

## Department of Planning and Environment

Will Stone  
Head of Development  
Spark Renewables  
Level 4  
1A Rialto Lane  
MANLY NSW 2095

By email: [will.stone@sparkrenewables.com](mailto:will.stone@sparkrenewables.com)

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**Subject: Mates Gully Solar Farm (SSD-43606694) – Addendum to the Secretary’s Environmental Assessment Requirements**

Dear Will,

In August 2022, the Department of Planning and Environment (the department) published new Large-scale Solar Energy Guidelines for State Significant Development. This included transitional arrangements that provided a grace period for certain projects, including Mates Gully Solar Farm, if formally lodged by the end of January 2023 (unless discussed with the department prior).

As the department has yet to receive a development application and EIS for Mates Gully Solar Farm, the guideline now applies. Consequently, the following requirements are provided as an addendum to the Secretary's environmental assessment requirements (SEARs).

The EIS for Mates Gully Solar Farm must be prepared in accordance with the *Large-scale Solar Energy Guideline (2022, or the latest version)* and supporting *Technical Supplement - Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment*, and include:

- a strategic justification for the development and selection of the site, having regard to Section 4 and 5,
- an assessment of agricultural impacts in accordance with Appendix A,
- a landscape and visual impact assessment, prepared in accordance with the Technical Supplement – Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment,
- a glint and glare assessment prepared in accordance with Appendix C,
- details of any proposed voluntary benefit-sharing programs in accordance with Section 5.3.

In the event of any inconsistency between the original SEARs and these requirements, the new guidelines will generally prevail. However, you are encouraged to contact the department to clarify an appropriate approach in these circumstances.

Should you have any queries or require further information, please contact Karl Okorn at [karl.okorn@planning.nsw.gov.au](mailto:karl.okorn@planning.nsw.gov.au).

Yours sincerely,



**Nicole Brewer**  
**Director, Energy Assessments**  
**Planning and Assessment**