



Department of Primary Industries

OUT17/12493

Mr Iwan Davies
Resource Assessments
NSW Department of Planning and Environment
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SYDNEY NSW 2001

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Dear Mr Davies

Nevertire Solar Farm (SSD 8072) Comment on the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

I refer to your email of 23 February 2017 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 sought 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 EIS and provides the following comments and recommendations:

- Soil sodium content and salinity on this site have the potential to impact on the stability of works undertaken, especially with trenching and, establishment and management of the groundcover. Sodium content is a major concern in relation to erosion potential even on flat areas and will have major impacts on groundcover establishment if not identified and managed as part of the construction phase. As such, DPI recommends that the proponent undertake a detailed soil survey to inform land capability and the management related to construction and final land management for the site.
- As the site has a history of agricultural use, and may be subject to grazing as a management tool, the final decommissioning concept plan should establish baseline data to identify further parameters to use in determining final land condition outcomes. These may include both physical (soil texture, and structure) and chemical characteristics (such as acidity and nutrients). Other objectives should include the restoration of soil profile functionality, consideration of soil ameliorants, and final groundcover details in consultation with the landholder.
- The proponent will be required to obtain a Roads Act License prior to the commencement of any works to facilitate construction of the transmission line along the Crown road to connect the Solar Farm to the Substation.
- The proponent should confirm the source of water resources during and post construction prior to project approval to understand the water supply risks and to ensure any requirement for additional licensing is identified early and WMA approvals can be excluded where appropriate under Section 89J of the EP&A Act.

- The EIS indicates a 40m buffer is to be established to Boggy Cowal to reduce waterway impacts. The proponent should clarify whether the buffer is measured from the high bank or point at which the floodplain commences to ensure consistency with DPI Water's [Guidelines for Controlled Activities on Waterfront Land \(2012\)](#).
- The proponent should undertake an assessment of the potential impacts on flooding on neighbouring properties due to the buildings and the solar array infrastructure.
- One dam is within the footprint of the proposed solar arrays and the EIS is uncertain on whether it is to be removed. The proponent should provide clarification on whether this dam is to be removed, and if it is an impact assessment should be provided.
- The following should be included as a Condition of Consent in the result of project approval:
 - The proponent must prepare a Soil and Water Management Plan and Erosion and Sediment Control Plan in consultation with DPI Water prior to commencement of activities.

Yours sincerely



Mitchell Isaacs
Director, Planning Policy & Assessment Advice
24 March 2017

DPI appreciates your help to improve our advice to you. Please complete this three minute survey about the advice we have provided to you, here:

<https://goo.gl/o8TXWz>