

Hello Ellen,

Thank you for providing LLS the opportunity for review and agency response to the exhibited EIS for Mulwala Solar Farm Project (SSD 9039).

Local Land Services provides consideration to, and comment in respect of, the zone of the land and native vegetation clearing.

The land is considered to be regulated land, subject to authorisation for removal of native vegetation, under the *Local Land Services Act 2013*.

I've reviewed key documents of the EIS at

http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au/index.pl?action=view_job&job_id=9039. Appendix I of the EIS, the Biodiversity Development Assessment

Report (BDAR) includes the below, as noted:

- The development site footprint has undergone several redesigns to reduce impacts on biodiversity values within the original project boundary, and development footprint has avoided and minimised impacts on biodiversity values.
- The site of the solar farm is predominantly cleared agricultural lands 215ha in area.
- It is excluded from Category 2 Sensitive Regulated Lands;
- Retention of the small cluster of *Eucalyptus macrocarpa* adjacent to native vegetation within the roadside; excluding any development from vegetation along the south-western boundary and the western corner.
- Retention of tree shelterbelts with native tree and shrub species located in the centre of the parcel of land;
- Avoidance of 31 paddock trees in redesign; and retaining 21 paddock trees within the development area.

The unavoidable impact of removing 34 Paddock trees requires the calculation of offset requirements. The methodology, assessment and BDAR adheres to the BAM 2017 for Streamlined (Paddock Tree) Assessment and a package of avoidance and mitigation measures have been described in the BDAR.

LLS response:

The Mulwala Solar Farm proposal, including vegetation clearing, is being assessed under **Part 4** of the EP&A Act. The potential impacts on native vegetation are discussed in sections 8-10 of the report.

Avoidance and mitigation measures have been incorporated into the design in the first instance, with mitigation measures assessed for the construction and operational phases of the project.

Accordingly as the EIS and BDAR give consideration for such clearing, LLS does not provide any additional consent as an agency.

In summary, the EIS and Appendices address matters with respect to vegetation clearing, offsetting and biodiversity requirements and authorises activities via the Planning legislation pathway.

Local Land Services has no further comment in respect to matters under Part 5 of the *Local Land Services Act 2013*.

Regards

Troy Hitchon | Regional Services Officer
Sustainable Land Management (SLM) Southern region
[931 Garland Ave](#) | PO Box 797 | North Albury NSW 2640
T: 02 6051 2216 **M:** 0457 733 484

W: <http://www.lls.nsw.gov.au/>



**Local Land
Services**



We help secure the future of agriculture and the environment for NSW communities