



## NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE



The Secretary  
NSW Planning & Environment  
GPO Box 39  
Sydney NSW 2001

Your Ref: SSD 8872  
Our Ref: D17/4037  
DA17110910242 AB

**ATTENTION: Tim Stuckey**

**6 April 2018**

Dear Mr Stuckey

**Agency Comment:- Public Exhibition Sandigo Solar Farm Project (SSD 8872)  
Environmental Impact Statement; Lots 33, 35, 55 DP 754550 174 Mitchells Road Sandigo**

I refer to your correspondence dated 5 March 2018 seeking NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) advice and recommended conditions for the above State Significant Development (SSD) proposal.

The SSD application is for 100MW Solar Farm consisting of the following components:

- *Subdivision of the lots to create a development lot and residue lot(s);*
- *Installation of up to 310,000 solar photovoltaic (PV) modules in regular arrays;*
- *Solar panel metal mounting structures;*
- *aboveground and underground DC cabling (low voltage);*
- *central inverters, step up transformers, and switchgear (PCUs);*
- *battery storage area for potential battery storage to be installed on site;*
- *underground AC cabling that will run from the PCUs to the solar substation (high voltage);*
- *a main step-up transformer and associated equipment;*
- *perimeter safety fencing and security system;*
- *supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) control systems;*
- *site office and staff amenities;*
- *maintenance shed;*
- *permanent staff and contractor car parking area;*
- *permanent all-weather site access (6 m) and access road leading to the office and substation (shared access with TransGrid);*

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- *internal vehicle access tracks (4 m), leading to solar arrays and PCUs;*
- *temporary site compound, lay-down area, and equipment storage areas during construction.*

The subject land is not mapped bush fire prone by Narrandera Shire Council however it is noted the land and surrounding lands may contain a grassland vegetation formation. Further the NSW RFS is the primary response agency for fighting fires within the site.

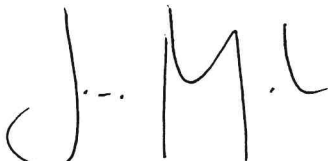
The NSW RFS has reviewed the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and notes that no final solar array and infrastructure layout plan has been included. It is noted that the EIS included commitments to addressing the impacts of bush and structural fires on the facility.

As such, the NSW RFS has no objection to the proposal and provides the following recommended conditions to be included to any consent granted.

1. A Fire Management Plan (FMP) shall be prepared in consultation with NSW RFS Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area (MIA) Fire Control Centre. The FMP shall include:
  - 24 hour emergency contact details including alternative telephone contact;
  - Site infrastructure plan;
  - Fire fighting water supply plan;
  - Site access and internal road plan;
  - Construction of Asset Protection Zones (APZ) and their continued maintenance;
  - Location of hazards (Physical, Chemical and Electrical) that will affect fire fighting operations and procedures to manage identified hazards during fire fighting operations;
  - Such additional matters as required by the NSW RFS District Office (FMP review and updates).
2. The entire solar array development footprint to be managed as an Asset Protection Zone as outlined within section 4.1.3 and Appendix 5 of 'Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2006' and the NSW Rural Fire Service's document 'Standards for Asset Protection Zones'.
3. A 20,000 litre water supply (tank) fitted with a 65mm storz fitting shall be located adjoining the internal property access road within the required APZ.
4. To allow for emergency service personnel to undertake property protection activities, a 10 metre defendable space (APZ) that permits a minimum 4 metre wide, unobstructed vehicle access is to be provided around the perimeter of the solar array and associated infrastructure.

For any queries regarding this correspondence please contact Alan Bawden on 1300 NSW RFS.

Yours Sincerely



Jason Maslen

**Acting Manager – Planning and Environment Services**

*The RFS has made getting information easier. For general information on 'Planning for Bush Fire Protection, 2006', visit the RFS web page at [www.rfs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au) and search under 'Planning for Bush Fire Protection, 2006'.*