

Our ref: Bendemeer Solar Farm (SSD-36651552)

Mr Mark Vile  
Athena Energy Australia (Holdings) Pty Ltd  
U 4, 9-11 Fitzroy Street  
Tamworth NSW 2340

13/03/2024

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**Subject: Request for Additional Information – Amended Development Application**

Dear Mr Vile

Thank you for lodging your amendment development application for the Bendemeer Solar Farm (SSD-36651552).

The Department is requesting that you provide additional information before accepting and publishing the report on the NSW planning portal.

As raised at several meetings (including in February 2024, November 2023, May 2023, February 2022 and December 2021), the Department has significant concerns regarding the project's proposed biodiversity impacts.

Additionally, the Department notes that the Biodiversity, Conservation and Science Directorate (BCS) has raised similar significant concerns relating to potential serious and irreversible impacts (SAII) on Box Gum Woodland Critically Endangered Ecological Community (CEEC).

Whilst the amended application has reduced impacts on Box Gum Woodland, the Department maintains significant concerns relating to the direct impact on large areas of Box Gum Woodland including SAI, primarily located north of transmission line.

In line with previous concerns raised by the department, and consistent with advice provided by BCS, the Department requires you to further review the design and footprint of the proposed project to reduce the direct impact on Box Gum Woodland CEEC and candidate SAI entity.

Please finalise your amendment report in accordance with the *State significant development guidelines – preparing an amendment report* and include any revised technical studies with the submission.

Please provide the revised amendment report by 3 May 2024. If you cannot meet this deadline or do not intend to provide the additional information, please advise the department via the NSW planning portal.

If you have any questions, please contact Megan Ramsdale on 02 9407 2133 or via email at [megan.ramsdale@planning.nsw.gov.au](mailto:megan.ramsdale@planning.nsw.gov.au).

Yours sincerely,



Iwan Davies

Director

Energy Assessments

**as delegate for the Planning Secretary**