



Department of Primary Industries

OUT17/21553

Ms Elle Donnelley
Resource Assessments
NSW Department of Planning and Environment
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Dear Ms Donnelley

Coleambally Solar Farm (SSD 8208) Comment on the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

I refer to your email of 4 May 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 recommendations:

- While a number of potential water sources have been identified in the EIS for the water demands during and post construction, the security of these sources, the adequacy of existing water licences or the ability to obtain additional water entitlement has not been considered. Where additional extraction is proposed such as groundwater, this would also require an impact assessment on existing users and the environment. The proponent should confirm these details prior to approval being granted for the project to ensure water supply arrangement and licensing requirements can be met.
- The EIS refers to an irrigation channel that borders part of the southern project area. This channel appears to be in the location of a natural watercourse, however the EIS indicates this channel is only used for conveying irrigation flows. The proponent should confirm whether this channel also receives catchment runoff from upstream and whether this alters the potential flood impacts predicted in the EIS.
- The EIS proposes two bridges over irrigation channels and the potential relocation of an irrigation channel. The proponent should ensure these works are consistent with DPI Water's guidelines for [Controlled Activities on Waterfront Land \(2012\)](#) and that they are completed in consultation with the relevant landholders and the irrigation authority.
- The proponent should notify DPI Water of confirmed proposals to relocate any irrigation channels. This is to enable consideration of amendments to the irrigation licence held by Coleambally Irrigation Cooperative Limited.
- The proponent should ensure that the Weed Management Plan includes vehicle hygiene regimes.

- The following should be included as conditions of consent in any approval granted for the project:
 - All construction works would be managed in accordance with the [Managing Urban Stormwater: Soils and Construction series](#).
 - All subsurface infrastructure should be required to be removed at the decommissioning of the project, or otherwise located at least 1200mm below ground level to ensure no future agricultural activities are impacted.
 - The proponent should prepare the following documents in consultation with DPI Water (water.referral@dpi.nsw.gov.au) prior to commencement of activities:
 - a Soil and Water Management Plan; and
 - Erosion and Sediment Control Plan.
 - The proponent should prepare the following documents in consultation with DPI Agriculture (landuse.ag@dpi.nsw.gov.au) prior to commencement of activities:
 - a decommissioning management plan with rehabilitation objectives and strategies for returning the land to irrigated agricultural production, including providing locational identification for any remaining subsurface infrastructure, baseline data including soil and land resources, current land use and capability, and rehabilitation objectives and strategies;
 - a Groundcover Management Plan including consideration of species that will be utilised by grazing animals, spacings that will encourage pasture growth, water supply options for stock, and alternatives for protecting the soil if pasture establishment is not successful; and
 - a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) following project approval for the establishment of erosion and sedimentation controls at the commencement of works and throughout construction and during trenching for the underground cabling.

Yours sincerely



Mitchell Isaacs
Director, Planning Policy & Assessment Advice
1 June 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>