



SSD 6784

Contact Person: Michael Carter

28 April 2016

NSW Department of Planning and Environment
23 - 33 Bridge Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Attention: Diana Charteris

SUBMISSION - PARKES SOLAR FARM PROJECT (SSD 6784) PAT MEREDITH DRIVE, PARKES

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Parkes Solar Farm Project, involving the construction and operation of a 65 MW Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Plant and associated infrastructure.

Parkes Shire Council makes the following comments in relation to the proposed development:

Farmland Amenity

It is noted that a number of well established farms and associated dwellings are in close proximity to the development site. The assessment of the proposal must include a robust assessment of the amenity of existing residents in the area.

Bushland Buffers / Offsets

The provision of native vegetation to screen the development from nearby roads and farming properties should be included as a condition in any consent.

Bushfire Hazard Mitigation

The grassy understorey of the development site must be properly maintained so as not to present a bushfire hazard.

Weeds Management

The property must be managed so as to minimise weeds on the site.

Environmental Management Plan

The Project Environmental Management Plan must be robust and cover all aspects of ongoing property management, including construction management plan, operation environmental management plan and decommissioning environmental management plan.



Access and Traffic

All vehicular movements should be via the intersection of Henry Parkes Way and Pat Meredith Drive. The NSW Roads and Maritime Services should review the road intersection and advise any necessary upgrades. No new road accesses onto Henry Parkes Way should be permitted.

The road reserve of Pat Meredith Drive does not appear to extend all the way to the Henry Parkes Way, and the actual roadway traverses a Travelling Stock Route / Crown Land (Lot 7002 DP 94814). It is necessary to create a road reserve along that section of Pat Meredith Drive that traverses the Crown Land.

Pat Meredith Drive, linking the development site to Henry Parkes Way, is constructed to a gravel road standard. It is necessary to upgrade and bitumen seal the section of road from the proposed entrance of the solar farm to the intersection of Pat Meredith Drive and Henry Parkes Way, to accommodate all traffic generated from the development, including construction traffic. The road upgrading works should be undertaken prior to construction of the facility.

Upon finalisation of the construction phase of the development and commissioning of the solar farm, the condition of Pat Meredith Drive, linking the development site to Henry Parkes Way, should be audited and any repairs undertaken.

Primary Production Lands

The final proposal needs to consider how the development will maintain the viability of the land and its contribution to the agricultural production of the region. For example the facility may be able to incorporate design features that allow ongoing livestock grazing activities.

Community Contributions

It is noted that the capital cost of the project is almost approaching \$100m with a significant workforce during construction and commensurate impact on infrastructure and facilities. Accordingly, Parkes Shire Council believes there should be a monetary contribution paid under a Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA). Council would be happy to work with the proponents to negotiate the VPA.

Yours faithfully,

Kent Boyd
GENERAL MANAGER