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Dear Mr Ko

**Hay Solar Project (SSD 8113)**  
**Comment on the Environmental Impact Statement**

I refer to your email of 25 August 2017 to the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) in respect to the above matter. Comment has been sought from relevant branches of DPI. Views were also sought from the Crown Lands and Water Division of the NSW Department of Industry.

Any further referrals to DPI can be sent by email to [landuse.enquiries@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:landuse.enquiries@dpi.nsw.gov.au).

DPI provides the following recommendations and comments for consideration in the assessment of the proposal.

**Recommendations**

Prior to project approval the proponent should address the following:

- Clarification should be provided regarding the proposed works to extract and supply water to the site and any relevant impact assessment should be undertaken to ensure those works are addressed within the project approval.
- Clarification should be provided that the solar panels can address the complying development impact assessment requirements of the Floodplain Management Plan for the Murrumbidgee River Hay to Maude.
- Any mitigating measure to obstruct or divert flood water should be assessed before project approval to ensure impacts are adequately assessed and considered as part of the project approval and within the requirements of the Floodplain Management Plan.

**Comments**

**Assessment of water supply works**

Section 6.9.3 of the EIS indicates the construction water demands are to be 50ML over a 12 month period. This is to be sourced from a combination of trucking to site for the potable water, and via the Murrumbidgee River for the remaining demands. Reference is made in the EIS to historic trading in this water source which indicates a viable option to acquire entitlement. However the works to supply this water have not been confirmed. These works need to be identified to ensure relevant impact assessments are completed within the SSD

approval process and exemptions to approvals under the *Water Management Act 2000* can apply.

### **Assessment of flooding impacts**

The desktop flood assessment has identified part of the site is mapped as Zone C under the Floodplain Management Plan for the Murrumbidgee River Hay to Maude, and the majority of the site is inundated in a 1 in 100 yr ARI event. The EIS states no infrastructure is proposed that would obstruct flow in the area mapped as Zone C. However from interpreting the map, Zone C does cover the northern part of the southern area of solar panels. It is therefore recommended clarification be provided that the solar panels can address the complying development impact assessment requirements of the FMP.

For infrastructure within Zone C of the Floodplain Management Plan to be complying development it needs to address the following:

- No blocking, impeding or diverting of the flooding regimes in Flood Dependent Ecosystems (FDEs) within the FMP floodwater network.
- No impeding the delivery of environmental water to ecological assets specified under the Lowbidgee Water Management Plan.

At this stage there is uncertainty on potential measures to address flooding impacts at the site. As flood works may require an approval under the *Water Management Act 2000*, these should be assessed and included in the project approval.

### **Crown land management**

Where the Transmission Line may cross the Travelling Stock Reserve (TSR 2686) it is advised that a Landowners Consent will be required prior to works and that a Licence or Easement will be required.

Yours sincerely



Alison Collaros

**A/Director, Planning Policy & Assessment Advice**

25 September 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>