

18 January 2022

NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
Attn: Mr Wayne Jones
4 Parramatta Square
12 Darcy Street
Parramatta NSW 2150

Dear Mr. Jones,

**West Wyalong Solar Farm (SSD 9504)
Development Consent Condition 8(a), Schedule 3 - Vegetation Buffer**

Under condition 8(a), Schedule 3, of the State significant development consent (SSD 9504) for the West Wyalong Solar Farm (the Project), the Project's landscape screening must *"be planted prior to commencing operations"*.

Several significant rain events have occurred since the commencement of construction, leading to localised flooding which has impacted the ability to commence landscaping works. Lightsource bp is intending to commence operations on the Project in mid-2022. In this regard, I am writing to request the Secretary's agreement to allow the planting works for the vegetation buffer to be delayed beyond the commencement of operations, to late Spring (i.e. mid-October and November 2022).

Please refer to the enclosed letter from Terras Landscape Architects providing reasoning for and supporting this request.

Thank you and feel free to contact me on 0409 601 473 if you have any questions.

Kind regards,



Diana Mitchell
Principal Environmental Planner

Encl: Letter from Terras Landscape Architects regarding Vegetation Buffer, dated 13 January 2022



date: Thursday, 13 January 2022
 project no: 13141.5
 to: Lightsource bp (LSbp)
 attention: Georgia King
 address: Level 10, 420 George Street, Sydney, NSW, 2000
 email: Georgia.king@lightsourcebp.com

RE: WEST WYALONG SOLAR FARM Vegetation Buffer – Site Inundation

Dear Georgia,

Development consent for the West Wyalong Solar Farm (State Significant Development, SSD 9504) was granted on 28 November 2019 under Section 4.38 of the Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act).

The SSD 9504 consent included several administrative and environmental conditions, as well as environmental management and reporting requirements. Landscaping matters are addressed under Schedule 3, Condition 8 (Vegetation Buffer) and Condition 9 (Landscaping Plan) of the consent. Condition 8(a) requires that the development's landscape screening *"be planted prior to commencing operations"*. It is my understanding that the facility is due to commence operation in mid-2022 by which time the planting works should be completed.

You have advised recently of inundation, including the supply of the below image, that has resulted in localised flooding and difficulties in undertaking the required planting works.



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WEST WYALONG SOLAR FARM: EASTERN BOUNDARY (2021/11/15)

SOURCE: LIGHTSOURCEBP



I can appreciate the difficulties that the landscape contractor must be facing having to deal with such conditions. Based on information from the Australian Bureau of Meteorology (BOM)¹ it would seem that *La Nina*, has established in the tropical Pacific and it is causing above average rainfall across much of northern and eastern Australia during this summer and is expected to persist up until early Autumn this year. Therefore, it is likely that conditions will not improve until after April this year. Although it would be possible to undertake the planting works at this time, assuming surface water has evaporated and soil moisture levels are not excessive, the risk is that the young plants would have to endure frosts that routinely occur at West Wyalong during the months of May, June, July, August and September². Depending upon the severity and frequency of the frosts, it would be expected that plant losses would be high. As a consequence, it would be my advice that you seek approval from the consent authority to delay the required landscape works until early October 2022 at the earliest when the risk from frosts has abated.

I trust the above adequately explains why delaying the early planting works will ultimately result in a better outcome for the project.

Please free to make contact should you need any further assistance in your negotiations with the Minister.

Yours sincerely,

Terras Landscape Architects

Phillip Williams

Director

B.Sc.(Arch), B.Land.Arch., Hort. Cert., Dip.Hort. (Arboriculture)

Registered Landscape Architect (No. 729)

AQF5 Arborist (Cert No. 6262394)

¹ <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/enso/> - accessed 2022/01/11

² http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/averages/tables/cw_050017.shtml - accessed 2022/01/11