



Nature Conservation Council

The voice for nature in NSW

Ms. Carolyn McNally
Secretary
NSW Department of Planning & Environment
Level 22, 320 Pitt St
Sydney, 2000

1 May 2017

Submitted via <http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au>

NCC Submission in support of Beryl Solar Farm

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the recent application of First Solar Pty Ltd to build a solar farm near Gulgong, as part of your assessment of the solar farm development.

The Nature Conservation Council of NSW (**NCC**) is the peak environment organisation for New South Wales, representing over 150 member societies across the state. Together we are committed to protecting and conserving the wildlife, landscapes and natural resources of NSW.

It is our position that this proposed solar farm would deliver a net-positive impact on nature and for the citizens of New South Wales and as such we support planning approval for this project.

Increased investment in renewable energy projects such as solar farms is an essential step towards a low-carbon future. This project will significantly add to the installed renewable energy capacity in NSW. Further, it will contribute to the government's pledge to support the federal renewable energy target of 33,000GWh of renewable power generation by 2020.

Climate change is already having significant impacts to nature and these will only get worse unless projects such as the Beryl Solar Farm are rapidly deployed. Climate change is also impacting the residents of New South Wales, specifically through health impacts, and impacts on infrastructure. Renewable energy projects such as the Beryl Solar Farm are crucial to avoiding dangerous climate change. We ask that your assessment of this project considers the broader benefits of avoiding climate change by proceeding with this project.

We would like to highlight some of the benefits that the Beryl Solar Farm would offer to the people of NSW:

- The Beryl Solar Farm would have an installed capacity of 95MW – enough to power 28,000 homes for 30 years;
- By reducing fossil fuel generation it would reduce airborne pollutants, including over 183,000 tonnes of CO₂ each year;
- It would reduce reliance on coal fired power plants – diversifying the state's energy mix and promoting renewable energy production;
- Construction would result in 150 full-time equivalent jobs during commissioning and a further 3 full time jobs during operation;
- It would contribute to our efforts to avoid dangerous global warming, which is threatening human and ecosystem health.

If you would like any further information regarding our submission, please don't hesitate to contact Brad Smith in our office on (02) 9516 1488 or at bsmith@nature.org.au.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kate Smolski', with a stylized, flowing script.

Kate Smolski,
CEO