprint would be enclosed by security fencing ... approximately 2.3m high... which will restrict public access.” This use is not consistent with the reserve purpose of “travelling stock” nor with the public’s use and enjoyment of the Crown reserve.

Crown reserves are not available to offset the impacts of private development, and Crown Lands does not support revoking the Travelling Stock Reserve or the whole or partial exclusion of other users from the TSR. The Proponent should modify their proposal so that their use of TSR 44841 is limited to non-exclusive purposes that are consistent with the Local Lands Services Act, e.g.,

access and/or grazing, and obtain consent for these uses from the Hunter Local Lands Services (LLS). Crown Lands notes that the EIS does not provide any evidence of consultation with the LLS.

If the proponent requires further information, or has any questions, please contact Mark Grace, NRM Project Officer in Crown Lands, on (02) 4937 9331 or at [mark.grace@crownland.nsw.gov.au](mailto:mark.grace@crownland.nsw.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark Grace". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

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