



Department of Primary Industries

OUT16/15881

Ms Elle Donnelley
Planner, Resource Assessments
NSW Department of Planning and Environment
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SYDNEY NSW 2001

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Dear Ms Donnelley

Riverina Solar Farm Project (SSD 7482) Comment on the Environmental Impact Statement

I refer to your email dated 8 March 2016 to the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) in respect to the above matter.

Please find below comments from DPI for your consideration. This proposal has been referred to DPI Agriculture and DPI Water. Any further requests for advice or review to any part of DPI can be made by email to landuse.enquiries@dpi.nsw.gov.au.

Comment by DPI Water

- The EIS indicates water demands during the construction period is mainly for dust suppression and this is to be sourced from adjacent irrigation canals. The proponent intends on purchasing rights to water supplied by the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area network. It is recommended the volume be estimated and confirmation be made with Murrumbidgee Irrigation Limited on the ability to access this volume when required.
- Water demands for the operation period include cleaning the photovoltaic cells. This requires clean water which is to be sourced from town water supplies. It is recommended the volume be estimated and confirmation be made with the relevant Local Water Utility on the ability to access this water source when required.
- The EIS discusses water entitlements for the existing property and that these are not to be used or changed for this project. No impacts are predicted on basic water rights in the area.

For further information please contact Tim Baker, Senior Water Regulation Officer, Dubbo office on (02) 9841 7403 or via email at tim.baker@dpi.nsw.gov.au.

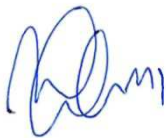
Comment by DPI Agriculture

DPI Agriculture has reviewed the EIS against the SEARs and the Primefact "Infrastructure Proposals on Rural Land". The following should be addressed:

- The EIS indicates that the Environmental Management Plans for construction and operation will include "weed monitoring and control" – more specific detail is required on weed management for the disturbed areas during the land-forming and construction phases before pastures can be sown.
- The EIS does not discuss if there is any risk to the solar panels from aerial spraying activities on adjacent farm land.
- The EIS does not discuss land ownership arrangements and/or the relationship with the current landowner with regards ongoing farm activities on the remaining land, screening for the residence or stock management.
- The EIS does not detail how decommissioning at the end of the project's operational life will "leave the land in a very similar condition to present". Any consent conditions should include preparation of the Decommissioning or Closure Management Plan with rehabilitation objectives and strategies for returning the land to irrigated agricultural production.

For further information please contact Lilian Parker, Resource Management Officer on (02) 6938 1906 or via email at Lilian.parker@dpi.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Mitchell Isaacs
Director, Planning Policy & Assessment Advice
13/04/2016