



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Defence**  
Capability Acquisition and  
Sustainment Group

**Explosive Materiel Branch**  
**Joint Systems Division**  
Danallam House  
311 High Street  
PENRITH NSW 2750  
(+61 2) 4726 1000

MUNITIONS/OUT/2018/218  
AY1109089

Attention: Director – Resource and Energy Assessments

Department of Planning and Environment  
GPO Box 39  
SYDNEY NSW 2001

**MULWALA SOLAR FARM PROJECT (SDD9039)**

I am writing in response to the proposed Mulwala Solar Farm Project, Application No SSD 9039 by ESCO Pacific Pty Ltd.

The Commonwealth of Australia, represented by the Department of Defence own the Mulwala Explosive Factory (MEF) that is operated under contract by Thales Australia Limited, trading as Australian Munitions (Thales).

The siting of facilities within the MEF for manufacturing, processing, storing and handling explosives has been conducted based on risk assessments considering both internal and external exposed sites. As a Major Hazard Facility under WHS legislation, the emergency response capabilities of the factory have been developed by Thales on the basis that the area of the proposed development has no significant vulnerable infrastructure. Therefore this proposal has the potential to impact on the capability and operations of the Mulwala factory and hence on Defence capability.

The extent of any impact is unable to be determined from the information provided in the development proposal and Defence seeks further consultation on the exact siting of the Solar Farm facilities before providing final advice of the impact and any risk associated with the development proposal.

Based on an initial review of the Development proposal, notably the Commonwealth Land Environment Impact Statement, there is insufficient detail to assure that the developer of the proposal has appreciated the potential impact to the Solar Farm should an explosives event occur at the MEF.

Defence recommends further consultation to ensure that the potential impact can be understood and appropriately mitigated within the detailed development of the Solar Farm.

Yours sincerely,

**T. HUNTER**  
Director Strategic Munitions Interim Contract  
Telephone: (02) 4726 1050  
Email: [tania.hunter@defence.gov.au](mailto:tania.hunter@defence.gov.au)

1 Aug 18

August 2018