

12 June 2024

Nestor Tsambos
Team Leader, Energy Assessments
Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure

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Dear Nestor,

RE: Richmond Valley Solar Farm - Response to DPHI RFI dated 28 May 2024

Umwelt was engaged by Richmond Valley Solar Farm & BESS Pty Ltd (Ark Energy) to prepare the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS - SSD-4102024) for the Richmond Valley Solar Farm (the Project). Following review of the EIS, the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) have requested additional information.

This letter has been prepared to provide clarification and additional information in response to the DPHI request, the subsequent response to these comments is presented in Table 1 below.

Table 1 DPHI request and responses

DPHI Request	Response
Provide an updated Project layout figure including key receivers, the biodiversity corridor and any watercourse crossings	<i>These details are currently provided in multiple figures within the EIS.</i> Additionally, Figure 1.2 of the EIS has been updated to include the details specified by DPHI including the location of water crossings, the biodiversity corridor and key receivers.

Clarify whether the works required to facilitate the OSOM movements comprise part of the development and whether the relevant Council(s) have been consulted with	Section 3.2 of the EIS states <i>Road upgrades are proposed to enable safe movement of vehicles associated with the Project during the construction, operation and decommissioning phases including OSOM movements. Project related road upgrades are proposed at the intersection of Summerland Way/Main Camp Road as well as sealing of Avenue Road from the Main Camp Road intersection and continuing through Avenue Road to SA3 (see Figure 3.1 of the EIS).</i> Section 3.3.6.5 of the EIS states <i>It is noted that temporary works may be required to facilitate OSOM movements, but these are contained to existing disturbed road environs. Further information is provided in Appendix 13.</i> Ark Energy confirm that: • All permanent works to the local transport route have been described within the Project Description and thus comprise part of the development. • Temporary works are required within the existing road corridor and do not comprise part of the development. These occur in Brisbane City Council, Lismore City Council and Richmond Valley Council LGAs. • Extensive engagement has been undertaken with Richmond Valley Council regarding the Project including temporary and permanent works to roads to facilitate vehicle movements for the Project as outlined in Appendix A of this letter. • Engagement has commenced with Lismore City Council as outlined in Appendix B of this letter. • Engagement commenced with Brisbane City Council as outlined in Appendix C of this letter.
Clarify the status of any voluntary planning agreement with Council and neighbour agreements in accordance with the definitions in Section 5.3.3 of the Large-Scale Solar Energy Guideline (the Guideline).	Section 2.7.2 (Neighbour Agreements) has been updated and a new section regarding Community Benefit Sharing (Neighbour Agreements) included in the EIS.
Provide further detail on the outcomes of community consultation undertaken to date	Further detail has been provided in Chapter 5 of the EIS.
Provide evidence of consultation with Richmond Valley Council regarding the road upgrades	<i>Council engagement is summarised in Table 5.5 of the EIS.</i> Additional detail has been provided in Appendix A of this letter.

Provide a draft landscaping plan in accordance with the SEARs	A Draft Landscape Plan is not required as vegetation screening is not required or proposed as a mitigation measure for this Project. A biodiversity corridor is proposed following agency and community consultation to provide habitat connectivity. It will also reduce visual amenity but is not a requirement as a result of the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment nor its primary purpose.
Provide a figure which includes the areas of identified nearby projects in relation to the proposed development	<i>A figure illustrating nearby projects in relation to the proposed development is provided on Page 2 of Appendix 20.</i> This has been updated to include the development footprint of these projects as identified on the Major Projects Portal.
Provide alternate text description for all figures and images in alignment with Section 2.6 of Appendix B of the SSD Guidelines	All figures and images have been reviewed and updated where appropriate. All figures and images are compliant with the alternate text requirements of Section 2.6 of Appendix B of the SSD Guidelines.

We trust this information adequately satisfies DPHI requirements. Please do not hesitate to contact Ark Energy directly via email siobhan.threlfall@arkenergy.com.au, should you require clarification or further information.

Yours sincerely,

Siobhan Threlfall

Appendix A – Richmond Valley Council Correspondence

Correspondence with Richmond Valley Council regarding Road Upgrades is provided in **Table 2**.

Table 2 Consultation undertaken with Richmond Valley Council

Date	Personnel	Engagement Type and Purpose	Outcomes and Actions
19 th January 2024	Senior Development Engineer	Email – Road Upgrade Specifications	Determined Council’s position and requirements for the road upgrade.
23 rd January 2024	Senior Development Engineer	Phone Call – Road Upgrade Specifications	Discussion regarding Council’s email surrounding their position and requirements for the road upgrade
23 rd January 2024	Senior Development Engineer	Email – Road Upgrade Carriageway Width	Confirmation of road widths and additional design considerations & specifications proposed by Council
7 th February 2024	Senior Development Engineer	Phone Call – Road Upgrade Specifications	Further discussion and refinement of road specifications considering existing environment and project requirements
9 th February 2024	Senior Development Engineer	Email – Road Upgrade Specifications	Confirmation of final design specifications
13 th February 2024	Senior Development Engineer	Email – Road Upgrade Specifications	Additional comments and advice from RVC
16 th April 2024	Senior Development Engineer, & Manager Property & Economic Projects	Email – Road Upgrade Design Plans	Ark issues completed concept road design plans to Council

Appendix B - Lismore City Council Correspondence

Correspondence with Lismore City Council is provided in **Table 3**.

Table 3 Consultation undertaken with Lismore City Council

Date	Personnel	Engagement Type and Purpose	Outcomes and Actions
12th March 2024	N/A	Email – Project Briefing	Ark contacted Lismore City Council to provide an introduction to the project.
18th March 2024	Executive Planner	Email – Meeting request	Contact received from Lismore City Council to organise a meeting and propose meeting times.
25th March 2024	Executive Planner	Email – Meeting	Ark response requesting a suitable time for a meeting.
9th April 2024	Executive Planner	Email – Meeting	Follow up email by Ark.
12th April 2024	Executive Planner	Email – Meeting	Lismore City Council suggested meeting times.
15th April 2024	Executive Planner	Email – Meeting	Ark confirmed meeting time.
18th April 2024	Executive Planner	Email – Meeting	Lismore City Council unable to attend meeting.
26th April 2024	Executive Planner	Email – Meeting	Follow up email by Ark.
28th May 2024	Executive Planner	Email – Meeting	Contact received from Lismore City Council to arrange a new meeting time.
29th May 2024	Executive Planner	Email – Meeting	Ark response with available meeting times.
31st May 2024	Executive Planner	Email – Meeting	Follow up email by Ark.

Appendix C - Brisbane City Council Correspondence

Correspondence with Brisbane City Council is provided in **Table 4**.

Table 4 Consultation undertaken with Brisbane City Council

Date	Personnel	Engagement Type and Purpose	Outcomes and Actions
6th June 2024	N/A	Email – Project Briefing	Ark contacted Brisbane City Council to provide an introduction to the project and inform them of the proposed OSOM transport route.