

DPE Planning
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Re: SSD-48225958 – Gundry Solar Farm – Goulburn Mulwaree LGA

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for your email dated 15 September 2022 seeking DPI Fisheries input into the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements for the project stated above.

DPI Fisheries is responsible for ensuring that fish stocks are conserved and that there is no net loss of key fish habitats upon which they depend. To achieve this, DPI Fisheries ensures that developments comply with the requirements of the FM Act (namely the aquatic habitat protection and threatened species conservation provisions in Parts 7 and 7A of the Act, respectively), and the associated *Policy and Guidelines for Fish Habitat Conservation and Management (2013)* (DPI Policy) (available from: [Policy and guidelines for fish habitat conservation and management \(update 2013\) \(nsw.gov.au\)](https://www.nsw.gov.au/policy-guidelines-for-fish-habitat-conservation-and-management)).

All Strahler System 3rd order and above waterways are considered to be key fish habitat. At the proposal site, this includes Gundry Ck and Bullamalita Ck. Under section 3.2 of DPI Policy, these waterways are considered to be Type 2 key fish habitat, and Class 2 waterways.

It is important that the project is designed to mitigate potential impacts to the water quality and aquatic habitat of all key fish habitat on and downstream of the proposal site by:

- **Protection and revegetation of riparian buffer zones** and where/if possible the management/rehabilitation of any eroded gullies on site DPI Fisheries policy advocates the use of terrestrial riparian buffer zone widths as defined in section 6.1.4 of DPI Policy.
- **Allowing fish passage** in the design of waterway crossings and any cable crossings of waterways. The design and construction of crossing across key fish habitat watercourses on site should be undertaken in accordance with NSW DPI's *Policy and Guidelines for Fish Friendly Waterway Crossings (2004)* and *Why Do Fish Need to Cross the Road? Fish Passage Requirements for Waterway Crossings (2004)*.
- **Minimising erosion and sediment control impacts** to key fish habitat during the construction and operation of the facility. DPI Fisheries recommends the use of best practice sediment and erosion control, and water quality and stormwater management provisions to safeguard and mitigate impacts on water quality at the site and downstream. Note that as this site is

situated within the Sydney Drinking Water Catchment Lands, the project should be designed to have a neutral or beneficial impact on water quality.

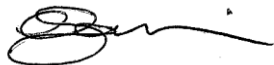
DPI Fisheries has reviewed the draft SEARs for this proposal and has no amendments to make.

A list of DPI Fisheries general information requirements for environmental assessment of development proposals is provided in section 3.3 of DPI Policy. The provision of this information will enable an adequate assessment of potential impacts on aquatic habitats. With regard to this specific proposal, the environmental assessment should address the following matters:

- A clear description of the location of works, including identification of the waterways present and all relevant plans
- A clear description of the works to be undertaken, including timing and duration of the works and all relevant plans. This needs to include detail on the:
 - location and design of any proposed or upgraded waterway crossings over key fish habitat; and
 - the methodology (e.g. trenching or underboring) for any underground cabling of transmission lines that pass through key fish habitat.
- Description of aquatic and riparian vegetation and instream aquatic vegetation in the vicinity of the development, particularly the extent and condition of riparian vegetation and instream aquatic vegetation, water depth, permanence of water flow and snags (large woody debris) within the footprint of the proposal area.
- Identification and classification of key fish habitat in the area, according to section 3.2 of DPI Policy.
- An assessment of all potential impacts to key fish habitat and riparian zones. The extent of aquatic habitat removal and riparian vegetation removal, modification or improvement that may result from the development is to be clearly defined. Potential impacts to water quality and fish passage must be clearly defined.
- An assessment of significance for any threatened species matters listed under the FM Act. Assessment of Significance Guidelines can be found at: [Threatened Species Assessment Guidelines - Assessment of Significance \(nsw.gov.au\)](#)
- A clear description of all proposed safeguards to mitigate impacts on aquatic habitats, water quality and riparian buffer zones. This can include, but not be limited to:
 - a clear map showing the riparian buffer zone width.
 - a description of any riparian buffer zone revegetation or erosion control works.
 - details on how fish passage will be provided for.
 - a description of proposed erosion and sediment control techniques to be used during construction.
 - detail on any onsite design measures to mitigate impacts on water quality and flow volumes.

Should you require any further information on this proposal, please contact me on 4222 8342 or carla.ganassin@dpi.nsw.gov.au.

Sincerely



Carla Ganassin

Senior Fisheries Manager, Coastal Systems

DPI Fisheries