



Reference: JM, DR; 17/28/0004

Your Reference:

Contact:

Jessica McDonald

6 April 2017

Iwan Davies  
Senior Planner  
Resource Assessments  
GPO Box 39  
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Sir,

***RE: WALGETT SOLAR FARM PROJECT (SSD 8095) - NOTICE OF EXHIBITION***

Walgett Shire Council has given consideration to the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Walgett Solar Farm that is currently being publicly exhibited by your agency.

Our comments in relation to the EIS are:

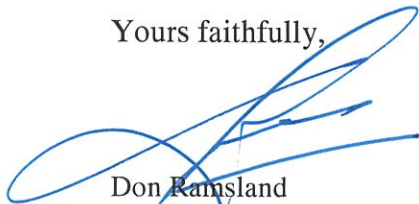
- Commitment to employment of Walgett Shire residents and tradespeople is lacking. Council wishes to see a goal of at least 50% of the total number of workers being local trades and laborers sought and employed for the project.
- Consideration and commitment to employment of indigenous persons is lacking.
- Whilst the site is not located within bushfire prone area on Council's current mapping system, the proposed mapping system provided by the NSW Rural Fire Brigade represents the site as a Category 3 bush fire risk, with these mapping changes proposed to be potentially implemented within 3-4 years. The report acknowledges the grass fire risks associated with the site however the report also relies upon the current information that the site is not bushfire prone. Given the life of the development is expected to be 35 years or more and that the site may be considered Category 3 risk for the majority of that time, it is considered that the bushfire assessment should be reassessed as a Category 3 risk to reduce risks to the site and surrounding land which is predominantly farm land. The 10m Asset

protection Zone (APZ) may not be considered appropriate for the development with a reassessment and further safety measures may be applied to reduce risks.

- Walgett Shire Council's notes that the chosen allotment for the development:
  - Do not have direct access to the Essential Energy Zone substation in relation to other allotments;
  - may lack safety in regards to access to the Castlereagh Highway and this should be considered in any traffic development and management plans;
  - May be of Aboriginal heritage and there may be undiscovered Aboriginal artifacts and other items located on the allotment.

Please contact Council's Director of Environmental Services, Jess McDonald, if you require any additional information.

Yours faithfully,



Don Ramsland  
General Manager