

15 January 2024

Contact: *Justine Clarke*

Telephone: *0457 535 955*

Our ref: *D2024/1856*

Kurtis Wathen
Department of Planning & Environment
Locked Bag 5022
PARRAMATTA NSW 2124

Dear Mr Wathen,

Stafford Pumped Hydro and Solar (SSD-65479959) - Request for SEARs

Thank you for your Major Projects Planning Portal referral dated 1 November 2023, requesting WaterNSW's input into the preparation of the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) for the above project. It is understood that the project proposes a Pumped Hydro Energy Storage (PHES) with an indicative capacity of 3.6 gigawatt-hours (GWh) alongside a photovoltaic solar farm facility (Solar Farm). The proposed Solar Farm would produce 330 MW direct current (DC) electricity.

Please note that the subject site is not located in close proximity to any WaterNSW land or assets, and as an SSD any flood works or licensing approvals will be assessed by others.

WaterNSW has reviewed the project Scoping Report and draft SEARs and considers that the proposal is unlikely to impact on any WaterNSW land, assets or infrastructure, and has no specific comment to make. The industry specific draft SEARs are expected to cover the required environmental assessment components.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Justine Clarke at justine.clarke@waternsw.com.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Alison Kniha". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

ALISON KNIHA
Catchment Protection Planning Manager