



## Department of Primary Industries

OUT16/17401

Ms Diana Charteris  
Resource Assessments  
NSW Department of Planning and Environment  
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Dear Ms Charteris

### **Parkes Solar Farm Project (SSD 6784) Comment on the Environmental Impact Statement**

I refer to your email dated 23 March 2016 to the Department of Primary Industries in respect to the above matter. Comment has been sought from DPI Water, Lands & Natural Resources and Agriculture. DPI Lands & Natural Resources advise no further issues. DPI Water and DPI Agriculture comments are as follows. 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 recommends the following Conditions of Consent be included in any determination issued for the Parkes Solar Farm Project:

1. The proponent prepare a Soil and Water Management Plan in consultation with DPI Water prior to commencement of activities.
2. That rehabilitation objectives and strategies for returning the land to agricultural production (or alternate use) be defined prior to project implementation.

#### Comment by DPI Water

The Department of Primary Industries - Water (DPI Water) has reviewed the exhibited Environmental Impact Statement for the Parkes Solar Farm Project. The following comments are provided to assist in determination of the project.

- The EIS indicates water demands during the 9 month construction period are mainly for dust suppression with 109ML required. The water is to be trucked to site however the source and security of this supply is yet to be confirmed. The EIS refers to on-site water supply however there is no detail of the potential water sources, their reliability or consideration of licensing requirements. There is also reference to the potential to access water from local water supply authorities, however the ability to do so has not been confirmed. DPI Water recommends the ability to access the required water be confirmed prior to project approval. Potable water demands over the 9 month construction period is 30 000L, which is to be delivered in bottles.
- Water demands for the operation period are for the staff amenities and for cleaning the solar panels. It is recommended the volume be estimated and confirmation be made on the ability to access this water source, of the appropriate quality and volume when required.
- Two groundwater bores are located within the footprint of the proposed solar array infrastructure. Any proposed changes to the bore infrastructure (eg. decommissioning)

will require consultation with DPI Water to confirm requirements under the *Water Management Act 2000* and relevant standards to complete the works. The use of water from these bores would require the proponent to acquire sufficient entitlement in the relevant water source and may require additional approvals under the *Water Management Act 2000* if not considered within the current SSD project.

- Two dams are located within the footprint of the solar infrastructure and there is a minor drainage line connecting dams on the property. Modifications to these dams and consideration of alterations to drainage paths due to the proposed infrastructure (eg. roads, solar infrastructure, trenching) will need to be addressed in development of relevant management plans for the site. The proposed above ground transmission line is proposed within 40m of Ridgely Creek, however the extent of works is uncertain. It is recommended works within waterfront land be consistent with DPI Water's "Guidelines for Controlled Activities on Waterfront Land (DPI 2012)".
- DPI Water supports the proposed management of erosion and sedimentation impacts via development of a Soil and Water Management Plan in accordance with the guideline, "*Managing Urban Stormwater: Soils and Construction*". DPI Water requests consultation during development of this plan.

For further information please contact Tim Baker, Senior Water Regulation Officer, (02) 6841 7403, [tim.baker@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:tim.baker@dpi.nsw.gov.au).

#### Comment by DPI Agriculture

Department of Primary Industries – Agriculture has reviewed the exhibited Environmental Impact Statement for the Parkes Solar Farm Project against the SEARs and the Primefact

"Infrastructure Proposals on Rural Land" available at

[http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0020/359030/infrastructure-proposals-on-rural-land.pdf](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0020/359030/infrastructure-proposals-on-rural-land.pdf)

The following matters should be addressed:

- The risk to the solar panels from aerial spraying activities on adjacent farm land and associated management response,
- Decommissioning and rehabilitation of the project. It is noted that a Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (page 131, Section 8.1 Environmental Management) is to be developed at the project stage. It is recommended that consent conditions should articulate the rehabilitation objectives and strategies for returning the land to agricultural production (or alternate use) prior to project implementation. It should be noted that some of this site (particularly the Parkes soil landscape area) is regarded as high value and is important cropping land for the Parkes area so the consideration of this in final land use should be included.

For further information please contact Mary Kovac, Resource Management Officer, (02) 6881 1250, [mary.kovac@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:mary.kovac@dpi.nsw.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



Mitchell Isaacs

**Director, Planning Policy & Assessment Advice**

29/4/2016