File No: NTH18/00058
Your Ref: SSD 9255

Resource & Energy Assessments
Department of Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Attention: Iwan Davies

Dear Sir / Madam,

New England Highway [HW9]: New England Solar Farm (SSD 9255) EIS Exhibition Uralla.

I refer to your email of 19 February 2019 requesting comment from Roads and Maritime Services in relation to the abovementioned development proposal.

Roles and Responsibilities

The key interests for Roads and Maritime are the safety and efficiency of the road network, traffic management, the integrity of infrastructure and the integration of land use and transport.

New England Highway is a classified (State) road (HW9) and Thunderbolts Way is classified (Regional) road (MR73) under the *Roads Act 1993* (Roads Act). Uralla Shire Council is the roads authority for all public roads (other than freeways or Crown roads) in the local government area pursuant to Section 7 of the Roads Act. Roads and Maritime is the roads authority for freeways and can exercise roads authority functions for classified roads in accordance with the Roads Act. Any proposed works on a classified (State) road will require the consent of Roads and Maritime. Consent is provided under the terms of a Works Authorisation Deed (WAD).

Roads and Maritime Response

Roads and Maritime has reviewed the referred information and provides the following comments to assist the consent authority in making a determination;

- The Traffic Impact Assessment (TIA) did not provide sufficient details quantifying the proposed traffic management arrangements. Detail such as concepts designs for the recommended intersection improvements which should include an assessment of sight distances, swept paths and access treatment arrangements.

- Roads and Maritime is planning to undertake changes to the intersection of the New England Highway and North Barleyfields Road. It is recommended the New England Solar Farms proposed road works on the highway should be co-ordinated with Roads and Maritime to achieve safe and efficient outcome.

- A Construction and Operational Traffic Management Plan (COTMP) should be developed in consultation with Uralla Shire Council and Roads and Maritime. It should at least contain details of traffic management treatments, Traffic Control Plans (TCP), Drivers Code of Conduct and measures to limit the impact on school bus routes.

- Where possible, haulage routes should be consolidated to reduce the impacts on the community, road network, intersections and the need for road works.

- Dilapidation Surveys should be undertaken with the relevant road maintenance authorities prior to and post construction works.

- Regulatory signs and devices will require the endorsement of the Local Traffic Committee prior to Council approval.

All works on the classified roads will need to be designed and constructed in accordance with the current Austroads Guidelines, Australian Standards and Roads and Maritime Supplements.

The developer will be required to enter into a Works Authorisation Deed (WAD) with Roads and Maritime for any works deemed necessary on the classified (State) road. The developer will be responsible for all costs associated with the works and administration for the WAD.

It is recommended that developers familiarise themselves with the requirements of the WAD process. Further information can be accessed using the following link:

http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/projects/planning-principles/index.html

Advice to the Consent Authority

Upon determination of the application it would be appreciated if Department of Planning and Environment could forward a copy of the approval for our records. If you have any further enquiries regarding the above comments please do not hesitate to contact Greg Sciffer, Development Assessment Officer on (02) 6640 1362 or via email at: development.northern@rms.nsw.gov.au

Yours faithfully

John Perkins
A/Manager Land Use Assessment, Northern
13 March 2019