



## Department of Primary Industries

OUT16/16459

Ms Diana Charteris  
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Dear Ms Charteris

### **Griffith Solar Farm (SSD 6604) Comment on the Environmental Impact Statement**

I refer to your email dated 14 March 2016 to the Department of Primary Industries in respect to the above matter. DPI Water and Agriculture comments are as follows. Any further referrals to DPI can be sent by email to [landuse.enquiries@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:landuse.enquiries@dpi.nsw.gov.au).

#### Comment by DPI Water

The Department of Primary Industries - Water (DPI Water) has reviewed the exhibited Environmental Impact Statement for the Griffith Solar Farm Project. The following comments are provided to assist in determination of the project.

- The EIS indicates water demands during the 9 month construction period are mainly for dust suppression with 135ML required. The water is to be trucked to site however the source and security of this supply is yet to be confirmed. Potential options for sourcing the water listed in the EIS include local water supply authorities or via the water entitlement supplied by Murrumbidgee Irrigation held by the project site's landowner. DPI Water recommends the ability to access the required water be confirmed prior to project approval. Potable water demands over the 9 month construction period is 30 000L over 9 months which is to be delivered in bottles.
- Water demands for the operation period are for the staff amenities and for cleaning the solar panels. It is recommended the volume be estimated and confirmation be made on the ability to access this water source of the appropriate quality and volume when required.
- Section 7.1.5 of the EIS refers to the need to design drainage structures to ensure surface water and runoff associated with flooding is directed through stabilised discharge points. This is supported by DPI Water.
- DPI Water supports the proposed management of erosion and sedimentation impacts via development of a Soil and Water Management Plan in accordance with the guideline, "*Managing Urban Stormwater: Soils and Construction*".

For further information please contact Tim Baker, Senior Water Regulation Officer, (02) 6841 7403, [Tim.Baker@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Tim.Baker@dpi.nsw.gov.au).

Comment by DPI Agriculture

The Department of Primary Industries – Agricultural Land Use Planning (DPI Agriculture) has reviewed the exhibited Environmental Impact Statement for the Griffith Solar Farm against the SEARs and the Primefact “Infrastructure Proposals on Rural Land”. The following matters are outstanding:

- The EIS does not discuss if there is any risk to the solar panels from aerial spraying activities on adjacent farm lands.
- The EIS does not discuss land ownership arrangements and/or the relationship with the current landowner with regards ongoing farm activities on the remaining land.

The following matters should be addressed in any conditions of approval:

- The Project Environmental Management Plans for construction and operation should include weed management and control measures for the disturbed areas **during** the landforming and construction phases before groundcover can be sown.
- The groundcover management plan should include details of ground cover control (e.g. grazing, slashing, etc.), not just its establishment. Should vegetation not be used a polymer or similar synthetic product should be used for erosion (water and wind) control.

Preparation of the Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan should include rehabilitation objectives and strategies for returning the land to productive irrigated agriculture.

For further information please contact Lilian Parker, Resource Management Officer, (02) 6938 1906, [lilian.parker@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:lilian.parker@dpi.nsw.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



Mitchell Isaacs  
**Director, Planning Policy & Assessment Advice**  
20/4/2016