

Our Ref: s18.6.52/13
Your Ref: SSD-68928973
Contact: Anthony Alliston, Manager Development Services

17 April 2024

Department of Planning & Environment
ATTENTION – James Bellamy (james.bellamy@dpie.nsw.gov.au)

Dear James

REQUEST FOR ADVICE - TEXAS SOLAR FARM - SSD-68928973

Reference is made to the proposed Texas Solar Farm, SSD-68928973 and the request for advice regarding the draft SEAR's.

Council has reviewed the draft SEAR's and the Scoping Report and provides the following:

- It is Council's opinion that the description of the proposed development should include accommodation for temporary workers. The specific details for temporary workers accommodation should be included in, and assessed, as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment.
- The proponent is encouraged to engage in early and meaningful negotiations with Inverell Shire Council to ensure that the off-site benefits of the project are delivered via a Planning Agreement and a Community Benefits Scheme.
- One of the primary areas of focus for Council is to ensure adequate measures are in place during the construction phase of the project so that impacts on Council's local infrastructure, including roads, bridges and causeways will be minimised. Should consent be granted for the project, Council considers that suitable conditions should be included on the Project Approval in relation to:
 - The final design of the upgrades to roads being approved by Council;
 - Independent road dilapidation reporting prior to construction traffic, for all local and state roads;
 - Ongoing and regular measures to restore and reinstate road damage resulting from construction of the project;
 - After construction, a subsequent report to assess the damage that may have resulted from construction;
 - Council being able to review and provide input into the Traffic Control Plan and the Construction Traffic Management Plan.



- The proposed solar farm has the potential to generate large volumes of waste, in particular construction waste and solar infrastructure waste (panels, batteries) damaged at the time of construction or during operation. The Inverell Waste Depot on Burtenshaw Road has limited capacity to accept any waste from the Solar project. If Inverell Waste Depot is identified in the Waste Management and Decommissioning Plan as a disposal point, then disposal rates must be directly negotiated and agreed upon with Council as part of the approval process and within the limits of Council's Environmental Protection Licence.
- Considering decommissioning impacts of large-scale solar developments is currently a topic of significant interest for many regional Council's, including Inverell. The Environmental Impact Statement should develop a clear and transparent methodology for the decommissioning of the project.
- The SEAR's make reference to the "Solar Guideline". Council seeks clarification if this refers to the "Large-Scale Solar Energy Guideline"

Should you have any queries or require further clarification please contact me on 0425271633.

Yours faithfully

ANTHONY ALLISTON
DIRECTOR ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES