

SSD-52217961
Parcel 49332
DTQ:DQ



13 February 2023

Ms Julia Green
Senior Environmental Assessment Officer
Energy Assessments - Department of Planning and Environment
4 Parramatta Square / 12 Darcy Street
PARRAMATTA NSW 2150

Dear Ms Green

RE: SSD-52217961 Dapper Solar Farm
Property: Lot 28 DP 754317, 1146 Tallawonga Road ELONG ELONG

I refer to your email dated 23 January 2023 requesting input into the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) for the proposal.

The following comments are provided in response to the Scoping Report dated 30 November 2022, to be addressed with the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS):

(1) Bushfire

The Scoping Report and whilst it addresses the bushfire hazard, it does not identify the location of the proposed operational buildings i.e. control room and storage/maintenance buildings.

(2) Traffic/Access

Based on the nominated Indicative site access points, access would be off the Golden Highway directly onto local roads wholly within the Warrumbungle LGA, this shouldn't be a concern for Dubbo Regional Council (DRC) roads unless additional site assesses are nominated further to the south along Dapper Road, this would be much closer to the Bald Hill Road which is partly owned by DRC.

While the route involving Bald Hill Road is unlikely (considerable distance along unsealed roads), it does provide access to the site from both Dubbo and Mudgee via Gollan Road and could be an alternate route for staff, particularly if they are coming to the site from the south.

The proponent is requested to provide final nominated access points with the application submission, in order for Council to finalise any assessment.

(3) Statutory Planning

Page 20 of the Scoping Report refers to DLEP and clause 5.15 Defence communications facility. This standard clause was not adopted by the Dubbo Regional Local Environmental Plan 2022.



All communications to: **CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

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(4) Housing and Accommodation

Council would request that the proponent provide a detailed accommodation and workforce plan with the SSD Application. In addition, detailed consultation should be undertaken with Council, relevant stakeholders and the proponents of other projects in the area.

Workforce housing and accommodation is a critical issue for the success of the Central West and Orana Renewable Energy Zone. Council is of the critical view that this issue must be considered with the Environmental Impact Statement and not left to the post approval phase.

In Council's experience this issue is left with the individual entity construction the project. This provides little opportunity for suitable and long lasting accommodation impacts to be explored and appropriate project mitigation proposals developed, consultation undertaken and accommodation delivered.

(5) Workforce Availability

Similar to the housing and accommodation issue above, Council also requests a workforce availability plan be included as part of the Environmental Impact Statement. With such a range of competing projects in the Region, this will allow further time for the proponent to understand the workforce challenges in the area and develop appropriate and tangible actions that will benefit the Region.

(6) Renewable Energy Benefit Framework

Council at its December 2022 meeting endorsed a Renewable Energy Benefit Framework. The Framework requires development proponents to provide Council through a Voluntary Planning Agreement process, 1.5% of Capital Investment Value as funds to assist towards the secondary impacts of development.

In this regard, it is requested that the development proponent undertake further discussions with Council Staff.

I trust this information is of assistance and look forward to receiving the completed EIS and making further comment. If you have any enquiries in this matter, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Quigley during normal office hours, on 6801 4000.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Quigley', written over a light blue circular stamp.

Darryll Quigley
Manager Building and Development Services