



Department of Primary Industries

OUT16/35500

Ms Rose-Anne Hawkeswood
Resource Assessments
NSW Department of Planning and Environment
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SYDNEY NSW 2001

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Dear Ms Hawkeswood

Jemalong Solar Farm (SSD 6588) Comment on the Environmental Impact Statement

I refer to your email of 25 August 2016 to the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) in respect to the above matter. Comment has been sought from relevant divisions of DPI. Views were also sort from NSW Department of Industry - Lands that are now a division of the broader Department and no longer within NSW DPI. Any further referrals to DPI can be sent by email to landuse.enquiries@dpi.nsw.gov.au.

DPI has reviewed the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and provides the following recommendations:

- The proponent should confirm the ability to access 20ML of water entitlement as well as any necessary infrastructure requirements for transport of water to the site before project approval.
- Two evaporation ponds are proposed in the eastern part of the site to manage drainage water which is predicted to contain high levels of impurities. The proposal to monitor the sediment and water quality in these ponds is supported. It is also recommended a liner of permeability of 1×10^{-9} m/s be fitted to these evaporation ponds to mitigate any potential impacts to groundwater.
- While some flood assessment has been undertaken, further flood modelling assessment should be completed prior to project approval to confirm changes in the flood spatial extent and the potential impacts to neighbouring properties.
- There is potential that excavation for foundation requirements will intercept groundwater and require dewatering. Management of any intercepted groundwater should be described in a water management plan, and a water

access licence with sufficient entitlement will be required if the take of water is likely to exceed 3ML per year.

- The decommissioning environmental management plan should include rehabilitation objectives and strategies for returning the land to agricultural or other use.
- The proponent should give further consideration to the risk to the solar panels from adjacent farmland agricultural operations, particularly if any aerial spraying or topdressing takes place, dust from cropping or when it is dry that may affect operational efficiencies.
- The proponent should amend section 4.3.15 of the EIS where Crown land Lot 7004 DP94825 is incorrectly referenced as Lot 13 DP753118
- Should any future activity impact on the Crown road located west of the proposal, the road will be required to be closed and purchased following consultation with the relevant stakeholders. Additionally, Crown land Lot 7004 DP94825 will also be required to be purchased if impacted following consultation with the relevant stakeholders including the determination of Native Title extinguishment.

Yours sincerely



Mitchell Isaacs

Director, Planning Policy & Assessment Advice

23 September 2016