

Ms Elisha Dunn
Department of Planning and Environment
Energy Resources and Industry Assessments
4 Parramatta Square
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PARRAMATTA NSW 2150

elisha.dunn@dpi.nsw.gov.au

Madison Dieu Solar Farm (SSD-48160216) (Singleton Shire Council)

Dear Elisha,

Thank you for your referral seeking input to the Environmental Assessment Requirements (EARs) for the above proposal.

The NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) Agriculture collaborates and partners with our stakeholders to protect and enhance the productive and sustainable use and resilience of agricultural resources and the environment.

Key considerations for DPI Agriculture with respect to this proposal include the scale and location of the proposal on productive agricultural land, the long-term impacts on agricultural resources and the ability to rehabilitate the land upon cessation of the development to enable a return to agricultural production.

The draft EARs provided by the NSW Department Planning and Environment including reference to the agricultural assessment requirements within the Large Scale Solar Energy Guideline 2022 are noted. The draft SEARs and assessment commitments provided in the Scoping Report will enable appropriate consideration of the impacts of the development on agricultural production and land and water resources.

The assessment would be further enhanced through consideration of:

- The identification of agricultural land sharing opportunities for the operation, including groundcover management.
- The inclusion of a description of the final land use and landform, indicators which may be used to guide the return of the land back to agricultural production, along with the expected timeline for the rehabilitation program.
- The soil survey to include baseline information to support the determination of rehabilitation goals.
- An agricultural biosecurity management plan detailing construction and operational risks and controls in relation to pests, weeds, and diseases should be required.

Should you require clarification on any of the information contained in this response, I have arranged for Mrs Selina Stillman, Agricultural Land Use Planning Officer to assist you. Selina can be contacted by email at landuse.ag@dpi.nsw.gov.au.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T Prentice', is positioned on a light grey rectangular background.

29/9/22

Tamara Prentice
Manager, Agricultural Land Use Planning
Agriculture Strategic Policy and Initiatives