



17 March 2017

SF2016/252417; WST16/00182/02

The Manager
Resource Assessments
Department of Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Attention: Iwan Davies

Dear Mr Davies

SSD8072: Lot 26 DP 755292; Mitchell Highway (HW7), Nevertire; Nevertire Solar Farm

Thank you for your email on the 22 February 2017 referring the *Environmental Impact Statement* (EIS) for the Nevertire Solar Farm Project to Roads and Maritime Services for comment.

The EIS has been reviewed and Roads and Maritime notes the following components of the proposal:

- Construction, operation and decommissioning of a 105 mega watt solar farm west of Nevertire. The projected lifespan of the facility is 30 years.
- The subject land has frontage to the Mitchell Highway. Vehicular access to the site is proposed via an upgraded existing vehicular access from the Mitchell Highway.
- Construction of a transmission line that will cross the Oxley Highway (HW11) at Nevertire.
- Construction period extending over 12 months with peak construction works (up to 300 personnel on site) for six to nine months.

The proponent has been unable to identify the types, volumes and origin/destination of delivery, construction and personnel traffic generated during the construction period. Based on the information that has been provided, the Mitchell Highway access will require improvements to safely and efficiently accommodate traffic generated by the construction, operation and decommissioning of the project, as well as through traffic on the highway. The Mitchell Highway at this location is a signposted 110km/h speed zone and carries, on average, 1483 vehicles per day, including vehicles up to 36.5 metres in length. From the limited information provided, Roads and Maritime considers the Mitchell Highway access upgrade is likely to be more significant than the minor widening works envisaged by the applicant in the EIS.

The applicant proposes to develop a Traffic Management Plan (TMP), in consultation with Warren Shire Council and Roads and Maritime. Roads and Maritime supports this approach and will await submission of the TMP before determining the access upgrades to provide safe vehicular movements to and from the site.

Roads and Maritime recommends the following conditions be included in any consent issued in relation to SSD8072 by the Department of Planning and Environment:

- Prior to the commencement of construction works, the vehicular access to the subject land from the Mitchell Highway is to be upgraded. To confirm the level of access intersection works, a Traffic Management Plan (TMP) is to be prepared in consultation with Warren Shire Council and Roads and Maritime Services to outline measures to manage traffic related issues associated with delivery and construction of the solar plant, ancillary structures, any construction or excavated materials, machinery and personnel involved in the construction, operation or decommissioning of the facility. The TMP is to detail the potential impacts associated with the development, the measures to be implemented, and the procedures to monitor and ensure compliance. The TMP is to address, but not necessarily be limited to:
 - (a) The origin, number, size, frequency and final destination of vehicles accessing/exiting the site.
 - (b) Loads, weights and lengths of haulage and construction related vehicles and the number of movements of such vehicles.
 - (c) Existing and projected background traffic, peak hour volumes and types and their interaction with projected development related traffic.
 - (d) The management and coordination of construction and staff vehicle movements to the site and measures to limit disruption to other motorists. The management of construction staff access to the works site is to include strategies and measures employed to manage the risks of driver fatigue and driver behaviour.
 - (e) Scheduling of haulage vehicle movement to minimise convoy length of platoons.
 - (f) Details of access intersection improvement works in accordance with *Austroads Guide to Road Design* and Roads and Maritime supplements. Any gate or grid in the access is to be setback a distance equal to the longest vehicle required to access the site during construction, operation and decommissioning of the facility.
 - (g) Local climate conditions that may affect road safety for vehicles used during construction, operation and decommissioning of the facility (e.g. fog, dust, wet weather).

The preparation of the TMP for the project is to involve the appointed transport contractor, Warren Shire Council and Roads and Maritime to determine the final details of haulage, including transport routes, road-specific mitigation measures and haulage timing. Road and access intersection improvement works are to be approved and completed prior to the commencement of construction of the solar farm.

- The access intersection upgrade is located on a state road and the developer will be required to undertake private financing and construction of works on a road in which Roads and Maritime Services has a statutory interest. A formal agreement in the form of a Works Authorisation Deed (WAD) is required between the developer and Roads and Maritime Services prior to work commencing.
- Prior to the commencement of construction work, the proponent is to contact Roads and Maritime's Field Traffic Manager to determine if a Road Occupancy Licence (ROL) is required. In the event that a ROL is required, the proponent is to obtain the ROL prior to the works commencing within three (3) metres of the travel lanes in the Mitchell Highway and/or the Oxley Highway.
- The proposed transmission line will require works and structures in the Oxley Highway road reserve. Works within classified road reserves require prior concurrence from Roads and Maritime Services under section 138(2) of the *Road Act 1993*. To apply for Roads and Maritime Services' concurrence for the transmission line works in and over the Oxley Highway, a request accompanied by drawn to scale plans of the proposed crossing is to be sent to westernlandaccess@rms.nsw.gov.au. The transmission line crossing of the Oxley Highway is to be in accordance with the attached *Roads and Maritime Services Requirements for Classified Road Crossings*. The submitted drawings are to be accompanied by details of required transmission line maintenance and access intersection requirements for the life of the transmission line.

Please forward a copy of the Department's determination of SSD8072 to Roads and Maritime at the same time it is sent to the applicant. Should you require further information please contact Andrew McIntyre, Manager Land Use Assessment, on 02 6861 1453.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Susie Mackay', with a large, stylized loop at the bottom.

Susie Mackay
Network & Safety Manager
Western